

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LINCOLN, KANSAS
FEBRUARY 11, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN LINCOLN TODAY AND TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE A NUMBER OF MATTERS WHICH CONCERN US ALL.

AT THE OUTSET I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANKS FOR BEING HERE TO ALL OF YOU WHO GOT UP TO FEED YOUR LIVESTOCK AT 5:00 A.M. -- AND WAITED THREE HOURS FOR DAYLIGHT. AND THE SAME GOES FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAD TO STUMBLE AROUND IN THE DARK HELPING YOUR CHILDREN GET READY FOR SCHOOL THIS MORNING.

I WAS A BIT CONCERNED THAT ANYONE WHO HAD TO START THE DAY OFF BY PUTTING UP WITH THE INCONVENIENCE AND IRRITATION OF WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME MIGHT DECIDE TO FORGET THE WHOLE THING AND JUST STAY IN BED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY. SO I THOUGHT I WOULD OFFER MY THANKS WHERE THANKS ARE DUE.

REPEAL OF WINTER DAYLIGHT TIME

CERTAINLY, NO THANKS ARE DUE TO THOSE IN CONGRESS WHO PASSED THIS RIDICULOUS YEAR-ROUND DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BILL. I DO NOT THINK THAT ANYONE HAS COME UP WITH ANY EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT IT HAS SAVED ENERGY SINCE GOING INTO EFFECT A MONTH AGO. BUT THAT IS NOT TOO SURPRISING, BECAUSE NO ONE PRESENTED ANY SOLID BASIS FOR BELIEVING IT WOULD DO SO IN THE FIRST PLACE WHEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE PASSED THE BILL BACK IN DECEMBER. INCIDENTALLY, I VOTED AGAINST PASSAGE.

IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF A LOT OF PEOPLE SAYING, "THIS SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, SO LET'S DO IT." AND AS FAR AS I COULD TELL THERE WERE NO FACTS, NO PROOF AND THE MAJORITY HAD NO REAL IDEA OF THE EFFECTS IT WOULD HAVE ON SCHOOL CHILDREN, RURAL RESIDENTS AND EARLY MORNING RADIO BROADCASTS.

SO NOW WE ARE STUCK WITH IT -- OR AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT ON JANUARY 28, I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO REPEAL WINTER DAYLIGHT TIME AND PUT US BACK TO NORMAL WINTER SUNRISE AND

EARLY ENOUGH DAYLIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN TO GO TO SCHOOL AND FOR THE REST OF US TO GO ABOUT OUR DAILY BUSINESS.

I WAS PLEASED THAT THE BILL RECEIVED BROAD, BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT WHEN IT WAS INTRODUCED -- INCLUDING THE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD. I THINK THE PEOPLE IN MONTANA HAVE ABOUT THE SAME OPINION OF THIS EXPERIMENT AS MOST KANSANS, NEBRASKANS, OKLAHOMANS AND MANY OTHERS. SO THE BILL NOW HAS A TOTAL OF 13 SPONSORS, -- SIX DEMOCRATS AND SEVEN REPUBLICANS -- SO HOPEFULLY THIS BACKING WILL LEAD TO EARLY ACTION TOWARD ITS BECOMING LAW.

INTEREST IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AT THIS POINT, SINCE TODAY'S MEETING TAKES PLACE HERE IN LINCOLN, WHICH IS A TOWN WHICH IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF RURAL AMERICAN LIFE, I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON A SUBJECT WHICH HAS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT TO ME OVER THE YEARS.

COMING FROM A SMALL COUNTRY TOWN, MYSELF, AND HAVING SERVED NOW FOR GOING ON 14 YEARS ON THE HOUSE AND SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES,

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I HAVE HAD A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RURAL AREAS.

BY DEVELOPMENT, I DO NOT MEAN SPREADING THE CITIES OUT INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE. NOR DO I MEAN THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE GREAT MASSES OF OUR URBAN POPULATIONS INTO THE SPARSELY-POPULATED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

WHAT RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEANS TO ME IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, MORE PRACTICAL -- AND MUCH MORE IMPORTANT. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AMERICA, TO ME, MEANS STRENGTHENING EXISTING COMMUNITIES, PRESERVING THEIR RESOURCES AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES THERE.

