

DISTINGUISHED AWARDS BANQUET  
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1968

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

WE ARE LIVING IN THE AGE OF CHALLENGE. OUR NATION HAS FACED MANY CHALLENGES IN THE PAST. BUT, BEYOND A DOUBT, THOSE WE FACE TODAY ARE POTENTIALLY MORE THREATENING TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR SOCIETY THAN ANY CHALLENGES WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

AND, YET, CHALLENGES CAN BE TURNED INTO CREATION AND GROWTH INSTEAD OF DETERIORATION AND DECAY.

STATE OF THE UNION

THIS COUNTRY IS BOGGED DOWN IN A MESSY AND BLOODY LAND WAR IN ASIA.

WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A RAMPANT CRIME WAVE AND MORAL DECLINE AT HOME.

INFLATION THREATENS ON ALL SIDES WHILE FARM PRICES CONTINUE TO DROP, AND OUR REMAINING GOLD SUPPLY IS DRAINED AWAY.

RIOTS IN OUR STREETS AND THE BURNING OF HOUSES AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS ARE BECOMING A YEAR-ROUND OCCURENCE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMES MORE AND MORE POWER, SPENDS MORE AND MORE MONEY AND ACCOMPLISHES LESS AND LESS.

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AT THE SAME TIME, LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE BEING DRAINED OF THE AUTHORITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO GUARD AND PRESERVE OUR FREE SOCIETY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS.

WHAT ARE OUR CHOICES?

TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES, WE HAVE SEVERAL ALTERNATE COURSES OF ACTION.

WE CAN RETREAT INTO OUR SHELLS AS THE BEATNIKS WHO BELIEVE THEY CAN MAKE THE WORLD BEAUTIFUL BY SMOKING MARIHUANA, ENGAGING IN FREE LOVE, DECORATING THEMSELVES WITH FLOWERS AND BEADS, AND DREAMING DREAMY THOUGHTS.

WE CAN TRY TO IMPOSE OUR THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS ON OTHERS THROUGH FORCEFUL RESISTANCE AS THE PEACENIKS WHO MARCH ON THE PENTAGON AND SEND SUPPLIES TO THE ENEMY.

WE CAN SEEK TO DESTROY THAT WHICH WE CANNOT CONTROL AS THE BLACK POWER ADVOCATES SEEK TO DO THROUGH RIOTS, BURNINGS, VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM.

OR WE CAN CHANNEL OUR INTELLIGENCE AND EFFORTS INTO STRENGTHENING OUR SOCIETY THROUGH HARD WORK, CLEAR THINKING AND THE DESIRE TO REBUILD A STRONG AND DYNAMIC SOCIETY UPON THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE PAST.

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THIS DINNER MEETING HERE IN WICHITA IS AN EXTRA-  
ORDINARY PLEASURE FOR ME.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE IT IS GOOD TO BE IN THE COMPANY  
OF YOUNG, DYNAMIC MEN WHO CARE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITIES  
AND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PEOPLE IN THEM.

AFTER A STEADY EXPOSURE TO WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATIC  
SMOG, I PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THIS EXPOSURE TO YOUR  
ORGANIZATION AND ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS -- BUT MOST OF ALL,  
TO YOUR "CAN DO" ATTITUDE.

YOU ARE YOUNG MEN WITH A MISSION . . . FROM DIFFERENT  
DAILY OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS, YOU JOIN HANDS IN THE  
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO SERVE HUMANITY, AS YOUR  
CREED SETS FORTH. YOU'RE WHERE THE ACTION IS . . .  
IN MANY CASES, YOU ARE ACTUALLY CREATING THE ACTION.

YOUR ATTITUDE INJECTS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR INTO  
THE RATHER WIDELY-HELD SENTIMENT OF "LET THE OTHER FELLOW  
DO IT."

