

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
MIKE THOMPSON FOR CONGRESS LUNCHEON
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA
AUGUST 31, 1978

Patty Simpson

IT'S A DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING TIME IN AMERICAN POLITICS. THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT OUR NATION--INFLATION, OVERTAXATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, THE ENERGY CRISIS, THE URBAN PROBLEM, DECLINING INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE--DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO THE SIMPLE SOLUTIONS OF YESTERDAY, WHEN "GOOD" WAS PITTED AGAINST "EVIL," WHEN INFLATION WAS BUT A MINOR IRRITANT, WHEN AMERICAN MILITARY STRENGTH WAS UNQUESTIONED, WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAD LESS REASON TO BE CYNICAL ABOUT THE PERSONALITIES AND PROCESSES OF POLITICS.

-2-

IN 1978, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED, DISILLUSIONED WITH THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA, ANGRY ABOUT HIGH TAXES AND INFLATION, BURDENED BY TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT, YET STILL HOLDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR STABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, SECURITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY, QUALITY EDUCATION, LAW AND ORDER, PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

THE TEMPTATION IS FOR POLITICIANS TO PROMISE EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO GAIN THE PUBLIC'S APPROVAL: THEY PROMISE TO REDUCE TAXES, TO RESTRAIN INFLATION, TO STOP UNEMPLOYMENT, TO PROVIDE A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS, TO PROVIDE MORE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE WHILE MAINTAINING GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE. AND, FRANKLY, THE "ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE" APPROACH HAS WORKED QUITE SUCCESSFULLY FOR A NUMBER OF VOTE-SEEKERS.

-3-

TAX CUTS ALONE ARE NOT THE ANSWER

IF WE ASPIRE TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP--AND WE DO--WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES AND TO THE PEOPLE TO ADDRESS ALL THE IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE DAY. CERTAINLY, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR MEANINGFUL TAX REDUCTIONS. BUT TAX CUTS ALONE WILL NOT CURE ALL THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ILLS IN AMERICA. GOVERNMENT MUST STILL SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE NEEDY, THE SICK, THE DISABLED, THE ELDERLY AND, YES, THE MIDDLE CLASS. IF WE ARE TO BE ELECTED AND IF WE ARE TO BE WORTHY OF THE PUBLIC'S TRUST WHEN WE ARE ELECTED, WE MUST FASHION POLICIES WHICH ATTEMPT, AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE, TO MEET THE CONFLICTING DEMANDS OF THE VOTERS IN 1978--FOR MORE AND BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES, LOWER TAXES, HIGHER EMPLOYMENT AND LOWER INFLATION.

-4-

I, FOR ONE, DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK. I BELIEVE WE CAN PROMISE AND DELIVER ON TAX REDUCTIONS WITHOUT CURTAILING IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SERVICE PROGRAMS, WITHOUT ABANDONING THE NEEDY, AND WITHOUT FORECLOSING THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

NEED TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY

CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THE MOST URGENT NATIONAL PRIORITY IS TO STABILIZE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, TO PUT DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION BEHIND US ONCE AND FOR ALL, TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM, TO RESTORE THE SAGGING VALUE OF THE DOLLAR. THIS IS INDEED A FORMIDABLE TASK, BUT AN ESSENTIAL ONE. FOR UNLESS WE PUT THE AMERICAN ECONOMY BACK IN ORDER, WE WON'T CREATE MORE JOBS, WE WON'T CLOSE THE BUDGET DEFICIT, AND WE WON'T EASE COST OF LIVING PRESSURES ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

-5-

THAT'S WHY WE MUST MAKE MAJOR CHANGES ON OUR INCOME TAX LAWS--LOWERING RATES, INCREASING INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENT, AND BUILDING MORE EQUITY INTO OUR TAX SYSTEM.

NEED FOR MEANINGFUL TAX REDUCTION MEASURES

THE PEOPLE'S DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIAL TAX REDUCTIONS WAS DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATED BY THE OVERWHELMING APPROVAL OF PROPOSITION 13 IN CALIFORNIA. YET PRESIDENT CARTER'S \$225 BILLION SOCIAL SECURITY TAX HIKE, HIS PROPOSAL FOR ANOTHER \$125 BILLION IN ENERGY TAXES, AND HIS THREAT TO IMPOSE ANOTHER \$12 BILLION IN OIL IMPORT FEES HAVE DONE LITTLE TO EASE THE BURDEN ON THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER. THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA, THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, KNOW THAT THE "TAX CUTS" CONGRESS HAS BEEN DISHING OUT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE DONE LITTLE TO STEM THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ON THEIR FAMILY BUDGETS. THEY KNOW THAT THEIR PURCHASING POWER HAS DECLINED DESPITE WAGE INCREASES AND TAX CUTS BECAUSE INFLATION IS OUTSTRIPPING THE MODEST TAX REDUCTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED ALONG TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND GOVERNMENT HAS REAPED THE BENEFITS.

