

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
OLPE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BANQUET  
OLPE, KANSAS  
7:30 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1968

"GREAT CHALLENGES AND GREAT HOPES"

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE THIS EVENING FOR YOUR ANNUAL GATHERING. LOOKING AROUND OUR MEETING PLACE AT THIS GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN  IS LIKE LOOKING AT AMERICA IN MINIATURE.

REPRESENTED HERE ARE SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF CITIZENS, ALL A PART OF THE CONTINUING AMERICAN ADVENTURE -- FROM THE EAGER YOUNG GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF '68 TO THOSE WHOSE VISION MAY HAVE DIMMED A LITTLE AND WHOSE EAGERNESS IS A LITTLE LESS OBVIOUS, BUT WHO HAVE PLAYED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY, AN EQUALLY VITAL PART IN BUILDING OUR COUNTRY.

~~I SUPPOSE I FALL SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE HERE TONIGHT~~ -- A SORT OF "MR. IN-BETWEEN" IN THIS DAY OF THE "GENERATION GAP", BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT WE AMERICANS, WHETHER WE'RE IN OUR TEENS, OUR FORTIES OR OUR SEVENTIES, HAVE MUCH MORE IN COMMON THAN SOME OF THE CRITICS WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE.

- LIBERTY AND COOPERATION -

FIRST, WE HAVE A FREE WAY OF LIFE WHICH, THOUGH CERTAINLY NOT PERFECT, IS PERFECTIBLE AND HAS BROUGHT EACH YEAR NEW GROWTH AND PROGRESS TO OUR LAND. WHETHER WE LOOK IN DUSTY HISTORY BOOKS OR AT TODAY'S SOCIETIES IN OTHER LANDS, WE CAN FIND NO HIGHER SET OF VALUES -- NO GREATER FREEDOM FOR EVERY CITIZEN TO BE HIMSELF, PRACTICE HIS RELIGION, EARN HIS LIVING AND BUILD HIS NICHE IN LIFE UNHINDERED BY GOVERNMENT TYRANNY.

SECOND, SINCE THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER, FOUGHT TOGETHER AND PRAYED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND THIS AMERICAN DREAM.

TOGETHER, WE HAVE DEFENDED IT ON HUNDREDS OF BATTLEFIELDS AROUND THE WORLD -- IT HAS DRAWN MILLIONS OF REFUGEES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, "YEARNING TO BE FREE". AND, TODAY, AFTER CENTURIES OF TRIALS AND TESTS, THAT AMERICAN DREAM IS EVERY BIT AS REAL, AND AS VITAL AS IT WAS WHEN THE FIRST BRAVE BAND OF AMERICANS GATHERED AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION "IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION...AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY".

THE ROAD HAS NOT BEEN EASY. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE GENERATION OF AMERICANS WHO HAS NOT HAD TO SACRIFICE IN SOME WAY. IT WAS THOMAS PAINE, THE GREAT PAMPHLETEER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WHO WARNED, "THOSE WHO EXPECT TO REAP THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM MUST, LIKE MEN, UNDERGO THE FATIGUE OF SUPPORTING IT". THIS PROPHECY HAS HELD TRUE TO THIS DAY.

- WORLD WARS I AND II -

SOME OF US HERE TONIGHT MAY REMEMBER THE FIRST WORLD WAR -- THE WAR THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO "END ALL WARS". LIKE SO MANY 20TH CENTURY SPECTACULARS, IT DIDN'T LIVE UP TO ITS ADVANCED BILLING.

WE LEARNED, TO OUR SORROW, THAT IN A WORLD THAT IS FILLED WITH EVIL AS WELL AS GOOD, IT TOOK ONLY A FEW YEARS FOR SOME MEN TO FORGET THE HORRORS OF WAR AND TO LAUNCH THE WORLD INTO ANOTHER CONFLAGRATION.

BUT, IN BETWEEN, A GENEROUS AMERICA HAS SAVED MILLIONS OF LIVES THREATENED BY STARVATION -- THANKS TO THE DEDICATION OF MEN LIKE HERBERT HOOVER, WHO HEADED THE FIRST GREAT FAMINE RELIEF PROGRAM OF MODERN TIMES.

AND IT WAS THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FARMER WHOSE REMARKABLE PRODUCTIVITY MADE THE WHOLE THING POSSIBLE.

