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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Chicago, Illinois
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This morning you've heard a lot about what's wrong with America in 1979. You don't need presidential candidates to tell you about inflation or gas lines or weak and confused leadership in Washington. But the problems, serious as they are, did not begin in 1977 - though Jimmy Carter has exacerbated all of them. For a generation or more, we've watched as Washington reached out to grab more and more of the functions that were once performed at the local level. We've seen individual initiative replaced with public support, and international goodwill frittered away by a foreign policy equivalent of the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

Three years ago, we made the mistake of replacing an experienced, reliable leader with an inexperienced, unknown neophyte. And in politics as at the neighborhood grocery, you get what you pay for.

In 1976, we went on a bargain basement spree. We elected an administration ignorant of Washington, contemptuous of Congress, and talented chiefly in the fine art of public relations. We chose a President whose foreign policy experience was non-existent, whose previous administrative career was limited to a single four year term as Governor of Georgia.

And now, more than halfway through his term of office, we have a President circling the White House wagons, hoping against hope that Ted Kennedy won't huff and puff and blow his presidency down.

A PRESIDENT FOR THE EIGHTIES

A president, my friends, must be more than merely decent, he must have competence to match his vision. He must be able to rally people instead of preaching to them he must be a leader, not a blamer. He doesn't turn to group therapy to rediscover national goals: America can't be governed from a political couch.

Now a lot of you think you know Bob Dole. You saw him go after the opposition as National Party Chairman. You heard him in 1976, telling audiences all over America that candidate Carter was not what we seemed, that we couldn't afford to give a President on the job training, not when problems like energy and inflation and a tense and threatening world cried out for mature judgment.

You heard him suggest that perhaps Jimmy Carter was playing a shell game with the American people. And you know what? A lot of people have come to agree with me since.

In December, 1974, Jimmy Carter said this. . . "If I ever mislead you, if I ever place political favor ahead of what is right and best for our country, if I ever fail to apply the highest standards of personal integrity, openness, and honesty to this campaign, then I do not deserve your support or the office I seek."

They are the prophets of gloom who prefer only conservation instead of exploring for new and alternative ways to heat our homes and factories.

They are the levelers willing to support universal, mandatory, comprehensive national health insurance, even at the risk of rationing health care in America, because they believe that gray uniformity is the same as equality. Make everything the same, goes the argument, and it's bound to be better.

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They are the politicians exhausted by events and bereft of fresh ideas. Distrustful of the profit motive, they are content to regulate a sluggish economy instead of stimulate it to new levels of productivity.

AN ANTIDOTE TO INFLATION

Their day is past. Ours is here, but only if we offer the American people something more constructive than mere criticism.

The current problems of Chrysler Corporation are symptomatic of what happens when government tries to dictate every output of industrial production. It is a problem which offers firsthand the lives of 130,000 men and women whose jobs depend on Chrysler - 5,000 in Illinois alone. And it's a problem that goes beyond the Fortune 500, to cripple thousands of small businesses through red tape and excess regulations.

When productivity falls by 5.7%, as it did in the second quarter of this year, it's time to pass substantial tax reductions, to boost capital investment and relieve the staggering effects of double digit inflation, as 41 Republican Senators recommended this past Monday.

The President says he's not willing to do that. When the White House's own economic experts predict a short recession, combined with inflation of 11% through the end of this year, it is time to come to the relief of the American taxpayer, to index our tax system to protect hard earned wage increases and adopt a Constitutional Amendment to place firm caps on both taxation and spending.

But the President says he's against such proposals.

When Americans are waiting in gasoline lines and paying a dollar a gallon for fuel, the time has come to exploit every single potential source of new oil and gas. That means negotiating for Mexican supplies. It means actively promoting the search for alternative sources, like solar, nuclear, and geothermal. It means providing incentives for those who would find new oil and gas, or create alternate fuels like gasohol. It means accepting some temporary trade - or to allow increased burning of our abundant coal supply.