-6-

I, FOR ONE, THINK IT'S TIME FOR INDEXING

I, FOR ONE, THINK IT'S TIME FOR GOVERNMENT TO SUFFER ALONG WITH THE REST OF US, TO FEEL THE PRESSURES OF INFLATION ON ITS BUDGET JUST AS WE FEEL INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ON OUR FAMILY BUDGETS. THAT'S WHY I'VE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE PHANTOM WAGE INCREASES FROM TAXES SO THAT HARD-WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES WILL NOT BE PUSHED INTO HIGHER AND HIGHER TAX BRACKETS EACH YEAR UNLESS THEY RECEIVE A REAL, NOT INFLATIONARY, INCREASE IN INCOME. IT'S A BOLD PLAN, AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPT WHICH WILL FORCE GOVERNMENT TO LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS, TO SHARE THE BURDEN OF INFLATION WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IF TAX BRACKETS WERE AUTOMATICALLY ADJUSTED TO COMPENSATE FOR INFLATION, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR PERIODIC SO-CALLED TAX "CUTS" FROM CONGRESS. AND GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE LESS MONEY TO SPEND.

-7-

BUT INFLATION WILL NOT ABATE, PRICES WILL NOT STABILIZE,
UNTIL WE ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND
REGULATION DIRECTLY.

HISTORY OF THE BUREAUCRACY

SINCE THE 1930'S, WE HAVE SEEN AN ALPHABET JUNGLE OF AGENCIES
AND BOARDS CREATED TO POLICE AND REGULATE THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I'M SURE MOST OF THESE AGENICES
WERE CONCEIVED INDIVIDUALLY IN GOOD FAITH, IN THE CONVICTION
THAT CERTAIN STANDARDS IN BUILDING, OPERATION, HIRING AND
FIRING, PACKAGING AND SELLING, SHOULD BE ENFORCED FOR
THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSUMER. BUT TODAY WE HAVE TO
WEIGH WHETHER THE BURDEN OF REGULATION IS WORTH THE
BENEFITS OF REGULATION.

-8-

THE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNMENT PROMULGATES EACH DAY ARE BURDENSOME TO SMALL BUSINESSMEN, TO INDIVIDUAL MEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT OUR NATION. BUT THEY ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE PAPERWORK WE, THE CITIZENS, HAVE TO SEND BACK TO GOVERNMENT.

REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION

BURDENSOME GOVERNMENT REGULATION SIMPLY MUST BE CURTAILED. THE FREE ECONOMY MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO WORK. LOWERING TAXES IS JUST A START. BECAUSE TAXES ARE JUST ONE PART OF DOING BUSINESS, OF FINDING THE MONEY TO PROVIDE THAT EXTRA JOB, OF HOLDING THE LINE ON PRICE INCREASES. YET GOVERNMENT, IN ITS ZEAL TO "HELP" THE CONSUMER, ACTUALLY DRIVES UP THE COST OF PRODUCTS. GOVERNMENT REGULATION-- JUST LIKE OVERTAXATION AND HUGE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICITS-- BECOMES A COST OF DOING BUSINESS, AN ADDED COST WHICH IS PASSED ALONG TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

-9-

YES, GOVERNMENT CAN DO A LOT TO EASE THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IT WON'T TAKE A COMPLEX NEW PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT TO HELP. RATHER, GOVERNMENT CAN DO A LOT BY DOING A LOT LESS, BY TAXING LESS, BY REGULATING LESS, BY SPENDING LESS. THAT'S THE WAY--PERHAPS THE ONLY WAY--WE'RE GOING TO GET THE AMERICAN ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK AGAIN.

BUT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE STILL GOING TO BE PAYING A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IN TAXES. AND THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT THEIR GOVERNMENT TO HELP THEM WHEN THEY NEED HELP, TO PROVIDE THE INCENTIVES, TO FIGHT FOR, NOT AGAINST, AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS AND FAMILIES.

