

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
LINCOLN DAY
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1977

IT'S THAT SEASON OF THE YEAR IDENTIFIED ON REPUBLICAN POLITICAL CALENDARS AS "LINCOLN DAY". BUT LINCOLN DAY IS NOT JUST A CALENDAR EVENT. FOR REPUBLICANS, IT'S A TRADITIONAL OCCASION FOR US TO RECOGNIZE AND CONSIDER OUR ROOTS AS A PARTY.

OURS IS A PARTY FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN LIBERTY, A PARTY BORN IN THE STRUGGLE WHICH WAS SO MAGNIFICENTLY CHRONICLED IN THE "ROOTS" OF ALEX HALEY'S FAMILY. ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE OTHER FATHERS OF OUR PARTY WERE COMMITTED TO THE IDEALS OF LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF A HAPPINESS BEST ATTAINED WITHOUT THE UNWARRANTED INTRUSION OF GOVERNMENT.

AND WHILE WE HAVE ENDURED ELECTORAL MISFORTUNE IN THE RECENT PAST, WE HAVEN'T LOST BECAUSE OF THE POSITIONS WE TOOK, AND CERTAINLY NOT BECAUSE OF THE PRINCIPLES WE SHARE AS REPUBLICANS. WE JUST DIDN'T GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS. TO MANY,

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WE ARE PERCEIVED AS A PARTY OF "AGAINSTERS", A PARTY THAT CARES FOR THE RICH AND NOT THE POOR; THE BUSINESSMAN AND NOT THE CONSUMER; THE INDUSTRIALIST AND NOT THE ENVIRONMENTALIST; THOSE WHO CAN HELP THEMSELVES AND NOT THOSE WHO NEED HELP. BUT YOU AND I KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE. WE KNOW THAT THE PARTY OF LINCOLN IS STILL THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE, THAT OUR PHILOSOPHY OF LIMITED GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY BEST REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF MOST NEBRASKANS AND MOST AMERICANS.

OURS IS A PARTY THAT IS -- AND SHOULD BE -- OPEN TO ALL. WE DO NOT -- AND MUST NOT -- INSIST ON UNIFORMITY OF THOUGHT AND STYLE. WE CANNOT AFFORD ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS. SO LONG AS OUR ROOTS ARE SOUND -- AND THEY ARE -- THERE IS ROOM IN THE REPUBLICAN GARDEN FOR MANY VARIETIES.

IT IS TIME FOR US TO REDISCOVER AND REAFFIRM WHAT WE STAND FOR, OUR COMMON ROOTS AS A PARTY. IN AN AGE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, THE QUEST FOR HUMAN LIBERTY IS STILL UNSATISFIED. TODAY, OUR PEOPLE STRAIN AGAINST THE BONDS OF AN OVER-REGULATED SOCIETY. IN AGRICULTURE, THE ECONOMY, AND -- MOST RECENTLY -- THE SUPPLY OF ENERGY -- INDEED IN EVERY CORNER OF OUR LIVES -- AMERICANS YEARN FOR FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENTAL DOMINATION.

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AND THAT IS THE CENTRAL ISSUE SEPARATING THE TWO PARTIES IN 1977. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON APPEARS TO BE DEDICATED TO A CONTINUED HIGH RATE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON PROGRAMS THAT INVARIABLY EXTEND CONTROLS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER OVER NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES. AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS IS EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE WISDOM OF ACTIVE GOVERNMENT MEDDLING.

PRESIDENT CARTER IS GOING ABOUT HIS DUTIES WITH ADMIRABLE ZEST. HIS EARLY DECISIONS HAVE BEEN COATED WITH A THICK COVERING OF PUBLIC RELATIONS WIZARDRY, WITH SYMBOLIC GESTURES. IN THE END, HOWEVER, WHATEVER EMERGES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS IS CERTAIN TO INVOLVE THE HEAVY HAND OF GOVERNMENT ON YOUR SHOULDER AND IN YOUR POCKET.

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REPUBLICANS STAND FOR LESS GOVERNMENT, LOWER TAXES, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING THAT DRAWS ON THE STRENGTHS OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND LOCAL DECISION MAKING. IT IS POSSIBLE TO PRESENT MORE SENSIBLE CONCRETE ALTERNATIVES TO DEMOCRATIC PROPOSALS -- AND THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS ARE DOING THAT THIS YEAR. BUT, BELIEVE ME, IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER IF THERE WERE MORE OF US IN WASHINGTON.

ON ANY NUMBER OF ISSUES, REPUBLICAN POSITIONS ARE SOUND, OUR PROGRAMS ARE RESPONSIVE AND POLITICALLY APPEALING.

MUCH OF THE NATION HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF NATURAL GAS. SCHOOLS, STORES, AND OTHER WORKING PLACES HAD TO BE SHUT DOWN IN MANY STATES. ALTHOUGH THE WARNING SIGNS WERE CLEAR FOR ALL TO SEE, THE LAST CONGRESS DID NOTHING TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF FUEL. DISTORTIONS IN THE MARKET ARE CREATED BY UNREALISTIC GOVERNMENT REGULATION. FUTURE SUPPLIES ARE UNPREDICTABLE. AND DEPENDING ON WHERE THEY LIVE, SOME CONSUMERS PAY MORE, OTHERS PAY LESS.

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MEANWHILE, THE NEW CONGRESS HAS RESPONDED TO THE WINTER CRISIS IN A CHARACTERISTIC COSMETIC FASHION, SENDING THE PRESIDENT A SO-CALLED EMERGENCY NATURAL GAS ACT THAT DOES NOTHING TO INCREASE BADLY NEEDED SUPPLIES OF NATURAL GAS. DEREGULATION OF NATURAL GAS AT THE WELL-HEAD IS LONG OVERDUE, BUT THE PRESIDENT'S STAND IS UNCLEAR. BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR: IF PRESIDENT FORD AND THE REPUBLICANS HAD BEEN LISTENED TO IN THE LAST CONGRESS, SUPPLIES OF NATURAL GAS FOR HOMES, FOR FERTILIZER FOR NEBRASKA FARMS, AND FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS WOULD NOT BE IN SUCH SHORT SUPPLY TODAY.

NEBRASKA FARMERS MUST ALSO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF ACTION OR ATTENTION GIVEN TO AGRICULTURE BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. FARMERS HERE, AS IN MY HOME STATE OF KANSAS, ARE CONFRONTED WITH A DOSE OF HARD, NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASANT, ECONOMIC FACTS. WHEAT PRICES ARE DOWN ALMOST \$2 A BUSHEL FROM TWO YEARS AGO. AND CORN PRICES ARE A DOLLAR LOWER THAN IN 1974. FARMERS SIMPLY CANNOT BUY TRACTORS AND COMBINES AND OTHER FARM EQUIPMENT AT CURRENT PRICES. AS A CONSEQUENCE, FARM MANUFACTURING IS ALSO SUFFERING.

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FARMERS ARE WONDERING WHEN AND IF PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY BERGLAND WILL USE THE AUTHORITY THEY ALREADY HAVE TO ADJUST LOAN RATES FOR CORN AND WHEAT. I RECALL A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN CHARGES WERE FREQUENTLY MADE THAT LOAN RATES WERE TOO LOW AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE INCREASED. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT CAMPAIGN RHETORIC? NOW, I HEAR SECRETARY BERGLAND EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT WE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY EXPORTING GRAIN IF LOAN RATES ARE TOO HIGH. I EVEN HEAR THE SECRETARY SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY THE LOAN RATES COULD REMAIN AT THE EXISTING LEVEL WITH A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT FOR CORN AND FEED GRAINS.

Now, I DON'T ADVOCATE HASTY DECISIONS. I, TOO, AM CONCERNED THAT EXCESSIVE LOAN RATE LEVELS COULD RESULT IN DIFFICULTIES FOR OUR EXPORT SALES. BUT, AS I STATED LAST MONTH WHEN I INTRODUCED THE FARM BILL WITH SENATOR TALMADGE, I FEEL WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM LOAN RATE TO 80% OF THE TARGET PRICE.

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BUT WE NEED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IF WE ARE TO LEGISLATE INTELLIGENTLY. FARM PRICES ARE TOO LOW. FARM PROBLEMS DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION. THE ADMINISTRATION OWES IT TO THE FARMERS HERE IN NEBRASKA AND KANSAS AND EVERYWHERE TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THIS PROBLEM. AND WE REPUBLICANS ARE READY TO HELP.

AND WE'LL HELP PRESIDENT CARTER REORGANIZE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE NEED TO MAKE SOME SENSE OUT OF THE BUREAUCRACY IS URGENT. REPUBLICANS WERE FIGHTING FOR EFFICIENT REORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH LONG BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK OFFICE. AND IT WAS THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH INTRODUCED PRESIDENT CARTER'S REORGANIZATION PLAN AFTER THE DEMOCRATIC POWER BARONS THERE REFUSED TO ENDORSE IT, FEARING A LOSS OF INFLUENCE OVER THEIR ENTRENCHED FIEFDOMS IN THE BUREAUCRACY.

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AND WE REPUBLICANS ALSO AGREE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THE ECONOMY IS IN NEED OF AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS. BUT WE WANT A POLICY THAT IS EXPANSIONARY WITHOUT BEING INFLATIONARY. THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR A ONE-SHOT \$50 TAX REBATE AND A LARGE-SCALE PROGRAM OF TEMPORARY FEDERALLY FINANCED JOBS. WE THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE PERMANENT TAX REDUCTIONS, NOT JUST TEMPORARY RELIEF. AND WE WANT TO HELP ENCOURAGE PERMANENT, REWARDING, PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

TO THIS END, AS FAR BACK AS 1965, I ADVOCATED ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE AN INDIRECT WAGE SUBSIDY -- A TAX CREDIT -- TO PRIVATE EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE MORE WORKERS ON THEIR PAYROLLS. GIVEN A CHOICE BETWEEN RAISING PRICES AND INCREASING PRODUCTION BY HIRING MORE WORKERS, AND THUS CREATING MORE REAL JOBS, EMPLOYERS WOULD HAVE EVERY REASON TO CHOOSE THE LATTER COURSE. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A SENSIBLE, WORKABLE REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE TO DEMOCRATIC POLICIES. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT OUR PARTY NEED NOT BE PERCEIVED AS OBSTRUCTIONIST OR NEGATIVE. IT IS SOUND ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE.

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SO, THE ISSUES ARE THERE. THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE. THE FUTURE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN NEBRASKA AND ACROSS THIS NATION CAN BE BRIGHT. BUT IT WON'T BE UNLESS WE LET THE PEOPLE KNOW WHERE WE STAND, WHY WE STAND THERE, AND CONVINCE THEM THAT WE HAVE THEIR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO COME BEATING ON OUR DOOR, BEGGING TO BE REPUBLICANS. WE HAVE TO GO OUT AND GET THEM. I THINK WE SHOULD FOCUS HEAVILY ON RECRUITMENT. WE NEED THE WOMEN, THE YOUNG, THE BLACKS, THE HISPANICS, THE ETHNICS, AND THE INDIANS. WE NEED WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

THESE GROUPS MAY NOT BE EASY TO REACH. BUT HOW BETTER TO TEST THE VITALITY OF OUR REPUBLICAN BELIEFS THAN BY PERSUADING THESE GROUPS, FACE TO FACE, AS INDIVIDUALS, THAT WHAT WE STAND FOR BEST SERVES THEIR INTEREST. HOW BETTER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE STAND FOR THE INTEREST OF ALL AMERICANS BY REACHING OUT ACROSS THE WHOLE BROAD SPECTRUM OF OUR POPULATION FOR NEW MEMBERS AND NEW CANDIDATES.

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BUT STRONG CANDIDATES AND REPUBLICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE NOT ENOUGH. THEY ARE NOT THE KEY TO MAKING OUR PARTY STRONG. ANYONE WHO HAS EVER RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE KNOWS THAT THE BATTLE IS WON OR LOST IN THE TRENCHES -- WHEN THE HOUSEWIVES, FARMERS, BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN, AND LABORERS ARE TOGETHER. IT'S THE GRASS ROOTS EFFORT THAT IT TAKES TO WIN. AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE JUST SUCH AN EFFORT TO RESTORE THE GOP IN NEBRASKA AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TO MAKE OUR COMEBACK. IF WE WORK HARD, ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY, TALK IN A POSITIVE MANNER, AND IF WE BEGIN NOW. INDEED, IF WE DON'T BEGIN NOW, WE MAY NOT HAVE A COMEBACK.

SO, WE HAVE SACRIFICES TO MAKE. WE HAVE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES. WE HAVE HARD WORK TO DO.

TODAY, WHEN WE HONOR THE FOUNDER OF OUR PARTY, IS A GOOD DAY TO BEGIN.