

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
KANSAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN  
IOLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
IOLA, KANSAS  
NOON SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1974

*Bob Dole*

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN IOLA WITH THE MEMBERS OF  
THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF KANSAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN.

I WANT TO TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES WITH YOU TO DISCUSS WHAT  
IS ON MY MIND REGARDING SOME OF THE CURRENT ASSESSMENTS OF OUR PARTY,  
ITS PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

NOT BUYING BILL OF GOODS

AS ALWAYS, THE STRENGTH OF THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION AND THE  
MOOD OF ITS MEMBERS, PROVIDES ONE RELIABLE TEST OF THE STRENGTH OF THE  
PARTY ITSELF, AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT NONE  
OF YOU HAVE BOUGHT THE BILL OF GOODS ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY THAT  
SOME MEDIA PUNDITS AND POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SELL  
OF LATE.

THIS REPUBLICAN PARTY IS STRONG. ITS PROSPECTS ARE AS GOOD AS WE CHOOSE TO MAKE THEM. ITS FATE AT THE POLLS NEXT NOVEMBER IS NOT FOREORDAINED BY THE FALSE PROPHECIES OF APRIL NOR FORESHADOWED BY THE FALSE PRECEDENTS OF THIS SPRING'S SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

DEMOCRAT BANKRUPTCY OBSCURED

WE HAVE OUR PROBLEMS. AND OUR WORK IS CUT OUT FOR US. I MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO DIMINISH THE SIZE OF THE JOB AHEAD OF US. BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT AS IF WE WERE STARTING FROM SCRATCH, WITHOUT A STRONG BASE OF SUPPORT AND JUST AS STRONG A FOUNDATION OF PRINCIPLE ON WHICH TO BUILD.

FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ITS IMPACT ON REPUBLICAN FORTUNES, PERHAPS THE MOST UNFORTUNATE RESULT OF WATERGATE HAS BEEN THE FACT THAT IT HAS DIMMED THE NATION'S MEMORY OF

WHAT THE DEMOCRATS STOOD FOR IN 1972 AND HOW, IN THAT YEAR AND THAT CAMPAIGN, THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE DEMOCRAT POSITION, PUSHED TO ITS LOGICAL EXTENSION, WAS LAID BARE FOR ALL TO SEE.

MISLEADING REFERENCES

AND SINCE THEN, THE DIVISIONS, DISPUTES AND DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN DEMOCRAT RANKS TOO, HAVE BEEN OBSCURED AND OVER-SHADOWED BY THE AMOUNT OF PRESS ATTENTION AFFORDED TO THE WATERGATE AFFAIR.

THE HEADLINES ALMOST UNERRINGLY REFER, MISLEADINGLY, TO THE GOP IN REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS OR REVELATIONS IN THE SCANDAL. WE READ ABOUT ""GOP LEADER THIS", OR "GOP COMMITTEE THAT", THOUGH THE PARTY ITSELF HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE EVENTS REPORTED. CONFIDENT THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ITSELF BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAMPAIGN WRONG-DOING OF 1972, I CAN LIVE WITH AND ACCEPT, INDEED HAVE ENCOURAGED, A

FULL AND OBJECTIVE DISCLOSURE OF ALL THE FACTS. BUT TO BE SMEARED BY A HEADLINE WRITER'S SHORTHAND -- THAT IS HARD TO TAKE.

ANTIDOTE TO FALSEHOOD

THE ONLY ANTIDOTE I KNOW IS FOR REPUBLICANS TO FIGHT WITH EVERY OUNCE OF THEIR STRENGTH AGAINST THIS AND TO HOLD UP, AS A COUNTER TO IT, THE TRUTH -- THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES AND ABOUT OUR OPPONENTS.

REPUBLICANS HAVE NO APOLOGIES TO MAKE FOR THE POSITIONS THEY HOLD OR FOR THE RECORD THEY HAVE ACHIEVED. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THE REAL ISSUE IN 1974 OUGHT TO BE THE CONGRESS WHICH, DURING THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, HAS BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY.

IF THE PEOPLE HAVE COMPLAINTS ABOUT INFLATION -- AND THEY DO -- THEN THEY OUGHT TO APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT 20 YEARS OF FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY BY A SPENDTHRIFT CONGRESS IS MUCH TO BLAME.

