

REMARKS OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
134TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF
DELTA UPSILON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY AS PART OF YOUR CONVENTION PROGRAM.

IN PREPARING TO COME TODAY -- AND THINKING WHAT I MIGHT SAY ABOUT FRATERNITIES -- IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT MY OWN FEELINGS ARE PERHAPS THE BEST POSSIBLE INDICATOR OF WHAT FRATERNITY LIFE MEANS TO ME.

IN PREPARING TO COME, I KNEW I WASN'T GOING TO "ADDRESS" A GROUP OF STRANGERS. NEITHER WAS I GOING TO ANOTHER "MEETING".

I KNEW, AT THE OUTSET, I WAS COMING TO JOIN A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND TO TALK TO MEN WITH WHOM I HAVE A STRONG PERSONAL BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUALITY.

THIS BOND WITH FRATERNITY MEN HAS FOLLOWED ME EVERYWHERE SINCE I LEFT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS WHERE I WAS A KAPPA SIG.

IT HAS BROUGHT ME FRIENDS WHOM I MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN AND HAS MADE ME SEEM AT HOME IN MANY AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE. WHEREVER I FIND A FRATERNITY I MAN, I KNOW I MEET A MAN WHOSE VALUES ARE SIMILAR TO MINE -- A MAN WHO WILL ACCEPT AND WELCOME ME ON THAT BASIS.

-WHY JOIN A FRATERNITY?-

I WAS INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF A POLL TAKEN A FEW YEARS AGO, IN WHICH COLLEGE GRADUATES THROUGHOUT THE LAND WERE ASKED IF THEY WOULD WANT THEIR SONS TO JOIN A FRATERNITY.

90 PERCENT ANSWERED "YES".

MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE WERE THEIR REASONS WHY.

THEY SAID: FRATERNITIES ENCOURAGE SUPERIOR SCHOLARSHIP,... INCREASE STANDARDS OF SCHOLARSHIP...INSPIRE HIGH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT,..CREATE A SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT AND BELONGING...DEVELOP LEADERSHIP ABILITY AND INSTILL A SPIRIT OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

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IN SHORT, WHAT THEY SAID IS THAT FRATERNITIES NOT ONLY ENRICH COLLEGE LIFE, BUT THEY IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION.

THAT'S A LOT OF CREDIT TO BE GIVEN TO ANY INSTITUTION. DO FRATERNITIES DESERVE IT?

I THINK THEY DO. AND I AM POSITIVE THAT THE ALUMNI IN THIS ROOM, REFLECTING ON THEIR COLLEGE YEARS, WILL AGREE. I AND CONFIDENT THAT THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE MEMBERS WILL ALSO AGREE.

Best

-THE FRATERNITY PARADOXES-

THE SUMMARY I HAVE EVER READ OF WHAT FRATERNITY LIFE IS ALL ABOUT WAS WRITTEN BY A COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE, A FRATERNITY MAN HIMSELF.

DESCRIBING THE ALMOST PARADOXICAL VALUES OF FRATERNITIES, THIS YOUNG MAN WROTE:

"IT MEANS SPIRIT, AND IT MEANS PROXIMITY.
IT IS AS INTANGIBLE AS THE MEMORY OF SONGS SUNG
OVER A FILLED MUG, AND IT IS AS TANGIBLE AS A
SACRED PIN ONE WEARS OVER HIS HEART. IT IS AS
STIRRING AS A TEAM VICTORY, AS COMPLACENT AS THE
PLACING OF A RIBBON AROUND ONE'S NECK.

"IT IS COOPERATION; SERENITY; RUGGEDNESS;
DEVOTION.

"A FRATERNITY IS NOT ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE,
BE THEY MEMBERS OR NOT. BUT IN OUR PRESENT WORLD,
IT HOLDS SOMETHING FOR MORE PERSONS THAN EVER BEFORE
IN OUR HISTORY.

"IT IS DEMOCRACY FOR SOME AND DICTATION FOR
OTHERS.

"IT IS WHAT NO ONE HAS TO JOIN BUT WHAT NEARLY
ALL WANT TO BE UNITED WITH, A COMMON BOND OF UNDYING
PRINCIPLES.

"IT STANDS FOR, ON THE ONE LEVEL,
CHALLENGES -- GRATEFULLY RECEIVED, AND, ON THE
OTHER, ASSERTIONS WHICH ONE MAY CHOOSE TO DECLINE.

"ITS HUES ARE...AS RICH AS A PIECE OF OLD
GOLD; AS TRANQUIL AS A PIN PASSED FROM FATHER TO
SON.

"IT IS WORK, AND IT IS PLAY, IT IS MAN AT
HIS PEAK OF VITALITY AND AT HIS EBB OF STRENGTH.
IT DRAWS THE BEST FROM ALL AND SOMETHING FROM EVERY-
ONE.

"TO EACH OF US, FRATERNALISM IS NOT THE UN-
ATTAINABLE GOAL. IT IS THAT WHICH WE HAVE, WHICH
WE CAN GIVE TO OTHERS, AND WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE RE-
CIPROCATED IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS.

"FRATERNALISM IS NOT FOR THE FEW. IT IS A WAY
OF LIFE THAT ENHANCES RELIGION, TEACHES MORALS, AND
DEDICATION...

"A FRATERNITY IS A GROWING ELEMENT IN A WORLD
WHOSE ELEMENTS ARE EXPANDING TO THE UNIVERSE. A FRAT-
ERNITY IS FIDELITY IN ONE'S HEART."

- FRATERNITIES BUILD MEN -

THE FRATERNITY PROVIDES US, AT A VITALLY-IMPORTANT TIME OF OUR LIVES, WITH THE BUILDING STONES OF A HEALTHY PERSONALITY. THE PSYCHIATRIST ERIK ERICKSON SAID THE BASES OF A GOOD AND HEALTHY PERSONALITY ARE AN ATTITUDE OF TRUST TOWARD THE WORLD, AUTONOMY, THE ABILITY TO EXERCISE INITIATIVE, A SENSE OF INDUSTRY AND IDENTITY.

THE GOOD FRATERNITY CHAPTER PROVIDES JUST THESE.

"TRUST" IS INSPIRED BY THE ATTITUDE OF ELDER BROTHERS IN SUPPORTING A YOUNG MEMBER DESPITE HIS FAULTS.

"AUTONOMY" IS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTANT EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUAL WORTH AND DIGNITY.

"THE ABILITY TO EXERCISE INITIATIVE" IS DEVELOPED AS A MEMBER MEETS NEW GOALS AND CHALLENGES IN A SELF-DETERMINING ATMOSPHERE.

"A SENSE OF INDUSTRY" IS BRED IN THE CHAPTER'S ATMOSPHERE, WHERE THE EMPHASIS IS ON GETTING THINGS DONE AND IN PRIDE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. STEADY ATTENTION AND DILIGENT EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY TO KEEP UP THE STANDARDS OF THE CHAPTER AND AN INDIVIDUAL'S OWN SCHOLASTIC STANDING.

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"IDENTITY" IS THE MEASURE OF SELF-ESTEEM AND APPRECIATION FOR ONE'S OWN TALENTS AND ONE'S OWN WORK. THIS IS MORE EASILY DEVELOPED IN A FRATERNITY, FOR THE CHAPTER IS A SOCIAL STRUCTURE ITSELF, AND ONE'S PLACE AND IMPORTANCE IS MORE EASILY RECOGNIZED IN A SMALL, UNIFIED GROUP.

ALTHOUGH OUR PERSONALITIES ARE WELL-DEVELOPED WHEN WE REACH COLLEGE AGE, THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF SHAPING THAT TAKES PLACE DURING THOSE FIRST YEARS AWAY FROM HOME. THE DIRECTIONS WE SHALL LATER FOLLOW ARE USUALLY DETERMINED IN COLLEGE. THE ADVANTAGES OF MAKING THOSE ADJUSTMENTS AND FINDING THOSE DIRECTIONS IN A FRATERNITY ATMOSPHERE ARE GREAT.

-AFTER COLLEGE: BROTHERHOOD-

WELL, THOSE ARE SOME OF THE BLESSINGS OF FRATERNITY LIFE DURING THE COLLEGE YEARS. THESE BENEFITS PLUS THE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FRATERNITY MEMBERSHIP DO NOT END WITH GRADUATION.

FRATERNITY MEN ARE NEARLY EXPERTS IN THE BUSINESS OF BROTHERHOOD. LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER AND COOPERATE IS THE PHILOSOPHY THAT BINDS MEN TOGETHER.

AND GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS BEGINS, LIKE CHARITY, AT HOME. IF YOU LEARN TO WORK AND TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE GROUP, YOU FIND IT EASIER TO WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER GROUPS.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THE IDEAL FRATERNITY MAN MUST BE ^{for example} AN ACTIVE CIVIL RIGHTS ENTHUSIAST. THOUGHTFUL FRATERNITY MEMBERS KNOW MANY PROPONENTS OF THAT MOVEMENT DO HARM TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR CAUSE BY STARTING AT THE WRONG PLACE. HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION DOES NOT COME ABOUT BY LAW; YOU CAN'T LEGISLATE MORALITY.

THE FRATERNITY'S UNIQUE ROLE IN THE CAUSE OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG MEN IS THAT OF PERSONAL EXAMPLE AND INFLUENCE. BY SHOWING THAT MEN CAN LIVE IN HARMONY WITHIN A SMALL GROUP AND IN HARMONY WITH OTHER GROUPS -- WITHOUT BECOMING CARBON COPIES OF EACH OTHER -- FRATERNITIES ARE PROVING BROTHERHOOD CAN SUCCEED.

- FRATERNITIES ARE CONSTRUCTIVE -

THE GOOD FRATERNITY MAN IS A GOOD CITIZEN, AND THE GOOD FRATERNITY CHAPTER IS ITSELF BUILT ON THE FINEST OF AMERICAN TRADITIONS AND PRINCIPLES.

THE FRATERNITY MAN KNOWS THAT LEADERSHIP -- STRONG, POSITIVE, RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP -- IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN ANY GROUP EFFORT, AND THAT LOYALTY AND COOPERATION OF THE FOLLOWERS RANKS A CLOSE SECOND IN IMPORTANCE.

THE GOOD FRATERNITY MAN DOESN'T BURN HIS DRAFT CARD. INSTEAD HE WORKS TO HELP HIS NATION AND OTHER NATIONS TO ESTABLISH A VALUE SYSTEM THAT WILL OBTVIATE THE NEED FOR DRAFT CARDS.

THE GOOD CITIZEN, LIKE THE GOOD FRATERNITY MAN, WORKS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LAWS AND STRUCTURES TO IMPROVE SOCIETY. HE SEEKS OUT WAYS TO BUILD AND TO IMPROVE, NOT TO TEAR DOWN.

- CONCLUSION -

AS FRATERNITY MEN, WE MUST FIRST BROADEN OUR OWN CONCEPTS OF FRATERNALISM FROM THE CHAPTER HOUSE, TO THE CAMPUS, THE CITY, STATE AND NATION, AS WELL AS THE WORLD. IN 1968, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A NARROW OUTLOOK.

WHEN A PLEDGE IS TAUGHT A SENSE OF LOYALTY TO HIS FRATERNITY, HE MUST ALSO BE TAUGHT A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION TO HIS FRATERNITY. AND THIS LOYALTY, OBLIGATION AND BROTHERHOOD LEARNED IN THAT SMALL GROUP MUST BE TRANSFERRED AND PUT TO WORK IN THE LARGER WORLD.

A FRATERNITY IS A SMALL MODEL OF A COMMUNITY. BUT WE MUST BE AWARE THAT IT IS MORE THAN AN ENTITY UNTO ITSELF.

WE MUST SEE THE FRATERNITY AS A MODEL FOR THE LARGER COMMUNITY. THE CHALLENGE THEN IS TO TAKE THE LESSONS LEARNED IN OUR THE FRATERNITY OUT INTO THE COMMUNITIES OF OUR NATION.