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DEDICATION OF A BOY SCOUT LOG CABIN, PLAINVILLE, KANSAS

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A Draft Speech Prepared According to the Instructions of
The Honorable Robert Dole

The attached has been prepared for the personal use of
the Member requesting it in conformance with his direc-
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Doris S. Whitney
Editorial Specialist
Government and General Research Division
June 10, 1964

JUN 13 1964

JUN 13 1964

DEDICATION OF A BOY SCOUT LOG CABIN, PLAINVILLE, KANSAS

It is with genuine pleasure that I join with you in the dedication of your Boy Scout Log Cabin. I am happy to pay tribute to the Boy Scouts of Plainville and to all Boy Scouts. I share with you a pride in the completion of this project.

I am very proud to acknowledge my own interest in Scouting over the years. It has been one of the great privileges of my life to have been an active adult in your organization.

Any review of the history of Scouting speaks out loud with reference to the benefits a community derives from a group of Boy Scouts. A pamphlet directed to volunteer leaders and scout parents plays up the relation of the movement to the community in these words, and I quote:

"Scouting is not something by and for itself. It is a definite part of the life of the community. By playing its part and training

JUN 13 1964

- 2 -

boys to play theirs, it contributes to our national welfare. ..."

Further a review of the highlights of Scouting reminds us of the type of activities your organization gives to the youth of America. I have heard Scouting called the most exciting game that has ever been devised for boys. But I am certain you will agree with me that it is something more than a game. Scouting is a program in which you learn how to do things for yourselves, and for other people. It is a program that develops your physical fitness, your skills, your self-reliance, your courage, and furnishes you with high ideals of service to your country.

The future of our American way of life depends upon how adequately you -- our youth -- are prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of the political, the business, and the social factors that constitute our national pattern of living. This preparation for your capacity as future citizens rests not only with you boys, but also with the adults of this Nation.

JUN 13 1964

- 3 -

Every American Boy Scout knows the story of the American newspaper publisher, lost in a London fog, who was guided to his destination by a courteous lad who refused a tip for his services. When the American, W. D. Boyce of Chicago, voiced his surprise, the boy said he was a Boy Scout and Scouts could not accept tips for good turns. Boyce was intrigued and let the boy take him to the nearby Scout Office, where Baden-Powell completely convinced his visitor of the value of the program.

On his return to the United States, Boyce consulted with friends and set the wheels in motion, resulting in the official incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.

Scouting spread rapidly throughout the United States and within two years there were Scout troops in every State with a total of almost a hundred thousand members. Today we look back on the record of more than thirty million boys and countless adult leaders in practically every community in America who

JUN 13 1964

- 4 -

have written the story of the Boy Scouts of America. But that story has by no means come to an end.

Today marks another beginning of something worthy of your efforts. You are to be congratulated on the spirit which has inspired the establishment of this cabin.

It is a wonderful thing to be a boy at this particular time in the history of our Nation. The opportunities are endless. It is also a wonderful thing to be a boy in Kansas. Here the marvels of nature can be explored endlessly. The rolling prairies, which are literally covered with exciting legends of early adventures, the magnificent sunsets of this area, the comradeship one finds in the out-of-doors -- all are at your disposal.

It has been said that the ability to stand and walk erect is the most distinguishing characteristic of man. Some of the best books of travel have been written by those who were afoot. One gets only passing views and superficial knowledge from automobiles,

JUN 13 1964

- 5 -

planes, and trains. There is the first-hand way to acquire a love of nature -- an intimate acquaintance with birds, flowers, rocks, and trees -- that is afoot in the out-of-doors. The trails that lead outward from your cabin to the exploration of nature are yours to enjoy.

A great deal of America has been lost to view. It is often behind a billboard, behind a fence, over a hill, down a crooked road. The delightful aspects of exploring, as the Scout well knows, are joys that are missed by too many Americans.

It was Theodore Roosevelt who said:

"It is an incalculable added pleasure to any one's sum of happiness if he or she grows to know, even slightly or imperfectly, how to read and enjoy the wonder-book of nature."

Youth has been called "The Nation's Richest Resource." You are fortunate to have the influence of the Scouting program. I ask

JUN 13 1964

- 6 -

that you apply it to all that you face in this world. With the background of Scouting you can turn life's uncertainties into a tonic; you can turn ugly aspects into challenges; potential dangers can invite wisdom. Today's world demands leaders who are physically, mentally, and morally fit.

Again I congratulate you on your achievements -- what you have done for this locality and what you have done for yourselves. I wish you well in your future endeavors. And I ask that you remember:

"The trail that Scouts, in their
seeking, blaze
Through the toughest tangle, the
deepest maze,
Till out of boyhood the Scout
comes straight
To manhood's splendid and high
estate!"