IMPACT OF FARM PROSPERITY

OF COURSE, THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS THE SIMPLEST WAY. AND I BELIEVE THAT THE LAST TWO YEARS OF STEADILY RISING PRICES FOR FARM COMMODITIES AND PRODUCTS HAVE DONE MORE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT THAN A HUNDRED GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS COULD ACOCOMPLISH IN TWENTY YEARS.

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AS ONE INDICATION, I WOULD CITE THE FACT THAT THE RATIO OF INCOMES OF FARM TO NON-FARM PEOPLE INCREASED FROM 78 PERCENT IN 1971 TO 83 PERCENT IN 1972 AND IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE REACHED NEARLY NINETY PERCENT LAST YEAR.

I DON'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO TELL THE MERCHANTS HERE TODAY WHAT THE CHANGE FROM DOLLAR-AND-A-QUARTER TO FIVE-DOLLAR WHEAT HAS MEANT TO YOUR BUSINESSES. AND THE RISING MARKETS FOR WHEAT, CORN, SORGHAMS AND SOYBEANS -- PARTICULARLY EXPORT MARKETS -- WHICH WENT UP FROM \$6 BILLION TO A TOTAL OF \$19 BILLION ^{last year} -- HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE TREND. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD HAVE HAD NEAR THIS IMPACT THROUGHOUT LINCOLN COUNTY AND ALL OF KANSAS THAN THE LONG-OVERDUE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKETS FOR OUR FARMERS' PRODUCTS. NATIONWIDE, NET FARM INCOME WENT UP ABOUT \$3 BILLION IN 1972 OVER THE LEVELS OF THE PROCEEDING 3-YEAR PERIOD. AND IN 1973 IT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE GONE UP ANOTHER \$5 BILLION TO AN ALL-TIME RECORD OF \$25 BILLION.

OF COURSE INFLATION HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL ON THAT FIVE-DOLLAR WHEAT AND THREE-DOLLAR CORN. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT THE TIDE HAS TURNED, AND FARMERS -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LIVING

MEMORY -- FACE THE PROSPECT OF RECEIVING A FAIR RETURN FOR THEIR LABORS
ON THE WHEAT AND CORN AND CATTLE THEY PRODUCE.

BASIC REQUIREMENT

AND THIS IS THE BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
-- RURAL OR URBAN. DEVELOPMENT IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE ACHIEVED
BY THE PASSAGE OF A LAW OR THE INSTALLATION OF SOME BUREAUCRATIC
PROGRAM. DEVELOPMENT -- WHETHER IN THE GHETTOS OF OUR BIG CITIES OR
IN SMALL COMMUNITIES SUCH AS LINCOLN AND LINCOLN COUNTY -- MUST
BE FOUNDED ON A BASIC ELEMENT OF GOOD, OLD FASHIONED, FREE ENTERPRISE
PROSPERITY. WITH IT, A GROUP, A COMMUNITY, OR AN AREA CAN ACHIEVE
REAL PROGRESS TOWARD A BETTER WAY OF LIFE. WITHOUT IT, ABOUT ALL
THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IS FRUSTRATION, WASTE OF TAX DOLLARS, AND
RED TAPE FOR SOME BUREAUCRAT TO PLAY WITH.

ELEMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT

BUT AS I SAID EARLIER, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TO ME, DOES NOT
MEAN PAVING OVER LINCOLN COUNTY WITH PARKING LOTS, HIGH RISE APARTMENTS

AND SKYSCRAPERS. I WOULD NEVER FOR ONE SECOND WANT TO SEE LINCOLN
TURNED INTO ANOTHER WASHINGTON, D. C., OR EVEN A WICHITA.

BUT RURAL DEVELOPMENT DOES SUGGEST TO ME THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A MODERN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT HERE IN LINCOLN, PROVIDING AMPLE
AND PURE WATER SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND HAVING THE HEALTH
FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL ON HAND TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF EVERY CITIZEN.
AND IF LINCOLN SHOULD NOT BECOME ANOTHER WASHINGTON OR WICHITA, THERE
IS NO REASON IT SHOULD NOT BECOME A BETTER LINCOLN WITH MORE JOBS,
BETTER COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND MORE TO OFFER ITS
POPULATION -- OLD AND YOUNG ALIKE -- IN TERMS OF MEETING THEIR NEEDS
AND RESPONDING TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS.

FEATURES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

THESE WERE SOME OF THE THOUGHTS I HAD IN MIND WHEN WORK
BEGAN ON THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972. AND I AM PLEASED AND
PROUD TO SAY THAT MANY OF THESE THOUGHTS ARE NOW BEING PUT INTO EFFECT
AS FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE.
AND FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN SO FAR RURAL DEVELOPMENT -- IN CONJUNCTION WITH

ADEQUATE LEVELS OF NET FARM INCOME -- IS GOING TO HAVE A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND VALUABLE IMPACT IN AMERICA.

JUST BRIEFLY, LET ME POINT OUT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ACT:

FIRST, IT TREATS THE QUESTIONS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR BALANCED GROWTH.

SECOND, IT DEVELOPS THIS STRATEGY BY REDUCING THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND EMPHASIZING THE ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS.

THIRD, IT STRESSES AND ENCOURAGES FLEXIBILITY IN DEVISING LOCAL APPROACHES AND SOLUTIONS AND IN DEVELOPING THE WIDEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION AND PLANNING AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.

ELEMENT OF BROAD NATIONAL POLICY

IN TREATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY, THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR MAXIMUM APPLICATION OF ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS TOWARD MEETING RURAL NEEDS.

THIS HAS BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE PAST AS MANY PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE VALID AND POTENTIALLY VALUABLE IMPACT ON RURAL AMERICA HAVE BEEN DISPROPORTIONATELY FOCUSED ON URBAN AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT HALF OF ALL POOR PEOPLE IN AMERICA LIVE IN RURAL AREAS, BUT THEY HAVE HISTORICALLY RECEIVED MUCH LESS THAN HALF OF THE FOOD STAMPS, MANPOWER TRAINING SERVICES, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT FUNDS, AND WELFARE ASSISTANCE. ALSO, HEALTH PROGRAM SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, QEO AND THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION APPEAR TO HAVE SHORTCHANGED RURAL AREAS IN TERMS OF PER CAPITA SHARES.

THEREFORE, THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT ASSIGNS TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE THE DUTY OF OVER SEEING ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO BE

CERTAIN THAT RURAL AREAS OBTAIN ACCESS TO THEM ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS. AND THIS IS TRUE FOR THE HOUSING PROGRAMS OF HUD, SMALL BUSINESS LOANS AND ASSISTANCE FROM SBA, AND ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM OF ACTION. THESE ARE NATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT IS INTENDED TO ASSURE THAT THEY SERVE THE BROADEST NATIONAL NEEDS -- RURAL AS WELL AS URBAN.

EXPANDING LOCAL POWER

BY REDUCING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL SUPERVISION AND EXPANDING STATE AND LOCAL FREEDOM OF ACTION, THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT CLOSELY FOLLOWS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW FEDERALISM WHICH SEEKS TO TAKE POWER OUT OF WASHINGTON AND ITS BUEAUCRACIES AND RETURN IT TO THOSE WHO CAN PUT IT TO BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE USE. THIS RETURN TO ONE OF OUR NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT BASIC PRINCIPLES IS, I BELIEVE, VERY SIGNIFICANT, FOR IT SIGNALS THE END OF SOME 35 YEARS OF MORE AND MORE AUTHORITY, POWER AND DECISION-MAKING BEING CONCENTRATED IN

WASHINGTON, D.C. IT SIGNALS RECOGNITION -- AT LAST -- OF A FACT MOST OF YOU HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG: THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO A PROBLEM USUALLY HAVE THE BEST IDEA OF HOW TO GO ABOUT SOLVING IT. AND GIVEN ADEQUATE FUNDS, OR THE PROPER TOOLS, THEY CAN USUALLY DEAL WITH IT FASTER, WITH LESS EXPENSE AND WITH BETTER RESULTS THAN ANY-ONE ELSE -- PARTICULARLY A BUREAUCRAT SITTING IN SOME OFFICE FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES AWAY.

THEREFORE, THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AVOIDS SETTING UP NEW CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS TO WHICH STATES OR LOCALITIES MUST DOVETAIL AND CONFORM THEIR OWN WIDELY VARYING PROBLEMS AND SITUATIONS. INSTEAD, IT ATTEMPTS TO COORDINATE EXISTING PROGRAMS -- PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH AS FEW STRINGS AS POSSIBLE -- SO STATES AND LOCALITIES CAN PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG THESE PROGRAMS TO FIND THE ONES BEST SUITED TO THEIR NEEDS -- AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND OF FINDING PROBLEMS THAT ARE SUITED TO THE PROGRAMS' REQUIREMENTS.

