

*Pat  
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Wagner  
for  
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future*

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE DINNER  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1979

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I RAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT IN 1976, AND I'M RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT IN 1980, AND A LOT OF YOU KNOW MY FACE BUT MOST IF YOU DON'T KNOW MY NAME. THAT'S WHY WHEN I TRAVEL I ALWAYS BRING MY AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD -- AND ELIZABETH -- WITH ME. ELIZABETH DOLE -- DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT HER.

NOW ELIZABETH AND I HAVE BEEN ALL ACROSS AMERICA THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, IN HOT PURSUIT OF REPUBLICAN DELEGATES. SO HAVE A LOT OF OTHER CANDIDATES. BUT ALL OF US HAVE PROBLEMS GETTING MUCH ATTENTION WHEN TED KENNEDY'S AROUND. ANYWAY, TOMORROW, TEDDY IS ANNOUNCING HIS CANDIDACY IN BOSTON. AND I UNDERSTAND JERRY BROWN IS MAKING IT OFFICIAL ON THURSDAY. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE DEMOCRATIC CONTEST TO FOLLOW? WE'LL HEAR A VOICE FROM THE PAST, A DRAWL FROM THE PRESENT, AND A BEEP BEEP BEEP FROM OUTER SPACE.

THE KENNEDY RATIONALE

BUT IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I'VE OBTAINED AN ADVANCE COPY OF TEDDY'S TEXT. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT APPRECIATE A PREVIEW.

"I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I AM INDEED A CANDIDATE FOR MY PARTY'S NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I DO NOT TAKE THIS STEP LIGHTLY. FOR ONE THING, IT'S TAKEN MONTHS TO GET MY MOTHER'S PERMISSION. BUT WE KENNEDY'S STICK TOGETHER -- SO THE WHOLE FAMILY HAS RALLIED BEHIND MY CANDIDACY WITH THE SAME FERVENT ENTHUSIASM WE SHOWED WHEN SARGE, UH, SARGE, UH, WHEN MY BROTHER-IN-LAW RAN IN 1976.

NOW NATURALLY, ONE OF THE THINGS WE'VE DEBATED WAS WHAT WE WOULD CALL THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION. FOR A WHILE, WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT NAME IT THE NEWER FRONTIER, OR MAYBE BEYOND THE FRONTIER. PERSONALLY, I'D BE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR THE RESTORATION.

I REALIZE THAT SOME OF MY VIEWS MAY NOT BE PRECISELY IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT MOOD OF THE ELECTORATE. FOR INSTANCE, I STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. I VOTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. I THINK THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT IS THE GREATEST THING TO HIT OFFICIAL WASHINGTON SINCE THE POSTAL SERVICE. I WANT TO CUT MILITARY SPENDING. I THINK WHEN IT COMES TO ENERGY THAT MORE PRODUCTION SHOULD TAKE A BACK SEAT TO CONSERVATION OF A SHRINKING RESOURCE.

I WANT TO PASS A CRADLE-TO-GRAVE SYSTEM OF NATIONALIZED HEALTH INSURANCE -- TO RATION HEALTH CARE AND STANDARDIZE MEDICINE IN AMERICA. AFTER ALL, OF SOMETHING IS STANDARDIZED, IT'S BOUND TO BE BETTER -- RIGHT? LOOK HOW WELL CONTROLLED PRICES HAVE WORKED WITH OIL AND GAS -- THINK WHAT THEY CAN MEAN FOR HOSPITAL CARE.



I THINK WE NEED A WELFARE REFORM THAT STRESSES DEPENDENCE OVER INCENTIVE -- THIS IS, AFTER ALL, A CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICS SINCE THE NEW DEAL.

NOW I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DON'T WANT YOU TO CONSIDER ME JUST ANOTHER BIG SPENDING LIBERAL. THE TRUTH IS, I'VE MOVED CONSIDERABLY CLOSER TO THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. I'VE BEEN READING THE GALLUP POLL ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE. FOR INSTANCE, A FEW WEEKS AGO, I WENT TO NEW YORK AND SPOKE TO A BUNCH OF BUSINESSMEN. I TOLD THEM IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO STRESS CAPITAL FORMATION IN THIS COUNTRY. OF COURSE, I DIDN'T MENTION THAT I VOTED AGAINST LAST YEAR'S CAPITAL GAINS TAX REDUCTION.

THEN I TALKED ABOUT PROTECTING THE MIDDLE CLASS FROM INFLATION. IT SLIPPED MY MIND THAT I'M AGAINST TAX INDEXING, OR ANY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO MANDATE A BALANCED BUDGET.

FINALLY, I SAID HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR ALL OF US TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN PROVIDING NEW JOBS. OF COURSE, BUSINESS HAS TO ACCEPT A CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY, COMMON SITUUS PICKETING AND HIGHER MINIMUM WAGES -- BUT I'M SURE WE CAN WORK ALL OF THESE THINGS OUT.

I'M RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT BECAUSE I HAVE A VISION. GRANTED IT'S A VISION FROM THE PAST, BUT WHY SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS? REPUBLICANS HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS.

MY DIFFERENCES WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ARE NOT PERSONAL. I THINK HE'S A DECENT, MORAL MAN, EVEN IF HE IS INTO WHIPS. I JUST DON'T THINK HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING. I WON'T SAY THE PRESIDENT HAS LIED AFTER HE PROMISED US HE'D NEVER LIE. LET'S JUST SAY HE'S KEPT A RESPECTABLE DISTANCE FROM THE TRUTH.

I WON'T MENTION THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS FAILED TO KEEP MOST OF CAMPAIGN PLEDGES, OR THAT HAM JORDAN MAKES MY NIGHTLIFE LOOK LIKE A DORIS DAY MOVIE.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT KIND OF NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN. IF THERE'S ONE THING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT US KENNEDY'S, IT'S THAT WE DON'T PLAY HARDBALL."

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WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT'S IT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MAN WHO WOULD RATHER BE PRESIDENT THAN RIGHT. THE WEEKS AHEAD ARE GOING TO BE EXCITING ONES. BOB STRAUSS IS ABANDONING ISRAEL AND HEADING SOUTH TO CANVASS THE CONDOMINIUM VOTE. HAM JORDAN IS GIVING UP AMARETTO, PYRAMIDS, AND HOLLYWOOD PARTIES. THE WHOLE WHITE HOUSE IS HUNKERING DOWN, WHILE TEDDY KENNEDY DOES HIS IMITATION OF GENERAL SHERMAN MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA.

SO, LET'S POINT OUT WHERE THE PARTY IN POWER HAS FAILED. LET'S REMIND OUR FELLOW CITIZENS THAT, IF YOU THINK PRESIDENTIAL INEXPERIENCE HAS BEEN EXPENSIVE, WAIT UNTIL YOU GET THE BILL FOR KENNEDY NOSTALGIA. LET'S GIVE THEM A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE DRIFT AND DISARRAY OF OUR CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY, AND THE TERRIBLE TOLL BEING TAKEN DAILY THROUGH RAMPANT INFLATION AND AN ECONOMY THAT MOCKS INDIVIDUAL ASPIRATION.



SO BRING ON THE CAMPAIGN, THE BANDS, THE BALLOONS, THE STRAW  
POLLS, THE PUNDITS, THE CUT AND THRUST. BUT WHEN IT'S OVER  
AND THE SHOUTING DIES, WE WILL BE FACED WITH GOVERNING THE  
LAND WE LOVE, IN A DANGEROUS, OFTEN DEADLY ERA. THE CHALLENGE  
IS GREAT, BUT SO IS OUR DETERMINATION. WE ARE UP TO THE  
CHALLENGE WHETHER IT'S NAMED KENNEDY OR CARTER.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION WANT A CHANGE. LET'S GIVE IT TO THEM.  
BUT LET'S NEVER LOSE OUR SENSE OF HUMOR. LET'S NEVER FORGET  
THAT PARTISANSHIP IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF DEMOCRACY, BUT ~~WE~~  
PERSONALITY POLITICS OR DEMAGOGUERY HAVE NO PLACE IN  
THE AMERICAN HOUSE. THAT HOUSE NEEDS TO BE REORDERED,  
MY FRIENDS, AND WE HAVE A YEAR IN WHICH TO DO IT.