

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
AMERICAN YOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS CONFERENCE
AMBASSADOR HOTEL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1970

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT IN
AMERICA.

LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT I BELIEVE THERE IS A FUTURE FOR
GOVERNMENT IN THIS COUNTRY. THIS NATION AND ITS INSTITUTIONS HAVE
ENDURED AND ADAPTED REMARKABLY FOR ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS. CIRCUM-
STANCES AND EVENTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WHICH JEFFERSON, HAMILTON, JAY
AND FRANKLIN HAD NO POSSIBLE WAY OF ANTICIPATING. YET, OUR SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT HAS MET EACH UNFORSEEN CRISIS, EACH REMARKABLE TWIST OF
HISTORY. AND IT HAS EMERGED EACH TIME WITH ITS FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTHS
INTACT AND HAS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE HAVE
MET OTHER CHALLENGES AND FACED NEW OBSTACLES.

TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER ASPECT
OF OUR LIFE IS TO TALK OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF
AMERICA.

-2-

CAMPUS UNREST

LATELY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY HAVE OCCUPIED A PROMINENT PLACE IN THE NEWS -- FROM THE TRAGIC DEATHS AT KENT STATE, TO OCCURRENCES AT NUMEROUS OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND SOME HIGH SCHOOLS, TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEKEND.

IN RECENT DAYS WE HAVE WITNESSED STUDENT AGITATION ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. A LARGE MEASURE OF THE CAMPUS UNREST UNDOUBTEDLY STEMS FROM THE WAR IN VIETNAM AND MORE SPECIFICALLY FROM THE CAMBODIAN OPERATION.

FOR THE MOST PART, STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPOSED CURRENT U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

I RESPECT RESPONSIBLE DIFFERENCE AND MEASURED CRITICISM FROM WHATEVER SOURCE AND BELIEVE THOSE WHO FEEL THEY MUST SPEAK OUT SHOULD DO SO WITHOUT REGARD TO AGE, OR OTHER STATUS.

I WAS IMPRESSED BY MOST OF THE EVENTS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEKEND. CONCERNED YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHERS WHO HOLD STRONG AND SINCERE

-3-

BELIEFS IN THE UNWISDOM OF CURRENT U.S. POLICY MADE A DISCIPLINED, IF SOMEWHAT DISORGANIZED, PRESENTATION OF THEIR VIEWS TO THEIR NATIONAL LEADERS.

FOR THREE DAYS BEFORE THE SATURDAY DEMONSTRATION AND THROUGHOUT THIS PAST WEEK, SCORES OF STUDENTS FROM KANSAS AND ELSEWHERE CAME TO MY OFFICE AND STATED THEIR BELIEFS. WE OFTEN DISAGREED. SOMETIMES WE DEFINED COMMON GROUNDS AND GOALS. BUT THE IMPORTANT THINGS IS THAT WE MET AND EXCHANGED IDEAS AND GAINED UNDERSTANDING.

A TRIBUTE TO THEM WAS THE DEDICATION AND RESOLVE OF MOST TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND DISTURBANCE WHETHER IN WASHINGTON OR ON THEIR OWN CAMPUSES.

CALL FOR CHANGE

ALL OF THEM HAVE HAD A LOT TO SAY ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. AND I'VE LISTENED TO WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY BECAUSE I HAVE FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO LISTEN AND TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

-4-

WHILE CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WERE THE FOREMOST CONCERNS ON THEIR MINDS, THEY WANTED TO DISCUSS OTHER THINGS. AND IF I COULD USE ONE WORD TO SUM UP WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING, THAT WORD WOULD BE "CHANGE."

THEY WANT TO CHANGE THINGS -- ALL SORTS OF THINGS

THEY WANT SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR EVERY AMERICAN, WHETHER HE IS WHITE OR NEGRO, OF MEXICAN ANCESTRY OR AN AMERICAN INDIAN; WHETHER HE LIVES IN A CITY SLUM OR A RURAL SLUM, IN THE SUBURBS OR ON A FARM.

THEY WANT JUSTICE. AND THEY THINK THE PRESENT AMERICAN SYSTEM IS NOT DOING WHAT IT SHOULD TO PROVIDE THAT JUSTICE. SO THEY WANT TO CHANGE.

THEY WANT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYBODY AND THEY DO NOT THINK THIS GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. SO THEY WANT TO CHANGE.

THEY WANT EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY AMERICAN. THEY SAY THIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT AFFORDING THOSE OPPORTUNITIES. SO THEY WANT TO CHANGE.

-5-

THEY WANT JUSTICE AND THEY WANT OPPORTUNITY AND THEY WANT
EDUCATION. BUT MOST OF ALL THEY WANT PEACE.

TO GET IT, THEY FEEL THERE HAS TO BE CHANGE.

THE WORD THAT RINGS OUT MOST FREQUENTLY, THE ONE THAT COMES
UP IN NEARLY EVERY CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, IS THAT SINGLE,
SIMPLE WORD, "CHANGE."

AND, THAT IS WHY I AM IN THE SENATE.

YEARS AGO, LONGER AGO THAN I LIKE TO REMEMBER, I DECIDED THERE
WERE THINGS ABOUT THIS COUNTRY AND ABOUT THIS GOVERNMENT THAT WERE NOT
EXACTLY THE WAY I LIKED THEM. AND I WANTED TO CHANGE THEM.

THAT IS WHY I GOT INTO POLITICS IN THE FIRST PLACE. I FELT
THERE WERE THINGS THAT NEEDED DOING AND THOUGHT THAT I COULD HELP DO
THEM.

I HAVE BEEN AT THIS BUSINESS OF CHANGE EVER SINCE AND HOPE TO
BE AT IT FOR A WHILE LONGER.

-6-

BEING A REPUBLICAN IN A CONGRESS DOMINATED -- SOMETIMES BY AS MUCH AS TWO-TO-ONE -- BY DEMOCRATS, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE MINORITY. IT IS DIFFICULT TO WORK FOR CHANGE WHEN YOU ARE IN THE MINORITY AND KNOW IT. IT IS TOUGH TO KEEP ON WORKING FOR YOUR IDEAS AND IDEALS WHEN YOU FEEL THE DECK IS STACKED AGAINST YOU AND THAT MOST OF THE ACES ARE IN THE OTHER FELLOW'S HAND.

BUT THAT ALSO MAKES IT MORE OF A CHALLENGE -- AND MORE OF AN ACCOMPLISHMENT THOSE TIMES THAT YOU DO WIN.

KEEP TRYING

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP TRYING AND KEEP YOUR CHIN UP. SOMETIMES THE VICTORIES AND THE ADVANCES ARE FAR APART, BUT WHEN YOU LOOK BACK THEY LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER TOGETHER AND SEEM WORTHWHILE.

WE REPUBLICANS ARE HOPING THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF BEING THE MINORITY IN THE SENATE WE WILL BE ABLE TO WIN A MAJORITY THIS YEAR. IT WILL BE A HARD FIGHT. OUR HOPES ARE HIGH, BUT IF WE ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL WE WILL BE BACK AGAIN IN 1972 WITH EVEN GREATER DETERMINATION.

-7-

I CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS SOME YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT THE POLITICAL PROCESS. MANY GOT THEIR FIRST TASTE OF NATIONAL POLITICS IN 1968 AS MEMBERS OF THE SO CALLED "CHILDRENS' CRUSADES" FOR SENATOR MCCARTHY IN THE PRIMARIES. WHEN THEIR MAN LOST HIS MOMENTUM AND FAILED TO GET THE NOMINATION, MANY YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WERE BITTER, DISAPPOINTED AND FRUSTRATED.

BUT THEIR SITUATION REMINDS ME OF A STORY TOLD BY A GREAT FORMER REPUBLICAN LEADER IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. SOMEONE HAD BEEN GIVING THEN SPEAKER JOE MARTIN A BAD TIME ABOUT HIS PARTY'S LOSSES IN A PARTICULAR ELECTION. HE WAS ASKED WHAT THE REPUBLICANS PLANNED TO DO.

MARTIN SAID THE QUESTION REMINDED HIM OF THE TWO RABBITS WHO WERE CHASED BY TWO FOXES AND TOOK REFUGE IN THE HOLE OF A TREE. TIME PASSED BUT THE TWO FOXES REMAINED ON WATCH OUTSIDE THE TREE.

"WHAT SHALL WE DO?" ASKED ONE RABBIT.

"IT LOOKS," SAID THE BOLDER OF THE TWO RABBITS, "LIKE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY HERE UNTIL WE OUTNUMBER THEM."

-8-

WELL, THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE VERY MUCH LIKE THOSE RABBITS. SOON YOU WILL OUTNUMBER THE FOXES. BEFORE THE END OF THIS DECADE MORE THAN HALF OF OUR POPULATION WILL BE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE.

THESE NUMBERS WILL INVEST YOUTH WITH UNPRECEDENTED POWER, INFLUENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

RESPONSIBILITY OF POWER

RECENT EVENTS ON CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON ARE BUT THE FLEXING OF YOUTHS' MUSCLES. BUT MORE IS TO COME. AND BY "MORE" I DO NOT MEAN STRIKES, DISRUPTIONS, AND DISTURBANCES. I MEAN THAT YOUTH IS GOING TO BE EXERCISING INFLUENCE AND POWER THROUGHOUT AMERICAN LIFE, BECAUSE BY THE TIME 1980 ROLLS AROUND YOU WILL BE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING THE LAWS, RUNNING THE FACTORIES, PRODUCING THE GOODS AND SERVICES, RAISING THE FAMILIES, AND, HOPEFULLY, DOING A BETTER JOB AT IT THAN YOUR PARENTS DID.

-9-

CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

THAT IS THE CHALLENGE YOU FACE. AND IT IS ONE YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO MEET.

IT IS MUCH THE SAME CHALLENGE LAID DOWN TO EVERY GENERATION OF AMERICANS. I BELIEVE THAT IS THE CHALLENGE THAT HAS BEEN LAID DOWN TO EVERY GENERATION EVERYWHERE IN THE CIVILIZED WORLD.

YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO. IT IS A BIGGER ONE THAN YOUR PARENTS HAD AND MORE COMPLICATED.

THERE MAY BE SOME -- NOT VERY MANY -- WHO THINK YOUR GENERATION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CUT THE MUSTARD IN THIS. I KNOW THERE WERE THOSE WHO PRECEDED ME WHO THOUGHT THAT.

BUT MOST AMERICANS DO BELIEVE IN YOU. THEY HAVE UNBOUNDED FAITH IN YOU AND IN YOUR ABILITY TO MEET THE OBSTACLES THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT IN YOUR PATH AND WHICH YOU MUST OVERCOME.

-10-

THE WORLD HAS MANY DEMANDS TO MAKE ON YOUR YOUNG LIVES.

THERE ARE NO EASY SOLUTIONS BEING OFFERED ANYWHERE FOR OUR GREAT AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS, BUT THE WORLD HAS SOME REWARDS TO OFFER AS WELL -- NOT JUST MONETARY REWARDS -- BUT REAL, SOLID AND LASTING REWARDS.

YOU CAN DO THINGS. YOU CAN WIN BATTLES. YOU CAN ACHIEVE GREAT CHANGE AND GREAT RESULTS.

BUT IT IS GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF WORK.

MANY, MANY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAT THIS COUNTRY NEED CHANGE. I AGREE WITH THEM. IT DOES, AND FOR THE MOST PART YOU WILL WORK THAT CHANGE. IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY. AND IT IS GOING TO TAKE MORE WORK THAN ANY OF US NOW REALIZES.

NOT TO DISCOURAGE YOU, BUT THE FINAL RESULTS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE VERY SATISFYING TO YOU. BECAUSE, WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE FINALLY ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING, SOME YOUNG PERSON IS GOING TO WALK INTO YOUR OFFICE AND SAY,

"IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE."

AND IF YOU ARE LIKE ME, THE ONLY THING YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO IS AGREE WITH HIM.

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TO
Chubb, Dr. Mable

The Senator - W.I.B.W. - it.
Since you are in