

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

DES MOINES, IOWA

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1979

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN IOWA; YOU'LL BE SEEING MORE OF ME, AND I OF YOU, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE STATE, MY OBJECTIVE IS SIMPLE: TO OFFER TO THE PEOPLE OF IOWA A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE CONFUSION AND DRIFT THAT CHARACTERIZE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON. TODAY AND IN DAYS TO COME, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT EXISTING PROBLEMS AND PROPOSE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. I WANT TO FORMULATE A LEADERSHIP THAT IS NOT BASED ON SLICK RHETORIC OR GOOD INTENTIONS ALONE, BUT WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE CONFLICTING NEEDS OF 220,000,000 AMERICANS.

PERHAPS THE GREATEST SINGLE FAILURE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, AND OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS IT IS SUPPOSED TO LEAD, HAS COME IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY. THE PRESIDENT HAS YET TO PROPOSE AN ENERGY PROGRAM MORE INNOVATIVE THAN RAISING TAXES. HE PREFERS TO REGULATE AND RATION WHAT LITTLE ENERGY HE PERCEIVES THERE TO BE. I THINK THAT'S A WRONG APPROACH, AND ONE WHICH WILL CAUSE THE PEOPLE OF THIS AND OTHER FARM STATES TO SUFFER.

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I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT AMERICA CAN BE ENERGY SUFFICIENT, IF ONLY WE REMOVE THE BLINDERS THAT GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO ADOPT WHENEVER THE WORDS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ARE MENTIONED. NO ONE DOUBTS THAT WE HAVE THE RESOURCES, ONLY THE WILL TO DEVELOP THEM.

AMERICA CURRENTLY HAS 1/3 OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY RESOURCES TIED UP IN COAL--YET WE USE COMPARATIVELY LITTLE. IT TAKES 12 YEARS OR MORE--TWICE AS LONG AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES--FOR A NUCLEAR ELECTRIC PLANT TO EMERGE FROM THE DRAWING BOARD AND BEAR FRUIT. THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH I SERVE AS RANKING REPUBLICAN, HAS ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 100 YEARS OF OIL MIGHT BE RECOVERED FROM AMERICA'S SHALE OIL DEPOSITS. YET THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE THE EXPLOITATION OF SUCH RESOURCES.

INDEED, THE DECISION EARLIER THIS WEEK BY STANDARD OIL TO CANCEL ITS PLANNED PIPELINE FROM CALIFORNIA TO TEXAS IS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF HOW COUNTERPRODUCTIVE OVERREGULATION BY GOVERNMENT CAN BE. GOVERNMENT WON'T SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE THAT ENSUES; PEOPLE WILL. AND GOVERNMENT HAS A WAY OF FORGETTING TO WHOM ITS FIRST RESPONSIBILITY LIES.

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IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. BY OFFERING TAX INCENTIVES TO PRODUCERS, WE CAN ENCOURAGE NEW PRODUCTION--NOT ONLY OF OIL AND GAS, BUT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES AS WELL--OF SOLAR POWER, WIND AND WATER, GEOTHERMAL AND NUCLEAR. THE PRIVATE APPROACH DOESN'T DEPEND UPON A FEDERAL BUDGET, SO IT'S NOT LIMITED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF JOBS IT CAN CREATE. IN ADDITION, IN STATES LIKE IOWA, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY PRODUCTS CAN BE CONVERTED TO GASOHOL--A BLEND OF SUCH PRODUCTS WITH ALCOHOL WHICH CAN HELP FUEL OUR CARS. LAST YEAR THE CONGRESS PASSED AN AMENDMENT OF MINE TO ELIMINATE THE TAX ON SUCH FUEL. NOW I THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER RELAXING REQUIREMENTS ON UNLEADED GASOLINE, WHICH COULD SAVE US SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND BARRELS OF OIL A DAY. IN THE CRISIS WE FACE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TURN OUR BACKS ON ANY POTENTIAL RELIEF.

YET, WHILE WE ENCOURAGE THE SEARCH FOR NEW ENERGY SOURCES, WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT REPUBLICANS ARE CONSUMERS FIRST AND FOREMOST. WE SHOULD CONSIDER POLICIES THAT ENCOURAGE ENERGY COMPANIES TO PLOW BACK THEIR EARNINGS INTO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION. THIS WILL PROMOTE ENERGY PRODUCTION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INSURE THAT THE ENERGY COMPANIES ARE NOT REAPING AN EXCESS PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. FAILING THIS, THE CONGRESS SHOULD CONSIDER A WINDFALL PROFITS TAX. NEITHER BUSINESS NOR GOVERNMENT CAN BE PERMITTED TO RIP OFF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

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ENERGY CUTS ACROSS SO MANY FIELDS; EVEN OUR FOREIGN POLICY MUST TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT. A FAIR TRADE OF AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC EXPERTISE FOR MEXICAN OIL AND GAS SEEMS BEYOND THE CAPACITIES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. I WOULD MAKE IT A TOP PRIORITY OF THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION.

THE ENERGY CRISIS WILL NOT GO AWAY. IT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS WE ADDRESS OTHER NATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS--WITH A CONVICTION THAT THE GENIUS OF AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE IS SUPERIOR TO THE BUREAUCRATIC DICTATION OF OVERGROWN GOVERNMENT. A DOSE OF REALITY IS SORELY NEEDED BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HOLE UP IN WASHINGTON, FEARFUL THAT THE TIDE OF PUBLIC OPINION MAY SWEEP AWAY THE BUREAUCRATIC STRANGELHOLD THEY'VE GROWN TO KNOW AND LOVE. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A FARM POLICY THAT CURTAILS DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF SOYBEANS, SUGAR AND CATTLE IN FAVOR OF IMPORTS FROM ABROAD. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ECONOMY THAT'S BOTH SLUGGISH AND DANGEROUSLY INFLATED, AND FOR A FEDERAL BUDGET THAT CONTINUES TO DRAIN OFF BADLY NEEDED CAPITAL WITH WHICH TO COMPETE WITH OTHER NATIONS AND CREATE BADLY NEEDED NEW JOBS.

THEIR RECORD IS A SORRY ONE. I BELIEVE I CAN DO BETTER. I BELIEVE I HAVE SOMETHING POSITIVE TO OFFER TO THE PEOPLE OF IOWA. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TODAY, AND WILL BE BACK OFTEN TO RENEW MY CALL FOR A POSITIVE REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE.