

JOHNSON COUNTY YOUNG REPUBLICANS
LEAWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS
NOVEMBER 3, 1967
Remarks of Congressman Bob Dole

LAST WEEK IN WESTERN KANSAS I STATED THAT THE ANTI-SPENDING REBELLION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS NOT SIMPLY A WRATHFUL REACTION BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AGAINST THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION. NOW, ONE WEEK LATER, I AM STILL CONVINCED OF THIS, AND WHILE WRATH MAY MOTIVATE A FEW OF THE MEMBERS, IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE OBVIOUS THAT THE REAL SOURCE OF THIS REVOLT IS THE VOTERS. I CAN SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY IN SAYING THAT VOTERS HAVE LET THEIR CONGRESSMEN KNOW IN CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE TERMS THAT THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT A TAX INCREASE, PARTICULARLY IF NOT ACCOMPANIED BY SIGNIFICANT CUTS IN FEDERAL SPENDING. YESTERDAY THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED A CONSUMERS GROUP IN WASHINGTON AND RENEWED HIS PLEA FOR A TAX INCREASE AND CHASTISED THE CONGRESS FOR ITS FAILURE TO ACT ON HIS TAX PROPOSAL. NOW I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BY AND LARGE, IS A RESPONSIBLE BODY AND, THEREFORE, WILLING TO CONSIDER THE NECESSITY OF A TAX INCREASE -- AS AGAINST THREATENED INFLATION -- IF THE PRESIDENT WILL TELL THE CONGRESS AND THE NATION THAT HE IS WILLING TO CUT SPENDING AND TO SACRIFICE, FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY, SOME OF HIS "GREAT SOCIETY" PROGRAMS.

ON OCTOBER 18, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BY A VOTE OF 253 TO 143, PASSED AN EXPENDITURE LIMITATION WHICH SAID, IN EFFECT, THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY NOT SPEND MORE THAN \$131.5 BILLION IN THIS FISCAL YEAR, EXCEPT FOR ESSENTIAL AND UNFORESEEN EXPENSES OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM. 171 REPUBLICANS AND 67 DEMOCRATS VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION, AND 9 REPUBLICANS AND 155 DEMOCRATS VOTED

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AGAINST IT. I PREDICT FURTHER ECONOMY MOVES BEFORE CONGRESS ADJOURNS THIS YEAR ----- IF THE PEOPLE, YES, VOTERS AND NON-VOTERS, KEEP UP THE PRESSURE.

A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

IN MY OPINION, THIS BIPARTISAN MOVE FOR ECONOMY WAS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT. IT PROVED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, DESPITE THEIR PARTY AFFILIATION OR PHILOSOPHICAL LEANINGS, LISTEN TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS. WHILE THIS SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT, IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS THE PAST FEW YEARS THAT MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS LISTENED ONLY TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION LEADERS AND SELDOM, IF EVER, CONSIDERED THE VIEWS OF THE FOLKS BACK HOME. THE REVOLT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS A RESOUNDING VICTORY FOR THE TAXPAYERS OF AMERICA. MOST TAXPAYERS KNOW THAT IF FEDERAL SPENDING IS NOT HEAVILY TRIMMED, THE DEFICIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1968 COULD BE IN EXCESS OF \$29 BILLION.

SURTAX ???

LET ME SAY AGAIN THAT THE PRIMARY REASON CONGRESS IS NOT YET WILLING TO CONSIDER THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR A SURTAX IS THE WELL-FOUNDED BELIEF THAT IF THE TAX INCREASE WERE PASSED BEFORE ANY MEANINGFUL CUTS WERE MADE IN FEDERAL EXPENDITURES, THE PRESIDENT MIGHT USE THE ADDED REVENUE, NOT TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT, BUT TO EXPAND AND TO ENLARGE HIS "GREAT SOCIETY" PROGRAMS.

THE RECORD IS CLEAR; FOR EXAMPLE, IN FISCAL YEAR 1960, NON-DEFENSE SPENDING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS \$48.6 BILLION. THE ESTIMATED NON-DEFENSE SPENDING FOR FISCAL 1968 IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$95.6 BILLION, OR AN INCREASE OF 97 PERCENT. IN THE 5-YEAR PERIOD OF THE JOHNSON-HUMPHREY ADMINISTRATION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT \$60.5 BILLION MORE THAN IT HAS TAKEN IN. THE INTEREST ALONE ON THIS DEFICIT WILL COST THE AMERICAN TAX-

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PAYER \$2.8 BILLION A YEAR FOR EVERY YEAR IT REMAINS UNPAID.

THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS CANNOT AFFORD MUCH MORE OF JOHNSON'S "GREAT SOCIETY". THEY APPEAR MORE INTERESTED IN A RETIREMENT PROGRAM ---- HIS!!

CONGRESS MUST SHARE RESPONSIBILITY

WHO IS EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FEDERAL SPENDTHRIFT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY? IT IS THE DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED CONGRESS.

INDICATIVE OF THE "PROGRESS" WHICH THE DEMOCRATS TALK ABOUT SO FREELY IS THE FACT THAT MORE THAN 100 NEW FEDERAL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN ENACTED BY CONGRESS SINCE 1955. THEY NOW COST \$16.5 BILLION A YEAR.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS BEEN ONE OF THE INSTIGATORS OF MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS -- BUT THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN THE ARCHITECT THAT HAS MADE THEM SO EXPENSIVE. DEMOCRAT MAJORITIES HAVE SWEEPED ASIDE REASON, HAVE BEEN BLATANTLY POLITICAL IN THEIR VOTE-BUYING AIMS. LBJ PROPOSED 16 NEW PROGRAMS LAST JANUARY IN A BURST OF WAR-TIME "ECONOMY". UNDER THE NEW FRONTIER AND THE GREAT SOCIETY IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, 78 NEW FEDERAL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED. 46 OF THESE WERE ADDED AFTER 1965. CONGRESS HAS BEEN PADDING THE PUBLIC PAYROLLS TO THE TUNE OF 12 NEW PROGRAMS A YEAR SINCE 1962. TODAY, FIRST-YEAR COSTS SINCE 1962 RUN AN AVERAGE OF \$430 MILLION, COMPARED WITH A \$100 MILLION AVERAGE IN THE PRECEDING SIX YEARS.

THE NEW PROGRAMS ENACTED BY THE DEMOCRATS SINCE 1955 HAVE COST \$85 BILLION IN TAX DOLLARS. \$9 BILLION OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET COME FROM NEW PROGRAMS INAUGURATED BY LBJ AND HIS CONGRESSIONAL COHORTS. OF COURSE, OLD PROGRAMS KEEP EXPANDING.

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WILL THERE BE ECONOMY?

WEEKS OF UNSEEMLY SQUABBLING BETWEEN MR. JOHNSON AND CONGRESS HAVE PRODUCED NEITHER THE TAX BOOST WHICH THE PRESIDENT SOUGHT NOR THE CUTS IN SPENDING WHICH HIS CRITICS DEMANDED.

THE "DEBATE" BEGAN LAST SUMMER WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON ASKED CONGRESS TO COUNTER INFLATION BY IMPOSING A 10 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON FEDERAL INCOME TAXES. HE WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT RUN \$29 BILLION INTO THE RED IF THE HIKE WAS NOT FORTHCOMING.

NOT EVERYBODY IS CONVINCED THAT THE TAX INCREASE WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT INTENDED. IN ANY EVENT, THE REAL POLITICAL MANEUVERING HAS INVOLVED SPENDING MORE THAN TAXING.

REPRESENTATIVE WILBUR MILLS (D-ARK.), CHAIRMAN OF THE TAX-WRITING WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE AND A LAWMAKER OF UNUSUAL INTEGRITY, WAS AMONG THE FEW IN CONGRESS WHO FACED UP SQUARELY TO THESE FACTS.

MILLS INSISTS THAT SPENDING CUTS MADE NOW WILL ONLY BE RESTORED LATER, UNLESS CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION ARE WILLING TO REEXAMINE ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS, ELIMINATE THOSE WHICH HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFULNESS AND SET SENSIBLE PRIORITIES AMONG THOSE WHICH ARE LEFT.

ISSUES IN 1968

HAVING SAID THIS, LET ME DISCUSS BRIEFLY WHAT SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE POLITICIANS HAVE INDICATED WILL BE THE KEY ISSUES IN '68:

(1) FOREIGN POLICY. ONE BASIC ISSUE OF TODAY IS FOREIGN POLICY -- NOT JUST VIETNAM, BUT A SCORE OF SITUATIONS THE WORLD OVER. VIETNAM IS THE OPEN WOUND, THE OPEN SORE. BUT IT IS ALSO A SYMBOL OF THE DEEP DECAY OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

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VIETNAM ISN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THERE'S THE DEGENERATION OF NATO. AND THERE'S THE ABYSMAL FAILURE OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE THE MIDDLE EASTERN CRISIS ---- AND, BELIEVE ME, THINGS ARE IN A PRETTY FIX IN MOST OF AFRICA RIGHT NOW. THE CONGO IS SEETHING. NIGERIA IS AT WAR WITH ITSELF. AMERICANS ARE BEING KICKED AROUND IN ALGERIA. IN SHORT, OUR FOREIGN POLICY THE WORLD OVER IS JUST ABOUT BANKRUPT.

(2) CRIME AND VIOLENCE. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFERS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A RETURN TO LAW AND ORDER. UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION VIOLENT CRIME HAS INCREASED JUST ABOUT SEVEN TIMES AS FAST AS OUR COUNTRY HAS GROWN. SINCE 1960, CRIME HAS RISEN BY 62 PERCENT WHILE THE POPULATION HAS CLIMBED BY 9 PERCENT. AMERICA HAS BECOME KNOWN AS A LAWLESS LAND WHERE PEOPLE THINK SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY BURNING AND LOOTING. IT IS A LAND IN WHICH CRIMINALS WANDER AT WILL AND THE INNOCENT ARE WITHOUT ADEQUATE PROTECTION. REPUBLICANS WILL CHANGE THAT.

