

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN SEMINAR
EMPORIA, KANSAS
AUGUST 12, 1967
REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN?

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE IN EMPORIA TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS AND TO SHARE THE PLATFORM WITH SO MANY DISTINGUISHED FELLOW REPUBLICANS. ABOVE ALL, IT IS HEARTENING TO SEE SO MANY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR PARTY, AND OF OUR STATE AND NATION.

FOR ALL OF US HERE TODAY, AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT QUESTION IS: JUST WHAT IS AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN? IN KANSAS THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE, TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER, CONSIDER THEMSELVES REPUBLICANS, AND MANY OTHERS -- DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS -- ARE LEANING IN OUR DIRECTION. BUT THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE GAP BETWEEN THE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF NOMINAL REPUBLICANS AND THAT HARD CORE WHO ACTUALLY CONSTITUTE THE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS.

(1) WHAT THEN IS AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN? (2) WHY DO WE NEED MORE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS? (3) HOW DO WE GO ABOUT RECRUITING MORE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS? THESE ARE QUESTIONS YOU WILL BE DEALING WITH TODAY. I WILL LEAVE THE THIRD QUESTION TO RAY HUMPHREYS, OUR HIGHLY TALENTED GUEST FROM THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE. BUT FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OTHER TWO.

WHY MORE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS?

LET ME START BY TAKING A LOOK AT THE QUESTION OF WHY WE NEED MORE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS. NATURALLY, SEVERAL ANSWERS COME TO MIND RATHER QUICKLY. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE ALL ARE AWARE THAT THE RESIDENT OF 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C., IS A DEMOCRAT AND THAT A MAJORITY OF CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY

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HEAVY IN THE SENATE, ARE DEMOCRATS. WE ARE ALL ALSO AWARE THAT OUR COUNTRY IS FACED WITH A GROWING NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOT BEING SOLVED -- AS RIOTS IN OUR LARGE CITIES AND THE EVER-DRAGGING WAR IN VIETNAM WOULD INDICATE.

THERE ARE MANY -- AN INCREASING NUMBER OF THESE ARE DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS -- WHO FEEL THAT THERE IS SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FACT OF TOO MANY DEMOCRATS IN HIGH PUBLIC OFFICE AND TOO MANY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. REPUBLICANS OF KANSAS MUST BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENCE OF LYNDON JOHNSON IN THE WHITE HOUSE, FOR IN 1964 KANSAS CAST ITS ELECTORAL VOTE FOR PRESIDENT JOHNSON. THIS COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE VOTES OF MANY REPUBLICANS. EVEN CLOSER TO HOME, THE GOVERNOR OF OUR STATE -- WHICH WAS HAILED AT THE LAST G.O.P. NATIONAL CONVENTION AS THE MOST REPUBLICAN STATE IN THE UNION -- IS A DEMOCRAT. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO STRIDES FORWARD UNDER OUR DEMOCRAT GOVERNOR, WE MUST CONFESS THAT HE HAS MASTERED THE "GREAT SOCIETY" FORMULA OF GENERATING PUBLICITY DESPITE LITTLE ACHIEVEMENT. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS WORK FOR REPUBLICANS IN KANSAS, AND KANSAS NEEDS MORE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS TO GET IT DONE!!

BUT, THERE ARE REASONS MORE FUNDAMENTAL, THAT GO EVEN DEEPER, EVEN THAN THESE FOR A PERSON TO BECOME AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN. THE POWER AND SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED TO SUCH AN EXTENT AND THE ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS, BUT ESPECIALLY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, HAVE SO PROLIFERATED THAT FOR A CITIZEN TO HAVE A FULL INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF HIS VERY EXISTENCE HE MUST PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING THOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL GOVERN HIM. THE DAY IS LONG GONE WHEN A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN COULD TURN UP HIS NOSE AT POLITICS, DISMISSING IT AS THE PROVINCE OF "SOMEONE ELSE", OF "THE POLITICIANS".

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THE DECISIONS THAT ARE MADE IN WASHINGTON -- AND IN TOPEKA -- ARE SIMPLY TOO IMPORTANT TO BE IGNORED. WHETHER OR NOT THE PRESIDENT COMMITS MORE MEN TO FIGHT IN VIETNAM, WHETHER OR NOT CONGRESS RAISES TAXES AT THE PRESIDENT'S BEHEST, OR WHETHER OR NOT THE STATE UNDERTAKES THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL TURNPIKES ARE DECISIONS THAT CAN HAVE A GREAT EFFECT ON ALL OF OUR DAILY LIVES. FOR THOSE OF US WHO SAY WE ARE REPUBLICANS AND WHO BELIEVE IN THE REPUBLICAN WAY OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS AND FACING ISSUES, IT IS MOST IMPERATIVE THAT WE TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO INSURE THAT THESE APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENT ARE FOLLOWED. IN SHORT, POLITICS IS JUST TOO IMPORTANT FOR A REPUBLICAN NOT TO BE AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN?

WHAT, THEN, IS AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN? MANY PEOPLE WHO REGARD THEMSELVES AS REPUBLICANS DO NOT EVEN BOTHER TO VOTE. TOO OFTEN, PARTICULARLY IN A STATE LIKE KANSAS WITH A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING OUR PARTY MOST OF THE TIME, REPUBLICANS BECOME COMPLACENT OR PERHAPS DISCOURAGED, FEELING THAT THEIR ONE VOTE IS OF LITTLE OR NO VALUE. WE CANNOT REMIND THESE PEOPLE TOO OFTEN THAT JUST A HANDFUL MORE VOTES IN A RELATIVELY FEW PRECINCTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WOULD HAVE ELECTED A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT IN 1960. PERHAPS A BROAD DEFINITION OF AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN, THEN, IS A VOTING REPUBLICAN. BUT VOTING CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS THE BARE MINIMUM. THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN A FREE ELECTION, WHICH IS DENIED TO THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ON THE EARTH, IS SO PRECIOUS THAT IT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A VIRTUAL RESPONSIBILITY, AS TANTAMOUNT TO DUTY. TO BE TRULY AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN, IT REQUIRES MORE THAN FULFILLING THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN IS A PERSON, LIKE YOU, WHO CARES ENOUGH ABOUT THE

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FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY TO GIVE UP SOME OF HIS OR HER TIME TO GO OUT AND WORK FOR THE ELECTION OF REPUBLICANS TO OFFICE. IT IS SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT IGNORE THE GROWING NUMBER OF DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS WHO SHARE OUR PRINCIPLES AND BELIEFS, AND WHO WORKS TO BRING THEM INTO THE REPUBLICAN FOLD. IT IS SOMEONE WHO TALKS TO HIS FRIENDS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GENERATE INTEREST IN OUR PARTY AND WHO TRIES TO CONVINCED THEM TO VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS. IT IS SOMEONE WHO HELPS IN A CAMPAIGN -- A MANAGER, A SPEECHWRITER, A DOORBELL RINGER, OR AN ENVELOPE STUFFER.

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND ALL OTHER ELECTED REPUBLICAN OFFICIALS, SHARE IN THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP PROMOTE THE ELECTION OF FELLOW REPUBLICANS. THROUGHOUT MY SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I, AS HAVE MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES, HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DISCHARGE THIS RESPONSIBILITY BY BEING AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT MEETINGS, VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES, OR APPEAR AT RALLIES FOR REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES WHO DESIRED MY HELP. SINCE 1961, I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO SPEAK IN ABOUT 40 STATES AND HAVE APPEARED IN MANY KANSAS COUNTIES, IN AND OUT OF THE FIRST DISTRICT, FOR THE REPUBLICAN TICKET AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS. THE POINT IS THAT THIS RESPONSIBILITY DEVOLVES ON ALL OF US AS REPUBLICANS -- THE RESPONSIBILITY AS ACTIVE REPUBLICANS TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR PARTY. IT IS, IN EFFECT, A PARTNERSHIP -- AND "SILENT" PARTNERS ARE OF LITTLE VALUE. AN ACTIVE REPUBLICAN IS ANY OF US WHO REALIZES THAT HIS STAKE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE POLICIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS SO GREAT THAT HE CANNOT SIMPLY OPT OUT OF THE FULLEST PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. HE IS A WORKER, A TALKER, IN GENERAL, A DOER -- NOT A "STEWER".

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WORKING WITHIN THE PARTY STRUCTURE

BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL IN OUR ZEAL TO PROMOTE REPUBLICANISM AS WE INTERPRET IT, THAT WE CHANNEL OUR EFFORTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE PROPER COURSE TO PURSUE IS TO WORK WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED PARTY ORGANIZATION. IT DOES NOT LIE IN WORKING THROUGH INDEPENDENT FRINGE GROUPS LIKE THE COURTNEYS, THE LIBERTY LOBBY, THE AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, OR THE BIRCH SOCIETY. WE SHOULD ALSO AVOID POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE EFFORTS MADE OUTSIDE THE REGULAR PARTY FRAMEWORK. THERE CAN BE NO PLACE IN A VIGOROUS -- AND UNITED -- REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR SECRET OR SEMI-SECRET GROUPS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A SELF-APPOINTED SUPERSTRUCTURE TO GUIDE AND DIRECT THE PARTY, BE THESE GROUPS TO THE RIGHT, THE LEFT, OR THE MIDDLE. LET US DEVOTE OUR PRIMARY EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO BECOME REPUBLICANS AND TO ENCOURAGING REPUBLICANS TO BECOME ACTIVE REPUBLICANS.

CONCLUSION

THE ONLY WAY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CAN PUT A PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND REGAIN THE GOVERNORSHIP OF KANSAS IN 1968 IS FOR A GREATER NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ARE NOMINAL REPUBLICANS TO BECOME ACTIVE REPUBLICANS, TO REALLY TAKE A HAND IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY, THEIR STATE AND THEIR OWN LIVES. IT IS PART OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS ACTIVE REPUBLICANS TO WORK TO HELP BRING THIS ABOUT, TO HELP DEVELOP MORE ACTIVE REPUBLICANS. THE FACT THAT WE ARE ALL HERE TODAY IS EVIDENCE THAT WE RECOGNIZE THIS FACT. THE TIME IS COMING SOONER THAN WE MIGHT REALIZE WHEN WE MUST ALL STRIVE TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR. THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH FOR US NOT TO GIVE IT OUR ALL!!!