CONGRESS RATING LOW

FOR TWENTY YEARS, THE POWER OF CONGRESS ITSELF IS SAID TO HAVE ERODED AWAY, AS HAS THE POWER OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, WHILE THE STRENGTH OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS GROWN BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS. IF THAT IS THE CASE -- AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE IT IS -- THEN WHO IS TO BLAME IF NOT THOSE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY WHO WERE CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF LEADERSHIP AND FAILED SO CONSISTENTLY AND SO DISMALLY TO FULFILL IT.

IT SHOULD TAKE NO BIG POLITICAL SELLING JOB, NO MAJOR PARTISAN CAMPAIGN, TO BRING THIS POINT HOME TO THE VOTERS. THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND ACCORDING TO THE POLLS HAVE GIVEN IT A LOFTY TWENTY-ONE PERCENT APPROVAL RATING.

MORE OF THE SAME?

THAT IS THE REAL ISSUE IN 1974 -- THE LOW ESTATE TO WHICH THE CONGRESS HAS FALLEN. WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL DO ITS BEST TO FRAME THE CAMPAIGN IN DIFFERENT TERMS THAN THAT.

BUT THE ELECTIONS IN 1974 ARE FOR SEATS IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY OUGHT NOT TO BE REFERENDUMS ON ANY QUESTION BUT "WHAT KIND OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP DO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WANT."

DO THEY WANT MORE OF THE SAME INEFFECTUAL AND LACKLUSTER -- OFTENTIMES IRRELEVANT -- POSTURING ON ISSUES, OR DO THEY WANT LEADERSHIP THAT, AT LAST, CAN AND WILL MAKE AN HONEST ATTEMPT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH NATIONAL PROBLEMS THROUGH PRODUCTIVE LEGISLATION.

DO THEY WANT MORE OF THE SAME FROM A CONGRESS WHOSE BEST EFFORT SO FAR IN DEALING WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS BEEN THE SHORTSIGHTED IMPOSITION OF WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.

DO THEY WANT THE CONGRESS TO CONTINUE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS, MANY OF WHOM WOULD HAVE PLUNGED US INTO THE BUREAUCRATIC MIASMA OF RATIONING PREMATURELY BACK IN JANUARY, IF THEY COULD HAVE HAD THEIR WAY.

WILL TRY TO SHIFT BLAME

THE TROUBLE IS PRECISELY THAT THIS DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED CONGRESS HAS HAD ITS WAY FOR SO LONG. AND THE WELFARE MESS, TAX INEQUITIES, THE SAD STATE OF MANY OF OUR HOUSING PROGRAMS, UNREALISTICALLY LOW NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT LAWS, AND THE REDUCTION OF POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TO NAME A FEW, HAVE BEEN THE RESULT.

THAT IS THE ISSUE, YET THE DEMOCRATS ARE AFTER ALL, POLITICIANS AND THEY WILL TRY TO SHIFT THE FOCUS AWAY FROM THEIR OWN FAILURES AND CENTER THE CAMPAIGN ON THE FAILURES, REAL AND IMAGINED, OF THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION.

WE CAN EXPECT FROM THEM, FIRST, CROCODILE TEARS OVER THE PROBLEMS WHICH THEIR OWN ILL-CONCEIVED, HIGH-PRICED PROGRAMS HAVE EITHER CAUSED OR AGGRAVATED. AND IN A CLASSIC POLITICAL VERSION OF THE OLD SHELL-GAME, THEY'LL DO THEIR BEST TO PIN THE BLAME FOR THEIR OWN MISTAKES ON REPUBLICANS.

#### NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN

SECOND, I WOULD SAY WE CAN EXPECT FROM DEMOCRATS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF OUTRIGHT AD HOMINEM -- THAT IS TO SAY, SMEAR TACTICS. WHEN YOU'VE GOT NOTHING POSITIVE TO POINT TO, YOU RUN A NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN. YOU GRASP AT STRAWS. YOU BEND THE TRUTH, STRETCH THE TRUTH, IGNORE THE TRUTH.



AND I CAN CONFIDENTLY PREDICT THAT -- IN SPITE OF THE  
DEMOCRAT PROTESTATIONS THAT THEY WON'T MAKE WATERGATE THE ISSUE --  
BEFORE THEY'RE THROUGH PRACTICALLY EVERY REPUBLICAN IN THE COUNTRY  
RUNNING FOR OFFICE THIS YEAR WILL HAVE BEEN OUTRAGEOUSLY ACCUSED OF  
SOME TIE TO THE SCANDAL OR OF SOME ABUSE OF HIS OWN.

