

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW YORK STATE REPUBLICAN DINNER

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1979

AS ALWAYS, IT'S A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME AND ELIZABETH TO BE WITH EMPIRE STATE REPUBLICANS. YET, THE EVENING IS TINGED WITH SADNESS, FOR THE HEAD TABLE IS LACKING THE MAN WHO FOR A GENERATION WAS NEW YORK'S MR. REPUBLICAN. NELSON ROCKEFELLER IS NOT WITH US THIS EVENING, BUT HIS LEGACY SURVIVES. THAT LEGACY, MY FRIENDS, IS A HERITAGE OF POSITIVE POLITICS.

NELSON BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT COULD HELP PEOPLE. HE ALSO KNEW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HELPFUL GOVERNMENT AND INTRUSIVE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IS A LESSON THE REST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WISH WASHINGTON WOULD LEARN.

AS STATE LEGISLATORS, YOU'RE CLOSER THAN ANYONE ELSE TO THE PROBLEMS AND THE POTENTIAL OF THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK. YOU UNDERSTAND THEIR FRUSTRATIONS, AND YOU PERCEIVE THEIR NEEDS. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THE CAMPAIGN OF 1980 WILL BE WAGED AGAINST A BACKDROP OF NATIONAL DISSATISFACTION. YET IT IS ALSO A TIME OF ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR A PARTY THAT DOESN'T APPEAL MERELY TO FRUSTRATION, BUT PAINTS A VISION OF THE FUTURE AND PROVIDES THE LEADERSHIP TO ATTAIN THAT VISION. EVERYONE KNOWS WE'RE FOR A BALANCED BUDGET, FOR A STRONG MILITARY DEFENSE, FOR AN ECONOMY THAT'S TRULY BASED ON THE FREE ENTERPRISE IDEA. EVERYONE KNOWS WE WANT TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND RED TAPE.

BUT HOW MANY KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF OUR PROPOSALS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE ENDS? HOW MANY KNOW ABOUT THE TAX CUTS WE WANT TO ENACT--NOT AS A SELFISH ELECTION YEAR GIMMICK, BUT AS THE FIRST STEP IN TURNING THIS COUNTRY AROUND, AND RETURNING TO THE IDEA THAT INCENTIVE AND PROFIT ARE NOT SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF?

HOW MANY KNOW ABOUT THE IDEA OF TAX INDEXING, WHICH WOULD TIE INCOME TAXES TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AND THEREBY KEEP MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS FROM BEING GOUGED BY GOVERNMENT-CREATED INFLATION?

HOW MANY KNOW ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS TO CREATE MORE CAPITAL, AND THEREBY CREATE JOBS FOR THE POOR, MINORITIES AND ALL AMERICANS WHO HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO SHARE IN OUR GREAT NATIONAL DREAM?

HOW MANY KNOW THAT WE, TOO, WANT TO REMOVE THE FEAR OF FINANCIAL DISASTER THAT NOW STRIKES UP TO SEVEN MILLION FAMILIES WHO SPEND 15 PERCENT OR MORE OF THEIR INCOME ON HEALTH CARE EVERY YEAR. I'VE INTRODUCED JUST SUCH A BILL IN THE SENATE. IT WOULD PLACE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DELIVERY VIA THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR, NOT GOVERNMENT. AND IT WOULDN'T BREAK THE BANK THAT YOU AND I AS TAXPAYERS DO SO MUCH TO SUPPORT.

HOW MANY KNOW ABOUT OUR IDEAS TO STIMULATE MORE ENERGY PRODUCTION, NOT JUST REGULATE A SHRINKING SUPPLY OF OIL AND GAS? I WANT TO STIMULATE THE PRODUCTION OF GASOHOL, A BLEND OF ALCOHOL WITH GASOLINE. I WANT TO SEE MORE RELIANCE ON ENERGY SOURCES THAT WE HAVE IN ABUNDANCE, RIGHT NOW--COAL, FOR INSTANCE, OR SHALE OIL. I WANT TO SEE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, LIKE SOLAR POWER, NUCLEAR AND GEOTHERMAL. WE CAN DO A LOT OF THIS BY REWRITING OUR TAX CODES, DISCARDING ONCE AND FOR ALL THE IDEA THAT SOCIETY'S PRODUCTIVE ELEMENTS SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE FACT IS, WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE PRODUCTION, MORE ACCOMPLISHMENT, MORE INCENTIVE, IF THIS COUNTRY IS TO REMAIN WHAT IT HAS BEEN FOR MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS--THE GREATEST ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

AND THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK, LIKE OTHER NORTHEASTERN STATES PENALYZED BY HISTORICALLY HIGH ENERGY COSTS, SHOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY DECONTROL POLICY THAT DOESN'T MANDATE NEW PRODUCTION. IF THAT REQUIRES A SUBSTANTIAL WINDFALL PROFITS TAX TO BE PLOWED BACK INTO THE SEARCH FOR NEW OIL AND GAS, SO BE IT.

WE REPUBLICANS DON'T WANT TO BE RIPPED OFF BY BIG BUSINESS ANYMORE THAN BIG GOVERNMENT.

ALL OF THESE AREAS POSE PROBLEMS. IN EACH, WE ARE CONFRONTED BY A CHALLENGE OF IMMENSE PROPORTION AND COMPLEXITY. BUT PROBLEMS HAVE NEVER FRIGHTENED REPUBLICANS. CHALLENGES ONLY SPUR US TO GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS.

NELSON ROCKEFELLER KNEW THAT POLITICS IS MEETING AND OVERCOMING PROBLEMS. ALONG THE WAY, HE TOUCHED THOUSANDS OF LIVES, ELEVATED TWENTY YEARS OF STATE AND NATIONAL DEBATE, AND LEFT BEHIND AS HIS GREATEST MONUMENT THE CONVICTION THAT POLITICS NEED NOT BE A PROFESSION OUR YOUNG SHOULD LOOK DOWN UPON.

WE SHOULD MAKE THEM PROUD. WE SHOULD HOLD OUT A VISION OF THE FUTURE THAT CALLS FOR THE BEST WE ARE CAPABLE OF. IT IS A TIME TO BE POSITIVE, FOR ULTIMATELY, ONLY POSITIVE LEADERSHIP WILL SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

SO JOIN WITH ME, AS WITH ALL OF MY FELLOW CANDIDATES. WHOMEVER YOU SUPPORT, HOWEVER YOU VOTE NEXT YEAR, REMEMBER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FUTURE. VOTE FOR HOPE. VOTE FOR SOLUTIONS INSTEAD OF SLOGANS. VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE INSTEAD OF RHETORIC. AND MOST OF ALL, VOTE FOR A REPUBLICAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE. TOGETHER, WE CAN GIVE THIS COUNTRY BACK TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND IN THE PROCESS, WE CAN PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MAN--AND HIS STATE--WHICH HAVE MADE EACH OF US PROUD TO BEAR THE NAME REPUBLICAN.