

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEON
LIMA, OHIO
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1970

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU IN OHIO. AND IT IS AN HONOR TO COME ON BEHALF OF BOB TAFT.

TAFT IS A DISTINGUISHED AND REVERED NAME IN OHIO, AND IN AMERICA. OHIO, ITSELF, IS ONE OF THE GREAT STATES -- AND I DO NOT USE THE WORD LIGHTLY; YOU HAVE GIVEN THIS NATION SEVEN PRESIDENTS -- ONLY VIRGINIA HAS GIVEN MORE, AND SHE HAD A HEADSTART. THESE WERE GOOD PRESIDENTS -- THESE OHIO PRESIDENTS -- AND ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT THEM WAS THAT THEY WERE ALL REPUBLICANS. WHAT A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL THING, THOUGH, THAT OF ALL THE GREAT REPUBLICANS -- AND THEY RUN FROM LINCOLN TO ROOSEVELT TO EISENHOWER TO NIXON -- THAT OF THEM ALL, ONLY ONE MAN, ONLY ONE REPUBLICAN, HAS BEEN SEEN TO EPITOMIZE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, EPITOMIZE ITS GRANDEUR, ITS VISION AND ITS POWER -- AND THAT MAN WAS MR. REPUBLICAN, SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT OF THIS STATE OF OHIO.

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SHAKESPEARE SAID SOME ARE BORN GREAT, SOME BECOME GREAT, AND SOME HAVE GREATNESS THRUST UPON THEM. BOB TAFT WAS BORN IN THE SHADOW OF GREATNESS, AND WITH THE BLOOD OF GREAT MEN STRONG IN HIM. HE HAS SHOWN A CAPACITY FOR GROWTH -- A CAPACITY FOR GREATNESS. AND IT REMAINS NOW FOR THE CITIZENS OF OHIO TO THRUST UPON HIM THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS. AND I KNOW YOU WILL. AND I KNOW YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE MEET WITHIN SHORT WEEKS OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OFF-YEAR ELECTIONS IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE ABOUT TO DECIDE WHETHER THE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE A CONGRESS WHICH WILL ALLOW HIM TO FULFILL HIS MANDATE - THE MANDATE GIVEN HIM IN NOVEMBER 1968 -- THE MANDATE TO RESTORE PEACE IN VIETNAM, TO RESTORE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY IN AMERICA, TO RESTORE THE INTEGRITY OF THE DOLLAR IN AMERICA, AND TO RESTORE FAITH IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, A DEMOCRAT CONGRESS HAS FOUGHT AND OPPOSED THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO DO HIS JOB -- TO FULFILL HIS MANDATE, AND KEEP HIS COVENANT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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NO MAN LOVED HIS COUNTRY MORE. NO MAN ASKED FOR LESS OR GAVE MORE. NO MAN SERVED IT BETTER OR WITH GREATER DEVOTION. AND WHEN THE MAN WAS LAID TO REST, THE TITLE MR. REPUBLICAN WAS LAID TO REST WITH HIM. BUT THE SPIRIT THAT CHARACTERIZED TAFT REPUBLICANISM -- THE VISION, THE COURAGE, THE INTEGRITY, THE DEVOTION TO DUTY -- THESE CONTINUE WITH THE SAME FORCE AND VITALITY HE GAVE TO THEM WHILE HE LED THIS PARTY. AND THEY LIVE TODAY IN THE MAN WHO IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OHIO, HIS SON, ROBERT A. TAFT, JR.

I WAS READING TWO NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS THE OTHER DAY, AND THEY WERE WRITING ABOUT THE SENATE RACE HERE IN OHIO. THEY SAID BOB TAFT WAS NOT THROWING ANY DIRT AND IF HE DOES NOT START, HE IS GOING TO BE IN TROUBLE. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THAT. I DO NOT THINK YOU AGREE WITH THAT. THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD PUT BOB TAFT IN TROUBLE WOULD BE IF HE DID START THROWING DIRT, FOR THEN HE WOULD BREAK FAITH WITH HIS HERITAGE -- BUT IF HE DID THAT, HE JUST WOULD NOT BE BOB TAFT.