THE JAYCEE REPLY TO "LET THE OTHER FELLOW DO IT"  
IS STRONG, SIMPLE, AND WHAT'S MORE, IT WORKS. YOU SAY:  
"LET'S DO IT. TOGETHER. NOW."

YOU HAVE MADE CIVIL RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT, RECREATION, TRAFFIC SAFETY, HEALTH, YOUTH WELFARE AND A HOST OF OTHER AREAS TOP PRIORITY JUNIOR CHAMBER BUSINESS.

AND YOU HAVE GONE ABOUT IT WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF FRONT-PAGE PUBLICITY OR PERPETUAL PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF YOUR EFFORTS.

YOUR APPROACH HAS BEEN POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE, RESPONSIBLE.

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE IMPRESSIVE. CONSIDER THESE EXAMPLES:

- \* IN SOUTH CAROLINA, LOCAL JAYCEES MOBILIZED THEMSELVES AND OTHER CIVIC GROUPS INTO "RSVP" -- RALLY SUPPORT FOR VIET NAM PERSONNEL. THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN MEN IN VIET NAM WERE CONTACTED BY LETTER, AND THEIR REQUESTS FOR BOOKS, CLOTHING, FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES FULFILLED.
- \* IN MINNESOTA, LOCAL JAYCEES DONATED OVER 200 BOOKS TO A LIBRARY IN URUGUAY. THE BOOKS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO PEOPLE IN AREAS WHERE NO BOOKS ARE NORMALLY AVAILABLE.
- \* IN NORTH CAROLINA, LOCAL JAYCEES STAGED A DIABETES DRIVE. NEARLY 15,000 PEOPLE WERE TESTED FOR DIABETES IN ONE WEEK.

OUR ENTIRE NATION'S HISTORY IS BASED ON SIMILAR SUCCESSES OF SUCH HARD-WORKING INDIVIDUALS -- DOERS, ACHIEVERS, AS YOURSELVES. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MANY OF THIS COUNTRY'S GREAT LEADERS ACHIEVED WHILE THEY WERE YOUNG MEN LIKE YOU.

- \* AT AGE 21, GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE MEMORABLE MISSION TO THE FRENCH AND FLASHED HIS SWORD AT FORT NECESSITY AT 22.
- \* AT AGE 29, PATRICK HENRY MADE A SPEECH BEFORE THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES IN DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE COLONIES AND CAUSED GEORGE THE THIRD TO TREMBLE ON HIS THRONE.
- \* THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS ELECTED TO THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES AT THE AGE OF 25, BECAME A MEMBER OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AT THE AGE OF 32, AND AT AGE 33 WROTE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

IN MODERN-DAY AMERICA, THE MARRIAGE OF YOUNG MEN AND LEADERSHIP CONTINUES. TIME MAGAZINE TELLS US THIS WEEK ABOUT ZUBIN MEHNTA, CONDUCTOR OF THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC. HE IS 31. IN THE FIELD OF SPACE, THE NAMES -- WALTER SCHIRRA, THOMAS STAFFORD AND JOHN YOUNG -- STAND OUT. THEY ARE ALL UNDER AGE 40. FIGURES FOR THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOW 13 CONGRESSMEN ARE UNDER AGE 35. A LOOK AT BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND OTHER FIELDS PRODUCES HUNDREDS OF OTHER NAMES.

#### TODAY'S CHALLENGES

THE CHALLENGES TO YOU AND OTHER YOUNG MEN ARE STAGGERING BECAUSE WE LIVE IN PROBABLY THE MOST COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS ERA OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY -- AN ERA WHERE RESPONSIBILITY AND IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL ARE EASILY LOST.

AS A RESULT, THE ATTITUDE -- LET THE OTHER FELLOW DO IT -- HAS BECOME ALMOST COMMONPLACE. IT IS A WAY OF SECEDING.

WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT SECEDE PUBLICLY LIKE BURNING THEIR DRAFT CARDS OR HIDING OUT ON THE ISLE OF BIMINI, THEY DO IT INTERNALLY.

UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, WHEN PEOPLE FEEL BAFFLED, WHEN THEY FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN CONNED, SNOWED OR HAD, OR WHEN THEY FEEL FUTILITY, THEY ABSTRACT OR REMOVE THEMSELVES. THEY BECOME RESIGNED, SILENT, APATHETIC. LET THE OTHER FELLOW DO IT.

YOU KNOW THE KIND OF PEOPLE I'M TALKING ABOUT. YOU DON'T FIND THEM SERVING ON A COMMUNITY BETTERMENT COMMITTEE, TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICS, HELPING WITH PTA OR THE CHARITY DRIVE OR THE LITTLE LEAGUE OR THEIR CHURCH.

IT IS EASY TO BE LURED INTO APATHY. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY IS A BURDEN. HOW SIMPLE IT IS TO AVOID IT -- AND LEAN ON SOMEONE ELSE -- BE IT ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP OR EVEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

#### BIG GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE

TODAY WE HAVE BIG GOVERNMENT. BIGNESS IN ITSELF IS NOT BAD. THIS IS A BIG COUNTRY. YOU DON'T RUN IT ON A SHOESTRING.

BUT I THINK AMERICANS WHO LOOK TO WASHINGTON TO SOLVE ALL OF THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS ARE WRONG. THEY ARE ABDICATING RESPONSIBILITY THEMSELVES, IN MANY CASES. THEY ARE ALSO FORGETTING A GREAT TRUTH -- THAT A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHICH TAKES UNTO ITSELF THE BURDEN OF SOLVING ALL THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS WILL INEVITABLY DESTROY INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE, INVADE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE, AND RESTRICT THEIR PERSONAL FREEDOM. THEY ARE OPENING DOORS TO THE VERY DANGERS THE FRAMERS OF OUR CONSTITUTION SOUGHT TO AVOID.

WHEN A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY OFFERS CRUTCHES TO ITS PEOPLE MAKING THEM DEPENDENT, GOVERNMENT CRIPPLES ITS CITIZENS.

AND WHEN THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE ARE MUFFLED OR EVEN STILLED BECAUSE OF LAYER UPON LAYER OF BUREAUCRACY, GOVERNMENT CRIPPLES ITS CITIZENS.

CAN'T RELINQUISH RESPONSIBILITY

AS INDIVIDUALS, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RELINQUISH INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET THE OTHER FELLOW DO IT -- BE IT THE GOVERNMENT OR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP.

THE PARTICIPATION OF GREATER NUMBERS OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS CAN SOLVE MANY COMPLEX SITUATIONS BECAUSE SUCH EFFORTS ARE DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE RATHER THAN THE SYMPTOMS OF THE PROBLEMS.

OUR GOVERNMENT CAN SPEND BILLIONS ON THE SYMPTOMS, BUT UNTIL THE INDIVIDUAL DOES SOMETHING ABOUT THE CAUSE, THERE WILL BE NO CURE.

#### CRIME AND THE CITIZEN

A CASE IN POINT: THE INCREASE IN CRIME AND THE GROWING DISRESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER.

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.

STILL, A MONTH AGO, 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 PERCENT FOR EVERY CATEGORY OF OFFENSE, EXCEPT MURDER. IN ADDITION, THEY FOUND FROM 1940 TO 1960 THE KANSAS ILLEGITIMACY RATE TRIPLED -- FROM 7.1 PERCENT TO 21.8 PERCENT PER 100,000 POPULATION.

THE NEXT SHOCKER CAME ONLY 10 DAYS LATER.



THE FBI CRIME REPORT WAS RELEASED SHOWING KANSAS CITY, MO. CRIME -- UP 22 PERCENT; TOPEKA -- UP 40 PERCENT; AND HERE IN WICHITA CRIME IS UP 45 PERCENT.

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

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

WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU AND ME IS JUST THIS:  
SOME KIND OF CRIME STRIKES ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE FAMILIES EACH YEAR. ONE BOY IN SIX WILL BE BROUGHT INTO JUVENILE COURT FOR A NONTRAFFIC VIOLATION BEFORE HE IS 18. AND YOUR RISK, AND MY RISK, OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF A CRIME HAS RISEN 48 PERCENT SINCE 1960.

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 ON POT AND EXPLORING THE DISASTROUS DEPTHS OF LSD.

#### WHY CRIME INCREASES

WHY, YOU ASK, ARE CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS ON THE UPSWING?  
FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SUGGESTS THIS REASON,  
AND I QUOTE,

"WE HAVE SEEN CRIMINAL FEEDBACK CAUSED BY JUDICIAL LENIENCY, 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."

WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT TOO 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 SUGGEST 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 THIS EVENING WOULD BE IN JAIL.

#### TIME FOR ACTION

IT'S TIME WE HAD A LITTLE LESS PITY FOR THOSE WHO DISREGARD THE LAW AND INSTEAD FULLY PROTECT TODAY'S REAL UNSUNG HEROES -- THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WHO GO TO WORK, SEND THEIR KIDS TO SCHOOL, ATTEND CHURCH AND OBEY THE LAWS.

IT'S TIME TO ADOPT A HARD LINE TOWARD THE LAWLESS.

IT'S TIME TO DO AWAY WITH THE BELIEF THAT SOCIETY HAS FAILED THEM AND CONSIDER FOR A CHANGE THAT PERHAPS THEY HAVE FAILED SOCIETY.

NO CITIZEN HAS THE VESTED RIGHT TO DECIDE WHAT LAW HE SHALL OBEY AND WHEN.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

HOW, YOU ASK, DO I MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF A PROBLEM SO EXTENSIVE AS CRIME?

WHAT IS NEEDED INITIALLY IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MONUMENTAL DEDICATION TO THE JOB OF CUTTING THROUGH PUBLIC APATHY AND EDUCATING AND CITIZENS TO THE THREAT."

LOCAL CITIZENS, IF THEY ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO PREVENT AND CONTROL CRIME, CAN STRIKE AT THE VERY ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.

THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH EVERY CITIZEN.

WE MUST INSIST UPON LAWS BEING VIGOROUSLY AND FAIRLY ENFORCED.

WE MUST PUBLICLY CONDEMN, RATHER THAN TOLERATE AND EXCUSE, THOSE WHO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.

WE MUST PUBLICLY RESPECT THOSE WHO OBEY THE LAW.

WE MUST PUBLICLY RESPECT AND SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

CONCLUSION

THANK GOD -- AND I DON'T SAY THIS LIGHTLY -- SOME OF OUR CITIZENS LIKE YOU RECOGNIZE THIS RESPONSIBILITY OF CITIZENSHIP: THAT YOU MUST PARTICIPATE, YOU MUST BE INVOLVED, YOU MUST CARE.

AS JAYCEES, YOU PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE FOR ALL AMERICANS, YOU MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER.

NOW YOU MUST REDEDICATE YOURSELVES TO YOUR TASK -- THAT OF SERVING HUMANITY. IN ADDITION, YOU MUST COMMUNICATE THE NECESSITY FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT.

AS HE LEFT CONSTITUTION HALL MANY YEARS AGO, BEN FRANKLIN WAS ASKED: "WHICH HAVE YOU GIVEN US -- A REPUBLIC OR A MONARCHY?".

FRANKLIN REPLIED: "A REPUBLIC -- IF WE CAN KEEP IT."

THIS IS STILL THE CHALLENGE. WE CANNOT DEFAULT. IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT YOU -- ALL OF YOU -- WILL CAUSE THE LAMP OF LIBERTY TO BURN MORE BRIGHTLY BECAUSE YOU DARE TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED FOR AMERICA.