IF WE GO ON THE DEFENSIVE, IF WE OPT TO STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE,  
WE WILL BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS. BUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY  
AND ITS CANDIDATES HAVE MORE GUMPTION THAN THAT.

THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP HAS MORE GUMPTION THAN THAT.

WE KNOW, BASED ON PAST HISTORY, PRETTY MUCH WHAT TO EXPECT. SOME DEMOCRATS ARE GOING TO SEIZE EVERY AVAILABLE PRETEXT ON WHICH TO TRY TO DISCREDIT REPUBLICANS. THERE'LL BE NONE OF THIS HIGH-MINDED CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUES WHICH DEMOCRATS SO LOUDLY PROCLAIM AS THEIR STRATEGY IN EVERY CAMPAIGN.

THE GOAL WILL BE NOT SO MUCH TO TRY TO DISPUTE A REPUBLICAN POSITION OR PROVE A CANDIDATE WRONG ON GROUNDS OF POLICY.

THE GOAL WILL BE TO DISCREDIT THAT CANDIDATE, TO RAISE SUSPICIONS ABOUT HIS MOTIVATIONS OR HIS INTEGRITY.

AND, INEVITABLY, THEY MUST PULL OUT AN OLD DOUBLE-STANDARD TO PULL THIS OFF. THE VOTER MUST BE ASKED TO IGNORE THE FAILINGS OF DEMOCRATS AND BUY THE FICTION THAT VOTING DEMOCRAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO ELIMINATE VENALITY IN PUBLIC OFFICE. THAT IS FICTION ALRIGHT, BUT IT

BUT IT ISN'T VERY GOOD FICTION BECAUSE IT DOESN'T PASS THE ONE CRUCIAL TEST OF BELIEVABILITY.

IF THE RADICAL ELEMENT IS PERMITTED TO CLOUD THE REAL AND BASIC ISSUES AND ELECT A VETO-PROOF CONGRESS, WE WILL HAVE MANY TOUGH YEARS AHEAD OF US.

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

IT TAKES NO GREAT IMAGINATION TO SEE A TOUGH FIGHT COMING. SO WE MIGHT JUST AS WELL BE PREPARED FOR IT. AND WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE FACT THAT -- GIVEN THE PRESENT PUBLIC MOOD -- ANY ALLEGATIONS AGAINST REPUBLICANS, NO MATTER HOW FLIMSY OR UNSUBSTANTIATED, ARE GOING TO GET REPORTED, AND COVERED AND INVESTIGATED.

WE COULD RESPOND BY BEATING THEM TO THE PUNCH. AND DREAMING UP A FEW WILD CHARGES OF OUR OWN. BUT NONE OF US SERIOUSLY PROPOSES THAT AS A MEANINGFUL OR RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL STRATEGY, NOT IN 1974 OR IN ANY ELECTION YEAR.

WE COULD DECIDE SIMPLY TO SIT BACK PASSIVELY AND LET THEM SPEW OUT THEIR GOSSIP AND RUMORS AND ALLEGATIONS. AND I AM TEMPTED IN MY OWN CASE, TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE. THERE IS A SORT OF CREDIBILITY QUOTIENT AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AT WORK HERE.

JUST AS THEY AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE POLITICIANS WHO OVER-PROMISE AND PRACTICALLY GUARANTEE THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THE NATION AND THE WORLD WOULD GO AWAY THE DAY AFTER EVERYBODY ELSE STARTS TO AGREE WITH THEM, NEITHER ARE THEY GOING TO BELIEVE FAULTS AND MADE-UP MISTAKES HE ATTRIBUTES TO HIS OPPONENT. THEY WON'T BELIEVE IT, IN ANY EVENT.

IF THE DRUM-BEAT OF HALF-TRUTH AND INNUENDO IS KEPT UP FOR LONG WITHOUT THERE EVER SURFACING EVEN THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF SUBSTANTIATION.

MY OWN OPPONENT HAS GONE TO BOTH EXTREMES, NOT SURPRISINGLY, TRYING TO PORTRAY THIS RACE AS A SORT OF DEVIL OR ANGEL AFFAIR. DARK HINTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DROPPED ABOUT THE DAIRY GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH I HAVE TURNED BACK AND ASSORTED OTHER SPURIOUS CHARGES HAVE POPPED UP, HERE AND THERE, WHEREVER A WILLING REPORTER CAN BE FOUND TO PUT THEM IN PRINT.

AND I CAN SEE A DEVELOPING PATTERN OF UNPRINCIPLED ATTACK FROM DEMOCRATS IN THIS ELECTION YEAR. MY OWN OPPONENT, AND HIS CAMPAIGN APPARATUS, SEEMS BENT ON CARVING OUT A SPECIAL NICHE OF THEIR OWN IN THIS REGARD, BUT OTHERS ARE LINING UP TO COMPETE ON EQUAL TERMS.

CHARGES BRANDED FOR WHAT THEY ARE

CONGRESSMAN JOE SKUBITZ' OPPONENT, IN HIS RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY, TRUMPED UP SOME OF THE SILLIEST CHARGES IMAGINABLE, SOME OF WHICH AT LEAST ONE NEWSPAPER HAS BRANDED AS OUTRIGHT LIES. ALL OF WHICH, THAT PAPER HAS BRANDED AS "STALE TRIPE".

JOE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF AND NEEDS NO DEFENSE FROM ME. BUT HOW MUCH BETTER IT WOULD BE IF, THIS YEAR, 1974, WE REALLY DID HAVE A CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUES FROM THE CANDIDATES OF BOTH SIDES. INSTEAD, IF THE EARLY SIGNS ARE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT'S AHEAD, THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF TRIPE, MOST OF IT STALE, FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

POSITIVE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN

THERE IS A THIRD RESPONSE TO THESE TACTICS, AND IT FOLLOWS FROM THE SECOND. WE CAN RUN POSITIVELY ON THE ISSUES. CALMLY, METHODICALLY, WE CAN POINT TO OUR OWN REPUBLICAN POSITION AND PROPOSALS FOR SOLVING THE PERSISTENT NATIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH CONCERN AMERICANS.

AND WE CAN POINT TO THEM WITH PRIDE.

LET US NOT FORGET THAT, IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT WE WERE TALKING IN HOPEFUL TERMS ABOUT THE RE-EMERGENCE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY NATIONALLY. THAT RE-EMERGENCE WAS TAKING PLACE FOR ONE BASIC REASON. ON THE ISSUES, REPUBLICANS STOOD WITH THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS. AND THE DEMOCRATS HAD FALLEN WAY OUT OF STEP.

ON THE ISSUES, THAT HASN'T CHANGED. IN TERMS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF PUBLIC POLICY, WE STILL STAND WITH THE PEOPLE, AND REPUBLICAN PROGRAMS STILL MATCH UP THE BEST WITH THE WISHES AND THE NEEDS OF MOST AMERICANS.

IN THIS POLITICAL YEAR OF WATERGATE, WE CAN EITHER GO ON THE DEFENSIVE, APOLOGIZING NEEDLESSLY FOR THE FAULTS OF OTHERS, OR WE CAN TAKE THE OFFENSIVE, PRESENTING OUR CASE WITH VIGOR, KNOWING THAT THE CASE FOR REPUBLICAN VICTORY IN THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS OF 1974 CAN BE MADE, CAN BE MADE STRONGLY AND CAN BE MADE SUCCESSFULLY.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SITTING BACK ON THE DEFENSIVE. YOU CAN'T WIN THAT WAY. I HAVE A RECORD I AM GOING TO RUN ON. AS REPUBLICANS, WE ALL HAVE A RECORD OF COMMITMENT TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO ITS BETTERMENT TO BE PROUD OF.

SO I SAY TO YOU -- STAND UP FOR YOURSELVES AND FOR YOUR PARTY. STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU KNOW IF RIGHT. STAND UP FOR YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED -- YES VICTIMIZED -- BY YEARS OF DEMOCRATS' FAILURE IN THE CONGRESS, BY EVER RISING TAXES WITH EVER DIMINISHING RETURNS ~~IN TERMS~~ OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT.

STAND UP FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, FOR ITS REPUTATION AND FOR ITS CANDIDATES. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED AND IF YOU DO THERE'LL BE NO DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN THE VOTES ARE COUNTED IN NOVEMBER.