LOCAL COOPERATION AND PLANNING

AND FINALLY, THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AIMS AT FOSTERING BROAD COOPERATION AMONG CITIES, COUNTIES AND ENTIRE AREAS WITHIN STATES TOWARD DEALING WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS.

THIS APPROACH RECOGNIZES THAT THESE PROBLEMS REQUIRE THE MOST EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF LOCAL TALENT, FUNDS AND RESOURCES. AND THE WAY TO GAIN THIS NECESSARY EFFICIENCY IS THROUGH PLANNING AND COORDINATION ON THE WIDEST PRACTICAL LEVEL.

IT IS ONLY REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT A VO-TECH SCHOOL IN ONE TOWN CAN SERVE THE NEEDS OF SEVERAL NEARBY TOWNS. PERHAPS ONE OF THOSE OTHER TOWNS MIGHT, IN TURN, ORGANIZE AND EQUIP A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC FOR THE AREA. ANOTHER MIGHT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN AREA-WIDE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ALMOST UNLIMITED.

FOUR RIVERS R C & D

OF COURSE, HERE IN LINCOLN YOU ARE WELL ON THE WAY TO IMPLEMENTING THIS IDEA THROUGH THE FOUR RIVERS RESOURCE CONSERVATION

AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT. AND IN FACT, THE R C & D APPROACH IS WHAT THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT IS ALL ABOUT. IT IS LOCAL PEOPLE GETTING TOGETHER ON A MILTI-COUNTY OR REGIONAL BASIS TO IDENTIFY THEIR COMMON NEEDS AND PROBLEMS -- AND THEN SET ABOUT MAKING PLANS TO SOLVE THEM.

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE THESE EFFORTS EASIER AND MORE EFFECTIVE AND PERHAPS TO APPLY THEM ON A BROADER SCALE THAN WAS POSSIBLE PREVIOUSLY.

BECAUSE NOW, INSTEAD OF JUST TALKING ABOUT SCS PROGRAMS OR LOANS FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS AND CROP INFORMATION ASSISTANCE -- WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, LOANS FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, LOANS AND GRANTS FOR WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION, AND GRANTS FOR BUILDING NEW COMMUNITY FACILITES.

NEW BUDGET FIGURES

AND AS AN INDICATION THAT THIS EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IS MORE THAN JUST RHETORIC, LET ME CITE SOME FIGURES FROM THE NEW FEDERAL BUDGET WHICH WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK:

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--FUNDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE IN FISCAL YEAR 1975 HAS BEEN
INCREASED BY MORE THAN 100 PERCENT TO NEARLY \$1.3 MILLION
--RURAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LOANS WILL
BE DOUBLED FROM \$200 MILLION TO \$400 MILLION
--LOANS FOR RURAL WATER AND SEWER PROJECT CONSTRUCTION
WILL RISE FROM \$520 MILLION TO \$600 MILLION. AND \$20
MILLION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A NEW PROGRAM OF OUTRIGHT
GRANTS FOR THESE PROJECTS.
--IN ADDITION \$10 MILLION OF NEW MONEY WILL BE PROVIDED
IN GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

THUS, I BELIEVE THE IMPACT OF OUR NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT
WILL BE VERY HELPFUL AND VERY IMPORTANT TO THE CITIZENS OF LINCOLN,
TO THE WHOLE FOUR RIVERS AREA AND TO RURAL AMERICANS EVERYWHERE.

BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM, AND BECAUSE OF RISING FARM INCOMES,

YOU WILL BEGIN TO SEE CHANGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY. BETTER FIRE PROTECTION, BETTER HEALTH FACILITIES -- AND MORE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH ATTRACT JOBS, BRING IN NEW PEOPLE AND HELP MAKE LIFE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY HERE.

THESE CHANGES WILL COME QUIETLY AND WITHOUT GREAT NATIONAL FANFARE. BUT I BELIEVE THEY ARE THE KINDS OF CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN LONG OVERDUE FOR THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO LIVE, WORK AND RIASE THEIR FAMILIES IN RURAL AMERICA.

I AM PROUD TO HAVE HAD A PART IN HELPING TO WORK TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS PROGRESS. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVING AND ADDING TO THESE ACHIEVEMENTS AS WE GO ALONG.