AGAIN, AFTER WORLD WAR II, IT WAS AMERICANS -- INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY -- WHO REBUILT A WAR-RAVAGED EUROPE, ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE, NOTABLY FRANCE'S GENERAL DEGAULLE, SEEM TO HAVE VERY SHORT MEMORIES WHEN THE SUBJECT ARISES.

SOME OF US WITNESSED THESE EVENTS, AND WERE A PART OF THEM.

- KOREAN WAR AND VIETNAM -

OTHERS TOOK THEIR PLACES WHEN THE KOREAN WAR BROKE OUT AND WHEN, FOR A THIRD TIME, AMERICA WAS SUMMONED TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF FREE WORLD DEFENSE. THAT WAR -- DESPITE THE BRAVERY OF AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN AND THE BRILLIANT LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, WHO FELL VICTIM OF PETTY POLITICIANS -- ENDED IN A STALEMATE AND, AS WE ARE GATHERED HERE TONIGHT, IS BEING REFOUGHT IN THE JUNGLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BY YET ANOTHER GENERATION OF AMERICANS.

- "WAR" IN OUR CITIES -

MEANWHILE, IN AMERICA'S MAJOR CITIES, WE'RE FIGHTING ANOTHER KIND OF "WAR WITH A DIFFERENT KIND OF CASUALTIES -- CIVILIAN LIVES, SAFETY, PROPERTY AND PEACE OF MIND. IT IS JUST AS REAL AND JUST AS PERILOUS AS ANY FOREIGN WAR EVER FOUGHT, AND THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP TO WIN IT IS URGENT!

- ABE LINCOLN AND PRINCIPLES -

JUST AS EACH AGE GROUP REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT HAS SHARED THE SAME BASIC VALUES, SO WE HAVE MET, AND ARE MEETING, MANY OF THE SAME CHALLENGES.

TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT THINGS ARE "DIFFERENT" TODAY -- THAT THE AMERICAN ANSWER IS NO LONGER ENOUGH -- I WOULD ANSWER WITH THE WORDS OF ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS OUR COUNTRY HAS EVER PRODUCED.

THE WORDS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SPOKEN OVER A CENTURAY AGO, ARE STILL FILLED WITH MEANING FOR ALL OF US. HIS FAITH, WHICH CARRIED HIM AND THIS NATION THROUGH THE GRAVEST INTERNAL CRISIS WE YET HAVE FACED, IS A BEACON TO US NOW, AS WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH GREAT CHALLENGES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TODAY, WHEN MANY BASIC AMERICAN VALUES ARE QUESTIONED, WE MIGHT WELL RECALL THESE WORDS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

↙ "IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES MAY AND MUST BE INFLEXIBLE."

BY THIS HE MEANT, NOT A STUBBORN, STERILE CLINGING TO OUTMODED TRADITIONS, BUT AN UNBENDING LOYALTY TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

HE MEANT THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH ARE WORTH OUR "LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION".

TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN -- AND TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, PAST AND PRESENT -- NO PRICE IS TOO HIGH FOR LIBERTY. FREEDOM OF CHOICE, THE BASIC RIGHTS OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.

- TAKING BASIC RIGHTS FOR GRANTED -

BECAUSE THESE RIGHTS ARE SO BASIC, WE SOMETIMES TEND TO TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED. AND YET THE SOBERING TRUTH IS THAT, IN THE PRIMITIVE EMERGING STATES OF AFRICA, THE ONE-PARTY DICTATORSHIPS OF LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA, AND THE IRON CURTAIN STATES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, THESE "BASIC" RIGHTS ARE SIMPLY NONEXISTENT! ONLY A FEW OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE OUTSIDE OUR BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN SOCIETIES FEATURING SOME OF THE FREEDOMS WE TAKE FOR GRANTED AND SOMETIMES FORGET TO PROTECT.

TO LINCOLN, AMERICA WAS GREAT, NOT BECAUSE OF HER PHYSICAL MIGHT, BUT BECAUSE OF HER MORAL PURPOSE.

SLOGANS LIKE "BETTER RED THAN DEAD", "DROP OUT" AND "PEACE AT ANY PRICE" WOULD NEVER HAVE A PART IN HIS CAMPAIGNS!