(3) HIGHER TAXES. THIS JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION FOR 3 YEARS DELIBERATELY UNDERSTATED THE COST OF THE VIETNAM WAR. IN BUDGET AFTER BUDGET, THE ADMINISTRATION SUBSTITUTED OPTIMISM FOR REALITY. THEY CAME TO US AND TOLD US THE WAR WOULD BE OVER IN A FEW MONTHS. THEY SAID WE WOULD START PULLING OUT OUR MEN BY CHRISTMAS -- AND THAT WAS CHRISTMAS IN 1963!! THIS IS A VERY COSTLY WAR WE ARE FIGHTING IN VIETNAM. IT IS COSTING AT LEAST THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS THE PRESIDENT ESTIMATED IT WOULD COST US. WE ARE SPENDING AT THE RATE OF OVER \$2 BILLION A MONTH.

(4) INFLATION. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ITSELF IS THE CULPRIT IN THIS BUSINESS OF INFLATION. ALTHOUGH THE WAR IS ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE, THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE NO EFFORTS TO CURB THE RECKLESSLY IRRESPONSIBLE SPENDING

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HABITS OF THE GIGANTIC BUREAUCRACY.

(5) STRIKES. THIS IS GOING TO BE A BANNER YEAR FOR STRIKES. THERE WILL BE MORE TIME LOST DUE TO STRIKES DURING 1967 THAN IN ANY YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION. AND THE SITUATION DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON THE MEND EITHER. THE YEAR 1968 MAY BE EVEN WORSE.

(6) FARM PROBLEM. IT WAS ALWAYS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP AMERICAN FARMERS. AND SO IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK WHEN I HEARD THAT ORVILLE FREEMAN WAS -- TO USE HIS OWN WORDS -- DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT OF A DECLINE IN FARM PRICES. WELL, HE MUST BE BUBBLING OVER WITH JOY NOW, BECAUSE FARM PRICES ARE FALLING. HE HAS BEEN IN THE MINDS OF MOST FARMERS A SECRETARY AGAINST AGRICULTURE.

(7) CORRUPTION. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE CAN EXPECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR LAW AND DECENCY WHEN WE FIND A BOBBY BAKER STILL WALKING THE STREETS OF WASHINGTON, OR A MAN LIKE MATT MC CLOSKEY STILL DOING BUSINESS AT THE SAME OLD STAND. AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT PETTY CASH STUFF HERE, EITHER. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE TFX SCANDAL THAT HAS ALREADY COST THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS BILLIONS AND WILL COST BILLIONS MORE BEFORE IT IS ALL OVER.

(8) CREDIBILITY GAP. ACTUALLY, WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY IDEA HOW BAD THE SITUATION IS. NOT REALLY. BECAUSE THIS ADMINISTRATION JUST PLAIN REFUSES TO TELL THE TRUTH.

SOME CALL IT A CREDIBILITY GAP. AND IT IS A CREDIBILITY GAP. SOME CALL IT NEWS MANAGEMENT. AND IT IS NEWS MANAGEMENT. BUT I PREFER TO CALL IT WHAT IT IS -- JUST PLAIN LYING.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LIES ABOUT THE TFX CONTRACT. THE LABOR

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DEPARTMENT PLAYS FAST AND LOOSE WITH EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
AND HOW HONEST IS THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET? A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY CANNOT
LONG EXIST IN DARKNESS. REPUBLICANS WILL RETURN TRUTH TO GOVERNMENT.

(9) L.B.J. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST -- AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE
MANY OTHERS -- IS L.B.J. HIMSELF. MY MAIL REFLECTS ALMOST A COMPLETE
LACK OF CONFIDENCE AND A FEELING BY MOST PEOPLE THAT EVERYTHING THE
PRESIDENT DOES IS MOTIVATED NOT BY WHAT IS BEST FOR AMERICA, BUT WHAT
IS BEST FOR L.B.J. AND THE DEMOCRAT PARTY. EVEN ACTIVE DEMOCRATS ARE
BECOMING DISENCHANTED.

CONCLUSION

WHEN I VISITED JOHNSON COUNTY IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, I SAID THAT
IF THIS CONGRESS WAS TAGGED WITH ANY NAME, I HOPED IT WOULD BE CALLED
A "RESPONSIBLE" CONGRESS. THE ACTION BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN
RECENT WEEKS INDICATES THAT THIS MAY WELL BE THE CASE ---- PRIMARILY
BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE SAYING, IN EFFECT,
"PLEASE DON'T IMPROVE OUR LOT IN LIFE ANY FURTHER ---- WE CAN'T AFFORD IT!"