But the President prefers to play politics with the issue, attacking big oil instead of unleashing the productive genius of free enterprise.

On all of these issues, it is Republicans who care about the average American and the party in power which is committed to more of the same oil schemes that have succeeded only in weakening our economy and damaging our prestige abroad.

SALT AND A STRONG DEFENSE

For it's not just at home that American needs new leadership. Abroad, we've turned our backs on friends and crossed our fingers in the hope that conciliatory words would placate our foes. We've reduced our military posture, delayed or eliminated outright defense systems like the B-1 and the MX missile. We've forgotten that great nations have great responsibilities, and must be willing to spend dollars for defense if they don't want to spill blood in combat.

We've debated the SALT II Treaty as if it existed in a vacuum, instead of realizing that any strategic arms control will be meaningless unless the U.S. strengthens its overall position, viz a viz the Soviet Union.

I want to vote for the SALT Treaty. But I cannot and will not until I have sufficient assurances - and not just encouraging words - that defense spending will be increased to make up for the years of neglect and wishful thinking that have characterized the Carter Administration.

But I won't play politics with SALT. I won't call press conferences and threaten political blackmail. Having voted against the Panama Canal Treaties out of honest conviction, I hope to vote for SALT for the same reason. There are more important things in life than the Gallup Poll. Like life itself.

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Ultimately, all of our complaints against the failures of Jimmy Carter and crew will mean little unless we can promise the American people something better - and then - deliver on our promises.

WHAT KIND OF PRESIDENT?

And to do that, we need to choose a man who knows how Washington works, and why it doesn't work the way we want it to. We need a man who comes from the American people, who remains close to their dreams, and who puts their welfare at the top of his priorities.

We need a man who knows how to work with the Congress. A man who shares your lifelong conviction that Republican solutions are better because they encourage the individual to be all he can be. A man who looks forward to the future instead of dwelling on the past, who believes with all his heart in our ability to produce solutions that enhance the quality of life in this country.

Dwight Eisenhower was such a man. So was Jerry Ford.

In dark days of the national soul, they showed us that Democratic government could still work, as long as it reflected what we Republicans have always believed: That America exists not for government, but for people, not to regulate but to produce, not to apologize for being the world's freest nation, but to stand tall in the face of totalitarian regimes who would place millions in shackles of political and religious oppression.

EXPERIENCE AND THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW

Let's be ourselves, I say to the American people. Let America be America again. Let's return to the qualities that made us the greatest nation on the face of the earth. We cannot abandon the future to those who prefer the past, or doubt our capacity to sustain a growing economy. Too much is at stake, too many lives, too much honor.

Remember who we are and what we stand for. Give the American people a choice, give them a platform to rally to, and a candidate who believes in them instead of the dictators and bureaucrats of the planned society. They will listen, and they will give us a chance to deliver what we promise - a nation that once more believes in itself and a people freed from the defeatism of those who tell us "small is better". The only thing they wouldn't shrink would be government itself.

But let's not make promises we can't keep. Let's talk common sense to the American people, and tell them the truth - that we cannot afford again to place in the Oval Office a man almost totally ignorant of the demands of the Presidency.

When the tumult of the campaign is over, when the bands cease to play and the cheering fades, then we must govern a nation. Ask yourself, who can do that best? Consider carefully, not merely what a candidate says he will do, but what he's accomplished in the past.

Does he have experience in dealing with the great issues of the day, with energy and taxes and inflation and bloated government and America's posture abroad? Can he unite people around common goals? Can he show the way, and inspire us to new effort in a difficult decade?

These are the criteria that Republicans must ponder. Think carefully, for you hold in your hands more than a presidential nomination. You hold in your power the potential to turn America around, to give her back to her people, and live up to the bold promises we made to ourselves at our birth.

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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1979

W. H. H. H.
B. Smith
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THIS MORNING YOU'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH AMERICA IN 1979. YOU DON'T NEED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO TELL YOU ABOUT INFLATION OR GAS LINES OR WEAK AND CONFUSED LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON. BUT THE PROBLEMS, SERIOUS AS THEY ARE, DID NOT BEGIN IN 1977-THOUGH JIMMY CARTER HAS EXACERBATED ALL OF THEM. FOR A GENERATION OR MORE, WE'VE WATCHED AS WASHINGTON REACHED OUT TO GRAB MORE AND MORE OF THE FUNCTIONS THAT WERE ONCE PERFORMED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. WE'VE SEEN INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE REPLACED WITH PUBLIC SUPPORT, AND INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL FRITTERED AWAY BY A FOREIGN POLICY EQUIVELANT OF THE GANG THAT COULDN'T SHOOT STRAIGHT.

THREE YEARS AGO, WE MADE THE MISTAKE OF REPLACING AN EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE LEADER WITH AN INEXPERIENCED, UNKNOWN NEOPHYTE. AND IN POLITICS AS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.

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IN 1976, WE WENT ON A BARGAIN BASEMENT SPREE. WE ELECTED AN ADMINISTRATION IGNORANT OF WASHINGTON, CONTEMPTUOUS OF CONGRESS, AND TALENTED CHIEFLY IN THE FINE ART OF PUBLIC RELATIONS. WE CHOSE A PRESIDENT WHOSE FOREIGN POLICY EXPERIENCE WAS NON-EXISTENT, WHOSE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE CAREER WAS LIMITED TO A SINGLE FOUR YEAR TERM AS GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA.

AND NOW, MORE THAN HALFWAY THROUGH HIS TERM OF OFFICE, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT CIRCLING THE WHITE HOUSE WAGONS, HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT TED KENNEDY WON'T HUFF AND PUFF AND BLOW HIS PRESIDENCY DOWN.

A PRESIDENT FOR THE EIGHTIES

A PRESIDENT, MY FRIENDS, MUST BE MORE THAN MERELY DECENT, HE MUST HAVE COMPETENCE TO MATCH HIS VISION. HE MUST BE ABLE TO RALLY PEOPLE INSTEAD OF PREACH TO THEM HE MUST BE A LEADER, NOT A BLAMER. HE DOESN'T TURN TO GROUP THERAPY TO REDISCOVER NATIONAL GOALS: AMERICA CAN'T BE GOVERNED FROM A POLITICAL COUCH.

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NOW A LOT OF YOU THINK YOU KNOW BOB DOLE. YOU SAW HIM GO AFTER THE OPPOSITION AS NATIONAL PARTY CHAIRMAN. YOU HEARD HIM IN 1976, TELLING AUDIENCES ALL OVER AMERICA THAT CANDIDATE CARTER WAS NOT WHAT HE SEEMED, THAT WE COULDN'T AFFORD TO GIVE A PRESIDENT ON THE JOB TRAINING, NOT WHEN PROBLEMS LIKE ENERGY AND INFLATION AND A TENSE AND THREATENING WORLD CRIED OUT FOR MATURE JUDGMENT.

YOU HEARD HIM SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS JIMMY CARTER WAS PLAYING A SHELL GAME WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE COME TO AGREE WITH ME SINCE.

Remember
(IN ~~DECEMBER, 1974~~) JIMMY CARTER SAID: ~~THIS~~ . . .

"IF I EVER MISLEAD YOU, IF I EVER PLACE POLITICAL FAVOR AHEAD OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND BEST FOR OUR COUNTRY, IF I EVER FAIL TO APPLY THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY, OPENNESS AND HONESTY TO THIS CAMPAIGN, THEN I DO NOT DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT OR THE OFFICE I SEEK."

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I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER THOSE STRINGENT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN LIVED UP TO. WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT EVEN MORE THAN WHETHER CANDIDATE CARTER KEPT HIS PROMISES IS WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER IS CAPABLE OF KEEPING THEM EVEN IF HE WANTED TO.

JIMMY CARTER AND THE POLITICS OF LIMITATION

BUT, AGAIN, THE PROBLEM GOES BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE OCCUPANT OF THE WHITE HOUSE. THE PROBLEM IS ROOTED IN THE VERY MARROW OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, A PARTY ONCE DEDICATED TO GREAT TOMORROWS AND NOW CONTENT TO LIVE OFF HAPPY MEMORIES. THE PROBLEM LIES WITH PEOPLE WHO NO LONGER BELIEVE IN AMERICA'S UNLIMITED ECONOMY, NO LONGER ACCEPT OUR CAPACITY TO SOLVE INFLATION AND ENERGY AND UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE PROBLEM IS WITH A PARTY GROWN FAT AND COMPLACENT, AND ITS LEFT WING DETERMINED TO REDISTRIBUTE EXISTING WEALTH INSTEAD OF CREATING NEW WEALTH.

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THEY ARE THE PROPHETS OF GLOOM WHO PREFER ONLY CONSERVATION INSTEAD OF EXPLORING FOR NEW AND ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO HEAT OUR HOMES AND FACTORIES.

THEY ARE THE LEVELERS WILLING TO SUPPORT UNIVERSAL, MANDATORY, COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, EVEN AT THE RISK OF RATIONING HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT GRAY UNIFORMITY IS THE SAME AS EQUALITY. MAKE EVERYTHING THE SAME, GOES THE ARGUMENT, AND ITS BOUND TO BE BETTER.

THEY ARE THE POLITICIANS EXHAUSTED BY EVENTS AND BEREFT OF FRESH IDEAS. DISTRUSTFUL OF THE PROFIT MOTIVE, THEY ARE CONTENT TO REGULATE A SLUGGISH ECONOMY INSTEAD OF STIMULATE IT TO NEW LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY.

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AN ANTIDOTE TO INFLATION

THEIR DAY IS PAST. OURS IS HERE, BUT ONLY IF WE OFFER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SOMETHING MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN MERE CRITICISM.

THE CURRENT PROBLEMS OF CHRYSLER CORPORATION ARE SYMPTOMATIC OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOVERNMENT TRIES TO DICTATE EVERY OUTPUT OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. IT IS A PROBLEM WHICH ~~OFFERS~~ ^{threats} ~~END~~ THE LIVES OF 130,000 MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE JOBS DEPEND ON CHRYSLER - 5,000 IN ILLINOIS ALONE. AND ITS A PROBLEM THAT GOES BEYOND THE FORTUNE 500, TO CRIPPLE THOUSANDS OF SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH RED TAPE AND EXCESS REGULATIONS.

*along with
Congress
Wynn*

WHEN PRODUCTIVITY FALLS BY 5.7%, AS IT DID IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, IT'S TIME TO PASS SUBSTANTIAL TAX REDUCTIONS, TO BOOST CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND RELIEVE THE STAGGERING EFFECTS OF DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION, AS 41 REPUBLICAN SENATORS RECOMMENDED THIS PAST MONDAY.

THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE'S NOT WILLING TO DO THAT.

WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE'S OWN ECONOMIC EXPERTS PREDICT A SHORT RECESSION, COMBINED WITH INFLATION OF 11% THROUGH THE END OF THIS YEAR, IT IS TIME TO COME TO THE RELIEF OF THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER, TO INDEX OUR TAX SYSTEM TO PROTECT HARD EARNED WAGE INCREASES AND ADOPT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PLACE FIRM CAPS ON BOTH TAXATION AND SPENDING.

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BUT THE PRESIDENT SAY'S HE'S AGAINST SUCH PROPOSALS.

WHEN AMERICANS ARE WAITING IN GASOLINE LINES AND PAYING A DOLLAR A GALLON FOR FUEL, THE TIME HAS COME TO EXPLOIT EVERY SINGLE POTENTIAL SOURCE OF NEW OIL AND GAS. THAT MEANS NEGOTIATING FOR MEXICAN SUPPLIES. IT MEANS ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES, LIKE SOLAR, NUCLEAR AND GEOTHERMAL. IT MEANS PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR THOSE WHO WOULD FIND NEW OIL AND GAS, OR CREATE ALTERNATE FUELS LIKE GASAHOL. IT MEANS ACCEPTING SOME TEMPORARY TRADE - OR TO ALLOW INCREASED BURNING OF OUR ABUNDANT COAL SUPPLY.

BUT THE PRESIDENT PREFERS TO PLAY POLITICS WITH THE ISSUE, ATTACKING BIG OIL INSTEAD OF UNLEASHING THE PRODUCTIVE GENIUS OF FREE ENTERPRISE.

ON ALL OF THESE ISSUES, IT IS REPUBLICANS WHO CARE ABOUT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN AND THE PARTY IN POWER WHICH IS COMMITTED TO MORE OF THE SAME OIL SCHEMES THAT HAVE SUCCEEDED ONLY IN WEAKENING OUR ECONOMY AND DAMAGING OUR PRESTIGE ABROAD.

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SALT AND A STRONG DEFENSE

FOR IT'S NOT JUST AT HOME THAT AMERICA NEEDS NEW LEADERSHIP. ABROAD, WE'VE TURNED OUR BACKS ON FRIENDS AND CROSSED OUR FINGERS IN THE HOPE THAT CONCILIATORY WORDS WOULD PLACATE OUR FOES. WE'VE REDUCED OUR MILITARY POSTURE, DELAYED OR ELIMINATED OUTRIGHT DEFENSE SYSTEMS LIKE THE B-1 AND THE MX MISSILE. WE'VE FORGOTTEN THAT GREAT NATIONS HAVE GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES, AND MUST BE WILLING TO SPEND DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE IF THEY DON'T WANT TO SPILL BLOOD IN COMBAT.

WE'VE DEBATED THE SALT II TREATY AS IF IT EXISTED IN A VACUUM, INSTEAD OF REALIZING THAT ANY STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL WILL BE MEANINGLESS UNLESS THE U.S. STRENGTHENS ITS OVERALL POSITION VIZ A VIZ THE SOVIET UNION.

I WANT TO VOTE FOR THE SALT TREATY. BUT I CANNOT AND WILL NOT UNTIL I HAVE SUFFICIENT ASSURANCES - AND NOT JUST ENCOURAGING WORDS - THAT DEFENSE SPENDING WILL BE INCREASED TO MAKE UP FOR THE YEARS OF NEGLECT AND WISHFUL THINKING THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

BUT I WON'T PLAY POLITICS WITH SALT. I WON'T CALL PRESS CONFERENCES AND THREATEN POLITICAL BLACKMAIL. HAVING VOTED AGAINST THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES OUT OF HONEST CONVICTION, I HOPE TO VOTE FOR SALT FOR THE SAME REASON. THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN THE GALLUP POLL. LIKE LIFE ITSELF.

ULTIMATELY, ALL OF OUR COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE FAILURES OF JIMMY CARTER AND CREW WILL MEAN LITTLE UNLESS WE CAN PROMISE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SOMETHING BETTER - AND THEN-DELIVER ON OUR PROMISES.

WHAT KIND OF PRESIDENT?

AND TO DO THAT, WE NEED TO CHOOSE A MAN WHO KNOWS HOW WASHINGTON WORKS, AND WHY IT DOESN'T WORK THE WAY WE WANT IT TO. WE NEED A MAN WHO COMES FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHO REMAINS CLOSE TO THEIR NEEDS AND THEIR DREAMS, AND WHO PUTS THEIR WELFARE AT THE TOP OF HIS PRIORITIES.

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WE NEED A MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS. A MAN WHO SHARES YOUR LIFELONG CONVICTION THAT REPUBLICAN SOLUTIONS ARE BETTER BECAUSE THEY ENCOURAGE THE INDIVIDUAL TO BE ALL HE CAN BE. A MAN WHO LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FUTURE INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON THE PAST, WHO BELIEVES WITH ALL HIS HEART IN OUR ABILITY TO PRODUCE SOLUTIONS THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER WAS SUCH A MAN. SO WAS JERRY FORD.

IN DARK DAYS OF THE NATIONAL SOUL, THEY SHOWED US THAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT COULD STILL WORK, AS LONG AS IT REFLECTED WHAT WE REPUBLICANS HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED: THAT AMERICA EXISTS NOT FOR GOVERNMENT, BUT FOR PEOPLE, NOT TO REGULATE BUT TO PRODUCE, NOT TO APOLOGIZE FOR BEING THE WORLD'S FREEST NATION, BUT TO STAND TALL IN THE FACE OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMES WHO WOULD PLACE MILLIONS IN SHACKLES OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION.

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EXPERIENCE AND THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW

LET'S BE OURSELVES, I SAY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. LET AMERICA BE AMERICA AGAIN. LET'S RETURN TO THE QUALITIES THAT MADE US THE GREATEST NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. WE CANNOT ABANDON THE FUTURE TO THOSE WHO PREFER THE PAST, OR DOUBT OUR CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN A GROWING ECONOMY. TOO MUCH IS AT STAKE, TOO MANY LIVES, TOO MUCH HONOR.

REMEMBER WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR. GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A CHOICE, GIVE THEM A PLATFORM TO RALLY TO, AND A CANDIDATE WHO BELIEVES IN THEM INSTEAD OF THE DICTATORS AND BUREAUCRATS OF THE PLANNED SOCIETY. THEY WILL LISTEN, AND THEY WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO DELIVER WHAT WE PROMISE - A NATION THAT ONCE MORE BELIEVES IN ITSELF, AND A PEOPLE FREED FROM THE DEFEATISM OF THOSE WHO TELL US "SMALL IS BETTER." THE ONLY THING THEY WOULDN'T SHRINK WOULD BE GOVERNMENT ITSELF.

BUT LET'S NOT MAKE PROMISES WE CAN'T KEEP. LET'S TALK COMMON SENSE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND TELL THEM THE TRUTH - THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AGAIN TO PLACE IN THE OVAL OFFICE A MAN ALMOST TOTALLY IGNORANT OF THE DEMANDS OF THE PRESIDENCY.

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WHEN THE TUMULT OF THE CAMPAIGN IS OVER, WHEN THE BANDS CEASE TO PLAY AND THE CHEERING FADES, THEN WE MUST GOVERN A NATION. ASK YOURSELF, WHO CAN DO THAT BEST? CONSIDER CAREFULLY, NOT MERELY WHAT A CANDIDATE SAYS HE WILL DO, BUT WHAT HE'S ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST.

DOES HE HAVE EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE GREAT ISSUES OF THE DAY, WITH ENERGY AND TAXES AND INFLATION AND BLOATED GOVERNMENT AND AMERICA'S POSTURE ABROAD? CAN HE UNITE PEOPLE AROUND COMMON GOALS? CAN HE SHOW THE WAY, AND INSPIRE US TO NEW EFFORT IN A DIFFICULT DECADE?

THESE ARE THE CRITERIA THAT REPUBLICANS MUST PONDER. THINK CAREFULLY, FOR YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS MORE THAN A PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. YOU HOLD IN YOUR POWER THE POTENTIAL TO TURN AMERICA AROUND, TO GIVE HER BACK TO HER PEOPLE, AND LIVE UP TO THE BOLD PROMISES WE MADE TO OURSELVES AT OUR BIRTH.

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