

SENATOR BOB DOLE
WELCOMING REMARKS
SYMPOSIUM ON 20TH CENTURY
SENATE PARTY LEADERS

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1990

9:15 AM

GOOD MORNING. I'M
DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU
TO THIS IMPORTANT
CONFERENCE ON SENATE PARTY
LEADERSHIP, WHICH IS
COSPONSORED BY AN
ORGANIZATION THAT
COMEMMORATES ONE OF MY
DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSORS,
SENATOR EVERETT MCKINLEY

DIRKSEN.

SENATOR DIRKSEN WAS THE
REPUBLICAN LEADER WHEN I
FIRST CAME TO THE SENATE IN
1969, AND ALTHOUGH WE
SERVED TOGETHER VERY BRIEFLY,
HE HELPED SHAPE MY
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE
OF A PARTY LEADER IN THE
SENATE. I HAVE TRIED TO

FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE,
ALTHOUGH I CAN CLAIM
NEITHER HIS MAGNIFICENT
STENTORIAN VOICE NOR HIS
MEMORABLE HAIRSTYLE.
EVERETT DIRKSEN WAS ONE—
OF—A—KIND.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO
WELCOME BACK MY IMMEDIATE
PREDECESSOR AS REPUBLICAN

LEADER, SENATOR HOWARD
BAKER. SENATOR BAKER AND I
HAVE BOTH SERVED AS
MAJORITY LEADER AND
MINORITY LEADER OF THE
SENATE. AND I THINK I CAN
SPEAK FOR BOTH OF US WHEN I
SAY, BEING MAJORITY LEADER
IS PREFERABLE.

I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT MY

CAPITOL OFFICE IS ALSO THE
VERY SAME OFFICE USED BY
EACH OF THOSE REPUBLICAN
GIANTS. PORTRAITS OF THESE
GREAT LEADERS ADORN MY
OFFICE, AS CONSTANT
REMINDERS OF THEIR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
DEDICATION.

I APPLAUD THE SENATE

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION AND
THE DIRKSEN CONGRESSIONAL
CENTER FOR THE EXCELLENT
PROGRAM THEY HAVE
ASSEMBLED, WHICH, I MIGHT
ADD, INCLUDES A DISCUSSION
OF SENATOR DIRKSEN BY
BURDETT LOOMIS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

HOWEVER, I DO WANT TO

CALL ATTENTION TO ONE
OMISSION FROM THE PROGRAM,
A PARTICULAR FAVORITE OF
MINE. THAT IS SENATOR
CHARLES CURTIS OF KANSAS,
WHO SERVED AS REPUBLICAN
LEADER FROM 1925 TO 1929. I
WAS SELECTED AS REPUBLICAN
LEADER SIXTY YEARS TO THE
DAY AFTER THE REPUBLICAN

CONFERENCE MADE SENATOR
CURTIS THE FIRST OFFICIALLY—
DESIGNATED REPUBLICAN FLOOR
LEADER. HE AND I ARE THE
ONLY TWO SENATE REPUBLICAN
LEADERS FROM THE STATE OF
KANSAS, AND HE HOLDS A
SPECIAL PLACE ON MY HONOR
ROLL OF SENATE LEADERS.

AS AN INTERESTING

HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE,
SENATOR CURTIS WENT ON TO
BECOME VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES BY DEFEATING
THE SENATE DEMOCRAT LEADER,
JOE ROBINSON, FOR THAT SPOT.
THAT WAS THE ONLY
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION EVER TO
FEATURE BOTH SENATE FLOOR
LEADERS ON THEIR PARTIES'

TICKETS.

HAVING PUT IN A GOOD
WORD FOR SENATOR CURTIS, I
LEAVE YOU TO ENJOY TODAY'S
SPEAKERS AS THEY RECOUNT
THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS
OF THE MEN WHO DID THEIR
BEST TO STEER THE UNWIELDY
INSTRUMENT KNOWN AS THE
UNITED STATES SENATE THROUGH

THIS CENTURY.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING
TODAY.

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