

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ANNOUNCES FUNDING RENEWAL FOR FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Sen. Bob Dole today announced that ACTION, the federal agency on volunteerism, has renewed two grants for Foster Grandparent Programs.

"I'm pleased that these programs will continue to serve the Winfield and Paola communities," said Dole. "The Foster Grandparent Program is a unique program where everyone involved benefits."

The recipients of the grant renewals are:

- * Winfield State Hospital and Training Center \$167,264
- * Paola Association for Church Action \$208,408

Last year, the Foster Grandparent Program matched over 19,000 senior citizens with troubled, disabled or lonely children.

Dole, in his testimony, cited recent changes in the nation's food assistance programs that demonstrate the federal government's response to the hunger issue.

"While there are those who would like to blame the current administration for what they describe as 'hunger in America'" said Sen. Dole, "budget cuts enacted in 1981 and 1982 were proposals designed by the Congress in a bipartisan fashion - they were not administration proposals. Some fine-tuning of the food stamp program occurred during the reauthorization process last year, and benefits were increased by about \$500 million to \$1 billion for the next three fiscal years."

Dole concluded his testimony by saying "the hunger issue should be treated fairly. While there are some deserving Americans who fail to receive adequate food assistance, there are others who receive benefits who should not. Although this is rarely the focus of attention by hunger activists, it should be noted for the record that, in the food stamp program alone, an estimated \$ 900 million annually is squandered through the overissuance of benefits, payments to ineligible recipients and outright fraud."

- 3 -

THE LAST TIME I SPOKE TO A RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS, THE YEAR WAS 1968, AND IT SEEMED AS IF AMERICAN SOCIETY WAS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS. THERE WAS BLOODY WAR RAGING IN VIETNAM, AND A VIRTUAL CIVIL WAR IN THE STREETS OF OUR OWN CITIES. THE OLD AND YOUNG STARED AT ONE ANOTHER ACROSS A SEEMINGLY IMPASSABLE GULF. OUR CITIES WERE IN FLAMES. AND EVERYWHERE, PROPHETS OF DOOM PREDICTED AN UNRAVELING OF AMERICA, AND AN END TO HER DAYS OF GREATNESS.

WE CAME THROUGH THOSE TIMES. WE FOUND OUR BETTER NATURES. WE THREW OFF THE PLAGUE OF SELF-DOUBT. WE STOPPED APOLOGIZING FOR, AND STARTED ASSERTING OUR VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS. AND TODAY, AMERICA IS BACK. WHAT HOLDS TRUE FOR COUNTRIES HOLDS TRUE FOR INDIVIDUALS AS WELL. TIMES OF CHANGE ARE TIMES OF CHALLENGE.

IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TESTED THAT WE DISCOVER WITHIN OURSELVES THOSE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF PLUCK AND DETERMINATION, ABILITY AND RESOLVE, THAT WE MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE REVEAL. WHEN SOME PROPOSED THAT THIS SCHOOL DROP ITS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA PROGRAM, THE COMMUNITY RALLIED AROUND TO SAVE IT. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE, AS I BELIEVE, THAT FARMING IN AMERICA HAS A FUTURE. AND YOU INTEND TO BE PART OF IT.

IN THE END, THEN, THIS IS A CEREMONY ABOUT FAITH -- FAITH IN ONESELF, AND FAITH IN ONE'S FUTURE. EARLIER THIS YEAR, I WAS INVITED TO SPEAK IN ATLANTA, AS PART OF THE FIRST NATIONAL HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING THE BIRTH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. AND I CAME ACROSS SOME WORDS OF DR. KING'S, WORDS NEVER MORE APPROPRIATE THAN TONIGHT.

"SOMETHING SHOULD REMIND US," SAID DR. KING, "THAT THE GREAT THINGS IN THIS UNIVERSE ARE THINGS THAT WE NEVER SEE. YOU WALK OUT AT NIGHT AND LOOK UP AT BEAUTIFUL STARS AS THEY BEDECK THE HEAVENS LIKE SWINGING LANTERNS OF ETERNITY. AND YOU THINK YOU CAN SEE ALL."

MY FRIENDS, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NEVER STOP LOOKING UP AT THE STARS. I HOPE YOU NEVER FORGET OUR STATE MOTTO: "TO THE STARS THROUGH DIFFICULTIES". I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NEVER STOP BELIEVING IN THINGS YOU CANNOT SEE. I HOPE THAT YOUR FUTURE IS AS HOSPITABLE AND BECKONING AS MINE WAS, WHEN I STOOD ON A SIMILAR PLATFORM MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO. I HOPE THAT IN MAKING A LIFE FOR YOURSELVES, YOU WON'T NEGLECT CONTRIBUTING TO THE LIFE OF YOUR COUNTRY.

MOST OF ALL, I HOPE THAT WHEREVER YOU GO AND WHATEVER YOU DO, RUSSELL WILL GO WITH YOU. FOR THEN, I KNOW, THAT YOU WILL BE WELL GUIDED. GOOD LUCK, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

- 30 -