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Above all, I mean to say what I stand for and speak plainly so that the American people may know which weaknesses of mine they will have to make up for or accommodate, and so they may know which strengths they can count on.

Finally, there is this: I know I might have chosen a different forum for this occasion. The National Press Club offers splendid hospitality. The Senate Office Buildings provide a beautiful and dramatic setting. There are many places easier to reach, certainly.

I came home simply because the strength I need for the undertaking before me is here. I know that as I travel the country in the weeks and months ahead, I will be heard and helped by others who agree with me, who will consider my views and examine my record and judge my capacities and they will determine, as they should, whether I succeed or fail.

But there ought to be at least one place for every person where he or she is accepted with unjudging love and strengthened and reassured by it, and for me that place is here. I was born here, I left for awhile, I was hurt and I came back. I was helped and healed in this place by my townsmen and I began my public career here. And whenever I have set out on a new path, I have come back here to begin. No failure has ever been so hurtful that this place could not ease the pain. And no success has ever been so great that its satisfaction exceeded the satisfaction of being a part of the people of Russell, a citizen of Kansas.

Thank you.

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NEWS RELEASE!

5-14-79

Bob Dole. President.

AGRICULTURE

Farm Prices.

Senator Dole has introduced legislation to support the family farm by bringing about increased market prices for farm products. His "flexible parity" bill was passed by the Senate in 1978 and was reintroduced in slightly different form (S.1) in 1979.

Farm Exports.

Senator Dole is a strong supporter of increased exports of American agricultural products through stepped-up private trade and the humanitarian Food For Peace Program (P.L. 480). He introduced the Agricultural Export Trade Expansion Act of 1978 which is now law, and sponsored provisions to make credit available to the People's Republic of China for purchase of U.S. farm products.

Beef Imports.

Senator Dole has co-sponsored legislation (the Meat Import Act of 1979) to stabilize the flow of imported beef into the United States. This proposal will decrease the drastic beef price fluctuations of the past several years which have harmed cattle producers and consumers alike.

Farm Income.

Senator Dole is advocating legislation in the 96th Congress to give farmers a 9.5% increase on their wheat and corn target prices for the 1979 crop. He believes that farm income and grain prices are inadequate.

Federal Crop Insurance.

Senator Dole has introduced the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1979 designed to expand and improve the current system of crop insurance and disaster programs. Dole's bill would protect the private insurer and cost the government less money.

Foreign purchase of American farmland.

Senator Dole supported the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requiring foreign purchasers of farmland to report with the Secretary of Agriculture. The Senator believes the increase in the purchase of U.S. farmland by foreign interests is the result of poor U.S. economic policies that breed inflation at home and abroad and cause the steady devaluation of the U.S. dollar.

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THE ECONOMY AND TAXES

Balanced Budget.

Senator Dole has introduced a Constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget. The Dole amendment (S.J. Res. 5) mandates a balanced budget in five out of every nine years; if, because of economic emergency or wartime an unbalanced budget is necessary, the amount borrowed to finance the deficit must be repaid within four years.

In March, 1979, Senator Dole offered an amendment to legislation extending the federal debt limit to require a federal balanced budget during fiscal year 1981. The amendment lost by just 2 votes.

Spending Limit.

To insure that taxpayers receive the benefit of a balanced budget, increases in federal spending and taxation would be strictly limited under the Dole amendment.

Income Taxes.

Senator Dole has introduced legislation to "index" the federal income tax to prevent inflation from pushing American families into higher and higher tax brackets. Indexation would save taxpayers billions of dollars each year and keep the pressure on the federal government to hold the line on spending.

Capital Formation.

Senator Dole worked hard last year in the Senate to provide additional incentives for business investment. The Senator was a leading advocate in passing reductions of the corporate tax rate and the capital gains tax, as well as a liberalization of the investment credit and depreciation rules. These changes should encourage business to increase its level of capital investment, as a step towards a more productive economy.

Estate Taxes.

Senator Dole is the leader of the Congressional movement to reduce federal estate and income taxes levied on an estate. The Senator was successful last year in delaying the "carryover basis" provisions enacted in the 1976 Tax Reform Act and this year is the principal bipartisan sponsor of the legislation to repeal the law which threatens the vitality of many farms and small businesses.

Employment Tax Status.

Senator Dole has introduced this year legislation which provides certainty and fairness to the IRS's determination of an individual's employment tax status--as either an employee or an independent contractor. A Dole proposal last year brought temporary tax relief to millions of American workers and businesses who had been harassed by a new interpretation by the IRS of the employment tax laws.

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Pension Programs.

Senator Dole has reintroduced in the 96th Congress his proposal, which the Senate approved last year, to help assist American workers provide for retirement. Federal regulation has recently contributed to the instability of many private pension plans. Senator Dole believes one way to encourage employees to remain in the private system is to provide tax deductions to employees who contribute to their plans.

Fringe Benefits.

Senator Dole introduced legislation in the 95th Congress which was passed into law to prevent the government from issuing new rules regarding taxation of fringe benefits. Because of their quest for revenue, the Treasury has launched a campaign to tax fringe benefits, such as free parking and transportation passes. Senator Dole's proposal gives Congress adequate time to review this controversial and complicated matter.

ENERGY

Decontrol.

Senator Dole supports phased decontrol of domestic petroleum prices as the only feasible method of decreasing America's reliance on costly foreign sources of energy. He introduced windfall profits tax legislation in the 95th Congress and will soon introduce a new windfall profits tax to accompany the Administration's decontrol program.

New Energy.

Senator Dole has supported governmental and private efforts to develop new sources of energy -- solar, geothermal, wind power. He has proposed specific legislation to foster the development of gasohol, a mixture of gasoline and alcohol which can be made with America's abundant grain supplies. He supports efforts to enhance the safety of nuclear power until new sources of energy are readily available.

FOREIGN POLICY

SALT II.

Senator Dole voted for the SALT I treaty and hopes to be able to support SALT II. But he is concerned that certain aspects of the impending treaty may jeopardize America's strategic position. Before casting his vote for SALT II, he wants assurances that the United States can verify Soviet compliance with treaty provisions, that ambiguities in treaty language will be clarified, that the Backfire bomber is limited if it is determined to be a strategic weapon, that the "range limitation" issue be satisfactorily resolved, and that the treaty protect the interests of our allies.

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