

## News from Senator

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STATEMENT BY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE:  
ALF LANDON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

MR. PRESIDENT, TODAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1987, REPRESENTS A REMARKABLE MILESTONE FOR A VERY REMARKABLE AMERICAN. ON THIS DAY IN TOPEKA, KANSAS, A LEGEND IN AMERICAN POLITICS CELEBRATES HIS ONE-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY -- HE IS ALF LANDON, A VISIONARY STATESMAN, A ONETIME PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND GOVERNOR, AND A VOICE OF COMMON SENSE AND WISDOM FOR GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.

THIS PAST WEEKEND, PRESIDENT REAGAN AND FIRST LADY NANCY FULFILLED A PROMISE THEY MADE TO THE GOVERNOR THREE YEARS AGO THAT WHEN ALF LANDON HIT THE CENTENNIAL MILESTONE, THEY WOULD BE THERE TO HELP CUT THE CAKE. AT THE TIME, ALF SIMPLY TOLD THE PRESIDENT: "YOU LOOK TO BE IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE, I THINK MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE IT." MR. PRESIDENT, I WAS HONORED TO JOIN THE PRESIDENT AND THE LANDON FAMILY FOR THIS VERY MEMORABLE BIRTHDAY PARTY IN TOPEKA ON SUNDAY.

HIS LEGACY TO AMERICAN POLITICS CONTINUES RIGHT HERE IN THIS CHAMBER IN THE PERSON OF HIS VERY ABLE DAUGHTER -- EQUALLY REMARKABLE IN HER OWN RIGHT -- THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM KANSAS, NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM: MY COLLEAGUE, MY FELLOW KANSAN AND MY GOOD FRIEND.

### KANSAS LEGEND

TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, IT ISN'T EASY FOR ANY KANSAS POLITICIAN TO FOLLOW IN THE HUGE FOOTSTEPS OF ALF LANDON. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS THERE -- AND STILL IS THERE -- TO LEND HIS SUPPORT, HIS COUNSEL AND GOOD WISHES. HE HAS BEEN A PERSONAL INSPIRATION TO ME AND AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US TO FOLLOW. AS PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID ON SUNDAY: "IN 100 YEARS, ALF LANDON HAS CHASED MANY DREAMS AND CAUGHT MOST OF THEM. ALONG THE WAY, HE'S FOUND TIME TO STAND FOR THE AMERICAN VALUES OF LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY AND OPPORTUNITY. AND NO ONE IS MORE THE LIVING SOUL OF KANSAS, WHICH TO ME MEANS A QUIET STRENGTH AND THE SIMPLE DECENCY OF ALL AMERICA."

HE WAS THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT IN 1936, BUT HE HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF RUNNING INTO AN OBSTACLE NAMED FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT. BUT THE HISTORIANS NOW RECOGNIZE THAT ALF LONDON WAS A MAN WHO WAS WAY AHEAD OF HIS TIMES.

#### STRONG LEADERSHIP PERIOD

PERHAPS THE GOVERNOR IS BEST REMEMBERED FOR HIS STRONG LEADERSHIP IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES. THIS IS WHY NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS WERE ATTACHED TO HIM IN 1936. DURING THE DEPRESSION, WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ENGAGED IN SOME HEAVY SPENDING, INCURRING ENORMOUS DEBT, GOVERNOR LONDON INTRODUCED A BARE-BONES BUDGET FOR HIS STATE AND PROCEEDED TO BALANCE IT, SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE BEGAN BY IMPLEMENTING AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUT OF 24 PERCENT THAT EXTENDED TO HIS OWN \$5,000 A YEAR SALARY AND EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION. WHEN THE LEGISLATURE REFUSED TO CUT THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY, HE SIMPLY MAILED BACK A 25 PERCENT REFUND FROM EACH OF HIS PAYCHECKS.

BECAUSE OF HIS POPULARITY AND STRONG LEADERSHIP, LONDON SERVED TWO TERMS AS GOVERNOR OF KANSAS, FROM 1933-37, INTRODUCING MORE SWEEPING CHANGES IN HIS FIRST TERM THAN THE STATE HAD WITNESSED SINCE THE POPULISTS TOOK OVER IN 1890. BY THE END OF THIS FIRST TERM IN 1934, GOVERNOR LONDON HAD MANAGED TO REDUCE THE STATE PER CAPITA COST OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS \$71 FIVE YEARS BEFORE TO \$51. THIS IS THE KIND OF FISCAL LEADERSHIP THAT WE NEED TODAY -- A NEW DOSE OF ALF LONDON MEDICINE. EVEN THOUGH THE CONTEXT MAY HAVE CHANGED, THE ISSUES THAT HE FOUGHT SO HARD FOR BACK THEN ARE STILL WITH US TODAY.

MR. PRESIDENT, I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN ME IN WISHING ALF LONDON A HAPPY ONE-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY.