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DOLE RESOLUTION HONORS GOVERNOR LANDON

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Senate this morning passed a Resolution introduced by Senator Bob Dole paying tribute to Governor Alf Landon on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. Following are the texts of the Resolution and Senator Dole's introductory statement:

RESOLUTION

Paying tribute to Governor Alf Landon on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

Resolved, That the Senate hereby extends to the Honorable Alf Landon its greetings and warm wishes on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday on September 9, 1977.

SEC. 2 The Senate expresses its admiration and gratitude to Governor Landon for his many years of distinguished service to the people of Kansas and the United States.

SEC. 3 The Senate expresses its appreciation to Governor Landon for his contributions as Governor of Kansas, presidential candidate, statesman, progressive and venerable leader of his political party, civic leader, humanitarian and successful businessman and for his interest in young people.

SEC. 4 The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Alf Landon.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. President, the Senior Senator from Kansas and I join in offering a Resolution honoring Alf Landon, former Kansas Governor and 1936 Republican nominee for President, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

Governor Landon occupies a fond place in the hearts of those of us who know him. Although he has a firm foothold in American political history of another period, he is ever ready to comment on current affairs with an expertise and sensibility that reveal his unique position as the grand old man of the G.O.P. His exuberance has led an army of politicians, labor leaders, reporters, and academicians seeking advice and counsel to his west Topeka home over the last 40 years.

A Kansas newspaper editor once called him an "affable old radical," a description that is not disagreeable to a man who has always been ahead of his time. The Governor has always been a common sense, yet unorthodox, sort of progressive. As early as 1936, Mr. Landon was reminding Americans of the evils of inflation and was pointing to the dangers of uncontrolled government growth. In view of our present day concerns, it seems that he was ahead of his time. His own record of fiscal integrity and balanced budgets during his tenure as Governor of Kansas would be the envy of any contemporary President.

Indeed, it seems to have taken 40 years for many of his ideas to come into their own, but the issues he was addressing in the mid-thirties, and continues to address, are the issues which we are now hearing a great deal about. An advocate of detente in the 1950's, Governor Landon indicated that he was for it "as long as we're not foolish about it."

The Governor's ninetieth birthday finds him still active, still riding his horses, still making lively comments on issues and concerns of our day, and still tending to his business affairs.

Governor Landon will always be remembered as the man who carried only Maine and Vermont in the 1936 Presidential election. No doubt, his good-natured reaction to his loss has endeared Alf to the hundreds of people who have sought his advice or his interview through the years. But after knowing the Governor, and listening to his views, you know that even if he hadn't been the 1936 nominee, he would still attract the attention of those who now revere him for his good advice and solid perspective on events both past and present.

The personal qualities of the affable old gentleman are readily apparent to all who visit with him. Like Truman of Independence and Eisenhower of Abilene, he radiates a plain-speaking midwestern decency that is heartening these days.

Alf Landon has a number of other outstanding qualities that, due to the constraints here, we have not fully discussed. Over the years, he held the respect and the attention of his party and the American people as a source of wise and venerated political leadership. Before his involvement in politics and since, Alf Landon has been a successful businessman. He has contributed much to the development and education of young people. There is a great deal more we could talk about, as indeed there are many articles and publications about his achievements.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two articles, one from the Wichita Eagle of September 4, 1977, and one from yesterday's Topeka Capital be included in the Record.

I urge the adoption of our Resolution.