

FIRST DISTRICT -- NORTHWEST AREA
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
SMITH CENTER, KANSAS
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1967, 10 A.M.
Remarks of Congressman Bob Dole

THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL BE BOTH INTERESTING AND EXCITING, AND MANY, MANY REPUBLICANS AROUND THE COUNTRY CAN HARDLY WAIT TILL 1968. IN KANSAS, AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE RUMBLINGS AND RUMORS ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS. I WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT WE RETAIN A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE, AT LEAST UNTIL IT IS KNOWN WHO WILL BE SEEKING THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION. I FIND IT RATHER DIFFICULT TO BE LINING UP WITH ANYONE AT THIS POINT SINCE NO REPUBLICAN AS YET HAS STATED HE WILL BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION. REPUBLICANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE HUNGRY FOR VICTORY, AND WE WILL HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY IN 1968 IF WE REMAIN UNITED AND SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE -- WHOEVER HE MAY BE. LET ME TELL YOU WHY ---- THE DEMOCRAT PARTY HAS SPLIT INTO AT LEAST THREE FACTIONS -- JOHNSON DEMOCRATS, WALLACE DEMOCRATS, AND FAR-LEFT DEMOCRATS, AND THE SO-CALLED "JOHNSON CONSENSUS" OF 1964 IS SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR. THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION CAN BE TRACED TO ITS INABILITY TO PROVIDE PERFORMANCE EQUAL TO THE PROMISES IT MADE DURING THE 1964 CAMPAIGN, BOTH IN THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC FIELDS. THE RESULT IS THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON IS FACING A SEVERE WAR IN HIS OWN PARTY, AND BECAUSE OF THIS GAP BETWEEN PAST PROMISE AND CURRENT PERFORMANCE, IT IS BEYOND HIS POWER TO HEAL THE BREACH.

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WE HAVE HAD UNPOPULAR NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN PAST YEARS,

*Rest of speech is speech given 4-29-67
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