

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER
PARSONS, KANSAS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1970

Handwritten notes:
Heigel
Shaw
1/31

1970 MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DECADE IN WHICH AMERICA WILL CELEBRATE ITS 200TH BIRTHDAY. AS PRESIDENT NIXON SAID IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS ON JANUARY 23: "OCCASIONALLY THERE COMES A TIME WHEN PROFOUND AND FAR-REACHING EVENTS COMMAND A BREAK WITH TRADITION.

".....KNOWLEDGE AND HARD EXPERIENCE ARGUE PERSUASIVELY THAT BOTH OUR PROGRAMS AND OUR INSTITUTIONS NEED TO BE REFORMED.

"THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED TO HARNESS THE VAST ENERGIES AND ABUNDANCE OF THIS LAND TO THE CREATION OF A NEW AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, AN EXPERIENCE RICHER AND DEEPER AND MORE TRULY A REFLECTION OF THE GOODNESS AND GRACE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

"THE SEVENTIES WILL BE A TIME OF NEW BEGINNINGS, A TIME OF EXPLORING BOTH ON THE EARTH AND IN THE HEAVENS, A TIME OF DISCOVERY. BUT THE TIME HAS ALSO COME FOR EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING BETTER WAYS OF MANAGING WHAT WE HAVE AND OF COMPLETING WHAT MAN'S GENIUS HAS BEGUN BUT LEFT UNFINISHED.

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"OUR LAND, THIS LAND THAT IS OURS TOGETHER, IS A GREAT AND GOOD LAND AND ALSO AN UNFINISHED LAND. THE CHALLENGE OF PERFECTING IT IS THE SUMMONS OF THE SEVENTIES."

YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - A GUIDING FORCE FOR THE NATION

IT IS WITH THIS APPROACH TOWARD THE DECADE OF THE '70'S IN MIND THAT I HAVE ANTICIPATED BEING HERE TODAY.

WHEN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES WAS FORMED IN 1912, IT WAS A RECOMMENDATION OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT FOR "A CENTRAL ORGANIZATION" TO GIVE CONGRESS THE BENEFIT OF THE THINKING OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON NATIONAL PROBLEMS AND ISSUES AFFECTING THE ECONOMY THAT LED TO THIS FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

THIS FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS STATES ITS PURPOSE AS:"TO PROTECT, STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE PRIVATE BUSINESS SYSTEM -- AND TO TRANSLATE ECONOMIC GROWTH INTO HUMAN PROGRESS."

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THUS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES PERFORMS A DUAL ROLE: THAT OF A LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION AND THAT OF A SERVICE ORGANIZATION.

ITS LEADERSHIP AIM IS TO FOCUS THE COMBINED LEADERSHIP OF ALL BUSINESS ON THE SOLUTION OF NATIONAL PROBLEMS, THUS TO PROMOTE A SINGLE VOICE FOR THE EXPRESSION OF BUSINESS OPINIONS. IT HAS CONTINUOUSLY AND ENERGETICALLY PRESENTED THE BUSINESS VIEWPOINT NOT ONLY TO CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, BUT TO THE PUBLIC AS WELL.

YOUR ANNUAL MEETING TODAY REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO EXPRESS A BASIC BELIEF: WE WHO SHARE A FEELING FOR THE SPIRIT OF THIS ORGANIZATION KNOW THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AS AN INSTITUTION, REPRESENTS A GUIDING FORCE FOR THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENTS, NOT ONLY IN PARSONS, BUT FOR OUR NATION AS A WHOLE. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO DISCUSS THE BASIC ISSUES CONCERNING AMERICA.

FOR YOU REPRESENT THE PULSE OF YOUR COMMUNITY'S CONCERN, DESIRE AND RESOLVE TO LEAD SOCIETY THROUGH THE CRISES OF TODAY. IN EFFECT, YOU SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR A BETTER AMERICA TOMORROW.