THE GREAT HOME OF PRESIDENTS DOES NOT NEED A MUDSLINGING CONTEST TO SHOW WHO BELONGS IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES. ALL THIS STATE NEEDS IS TO LOOK AT ITS OWN PAST, LOOK AT ITS OWN HERITAGE, LISTEN TO THE MURMURING OF ITS OWN HISTORY -- AND I THINK I KNOW WHICH WAY OHIO WILL GO.

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FOR TWO YEARS, A DEMOCRAT CONGRESS HAS SOUGHT TO CRIPPLE THE PRESIDENT AT EVERY TRUN, AND AT EVERY TURN THEY HAVE MET THE SKILL AND THE COURAGE AND THE SHEER TENACITY OF THIS DEDICATED MAN.

THE PRESIDENT HAS FORGED ON WITH HIS GREAT WORK IN SPITE OF THAT WILFUL LITTER OF LIBERALS WHO SEE THEIR POWER SLIPPING AWAY LIKE SAND THROUGH THE GREAT GAP BETWEEN THEIR CONCERN FOR THE NATION AND THEIR CONCERN FOR THEMSELVES, BETWEEN THEIR PROMISES AND THEIR PERFORMANCE. SLIPPING AWAY THROUGH THE HOLES IN THEIR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. AND IN SPITE OF THEM, HE HAS PERSISTED AND HE HAS PREVAILED. BUT THE FIGHT IS UPHILL. IT IS SLOW. THE VICTORIES HAVE BEEN HARD-FOUGHT. THE PRESIDENT HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL. BUT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL LEFT TO BE DONE. AND HE CANNOT DO IT WITH A DEMOCRAT MAJORITY IN THE SENATE.

VIETNAM

IT IS A DEMOCRAT MAJORITY WITH ITS LIBERAL FRONT MEN THAT HAS TRIED TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO TIE THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS IN VIETNAM, TO FORCE HIM TO RENEGE ON THE INVESTMENT OUR SONS HAVE MADE IN THAT LAND WITH THEIR OWN BLOOD, TO FORCE HIM TO WITHDRAW IN DISGRACE AND DISHONOR, TO

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FORCE HIM INTO A POSTURE THAT WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION OUR COMMITMENTS, OUR ALLIANCES AND OUR AGREEMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD. AND THESE ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO PUT THE NATION IN THAT WAR -- THIS IS THE SAME DEMOCRAT MAJORITY, THE SAME LIBERAL LITTER THAT PUT US IN VIETNAM -- ALL THE GREAT DOVES. I COULD NAME THEM BUT YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE, AND YOU CAN LOOK BACK IN FIVE YEARS AND SEE WHAT THEY WERE DOING THEN. SEE WHAT THEIR POSITION ON THE WAR WAS THEN. IF BOB TAFT'S OPPONENT WERE IN WASHINGTON, HE WOULD BE ONLY ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE LIBERAL LITTER WHICH HAS BEEN YAPPING AT THE PRESIDENT'S HEELS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. YOU SEND BOB TAFT TO WASHINGTON, AND HE WILL STAND WITH THE PRESIDENT IN HIS EFFORTS TO LEAD THIS NATION AND BRING PEACE TO THIS TROUBLED WORLD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WITH ALL THE BRAVE TALK ABOUT PEACE, IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO KEEP IN MIND JUST WHO IS REALLY FOR PEACE AND WHO IS ONLY FOR POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY AND ADVANTAGE WHEREVER IT MAY LIE. TODAY, THERE ARE FEWER THAN FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND OF OUR MEN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BY MARCH, THERE WILL BE FEWER THAN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND. AND OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, WE LOST 84 LIVES IN VIETNAM. THAT IS THE LOWEST CASUALTY FIGURE FOR A TWO-WEEK PERIOD IN NEARLY FIVE YEARS. WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON TOOK OFFICE, THERE WERE MORE THAN HALF A MILLION MEN IN SOUGHEAST ASIA AND WE WERE LOSING OUR MEN AT A CASUALTY RATE OF 300 PER WEEK, OR NEARLY EIGHT TIMES THE RATE TODAY. I DO NOT HOLD

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OUT THE LOSS OF 84 LIVES AS A TRIUMPH. THE LOSS OF A SINGLE LIFE IN VIETNAM IS A TRAGEDY. BUT THE PRESIDENT IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO WRITE AN END TO THAT TRAGEDY, AND HE IS SUCCEEDING.

OUR MEN ARE COMING HOME. OUR CASUALTY LISTS ARE GROWING SHORTER. OUR ALLIES HAVE TAKEN UP THE BURDEN OF THEIR OWN DEFENSE, AND THEY BEAR IT WELL, BECAUSE OUR FORCES, ACTING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PRESIDENT, HAVE INSTRUCTED THEM WELL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE DEMOCRAT PARTY AND THEIR PHILOSOPHICALLY BANKRUPT CANDIDATES HAVE SOUGHT TO MAKE PEACE A POLITICAL ISSUE, BUT PEACE IS NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE. THE MEN WE SEND TO SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE NOT PAWNS IN A CHESS GAME. THEY ARE THE WEALTH OF THIS NATION. WE ARE NOT LOSING DOG TAGS AND SERIAL NUMBERS IN THOSE JUNGLES AND SWAMPS; WE ARE LOSING THE RICH POTENTIAL OF AN ENTIRE GENERATION. WE ARE LOSING SURGEONS AND SCIENTISTS; WE ARE LOSING FARMERS AND POETS AND PAINTERS AND BUSINESSMEN AND STATESMEN. WHILE THE SOVIETS AND THE CHINESE FIGHT TO THE LAST VIETNAMESE, WE ARE SPILLING THE LIFE-BLOOD OF A GENERATION OF OUR OWN YOUNG AMERICANS.

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THEIR LOSS LEAVES A GAP IN OUR SOCIETY THAT WILL TAKE YEARS TO FILL,
AND IT LEAVES A PAIN IN OUR HEARTS THAT NOTHING WILL EVER PUT TO REST.

THIS IS A HARD THING, THIS WAR; AND IT IS MADE HARDER BY THOSE
POLITICIANS WHO ARE DETERMINED TO CASH IN ON IT RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST
DROP OF OUR YOUNG MEN'S BLOOD.

THIS IS WHAT RICHARD NIXON HAS HAD TO BEAR AS HE HAS GONE ABOUT
THE DELICATE TASK OF DISENGAGEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS IS WHAT THE
PRESIDENT HAS HAD TO BEAR IN HIS EFFORT TO DO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

TWO WEEKS AGO, AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT REACHED OUT TO HANOI
WITH A HUMANE AND REALISTIC OPPORTUNITY TO STOP THE BLOODSHED. NOW WE
SHALL KNOW WHETHER HANOI WANTS AN END TO BLOODSHED.

I HOPE THEY DO.

I KNOW THE PRESIDENT DOES.

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I AM SURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HOPE THEY DO. BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU OF ONE THING AS CERTAIN AS THE SUNRISE: HANOI WILL NOT RESPOND IN A POSITIVE WAY AS LONG AS THERE IS ANY HOPE THAT THIS NATION'S RESOLVE CAN BE WEAKENED FROM WITHIN. IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE VOTE TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT ON NOVEMBER 3, IF THEY PUT MEN LIKE BOB TAFT IN THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 3, AND TAKE OUT THOSE WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT -- THEN I THINK HANOI WILL GET THE MESSAGE; THEN I THINK THEY WILL BE CERTAIN BEYOND DOUBT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS DEALING WITH A STRONG HAND. AND I THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DO IT.

CRIME

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I KNOW YOU REMEMBER THAT IT WAS A DEMOCRAT MAJORITY WITH ITS LIBERAL FRONT MEN THAT FORCED PRESIDENT NIXON TO GO TO THE SENATE AN UNPRECEDENTED THREE TIMES TO GET A SUPREME COURT NOMINEE CONFIRMED. AND WHAT DID THIS SAY TO THE FORCES OF CRIME, TO THE JUNKIES AND THE PUSHERS, AND THE MUGGERS, AND THE MURDERERS, THE LOAN SHARKS AND ORGANIZED CRIME -- IT SAID THAT IF THE LIBERALS GET THEIR WAY, WE HAVE GOT CLEAR SAILING, BROTHER.

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IT WAS THE LIBERAL LITTER THAT PUT THIS NATION IN HOCK TO THE CRIMINALS IN ORDER TO BUY THE VOTES OF THE COCKTAIL-CIRCUIT LIBERALS, AND THE LACE CURTAIN LIBERALS, AND THE BLEEDING HEART LIBERALS -- FEW OF WHOM ARE EVER TOUCHED BY CRIME, BY VIOLENCE.

IT WAS THE LIBERAL LITTER THAT TURNED THE LAND OF THE FREE INTO THE LAND OF THE FRIGHTENED. IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, THE POPULATION OF AMERICA HAS INCREASED BY TWELVE PERCENT. IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE CRIME RATE INCREASED ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT PERCENT.

IN THE RAPE AND THE RIOT, AND THE ARSON AND LOOTING, THE MUGGING AND THE DOPE PEDDLING, THE MURDER -- IN THESE WE SEE THE LOGICAL END OF A PERMISSIVE SOCIETY.

BUT HOW DOES THIS LITTER OF LIBERALS RESPOND TO THE MURDERER WHO TAKES ONE LIFE, AND THEREBY DESTROYS THE LIVES OF ALL THOSE WHO CHERISHED THE LIFE HE TOOK? IT DECIDES THAT THE PRESCRIBED PUNISHMENT IS INHUMANE. IT DETERMINES THAT THE MURDERER WAS CULTURALLY DEPRIVED AND THEREFORE -- LO AND BEHOLD -- THAT HE IS NOT GUILTY AT ALL. WE ARE!

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HOW DOES IT RESPOND TO THAT PECULIAR GROUP OF LOW GRADE MORONS WHO BAND TOGETHER WITH GUNS AND CALL THEMSELVES MILITANTS AND SHOOT POLICE AND WHOMEVER ELSE IS HANDY IN THE EFFORT TO BLACKMAIL THIS NATION INTO ANARCHY?

IT REFERS TO THEM WITH A FASHIONABLE NEW LEXICON DESIGNED TO BOTH JUSTIFY AND GLORIFY. THEY ARE BITTER, THIS LIBERAL LITTER SAYS. THEY ARE DEFIANT. THEY ARE FINDING THEIR OWN IDENTITY; EXPRESSING PRIDE IN THEMSELVES. THE LIBERALS THROW BENEFIT PARTIES FOR THEM; INVITE THEM FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES AND THRILL TO THEIR INSULTS.

MY FELLOW REPUBLICANS, THESE PEOPLE ARE THUGS. AND THEY MUST BE TREATED LIKE THUGS.

OUR CIVILIZATION IS IN THE BALANCE WITH BLIND VIOLENCE. TO THE DEGREE THAT WE PERMIT THE UNDOING OF ORDER IN AMERICA, TO THE EXTENT THAT WE ACCEPT THE FLAUNTING OF THE LAW IN AMERICA, TO THAT DEGREE AND TO THAT EXTENT DO WE JEOPARDIZE CIVILIZATION ITSELF. FOR WHEN THE LAW IS STRUCK DOWN, THERE IS NO BULWARK BETWEEN BROTHERHOOD AND BARBARISM -- BETWEEN CIVILIZATION AND SAVAGERY.

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AND AS WE WATCH A NATION BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND MUTUAL REGARD ATTACKED, AND CRIPPLED BY THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE, WE STAND INDICTED IN THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN, WE STAND ACCUSED IN THE EYES OF THOSE YOUNG MEN WHO FIGHT FOR US IN VIETNAM. HAVE THEY DEFENDED FREEDOM AT KHE SANH AND CAMBODIA AND IN THE DELTA, ONLY TO SEE IT ATTACKED IN SAN FRANCISCO AND CHICAGO AND PHILADELPHIA? WE STAND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BEFORE THE COURT OF HISTORY ITSELF. AND THE QUESTION IS CAN WE REDEEM AMERICA, OR WILL WE LET IT FALTER UNDER THE BLOWS OF THE MUGGER, AND THE CON MAN, AND THE PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY?

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER. BUT WE MUST GIVE THAT ANSWER STRONG AND CLEAR, FOR AS THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, IF THE TRUMPET GIVE AN UNCERTAIN SOUND, WHO SHALL PREPARE HIMSELF TO THE BATTLE? WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT PERMIT TH TYRANNY OF TERROR ON OUR STREETS, NOR THE ANIMAL ACTS OF ANARCHY SO COMMON TO OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

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YOU CAN MAKE IT CLEAR; WE CAN REDEEM THIS NATION -- YOU CAN DO IT BY HELPING TO BUILD A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE. THE DEMOCRAT LIBERALS WHO CREATED THIS MESS ARE DASHING AROUND NOW TALKING ABOUT LAW AND ORDER. THEY KNOW A GOOD THING WHEN THEY SEE IT. THEY KNOW THE PEOPLE ARE FED UP. THEY KNOW AMERICANS WANT TO SEE THE LAW ENFORCED AND ORDER MAINTAINED. SO THEY ARE ALL SUDDENLY TALKING ABOUT LAW AND ORDER -- AND BELIEVE ME, NOTHING IS MORE STARTLING THAN TO HEAR SOMEBODY LIKE HUBERT HUMPHREY -- THE SAME MAN WHO SAID IF HE WAS YOUNGER HE COULD LEAD A PRETTY GOOD RIOT -- NOTHING IS MORE STRANGE THAN TO HEAR PEOPLE LIKE THAT SUDDENLY TALKING ABOUT LAW AND ORDER.

THIS WEEK, PRESIDENT NIXON SIGNED THE ORGANIZED CRIME CONTROL ACT IN WASHINGTON -- 18 MONTHS AFTER HE SUBMITTED IT TO THE CONGRESS -- 18 MONTHS AFTER IT WAS PUT IN THE HANDS OF DEMOCRAT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN -- 18 MONTHS DURING WHICH THE INSIDIOUS GERM OF CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM CONTINUED TO PENETRATE AND INFECT THE VERY FABRIC OF LEGITIMATE BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND HUMAN LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY. AND STILL WE HEAR THE NEWLY CONVERTED DEMOCRAT LAW AND ORDER DEPUTIES TELL HOW THEY ARE SO CONCERNED

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ABOUT THE CRIME WAVE IN THIS COUNTRY AND HOW THEY ARE GOING TO FIGHT IT. THEY TALK ABOUT HOW MEN AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO WALK THE STREETS SAFELY, BUT THEY DO NOT VOTE TO CONTROL CRIME UNTIL THEY SEE THAT NOVEMBER ELECTION DAY APPROACHING AND HEAR THE TRUE CONCERN OF THE PEOPLE. THEY DO NOT VOTE FOR IT UNTIL THE ELEVENTH HOUR.

YOU CAN VOTE FOR IT THOUGH. YOU CAN VOTE FOR BOB TAFT AND YOU CAN WORK FOR BOB TAFT -- YOU CAN HELP PUT HIM IN THE SENATE, AND WHEN HE GETS THERE, HE WILL BACK THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO MAKE THE LAND OF THE FRIGHTENED THE LAND OF THE FREE ONCE AGAIN, AND DO SO ON A FULL-TIME BASIS -- NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME.

CONCLUSION

THE AMERICAN NATION HAS A COVENANT WITH THE FUTURE. WE INTEND TO KEEP THAT COVENANT.

WE HAVE NOT WORKED AND STRUGGLED FOR 200 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF HUMAN FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY TO RELINQUISH OUR HERITAGE TO THOSE WHO HOLD POLITICAL ADVANTAGE ABOVE PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY.

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WE DO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO FREEDOM. WE INTEND TO MEET THEM.
WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PROSPERITY OF OUR PEOPLE. WE
INTEND TO MEET THEM.

WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC PEACE AND SECURITY
IN OUR LAND, AND WE INTEND TO MEET THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING THE CREDIBILITY OF THIS NATION
IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, AND WE MUST MEET THAT RESPONSIBILITY, TOO.

SO IT IS CLEAR THAT WE MUST ELECT MEN WHO PUT AMERICA FIRST; MEN
WHOSE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT TO THEMSELVES, NOR TO THEIR PARTY,
BUT TO THIS NATION AND ITS PEOPLE.

AND YOU KNOW BOB TAFT IS THE MAN IN OHIO WHO FITS THAT
DESCRIPTION. YOU SEND HIM TO WASHINGTON.