TODAY, AS WE ARE GATHERED HERE, SONS, HUSBANDS AND BROTHERS ARE VINDICATING ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FAITH IN AMERICA IN A FARAWAY CORNER OF THE GLOBE. HOPEFULLY, THEIR STAY THERE WILL NOT LAST MUCH LONGER. HOPEFULLY, THE PRICE IN LIVES WILL NOT GROW MUCH HIGHER.

BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN. LIKE THEIR FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS BEFORE THEM, THESE YOUNG AMERICANS ARE DOING THEIR DUTY. AND THE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY MUST SUPPORT THEM IN EVERY WAY THAT WE CAN.

- THE EFFECTS OF THE VOCAL MINORITY -

BUT WE CANNOT IGNORE THE VOCAL MINORITY OF TROUBLEMAKERS THAT IS DOING ITS BEST TO DESTROY THAT WHICH OUR YOUNG MEN ARE DEFENDING.

THE DIRTY, THE DISSHEVELED, THE DROPOUTS AND THE "PEACENIKS" FILL THE STREETS AND, EVEN WORSE, ALSO FILL THE HEADLINES. THEY HELP TRANSMIT TO THE WORLD A DISTORTED PICTURE OF OUR COUNTRY -- DEMORALIZING RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE AND, MOST CRIMINAL OF **ALL**, AIDING POSTPONEMENT OF THE DAY WHEN A REAL AND LASTING PEACE, NOT A SURRENDER, CAN BE ACHIEVED.



SOME PEOPLE OF NATIONAL PROMINENCE, APPARENTLY FOR SELFISH MOTIVES, HAVE JOINED THE RANKS OF THE DEMONSTRATORS. THEY HAVE BRANDED AMERICAN BOYS "WAR CRIMINALS". THEY HAVE ADVOCATED AID AND SUPPORT OF THE ENEMY. AND AT LEAST ONE, ~~A NATIVE OF MASSACHUSETTS, PRESENTLY LIVING IN NEW YORK, BUT SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME TRAVELLING ELSEWHERE,~~ HAS HAD THE AUDACITY TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG AMERICANS TO DONATE BLOOD TO THE VIET CONG!

IN THE NAME OF "PEACE", SUCH MEN PREACH THE SORT OF DISUNITY AND EVASION OF REPONSIBILITY THAT WILL DRAG THE WAR ON AND DELAY THE DAY WHEN A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE REACHED.

- LINCOLN AND THE DIVIDED HOUSE -

LINCOLN HAD A WORD OF ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO WOULD FOMENT UNREST WHILE THEIR COUNTRY WAS AT WAR.

"A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND", HE WARNED. IT IS A PITY THAT THE PROTESTORS, AND SOME OF THE SO-CALLED "INTELLIGENTSIA", SEEM INCAPABLE OF REALIZING THIS -- INCAPABLE OR UNWILLING.

- THE POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH -

OTHERS WHO WOULD DISRUPT THE COUNTRY ARE CALLING FOR MASSIVE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, WHICH IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING MASSIVE LAWBREAKING. THE "POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH" IS EXPECTED TO COST THE MARCHERS AND THE TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WHICH COULD BETTER HAVE BEEN USED TO BUILD NEW LIVES AND CREATE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POOR. THAT MARCH IS NOW CONVENING IN WASHINGTON FOR A TENSE SUMMER OF DEMONSTRATION, AGITATION AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. WE CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THE HONEST POOR PEOPLE, NAIVE, OFTEN ILLITERATE, AND IN MANY CASES GENUINELY UNDER-PRIVILEGED, WHO ARE BEING CYNICALLY USED BY THE RADICAL LEADERS OF THE MARCH TO PROMOTE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UNREST.

AND ONE MARVELS AT THE COWARDICE OR CALLOUSNESS OF "RESPONSIBLE" GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LIKE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO SIT ON THEIR HANDS WHILE A SITUATION OF TREMENDOUS PERIL BUILDS UP IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL -- A POWDER KEG THAT ANY RANDOM SPARK CAN IGNITE.

- LINCOLN AND MOB RULE -

LINCOLN UNDERSTOOD THE MENACE OF SUCH EVENTS, AND HE HAD A STERN BUT JUST REPLY TO EXTREMIST DEMANDS:

↘ "THERE IS NO GRIEVANCE THAT IS A FIT OBJECT OF REDRESS BY MOB LAW", HE SAID.

I WISH THAT SOME OF THE CRITICS WHO ARE SO HARD ON AMERICA AND SO SOFT ON OUR ENEMIES, COULD BE MADE TO REALIZE THIS CRUCIAL TRUTH! WHEN WILL THEY FACE THE FACT THAT CRIMINALS, WHETHER THEY ARE LOOTING AMERICAN CITIES, SNIPING AT FIREMEN OR BUTCHERING INNOCENT VILLAGERS IN SOME REMOTE HAMLET IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, CANNOT BE BRIBED OR SWEET-TALKED INTO SUBMISSION?

- PROBLEMS: DIFFICULT; NOT HOPELESS -

THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND ITS CITIZENS FACE MANY PROBLEMS TODAY. ALL OF THEM ARE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT. NONE OF THEM ARE HOPELESS.

THERE IS SOME POVERTY AND HUNGER. BUT THERE IS ALSO THE TREMENDOUS PRODUCTIVITY OF THE AMERICAN FARMER -- A PRODUCTIVITY THAT IS AT ONCE THE ENVY AND THE HOPE OF POOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. THIS PRODUCTIVITY CAN BE THE KEY TO FEEDING OUR NATION'S HUNGRY IF HARNEESSED IN A CORRUPTION-FREE, EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTERED PROGRAM, IN CONTRAST TO THE MANY DISMAL FAILURES OF THE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED "WAR ON POVERTY".

THERE IS JOBLESSNESS, THE EXISTENCE OF A HARD-CORE OF UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS. BUT THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, IF IT IS NOT SHACKLED BY A CLUMSY FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY, HAS TACKLED AND OVERCOME GREATER CHALLENGES THAN THIS, AND IT CAN DO IT AGAIN!

THERE IS A GROWING WAVE OF CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS, ESPECIALLY AMONG A MINORITY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. BUT THERE IS ALSO A GROWING AWARENESS AND A NEW DESIRE TO SERVE AMONG THE MAJORITY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IF WE WILL ONLY PROVIDE THE EXAMPLE AND THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THEY NEED AND DESERVE!

THERE ARE GRAVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING AMERICA -- A SKY-ROCKETING NATIONAL DEBT, A STAGGERING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT, AND RUNAWAY INFLATION. THEY, TOO, CAN BE MET IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL ONLY FACE THEM HEAD ON AND PRACTICE COMMON-SENSE ECONOMICS AND RESPONSIBILITY. THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS TOO STRONG AND TOO VITAL TO COLLAPSE UNLESS THE DISASTER IS AIDED AND ABETTED BY IRRESPONSIBILITY.

- AMERICA'S PARADOXES: CHALLENGE AND HOPE -

AND SO, AS WE ENTER THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY, AMERICANS FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH GREAT CHALLENGES AND GREAT HOPES. THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY EXPRESSED THE PARADOXES OF THE TIMES WHEN, QUOTING FROM THE GREAT ENGLISH NOVELIST CHARLES DICKENS, HE TOLD US, "IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES; IT WAS THE AGE OF WISDOM, IT WAS THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS; IT WAS THE EPOCH OF BELIEF, IT WAS THE EPOCH OF INCREDULITY; IT WAS THE SEASON OF LIGHT, IT WAS THE SEASON OF DARKNESS; IT WAS THE SPRING OF HOPE, IT WAS THE WINTER OF DESPAIR."



18-Dec.  
Hoping - Dr. [unclear] 1.1.1.

- THE ADVANTAGE OF SELF-DIRECTION -

BUT UNLIKE THE CHARACTERS IN "A TALE OF TWO CITIES", WE IN AMERICA  
TODAY HAVE ONE PRICELESS ADVANTAGE.  
WE HAVE IN A SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS US THE RIGHT TO DECIDE OUR OWN  
DESTINIES. OUR HANDS CAN TILT THE SCALE TO DETERMINE WHETHER FUTURE  
GENERATIONS WILL REMEMBER THESE YEARS AS THE BEST OR WORST OF TIMES.  
AND I AM CONVICTED THAT, IF WE LIVE UP TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND  
ARE TRUE TO OUR CONVICTIONS, IT SHALL BE THE "SPRING OF HOPE", AND THE  
PRIZE TO GREATER FREEDOM AND PROGRESS FOR OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY.