



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR RELEASE: 7 P.M. THURSDAY CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
FEBRUARY 27, 1975

DOLE SPEAKS TO YOUNG REPUBLICANS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Republicans have an excellent opportunity to change the future, said Senator Bob Dole, "precisely because the Democrats are the majority party."

In remarks prepared for delivery to the Young Republican Leadership Conference tonight at the Shoreham Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C., Dole said Democrats have "started the majority of wars in our history, they have ensured that the majority of the power which our Constitution gave to the people has been moved to Washington and passed down to the bureaucrats. They have sponsored the majority of spending programs that have bought a majority of the votes that have brought us to the edge of bankruptcy."

The Kansas Senator also made a prediction about Congressional Democrats-- "before long a majority of them will have declared for the Presidency--at least a majority of those in the Senate."

DEMOCRATS WANT OUT

"As a result of this mob-like yearning to get out of the Senate and into the White House, a majority of the time that ought to be spent working on legislation is spent working to get a nomination that is fifteen or sixteen months away."

"Any objective observer must find it curious that so many can express so much concern about getting power back into the Congress, while at the same time, they themselves are spending so much time trying to get out of the Congress. Anybody who wonders why the Congress has lost so much power in recent years and why the White House has acquired so much, should just look at the absentee records of the members of a Congress that has been Democratically controlled for the period coinciding with the loss of Congressional power."

Calling the 94th an obstructionist Congress, Dole said, "the Democrats--no matter what the size of their Congressional majority--cannot lead. But they are demonstrating they can obstruct."

"The country needs attention. It needs leadership. And the Congress which proposes to take back power and provide that leadership, doesn't know what to do with the power, has no legislative leadership, and is trying to buy time while they figure out where the leadership is going to come from, where it's going to go, and what to do with the power."

(more)

"Unfortunately we don't have that kind of time." Dole added that the country "could be running our cars on rubber bands" by the time Democrats get enough people back in Washington to come up with the alternative they have been promising to President Ford's energy program.

MISPLACED REPUBLICAN EFFORTS

Dole said Republicans in recent years have placed too much effort on "Building a mandate and too little on building a constituency. We saw too much reliance placed on the fact that we controlled the White House, and not enough effort expended on putting more Republicans in Congress."

The former Republican National Committee Chairman warned the Young Republicans against getting "caught in the trap of encouraging or participating in a lot of divisive ideological squabbling, and threats of third or fourth party activities. Airplanes can't fly on one wing, and neither can the Republican Party...We need conflict because it leads to progress. But it only leads to progress when it ends in resolution and not in dissolution."

Dole also pointed out that divisions of the Democrat Party are more severe. "It doesn't have just a liberal wing and a conservative wing. It has McGovernites, populists, radical fringe groups of all descriptions, cold warriors, one-worlders-- call it what you will, it is fractionalized, polarized, split, divided."

SUPPORT OF FORD NECESSARY

Calling for support of President Ford, Dole said, "we should take him at his word, and give him every possible bit of support as our President and our Party leader, because he is our Party's leader and he is doing a commendable job as our Nation's leader, given the obstacle of an obstructionist Congress. That doesn't mean he is sacrosanct," Dole added. "When the time comes, the primary process and the convention process will provide us with a good Republican candidate, whether it's President Ford or somebody else, and we better be prepared to support him. The point is to avoid getting postured in a way that produces bitterness, intransigence, and political splits."