

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
CIRCLE K CLUBS DISTRICT CONVENTION
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY UNION
MANHATTAN, KANSAS
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1974

IT IS MY REAL PLEASURE TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN YOU
FOR THIS CIRCLE K CLUBS CONVENTION AND TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO DISCUSS
BRIEFLY A FEW MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO US ALL -- INDIVIDUALLY, AS
MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND AS CITIZENS OF OUR NATION.

TROUBLED BUT NOT IN TROUBLE

NONE OF US CAN PUT OUR HEADS IN THE SAND AND PRETEND THAT
WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE CAPACITY OF THE MODERN
MEDIA BEING WHAT IT IS, NONE OF US CAN IGNORE THE REGULAR REPORTS
OF SHORTAGES, OF SCANDALS AND OF MISTAKES.

AND NO THINKING AMERICAN CAN AVOID BEING TROUBLED BY ALL
OF THIS, AND CONCERNED.

IN THE PRESENT TROUBLED TIMES, THERE IS A STRONG CURRENT OF THOUGHT AND OPINION THAT OUR SYSTEM AND OUR INSTITUTIONS HAVE FAILED. WE HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF SELF-DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY, THAT STARTED PERHAPS, DURING THE SIXTIES WITH THE VIETNAM WAR AND HAS CONTINUED INTO THE SEVENTIES, FOCUSING NOW ON WATERGATE.

WE ARE A TROUBLED NATION. THAT MUCH I WILL ADMIT. BUT WE ARE NOT A NATION IN TROUBLE.

NATIONAL STRENGTH

ESSENTIALLY, WE REMAIN THE STRONGEST NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. BY ALMOST ANY STANDARD, THAT IS TRUE. OUR ECONOMY, IN SPITE OF THE PROBLEMS WE ARE HAVING, IS STILL FAR AWAY THE STRONGEST AND MOST STABLE THERE IS. MILITARILY, TOO, WE ARE THE STRONGEST NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, AND SO LONG AS OUR LIBERTY AND THE LIVES AND LIBERTY OF FREE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD DEPEND ON US, WE MUST REMAIN SO.

BUT THOSE ARE 1970 INDICATORS OF POWER -- WHICH IS NOT
NECESSARILY EQUIVALENT TO GREATNESS.

STRENGTH BY ANOTHER MEASURE

OUR GREATNESS, WE MUST MEASURE BY ANOTHER STANDARD, THE
STANDARD OF 1776 AND OF THE IDEALS OF LIBERTY WHICH WERE FORMULATED
THEN AND HAVE INSPIRED THIS NATION SINCE.

THE REVOLUTION IN THIS COUNTRY IS STILL GOING ON. ANY
REVOLUTION WHOSE GOAL IS THE EXPANSION OF FREEDOM AND INDIVIDUAL
OPPORTUNITY CAN'T BE COMPLETE UNTIL FREEDOM IS UNIVERSAL.

AND HOW HAVE WE LIVED UP TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION? THE HISTORY OF AMERICA, JUDGED FROM ONE PERSPECTIVE, HAS
BEEN THE HISTORY OF A PEOPLE STRIVING TOGETHER TO EXTEND THEIR OWN
FREEDOM, THAT OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS, AND THAT OF PEOPLE IN OTHER
LANDS FAR REMOVED FROM OURSELVES OR FROM OUR OWN IMMEDIATE INTERESTS.

FOUR TIMES IN THIS CENTURY, WE HAVE JOINED WITH OTHERS WHOSE FREEDOMS HAD BEEN THREATENED, TO FIGHT FOR THE SUCESS AND THE SURVIVABILITY OF LIBERTY.

INNUMERABLE TIMES IN THIS CENTURY, WE HAVE COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHERS, VICTIMS OF WAR OR OF NATURAL DISASTER. HELPING OTHERS IN FACT IS MORE THAN JUST AN OCCASIONAL ENDEAVOR FOR AMERICA. IT IS A MATTER OF POLICY FOR US, A POLICY WE BACK UP WITH ABUNDANT RESOURCES.

YET, IN SPITE OF THIS THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THE COUNTRY IS SICK, THAT ITS INSTITUTIONS ARE WORN OUT, THAT ITS PEOPLE ARE DIS-PIRITED.

WRONG VIEW

THEY POINT TO SCANDALS, EXAMPLES OF WRONG DOING, FAILURES AND MISTAKES AND UPON THESE EXAMPLES BASE A CLAIM FOR THE DECLINE AND FORTHCOMING COLLAPSE OF OUR SOCIETY.

BUT I BELIEVE THOSE WHO TAKE SUCH A VIEW ARE WRONG. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I FEEL THEY ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE MAINSTREAM OF EVENTS IN AMERICA. FOR WHEN A PERSON GETS AWAY FROM SUCH PLACES AS WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK -- WHEN ALL YOUR NEWS DOES NOT COME FROM THE WASHINGTON POST, TIME AND THE TELEVISION NETWORKS -- YOU BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HELD ON TO THEIR ESSENTIAL STRENGTHS AND RETAINED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE IDEALS OF WHAT I CALL THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD -- THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

OF COURSE PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED. WRONGDOING AT HIGH PLACES IN GOVERNMENT, THE FUEL AND FERTILIZER SITUATION, THE COST OF LIVING ARE SUBJECTS OF REAL IMPORTANCE.

MAJOR SOURCES OF STRENGTH

BUT THE PEOPLE ALSO REALIZE THAT AMERICA IS AT PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. OUR YOUNG MEN ARE NO LONGER BEING DRAFTED AND SENT OFF TO FIGHT AND DIE IN FAR OFF PLACES.

THEY SEE A FOREIGN OIL EMBARGO BEING LIFTED -- IN LARGE PART BECAUSE A POWERFUL, SECURE AND CONFIDENT AMERICA -- HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXERT FORCEFUL LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THEY SEE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY EMERGING AND AT LONG LAST BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE OF OUR NATION'S ASSETS.

NATION OF SUCCESS

THEY SEE A NATION WHICH, IN MANY RESPECTS AND ACCORDING TO MODERN MEASURES OF SUCCESS, HAS MADE IT. WE ARE COMFORTABLE, WEALTHY, FREE.

BUT IF THOSE ARE THE MEASURES THE MODERN WORLD WOULD JUDGE US AGAINST, THEY ARE NONETHELESS INADEQUATE. FOR, IN SO MANY WAYS, AMERICA I BELIEVE, HAS SET ITS OWN STANDARDS.

WE CAN BE COMFORTABLE, BUT IN THIS COUNTRY SO MANY CANNOT REST UNTIL OTHERS ARE COMFORTABLE TOO.

WE ARE PROSPEROUS, BUT DETERMINED TO SHARE OUR PROSPERITY WITH OTHERS IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO SPREAD IT TO NATIONS ELSEWHERE.

WE ARE FREE, BUT DON'T COUNT OUR OWN FREEDOM COMPLETE UNTIL WE CAN MAKE IT UNIVERSAL.

WILLING TO HELP OTHERS

WE ARE, IN OTHER WORDS, A GOOD PEOPLE. WE HAVE OUR FAULTS AND SHORTCOMINGS. WE ARE NOT, TO BE SURE, ANGELS. BUT OUR FLAWS ARE NOT FATAL FLAWS AND OUR FAULTS ARE NOT ALL-CONSUMING AS SOME WOULD HAVE US AND OTHERS BELIEVE.

LAST YEAR, AT THE KIWANIS KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION, I URGED KIWANIANs TO DEVOTE THEIR CONSIDERABLE ENERGIES TO HELPING A SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY. I URGED THEM TO FIND THE TIME IN THEIR ALREADY BUSY SCHEDULE OF SERVICE TO AID A GROUP OF AMERICAN YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE BEEN TOO LONG INGNORED, AND TO HELP THOSE YOUNGSTERS DEVELOP FOR THEMSELVES A GREATER SENSE OF SELF-ESTEEM AND DIGNITY.

LIKE OTHER KIWANIANs, AND WITH THE HELP AND COOPERATION OF KIWANIANs IN THIS MANHATTAN AREA, CIRCLE K IS HELPING THESE YOUNGSTERS -- THROUGH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS -- AND IS PROVING WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PEOPLE HERE TO PITCH IN AND SHARE THE FRUITS OF THEIR OWN FREEDOM WITH THE LESS FORTUNATE AMONG US.

I SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS, SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH.

WHATEVER AMOUNT OF WORK MAY BE REQUIRED, NO MATTER HOW MANY HOURS OF PREPARATION IT MAY TAKE, I CAN GUARANTEE NONE OF YOU WILL REGRET IT.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS I COULD SAY ABOUT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND MY OWN STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THEIR VALUE. BUT ALLOW ME JUST TO SHARE WITH YOU A FEW BRIEF POINTS.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GROW SINCE 1968

THE FIRST SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES WERE HELD IN THE SUMMER OF 1968, WHEN ONE THOUSAND MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES TRAVELLED TO SOLDIER FIELD IN CHICAGO TO TAKE PART IN WHAT WAS THEN A DARING EXPERIMENT. HAND IN HAND, THE KENNEDY FOUNDATION AND THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT CREATED A TWO-DAY ATHLETIC COMPETITION. BUT IT WAS MUCH MORE. IT WAS A SOCIAL EXPERIENCE AND CELEBRATION INVOLVING AND CHALLENGING MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN.

MOST HAD NEVER BEEN AWAY FROM HOME, TRAVELLED IN AN AIR-PLANE, COMPETED IN AN ATHLETIC EVENT, OR EVEN ATTENDED A BANQUET OR A DANCE. THERE WERE EXPERTS AROUND THEN WHO FELT THAT MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN COULD NOT RUN 300 YARDS, COULD NOT STAND THE DIS-APPOINTMENT OF LOSING A RACE AND COULD CERTAINLY NOT BE TAKEN ON AN AIRPLANE FAR FROM HOME TO A STRANGE PLACE TO PARTICIPATE WITH A THOUSAND OTHER CHILDREN IN AN DEMANDING AND ALIEN ATHLETIC COMPETITION.

THESE EXPERTS WERE PROVED TOTALLY WRONG.

TODAY, THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY MAJOR NATIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH MENTAL RETARDATION, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION. THERE IS A SPECIAL OLYMPICS ORGANIZATION IN EVERY STATE WHOSE CONCERN IS WITH YEAR-ROUND SPORTS TRAINING AND COMPETITION FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED. GOVERNORS OF MORE THAN HALF OUR STATES HAVE ISSUED PROCLAMATIONS OF COOPERATION, AND HAVE PUBLICLY SPOKEN OUT IN SUPPORT OF THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT. WHY, THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS HAS NOW EVEN SPREAD TO EUROPE AND CANADA.

EVERYBODY WINS

I WOULD LIKE TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE TREMENDOUS BOOST AN EXPERIENCE LIKE THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS GIVES TO A MENTALLY RETARDED YOUNGSTER. NOW THEY CAN ACTIVELY ENTER AND TRAIN FOR SPORTS IN AN IDEAL SETTING THAT DEVELOPS CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE EFFECT OF A DEFEAT ON THESE CHILDREN, FOR IN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS, EVERYBODY WINS. WINNERS ARE GIVEN GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS, AND ALL WHO ENTER EVENTS ARE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE. IN 1970 EARL BRITT OF PARSONS, KANSAS, TIED FOR A GOLD MEDAL IN THE HIGH JUMP WITH A JUMP OF 5'10". IN ~~1971~~, A JUMP OF 5'10" WON THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE WORLD OLYMPICS. ALSO IN 1970, A BLIND BOY FROM CALIFORNIA FOLLOWED THE VOICE OF HIS COACH IN THE 50-YARD DASH. HIS COACH WAS CALLING TO HIM FROM THE FINISH LINE.

CARL ERSKINE, THE GREAT MAJOR LEAGUE PITCHER WHO IS THE FATHER OF A MENTALLY RETARDED CHILD, HAS HIS OWN STORY TO TELL.

HIS CHILD COMPETED IN THE INDIANA SPECIAL OLYMPICS, AND BOTH OF THEM WERE FULL OF HOPE. "IT WAS A SPECIAL THRILL FOR ME," HE SAYS. "WHEN THE GUN WENT OFF, THE FIRST THING JIMMY DID WAS TO HOLD HIS EARS. THAT PUT HIM WAY BEHIND, AND HE FINISHED DEAD LAST IN HIS HEAT. BUT THERE IS NO WAY OF DESCRIBING THAT SATISFACTION OF SEEING JIMMY JUST FINISH THE RACE. TEARS WERE RUNNING DOWN MY FACE SO HARD I COULD HARDLY TAKE HIS PICTURE."

CHILD ACHIEVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

THE GREAT JOY OF THIS FATHER SEEING HIS MENTALLY RETARDED SON PERFORM THE VERY BEST HE COULD AND ACHIEVE HIS UTMOST IS A FEELING I SHARED WITH MANY AT THE KANSAS OLYMPICS THIS SUMMER. THESE SPECIAL CHILDREN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD "YOU CAN'T DO IT". BUT THEY CAN, AND THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS GIVES THEM AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO PROVE IT -- TO OTHERS AND MOST ESPECIALLY TO THEMSELVES. IT INVOLVES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN A LABOR OF LOVE FOR THIS CHILD, AND BOTH CAN FEEL A NEW SENSE OF BELONGING.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS. I THANK YOU FOR WILLINGNESS TO HELP OTHERS AND ESPECIALLY THESE VERY SPECIAL CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN LEFT OUT FOR SO LONG.

AS YOU HELP THEM, YOU ARE HELPING ALL OF US AND YOURSELVES, TOO. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AND UNIQUE SATISFACTION IN TAKING PART IN SOMETHING THAT GIVES A RETARDED CHILD SO MUCH HAPPINESS AND HELP.

THE MOTTO OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS "LET ME WIN, BUT IF I CANNOT WIN, LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT".

LET US HELP THEM BE BRAVE, AND THEN WE'LL ALL BE WINNERS.

THANK YOU.