

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
ALUMNI BANQUET  
JUNE 4, 1966  
REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

I AM CERTAINLY HONORED TO RECEIVE A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM THE WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

IT HAS BEEN A REAL PLEASURE TO MAINTAIN SOME CONTACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH OUR ALUMNI ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON, D. C. APPROXIMATELY 300 WASHBURN ALUMNI NOW LIVE IN THE WASHINGTON, D. C. AREA, AND A GREAT NUMBER OF THESE HOLD VERY IMPORTANT POSITIONS, EITHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

GERRY SUGGESTED THAT OUR REMARKS BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES, OR LESS, AND SO FOR A MINUTE OR TWO, I WOULD COMPARE ALUMNI ACTIVITY WITH POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

IN MY OPINION, IN EACH INSTANCE, THERE IS A GREAT DEGREE OF APPREHENSION ABOUT THE GROWTH OF WHAT IS SOMETIMES CALLED "SPECTATORISM". QUITE SIMPLY, I AM TALKING ABOUT THE APPARENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPT TO GO THROUGH LIFE AS SPECTATORS -- OBSERVING, WATCHING, SEEING THE COURSE OF HISTORY MOVE ABOUT THEM, WITHOUT ACTUALLY BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO PLACE SELF ABOVE SERVICE, ABOVE PARTICIPATION. THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TOO BUSY TO SERVE ON A COMMUNITY BETTERMENT COMMITTEE, TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICS, LARGE OR SMALL, TO HELP WITH THE PTA, OR THE CHARITY DRIVE, OR THE LITTLE LEAGUE, OR THEIR CHURCH, OR THEIR BOY AND GIRL SCOUT TROOPS, OR MAYBE THEIR CONSTITUTION DAY COMMITTEE, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

TRAGICALLY, THE SPECTATOR STATISTICS SHOW THAT AT LEAST 38 PERCENT OF THE QUALIFIED AMERICANS DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO GET OUT AND VOTE IN



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THE LAST ELECTION, AND IF YOU ARE DISTURBED BY THIS COMMENT, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ONLY 5 PERCENT OF APPROXIMATELY 14,000 WASHBURN ALUMNI HAVE FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FUTURE OF OUR UNIVERSITY.

IT IS MY OPINION THAT GOOD GOVERNMENT IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT, AND NEITHER IS THE BUILDING OF A GOOD UNIVERSITY. AMERICANS CERTAINLY DO NOT LACK OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO COUNTRY OR COMMUNITY, NOR DO ALUMNI LACK OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO THEIR ALMA MATER. AS EACH OF US DEVOTES A PART OF OUR LIVES TO THE TASK OF MAINTAINING AND DEFENDING THE BASIC VALUES OF OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, THEN OUR NATION BECOMES STRONGER IN FREEDOM AND IT BECOMES MORE CERTAIN THAT THIS FREEDOM WILL BE PASSED ALONG TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW. THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE BASIC VALUES EACH OF US GAINED WHILE STUDENTS AT WASHBURN. FREEDOM, ONCE LOST, IS RARELY REWON. THIS DANGER WAS FORESEEN AS EARLY AS 1787 WHEN BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, A DELEGATE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, WAS APPROACHED UPON LEAVING THE HALL AFTER THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN WRITTEN. A BYSTANDER CALLED OUT: "BEN, WHAT HAVE YOU GIVEN US?" FRANKLIN'S ANSWER WAS SHORT AND PROPHETIC: HE SAID, "A REPUBLIC, IF YOU CAN KEEP IT."

IF WE ARE GOING TO KEEP OUR REPUBLIC, IF WE ARE GOING TO REMAIN THE FREEST PEOPLE ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE, I BELIEVE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES, AS A NATION, TO THE VALUES WHICH 178 YEARS AGO SPARKED OUR FOREFATHERS AND BUILT OUR NATION. IF WE ARE GOING TO BUILD A GREAT UNIVERSITY, WE MUST REDEDICATE OURSELVES, AS ALUMNI, TO THE VALUES WHICH 101 YEARS AGO ON FEBRUARY 7, 1865, SPARKED THE FOUNDERS OF LINCOLN COLLEGE, NOW WASHBURN UNIVERSITY. THEY MADE GREAT PLANS.

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THEY DID GREAT THINGS, AND THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THEIR VISION AND FORESIGHT CANNOT DO LESS.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE STORY OF THE FOUNDING OF WASHBURN IS A STORY OF SACRIFICE, TOIL, DISCOURAGEMENT, INDOMITABLE PERSEVERANCE, AND A FAR SEEING FAITH THAT COULD NOT BE CONQUERED. MANY MEN GAVE THEIR TIME, LABOR, AND THE LITTLE MONEY THEY HAD TO WASHBURN, AND CERTAINLY THOSE OF US GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING CAN DO NO LESS.

I COMMEND DR. HENDERSON; MR. MILLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 100; DORAL HAWKS, PRESIDENT OF THE WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION; AND GERRY BARKER --- WHO DOES EVERYTHING --- AND PLEDGE MY COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN BUILDNG AN EVEN GREATER WASHBURN.