

ADDRESS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
DEDICATION OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER SCULPTURE
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1985
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

THANK YOU, SENATOR KASSEBAUM.

IT'S AN HONOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY. IN MY VIEW, THE EISENHOWER LIBRARY IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S GREAT HISTORICAL CENTERS. IT'S A SPECIAL FEELING TO STAND HERE TODAY TO REFLECT ON THE GRAND CHAPTER OF HISTORY THAT HAS ITS ROOTS HERE.

I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US IN THANKING SENATOR DARBY FOR HIS DEDICATION AND GENEROSITY IN DONATING THIS IMPRESSIVE BRONZE STATUE OF DWIGHT EISENHOWER. IT IS A GIFT TO THE EISENHOWER LIBRARY, AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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WE ALL SHARE SENATOR DARBY'S ADMIRATION FOR OUR KANSAS HERO. WHEN I MOVED INTO THE MAJORITY LEADER'S OFFICE IN JANUARY, THE FIRST PIECE OF ART THAT I REQUESTED ^{for} IN MY OFFICE WAS A PORTRAIT OF IKE FROM THE EISENHOWER LIBRARY. IT WAS DONE BY ENGLISH ARTIST SIR JOHN LEE PEMBERTON AT THE TIME IKE WAS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN EUROPE.

WHILE GLOBAL EVENTS TOOK OUR FAVORITE SON TO DISTANT SHORES, HE NEVER FORGOT WHO HE WAS, OR WHERE HE CAME FROM. IN 1947, DWIGHT EISENHOWER SPOKE FROM HIS HEART ABOUT THE TOWN HE LOVED. "ABILENE PROVIDED BOTH A HEALTHY OUTDOOR EXISTENCE AND A NEED TO WORK. THESE SAME CONDITIONS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF A SOCIETY WHICH, MORE NEARLY THAN ANY OTHER I HAVE ENCOUNTERED, ELIMINATED PREJUDICES BASED UPON WEALTH, RACE, OR CREED AND MAINTAINED A STANDARD OF VALUES THAT PLACED A PREMIUM UPON INTEGRITY, DECENCY, AND CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS." THAT STATEMENT SAYS MORE ABOUT THIS TOWN -- AND THIS STATE -- THAN ANYTHING I COULD ADD. IKE WAS KANSAS.

and now

^ AS THE CONGRESS WRESTLES WITH THE BUDGET ~~THIS YEAR~~, I'M REMINDED THAT FEW THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN WASHINGTON. SO FAR, MOST OF OUR ENERGIES THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON TWO CRITICAL PROBLEMS: FEDERAL DEFICITS AND PENTAGON SPENDING. IN IKE'S SECOND TERM, HIS BIGGEST CONCERNS WERE FEDERAL DEFICITS AND PENTAGON SPENDING.

ALTHOUGH THOSE PROBLEMS STILL PERSIST, THE NUMBERS ARE A LOT BIGGER: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WORRIED -- AND RIGHTLY SO -- ABOUT A \$2 BILLION FEDERAL DEFICIT IN 1959. THIS YEAR, IT'S NEAR \$200 BILLION AND CLIMBING!

WE WENT THROUGH A LONG, EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TIME IN THE SENATE TO COME UP WITH A THREE-YEAR \$300 BILLION DEFICIT PACKAGE. OUR INTENTION WAS TO CUT THE DEFICIT IN HALF BY 1988. NOW BECAUSE OF SLOWER GROWTH, WE'LL HAVE TO FIND AN ADDITIONAL \$50-60 BILLION IN SAVINGS TO MEET THAT GOAL. WE COULD USE A LITTLE OF IKE'S POWER OF PERSUASION NOW, ALONG WITH HIS KANSAS INDEPENDENCE. AND, YES, HIS STUBBORNNESS.

WHEN IT CAME BUDGETS, IKE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA: "WE'VE GOT TO CONVINCe AMERICANS THAT THRIFT IS NOT A BAD WORD." HE FOUGHT THE PENTAGON, THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND ALSO A FEW SENATORS IN BOTH PARTIES IN AN EFFORT TO BRING SOME FISCAL SANITY TO GOVERNMENT.

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BUT IF OUR BUDGET PROBLEMS ARE SIMILAR TO IKE'S, THEY ARE ALSO MUCH MORE ACUTE. OUR DEFENSE NEEDS HAVE GROWN TO MATCH THE SOVIET THREAT -- AND DOMESTIC SPENDING HAS GROWN EVEN FASTER BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC'S GROWING EXPECTATIONS OF GOVERNMENT.

NOW ALL OUR BUDGET APPETITES HAVE TO BE REINED IN AND I BELIEVE THE SENATE BUDGET DOES A GOOD JOB IN THAT RESPECT. BUT WE NEED TO APPLY IN FULL FORCE IKE'S VIRTUES -- DETERMINATION, BALANCE, AND COMMON SENSE -- TO THE BUDGET BATTLE. THEN WE CAN SECURE THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN, LIKE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, HAS WORKED SO HARD TO ATTAIN.

THANKS TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S DETERMINED EFFORTS, THE FEDERAL TREASURY FINISHED IN THE BLACK FOR FISCAL YEAR 1960. TO GET THE JOB DONE, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER HAD TOLD HIS REPUBLICAN LEADERS THAT IN ORDER TO WIN THE BUDGET BATTLE HE WOULD USE -- QUOTE -- "EVERY ROCK, PEBBLE, CLUB, GUN OR WHATEVER IT TAKES." THAT'S THE KIND OF CALL TO ARMS WE NEED TODAY IN OUR PRESENT DEFICIT DILEMMA.

YET DESPITE HIS RECORD OF SUCCESS IN THE OVAL OFFICE, IT IS IRONIC THAT SOON AFTER LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE, A NATIONAL POLL OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS PLACED EISENHOWER NEARLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST OF MOST ADMIRERED PRESIDENTS. THE ACADEMICIANS, HOWEVER, ARE FINALLY CATCHING UP TO OUR BELOVED KANSAN. IN 1980, A NEW

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POLL PLACED HIM NINTH. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE RANKED AMONG THE GREATEST ALONG WITH WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, JACKSON, LINCOLN, AND, OF COURSE, THE PRESENT OCCUPANT OF THE WHITE HOUSE. WHAT WE DO KNOW TODAY--AND THANK HIM FOR IT--IS THAT HE GUIDED HIS COUNTRY SAFELY AND SECURELY DURING HIS TENURE IN OFFICE. IN ESSENCE, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER GAVE THE NATION EIGHT YEARS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY. FEW OTHER AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY COULD MAKE THAT CLAIM.

YET HE NEVER FORGOT THAT HE WAS A "SOUTH SIDER" FROM ABILENE. WHEN HE WAS WELCOMED BACK AFTER WORLD WAR II, TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE GATHERED IN CITY PARK TO WELCOME HIM HOME. ELOQUENTLY, HE SUMMED IT ALL UP, "THROUGH THIS WORLD IT HAS BEEN MY FORTUNE, OR MISFORTUNE, TO WANDER AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES. NEVER HAS THIS TOWN BEEN OUTSIDE MY HEART AND MEMORY."

AGAIN, SENATOR DARBY AND ALL WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE, YOU DESERVE OUR THANKS AND GRATITUDE FOR THIS STATUE. WE DEDICATE IT TODAY TO A KANSAN WHO GEORGE MARSHALL SAID "ALWAYS COMPLETED HIS MISSION." THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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