-10-

I BELIEVE A SCALED-DOWN GOVERNMENT--TRIMMED OF UNNECESSARY FAT, AND SUPPORTED WITH REDUCED TAXES--CAN PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC SERVICES. INDEED, IMPORTANT HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS CAN ACTUALLY BE EXPANDED WITHOUT INCREASING THE BUDGET DEFICIT, WITHOUT DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION.

PROBLEMS WITH HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE IS A GOOD CASE IN POINT. JUDGING FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS, YOU'D THINK THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY FOR THIS NATION TO GO IN IMPROVING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: A COMPREHENSIVE, COSTLY NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM SUPPORTED ENTIRELY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO GO. AND I DON'T THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT OR ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT WITH THEIR TAX DOLLARS SUCH A VAST BUREAUCRACY.

-11-

BUT WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS DO EXIST IN OUR NATION, THAT GOVERNMENT CAN EASE THE COST AND AVAILABILITY PROBLEMS IN HEALTH CARE. THIS NATION IS RICH ENOUGH AND STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS AGAINST THE DEVASTATING FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT. CATASTROPHIC ILLNESSES CAN STRIKE ANYONE AT ANYTIME. AND THE FEAR OF THE DISABLING OR EVEN FATAL ILLNESS OR INJURY SHOULD NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FEAR OF THE CRIPPLING FINANCIAL BURDEN OF THE COST OF TREATMENT.

-12-

CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE

AND ALTHOUGH PRIVATE INSURANCE, PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND TAX
SUBSIDIES ALL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE COST OF MEDICAL
EXPENSES, CRUCIAL PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN. I THINK THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT--AND ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR--
CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE. BECAUSE A
PROGRAM OF CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE, COMBINED WITH
STEPPED-UP GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE NUTRITION--AND
THUS PREVENT ILLNESS--WILL SAVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A LOT OF MONEY IN THE LONG RUN.

-13-

A POSITIVE PROGRAM

IF WE CUT THE WASTE OUT OF GOVERNMENT, IF WE TRIM THE UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRACY, IF WE REDUCE THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR REGULATION, GOVERNMENT CAN STILL PROVIDE A GENEROUS LEVEL OF PUBLIC SERVICES. WE CAN PROVIDE ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR OUR PEOPLE, WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AN EASING OF THE CRISIS OF URBAN AMERICA, HELP OUR FARMERS, AND ADDRESS, IN A PRODUCTIVE WAY, THE ENERGY CRISIS WHICH CONFRONTS OUR NATION. WE CAN DO ALL OF THESE THINGS, FUND THE HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS, PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE, AND TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO CANNOT TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, WITHOUT INCURRING HUGE BUDGET DEFICITS AND WITHOUT EXTRACTING UNNECESSARY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAXES FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

-14-

IT'S THIS POSITIVE PROGRAM, THIS PLAN FOR A SCALED-BACK,
YET RESPONSIVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WE'RE FIGHTING
FOR IN 1978. AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE STRONG LEADERSHIP TO
PUT AMERICA ON THIS NEW COURSE TOWARDS FISCAL SANITY,
MORE PERSONAL FREEDOM AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT.

WE MUST APPEAL TO ALL

REPUBLICANS ACROSS THIS NATION MUST LEARN TO DO WHAT LOUISIANA
REPUBLICANS HAVE DONE FOR YEARS: TO APPEAL TO THE DEMOCRATS,
THE INDEPENDENTS, THE NON-ALIGNED IN OUR NATION, TO TALK
ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN A
POSITIVE WAY, TO PROPOSE SOUND SOLUTIONS AND TO FIGHT FOR
TAX RELIEF. WE CAN DO ALL OF THESE THINGS WITHOUT
PROMISING TOO MUCH, WITHOUT DEMAGOGUERY.

-15-

THIS SHOULD BE THE REPUBLICAN MESSAGE IN 1978, A MESSAGE WE MUST TAKE TO EVERY STATE, EVERY COUNTY AND PARRISH, EVERY CITY, EVERY PRECINCT OF THIS LAND. BECAUSE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, NEED NEW LEADERSHIP, FREE FROM THE MISTAKES AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PAST. MIKE THOMPSON IS SUCH A MAN, A NEW LEADER FOR LOUISIANA, A MAN WHO WILL BRING TO CONGRESS FRESH IDEAS, A MAN IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT.

LET'S DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GET HIM ELECTED.