

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

BPW YOUTH COUNCIL
SHAWNEE MISSION SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1969

"COME ON NOW ALL YOU YOUNG MEN, ALL OVER THE WORLD ... THESE ARE THE YEARS. DON'T BE CONTENT WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE. "THE EARTH IS YOURS AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF." ENTER UPON YOUR INHERITANCE, ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES. RAISE THE GLORIOUS FLAGS AGAIN, ADVANCE THEM UPON THE NEW ENEMIES, WHO CONSTANTLY GATHER UPON THE FRONT OF THE HUMAN ARMY AND HAVE ONLY TO BE ASSAULTED TO BE OVERTHROWN ... YOU WILL MAKE ALL KINDS OF MISTAKES; BUT AS LONG AS YOU ARE GENEROUS AND TRUE, AND ALSO FIERCE, YOU CANNOT HURT THE WORLD OR EVEN SERIOUSLY DISTURB HER. SHE WAS MADE TO BE WOODED AND WON BY YOUTH. SHE HAS LIVED AND THRIVED ONLY BY REPEATED SUBJUGATIONS."

THOSE WORDS WERE SPOKEN BY BRITAIN'S MAN OF THE CENTURY, WINSTON CHURCHILL. NO BETTER ADMONITION COULD BE GIVEN TODAY'S YOUTH, TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

- 2 -

YOUR YOUTH IS IMPORTANT TO YOURSELVES AND YOUR NATION. YOU MUST NOT LET IT PASS WITHOUT TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS AND EMPLOY YOUR ENERGIES, YOUR VISIONS AND EVEN YOUR ILLUSIONS.

DO NOT BE TIMID TO STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND TO SEEK CHANGE WHERE YOU SEE THE NEED. YOU WILL NOT ALWAYS WIN, BUT YOUR YOUTH IS YOUR STRENGTH AND THERE WILL BE MORE CAUSES AND MORE STRUGGLES. AND YOU WILL WIN.

- YOUTH IN POLITICS -

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE OF LAST YEARS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN WAS A GREAT THING FOR AMERICAN POLITICS. YOUTHFUL PARTICIPATION WAS FOUND IN THE CAMPS OF ALL THE CANDIDATES. NATURALLY, EVERYONE'S CANDIDATE DID NOT WIN, BUT THOSE WHOSE MEN WERE NOT THE VICTORS SHOULD NOT GIVE UP. WINNERS IN POLITICS ARE NOT THE DROPOUTS. THE WINNERS ARE THE ONES WHO KEEP WORKING AND WHO KEEP TRYING.

- 3 -

- NIXON'S EXAMPLE -

IF YOU NEED A GOOD EXAMPLE, LOOK AT THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY. NO NATIONAL POLITICAL FIGURE EVER HAD BETTER REASON TO BE DISCOURAGED, TO GIVE UP AND TO BUG OUT THAN RICHARD NIXON AFTER HIS DEFEAT IN THE 1962 CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S RACE. BUT HE DID NOT QUIT. HE SPENT SIX YEARS WORKING, MAKING SPEECHES, BOOSTING OTHER CANDIDATES. AND LAST YEAR HIS WORK PAID OFF.

- DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED -

IT WOULD BE A REAL DISASTER FOR THE UNITED STATES, POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY, IF MILLIONS OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE YOUNGSTERS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES GAVE UP BECAUSE THEIR MEN DID NOT WIN THE FIRST TIME AROUND.

POLITICS NEEDS YOUTH AS MUCH AS IT NEEDS INTEGRITY, AS MUCH AS IT NEEDS INTELLIGENCE, AND MORE THAN IT NEEDS IMAGES OR RHETORIC.

- 4 -

- DO NOT BE TIMID -

OF COURSE, YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES. MISTAKES ARE PART OF YOUTH, BUT OLD MEN MAKE MISTAKES TOO. DO NOT BE CONCERNED. GO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES. MIX IT UP WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ZEST. BE HONEST IN YOUR DEALINGS WITH OTHERS AND TO YOURSELF, AND YOU WILL NOT HARM OUR COUNTRY OR ITS HERITAGE.

ERIC HOFFER HAS WRITTEN:

"A SOCIAL ORDER IS STABLE SO LONG AS IT CAN GIVE SCOPE TO TALENT AND YOUTH. YOUTH IS A TALENT -- A PERISHABLE TALENT."

OUR NATION AND POLITICS CAN AFFORD, EVEN NEED, THE TURMOIL YOUTH SOMETIMES BRINGS TO AN ENDEAVOR. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET THE TALENT OF YOUTH GO UNTAPPED.

- 5 -

- YOUNG LEADERSHIP -

SO DO NOT LET A FEW SETBACKS DISCOURAGE YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS. WE NEED YOU IN POLITICS AS WELL AS EVERY OTHER ASPECT OF LIFE. YOU MUST TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY AS LEADERS TODAY TO INVOLVE YOURSELVES AND TO SEE THAT YOUR CONTEMPORARIES, EVEN THE ONES WHO SUPPORT DIFFERENT PARTIES AND CANDIDATES, STAY IN THE GAME. BY KEEPING YOUR GENERATION'S INTEREST WE WILL KEEP POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT ALIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AND WORTHWHILE.

- 6 -

EXAMPLES

A RECENT ISSUE OF U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT HAD A FEATURE STORY, "ANOTHER TYPE OF STUDENT 'ACTIVISM' -- HELPING PEOPLE."

THE ARTICLE TOLD OF PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY STUDENTS AND RUN BY STUDENTS. IN LOS ANGELES, THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT U.C.L.A. IS RUNNING SIX VOLUNTEER-SERVICE PROJECTS FOR THE POOR, THE CULTURALLY DEPRIVED, BLACKS, MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND MEXICANS. IN NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, SEVERAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT YALE PROVIDE SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN THE INNER CITY, SPONSOR BOY SCOUT TROOPS AND TUTOR GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THESE ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS, BUT THEIR IDEAS AND EXAMPLE CAN BE AN INSPIRATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN HIGH SCHOOL, TOO. THE

- 7 -

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE ARE LIMITED ONLY BY THE IMAGINATION OF
THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LEAD AND GUIDE AND CONTRIBUTE.

AS STUDENT LEADERS, THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF
SERVICE PLACE A LARGE RESPONSIBILITY ON YOU. BUT YOU CAN DO THE
JOB, AND YOU ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY CAN. I BELIEVE IN YOUR
CAPABILITY, AND I BELIEVE YOU WILL SUCCEED.

NOW, DOES ANYONE HAVE QUESTIONS?