

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APRIL 9, 1970

THE BEGINNING OF A DECADE IS ALWAYS AN EXCITING TIME. THE 1970'S, WITH ALL THEIR PROMISE AND ALL THEIR PERIL, WILL BE ESPECIALLY EXCITING, FOR IN THESE TEN YEARS WE WILL DECIDE THE COURSE OF AMERICA AS SHE ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY.

WITH THAT IN MIND, I WANT TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING CONCERNS OF THE COMING YEARS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO GUIDE THE NATION IN THIS LAST THIRD OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE BEGINNINGS OF THE UNITED STATES' THIRD HUNDRED YEARS OF NATIONHOOD.

THE THRUST OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IN ITS FIRST 15 MONTHS HAS BEEN TOWARD ONE MULTI-FACETED GOAL: REFORM.

VIETNAM

OF FIRST PRIORITY ON THE NIXON AGENDA IS VIETNAM. HANOI HAS SOUGHT TO TEST THE PRESIDENT'S WILL. SHE HAS LEARNED THAT IT IS FIRM. FOLLOWING HIS CAREFULLY CONCEIVED POLICY OF STRENGTHENING BOTH THE FORCES OF FREE

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VIETNAM, AND THEIR WILL TO DEFEND FREEDOM, THE PRESIDENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE WHOSE SKILL INCREASES EVERY DAY. BY CONTRAST, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE RESORTED TO DRAFTING 8- AND 9-YEAR OLD BOYS. NOW WE ARE WITHDRAWING OUR MEN. THERE WILL BE MORE FIGHTING -- BUT INCREASINGLY IT WILL BE DONE BY THE YOUNG MEN OF VIETNAM.

FOR US, THE WAR WHICH HAS CHEWED AT THE VITALS OF OUR SONS AND BROTHERS IS CLOSING -- AMERICA HAS DONE HER DUTY. OUR BOYS ARE COMING HOME.

FOREIGN POLICY

IN OTHER AREAS OF FOREIGN POLICY, WE HAVE SEEN THE ENUNCIATION OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE, A CLEAR CALL FOR A NEW WORLD PARTNERSHIP AIMED AT PEACE AND SECURITY.

THE PRESIDENT HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN ON THE DIFFICULT QUESTION OF OKINAWA.

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HE HAS REJUVENATED THE WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIANCE, AND ESTABLISHED A NEW POSTURE TOWARD THE CAPTIVE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE. HE WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT THE COMMUNIST WORLD -- GOING TO ROMANIA WHERE HE WAS ACCORDED A DRAMATIC AND FRIENDLY RECEPTION.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE IS MOVING STRONGLY FOR A WORKABLE SETTLEMENT TO THE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT.

IN THE AREA OF ARMS CONTROL, THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY HAS BEEN RATIFIED; STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS ARE UNDERWAY, AND A RESPONSIBLE POLICY ESTABLISHED FOR THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE FIRST STEP TOWARD AN EQUITABLE PROGRAM FOR THE DRAFT. WHEN THE CONGRESS SEES FIT, HE MAY GET THE REMAINDER OF THIS DRAFT REFORM PROGRAM.

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HE HAS MADE THE MOST SWEEPING REFORMS IN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION SINCE THE HOOVER COMMISSION, MOVING TOWARD THAT ELUSIVE CONTRADICTION IN TERMS: THE WORKABLE BUREAUCRACY. IN THIS AREA, A PRIMARY EFFORT HAS BEEN POSTMASTER GENERAL BLOUNT'S DRIVE TO DRAG THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT INTO THE 20TH CENTURY BEFORE THE 21ST BEGINS.

THE PRESIDENT HAS LAID DOWN THE PRINCIPLES OF A NEW FEDERALISM SHARING FEDERAL REVENUES WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

HE HAS ADVANCED THE MOST DRAMATIC AND THE MOST WORKABLE CONCEPT FOR WELFARE EVER DEVELOPED -- ONE WHICH BOTH ENCOURAGES WORK AND PERMITS DIGNITY.

BUT YOU DON'T WANT A LAUNDRY LIST, I'M SURE. MUCH HAS BEEN DONE. MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. I THINK THE PRESIDENT OUTLINED THE PRIORITIES FOR THIS DECADE ADEQUATELY AND ELOQUENTLY IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE.

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ENVIRONMENT

IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITTED HIS ADMINISTRATION TO THE FIGHT TO IMPROVE AND PRESERVE OUR RAPIDLY DETERIORATING ENVIRONMENT. IN HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE PRESIDENT TRANSLATED THAT COMMITMENT INTO LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARE SO VAST AND CRITICAL THAT THEY DESERVE THE ATTENTION AND COMMITMENT OF THE BEST PROBLEM SOLVERS IN THE NATION. THEY ARE NOT SIMPLE PROBLEMS WHOSE SOLUTIONS LIE MERELY IN RHETORIC. NOR ARE THERE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS TOUCH THE MAJOR AREAS OF AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, AND THE USE OF FEDERAL LANDS FOR PUBLIC RECREATION. AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WAS HIS APPEAL FOR ACTION AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AND FROM EVERY SEGMENT OF SOCIETY.

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THIS MEANS THAT INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE GROUPS, ALONG WITH THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN, MUST PARTICIPATE IF WE ARE TO "SUCCEED IN RESTORING THE KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WE WANT FOR OURSELVES AND THE KIND THE GENERATIONS THAT COME AFTER DESERVE TO INHERIT".

INFLATION

TO ACHIEVE ANY OF THE DOMESTIC REFORMS THAT ARE POSSIBLE, WE MUST HALT THE INFLATION THAT AFFECTS THE LIFE OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN THIS COUNTRY.

INFLATION IS A CANCER WHICH EATS INTO OUR ECONOMY, ROBBING EACH OF YOU OF THE REWARDS OF YOUR WORK. LIKE CANCER, THE EFFECT OF INFLATION CAN BE FATAL. LIKE CANCER, IT SPREADS RAPIDLY IF NOT CHECKED IMMEDIATELY. LIKE CANCER, IT TAKES ENORMOUS SKILL AND ABSOLUTE COOPERATION TO CURE. AND AS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, IT WILL TAKE THE COOPERATION OF ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THIS ENDEAVOR TO RETURN THIS ECONOMY TO GOOD HEALTH.

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THE PRESENT INFLATIONARY SPIRAL BEGAN FIVE YEARS AGO WITH THE MASSIVE EXPANSION OF AMERICAN FORCES INTO VIETNAM. THE WAR BUILD-UP INFUSED A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY INTO THE ECONOMY, AND THERE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT GOODS TO ABSORB THIS BURST OF SPENDING POWER. THE RESPONSIBLE THING TO DO IN THAT EVENT WAS TO GET THE MONEY OUT OF THE ECONOMY BY TAX INCREASES, BUT FIRST THE PRESIDENT, AND THEN THE CONGRESS, REFUSED TO DO THIS. AT THE SAME TIME, PRESIDENT JOHNSON DECIDED WE COULD HAVE BOTH "GUNS AND BUTTER", WHICH NECESSITATED DEFICIT SPENDING. THIS POLICY RESULTED IN A DEFICIT OF \$25 BILLION FOR FISCAL 1968.

AFTER A \$57 BILLION DEFICIT FOR THE 60'S, THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY OF FOUR BY 1970 FOUND THAT THE COST OF LIVING HAD INCREASED \$200 PER MONTH.

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WHEN INFLATION BEGINS AND NO STEPS ARE TAKEN TO REMEDY IT, IT ACCELERATES AND DEVELOPS A CERTAIN INERTIA. TO SUDDENLY SLAM ON THE BRAKES COULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. AND IT WOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH TO SLAM ON THE BRAKES -- IT WOULD CERTAINLY SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION. BUT THEN WE WOULD HAVE RECESSION, OR WORSE YET, A DEPRESSION.

THE PRESIDENT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO SUBJECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO THIS EFFECTIVE, BUT PAINFUL, CURE. INSTEAD, HE IS TRYING TO END INFLATION BY SIMPLY COOLING THE ECONOMY DOWN. THE PROCESS IS DELICATE AND DIFFICULT -- HOW DIFFICULT CAN BE SEEN IN THE FACT THAT NOBODY HAS EVER SUCCEEDED IN ENDING INFLATION WITHOUT CAUSING RECESSION. I THINK THE WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE THIS EFFORT IS A MEASURE OF BOTH THE PUBLIC CONCERN AND THE POLITICAL COURAGE OF RICHARD NIXON, AND I THINK HE DESERVES THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS EFFORT.

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THE DECADE OF THE 70'S IS ONE OF CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY.
WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF OUR BATTLE TO STOP INFLATION AND PRESERVE
AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, IN THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT NIXON, "THIS
TASK IS OURS TOGETHER. IT SUMMONS OUR ENERGY, OUR INGENUITY AND
OUR CONSCIENCE IN A CAUSE AS FUNDAMENTAL AS LIFE ITSELF."