

ANNUAL SALES MEETING
GREAT PLAINS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
WICHITA, KANSAS
JANUARY 6, 1968
REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

TRADITIONALLY, THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IS A TIME FOR ASSESSING THE STATE OF THE UNION. PRESEIDENT JOHNSON WILL DO THIS IN A FEW WEEKS, AFTER THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS CONVENES ON JANUARY 15.

TODAY, HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY THE STATE OF THE CONGRESS ITSELF, AND WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR OUR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE COMING MONTHS. BUT FIRST I'D LIKE ALSO TO TALK ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR OWN STATE -- KANSAS.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO OUR STATE'S NATIONAL AWARD WINNING EDITOR, WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE OF EMPORIA, ASKED THE QUESTION: "WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS?" AND HE EDITORIALY CONCLUDED THAT DESPITE ITS PROBLEMS KANSAS WAS A GREAT STATE WITH A GREAT FUTURE.

I BELIEVE THAT IF MR. WHITE WERE ALIVE TODAY HE WOULD BE REINFORCED IN HIS CONFIDENCE, NOT ONLY FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE LAST SEVEN DECADES, BUT FOR THE YEARS AHEAD.

CONSIDER THE FACT THAT KANSAS IS TODAY:

- 1ST IN WHEAT PRODUCTION AND FLOUR MILLING,
- 1ST IN THE WORLD IN PRIVATE AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION,
- 2ND IN "PICKUP CAMPER" PRODUCTION,
- 4TH IN BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION,
- 5TH IN PER CENT OF THE NATION'S RAILWAYS, AND
- 11TH IN OVERALL MINERAL PRODUCTION.

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IN 1966, 123 NEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WENT INTO PRODUCTION WITH 100 OTHER KANSAS MANUFACTURERS REPORTING MAJOR PLANT EXPANSIONS.

MOREOVER, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN KANSAS IS CONSIDERABLY BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

IN TERMS OF OUR STATE'S CONCERN FOR ITS CITIZENS, CONSIDER THE FACT THAT KANSAS IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING STATES IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE.

AS A PLACE TO LIVE, KANSAS RANKS AMONG THE FIVE TOP STATES IN THE COUNTRY IN LIFE EXPECTANCY OF ITS CITIZENS -- A STATISTIC OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO AN AUDIENCE SUCH AS THIS.

WE HAVE MORE DAYS OF SUNSHINE EACH YEAR THAN IN MIAMI; AND OUR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE CAN BOAST OF THE FACT THAT NEARLY 70 PER CENT OF OUR DAYLIGHT HOURS ARE SUNNY. AS A RESULT, KANSAS' OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL INDUSTRY HAS BEEN BOOMING IN RECENT YEARS. WE HAVE MORE THAN 1,000 MODERN PARKS, 20 GIANT RESERVOIRS, AND 180 STATE AND LOCAL ~~PARKS~~ LAKES.

OUR STATE HAS MADE PROGRESS -- AND HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE, OUR ECONOMY IS EXPANDING -- AND HOPES FOR ITS FUTURE EXPANSION LIE IN NO SMALL MEASURE IN THE HANDS OF INDUSTRIES AND COMPANIES SUCH AS YOUR OWN.

BUT OUR STATE, AFTER ALL, IS SIMPLY ONE OF FIFTY. THE FUTURE OF THE KANSAS ECONOMY, AND OF OUR PEOPLE, NECESSARILY DEPEND ON THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY ITSELF.

- SAFEGUARDING THE DOLLAR -

JUST THIS PAST WEEK WE HAVE SEEN THE DEMOCRAT ADMINISTRATION IN POWER IN WASHINGTON TALKING ABOUT DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE DOLLAR -- MEASURES WHICH, IF NECESSARY AT ALL, ARE THE RESULT OF THE FOOLISH AND SQUANDERING FISCAL POLICIES OF PAST YEARS.

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BUT KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT THIS THREAT TO THE DOLLAR PRESIDENT JOHNSON SPEAKS OF IS NOTHING NEW. FISCAL CONSERVATIVES HAVE BEEN WARNING FOR YEARS THAT THE POWERS THAT BE IN WASHINGTON OUGHT TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ABROAD AND THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE DOLLAR HERE AT HOME.

OUR WARNINGS WENT UNHEEDED. AND AS A RESULT WE ARE FACED WITH A FIRST RATE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR DOLLAR THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE WHAT CONGRESSIONAL REACTION WILL BE TO THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED MEASURES TO PROTECT THE DOLLAR. I HAVE READ THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO ONE AUTHORITY THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED PROPOSALS DON'T GO TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM AND, EVEN IF ADOPTED, WOULD SIMPLY BE PUTTING A BAND-AID OVER A RUPTURED ARTERY.

THIS MUCH WE KNOW FOR SURE, HOWEVER: THIS ISSUE WILL BE THE FOREMOST FISCAL PROBLEM FACING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

- OTHER TOP PRIORITY ISSUES -

IT WILL TAKE ITS PLACE NEAR THE TOP OF THE LIST OF PRIORITY ISSUES, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE VIETNAM WAR, PROPOSED INCREASED TAXES, AND RELATED DEFICIT SPENDING, RIOT AND CRIME CONTROL, IMPROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THE SO-CALLED WAR ON POVERTY, AND CONGRESSIONAL REORGANIZATION AND ETHICS, AS WELL AS CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THOSE OF US WHOSE STATES ARE TIED TO A STRONG AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY WILL ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF DECLINING FARM PRICES.

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- TAXES, CRIME, AND FARM PRICES -

IN THE TIME PERMITTED TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY THREE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES -- TAXES, CRIME CONTROL, AND FARM PRICES.

- "RUBBER-STAMP" CONGRESS -

FIRST, A BIT OF PERSPECTIVE...DURING THE PRECEDING CONGRESS -- THE 89TH -- WHEN THE PRESIDENT HAD MASSIVE DEMOCRAT MAJORITIES IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE, WE HAD A "RUBBER-STAMP" CONGRESS. WHEN THE PRESIDENT SNAPPED HIS FINGERS, THE DEMOCRAT MAJORITY IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WOULD JUMP.

- CONGRESS SNAPS BACK -

BY BRINGING A NET GAIN OF 47 REPUBLICANS TO THE HOUSE, THE OFF-YEAR ELECTION OF 1966 HELPED RESTORE SOME BALANCE.

AS A RESULT, CONGRESS GOT BACK INTO THE ACT AS A RESPONSIBLE, INDEPENDENT BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

THE VOICE OF CONGRESS WAS HEARD MOST STRONGLY IN THE LAST SESSION TRYING TO HEAD OFF THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF AN INFLATION CAUSED BY MASSIVE FEDERAL SPENDING AND HUGE RED-INK DEFICITS -- THE BLOOD BROTHERS OF THE SAME SQUANDERING FISCAL POLICIES THAT HAVE LED TO THE DOLLAR CRISIS OVERSEAS.

- TAX INCREASE -

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S OWN RECENTLY-ISSUED LIST OF "UNFINISHED BUSINESS" OF THE 90TH CONGRESS IS HEADED BY THE SAME INCOME TAX SURCHARGE HE PROPOSED TWICE LAST YEAR.

THIS TAX INCREASE -- 10 PER CENT SURCHARGE ON PERSONAL AND CORPORATE INCOME -- IS OPPOSED BY MANY LEGISLATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES. CONGRESSMAN WILBUR MILLS, DEMOCRAT FROM ARKANSAS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POWERFUL HOUSE

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SAYS, "WHAT MANY OF US FEAR IS THAT TAX INCREASES NOW MAKE MORE REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE."

THE POINT IS SIMPLY THAT IT WON'T DO MUCH GOOD TO INCREASE TAXES JUST TO ENLARGE JOHNSON'S "GREAT SOCIETY" PROGRAMS RATHER THAN REDUCE THE DEFICIT.

SINCE THE DEMOCRATS CAME INTO OFFICE IN 1961, THEY HAVE SPENT SOME 60 BILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN THEY HAVE TAKEN IN -- MOST OF IT FOR NON-DEFENSE PROGRAMS, DESPITE INCREASING COSTS OF VIETNAM.

IN NOVEMBER, THE NATIONAL DEBT REACHED \$340.8 BILLION DOLLARS -- UP 14 BILLION THE LAST YEAR. IT NOW COSTS 15 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR JUST TO PAY THE INTEREST ON THIS ENORMOUS AND FAST-GROWING DEBT.

THE IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DEBT -- \$340.8 BILLION DOLLARS -- ALMOST SURPASSES HUMAN COMPREHENSION. PERHAPS THE FIGURE COMES MORE INTO FOCUS WITH THIS EXAMPLE:

IF YOU GAVE YOUR WIFE ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND TOLD HER TO GO OUT AND SPEND 1 THOUSAND DOLLARS A DAY, SHE WOULD BE BACK IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS. IF YOU GAVE HER 1 BILLION DOLLARS TO SPEND AT 1000 DOLLARS A DAY, YOU WOULDN'T SEE HER FOR 2,700 YEARS.

- CRIME UPSURGE -

NOT FAR BEHIND THE CONTROVERSY OVER TAXES AND SPENDING IS THE SPIRALING CRIME RATE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

IN KANSAS, WE PERHAPS HAVE IN THE PAST TENDED TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF CRIME AND THE BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER AS THE PROBLEM OF OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. TRUE, KANSAS HAS NOT BEEN PLAGUED WITH MANY OF THE PROBLEMS COMMON IN URBAN CENTERS.

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STILL, IN EARLY DECEMBER MANY KANSANS WERE JOLTED BY STATISTICS RESEARCHED FOR THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SCIENTISTS FOUND THE RATE OF CRIME IN KANSAS DURING 1958 TO 1963 INCREASED AT LEAST 20 PER CENT FOR EVERY CATEGORY OF OFFENSE, EXCEPT MURDER. IN ADDITION, THEY FOUND FROM 1940 TO 1960 THE KANSAS ILLEGITIMACY RATE TRIPLED -- FROM 7.1 PER CENT TO 21.8 PER CENT PER 100,000 POPULATION.

THE NEXT SHOCKER CAME ONLY 10 DAYS LATER. THE FBI CRIME REPORT WAS RELEASED SHOWING KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI CRIME -- UP 22 PER CENT; TOPEKA -- UP 40 PER CENT; AND HERE IN WICHITA, CRIME IS UP 45 PER CENT.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, THE PRESIDENT REPORTED TO CONGRESS THAT THERE IS:

A FORCIBLE RAPE EVERY 25 MINUTES,
A ROBBERY EVERY 5 MINUTES,
A CAR THEFT EVERY MINUTE, AND
A BURGLARY EVERY 28 SECONDS.

LITTLE WONDER THAT AMERICA HAS BECOME KNOWN AS A LAWLESS LAND WHERE PEOPLE THINK SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY BURNING AND LOOTING...BY DROPPING OUT AND TURNING ON...BY PUFFING POT AND EXPLORING THE DISASTROUS DEPTHS OF LSD.

WHY, YOU ASK, IS CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS IN OUR COUNTRY ON THE UPSWING?

J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR OF THE FBI, SUGGESTS THIS REASON: "WE HAVE SEEN CRIMINAL FEEDBACK CAUSED BY JUDICIAL LENIENCIES, INCLUDING PARDONS, PAROLES, AND PROBATION WHICH IS A DISGRACE TO OUR SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND WE HAVE SEEN LOOPHOLES, TECHNICALITIES, AND DELAYS RELEASE HUNDREDS OF HARDENED CRIMINALS ON THE STREETS TO PREY AGAIN ON THE PUBLIC WHILE AWAITING TRIAL ON EASILY PROVABLE CHARGES."

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WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT OFTEN THE CRIMINAL IS BEING FAVORED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN. THE CRIES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS ARE DROWNED BY THE CLAMOR FOR MERCY AND LENIENCY FOR GUILTY LAWBREAKERS WHO SCOFF AT LAW AND ORDER AND THE RIGHTS OF SOCIETY.

TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT SOCIETY CAUSES CRIME, I SAY INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIME. TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT HAVING A POOR CHILDHOOD IS AN AUTOMATIC ROAD TO RUIN, I SAY THAT IF THIS WERE TRUE MANY OF US HERE TODAY WOULD BE IN JAIL.

IN MY OPINION, THE TIME HAS COME -- IN FACT, IT IS LONG OVERDUE -- TO ADOPT A HARD LINE TOWARD THE LAWLESS. IT IS TIME TO DO AWAY WITH THE BELIEF THAT SOCIETY HAS FAILED THEM, AND CONSIDER FOR A CHANGE, THAT PERHAPS THEY HAVE FAILED SOCIETY.

ALL CITIZENS MUST INSIST UPON JUST LAWS THAT ARE VIGOROUSLY AND FAIRLY ENFORCED. THERE MUST BE A PUBLIC CONDEMNATION RATHER THAN TOLERANCE AND EXCUSE OF THOSE WHO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. THERE MUST BE RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO OBEY THE LAW. THERE MUST BE RESPECT OF AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

- FARM PRICES -

TO LEGISLATORS FROM RURAL AREAS, A THIRD MAJOR CONCERN DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90th CONGRESS WILL BE LOW FARM PRICES.

IN 1967, AMERICAN FARMERS EXPERIENCED A DROP OF MORE THAN 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN NET INCOME. HAND IN HAND WITH THIS LOSS CAME PRODUCTION COST INCREASES OF 1.1 BILLION DOLLARS.

TODAY'S NET FARM INCOME IS AT A PER CAPITA AVERAGE OF \$1,731. THIS IS 60 PER CENT BELOW THAT OF THE URBAN DWELLER.

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SINCE ORVILLE FREEMAN HAS BEEN SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE:

- FARM POPULATION HAS DECREASED BY OVER 4 MILLION,
- THE NUMBER OF FARMS HAS DECREASED BY OVER 700,000,
- FARM EMPLOYMENT IS DOWN 1.7 MILLION, and
- FARM DEBT HAS INCREASED BY 19.6 BILLION DOLLARS.

IT IS A PARADOX OF ENORMOUS IRONY. WE ASK THE FARMER TO FEED THE WORLD -- AND THEN WE CRUSH HIM IN THE COST-PRICE SQUEEZE.

AGRICULTURE MUST BE ENCOURAGED, NOT DISCOURAGED. AMERICA AND THE WORLD NEED THE TRAINED POOL OF FARMERS WHO TODAY ARE BEING DRIVEN FROM THE FARM AND INTO THE CROWDED CITIES.

AND AS HAS SO OFTEN BEEN SAID, BECAUSE THE FARM ECONOMY IS THE BACKBONE OF THE NATION, FARM POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM WILL CERTAINLY BE GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION BY THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS.

- 1968 -- YEAR OF DECISION -

THUS, HERE IN KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY -- ON THE FARM, IN THE CITIES, AND IN OUR COMMITMENTS AND DEALINGS OVERSEAS -- THE COMING YEAR WILL BE ONE OF GREAT DECISION FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY HAVE THE WISDOM AND FORTITUDE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE YEAR AHEAD -- AND TO RESTORE SOUND, EFFECTIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP TO POWER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL.