

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

KANSAS CITY YOUNG MATRONS
LUNCHEON

5100 OAK
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1970

THIS NATION, FOR MORE THEN TEN YEARS, HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A HARD AND BITTER STRUGGLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I AM NOT HERE TODAY~~HT~~ TO ASSESS GUILT OR LEVY BLAME FOR THIS WAR. I BELIEVE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED MORE EFFECTIVELY AND WITH LESS COST IN AMERICAN LIVES -- BUT IT IS A FRUITLESS AND FUTILE GAME TO FIGHT A WAR FROM HINDSIGHT, AND I AM NOT HERE TO DO THAT EITHER.

THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR HAS BEEN CHANGED SINCE RICHARD NIXON BECAME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF OUR ARMED FORCES. THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN ALTERED. THE FORCES OF FREE VIETNAM HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY US, THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY US -- BUT THEY HAVE TO DO THE JOB THEMSELVES. AND THEY ARE DOING IT.

AS THEY MOVE FROM STRENGTH TO GREATER STRENGTH, THE PRESIDENT IS PULLING OUR FORCES OUT. WE HAVE MORE THAN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TROOPS THERE TO VALIDATE AND SUSTAIN ANY DIPLOMATIC EFFORT WE MAY MAKE, ANY

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NEGOTIATING POSITION WE MAY CHOOSE TO TAKE, OR ANY INITIATIVE THAT THE PRESIDENT FEELS MAY BRING A MORE RAPID AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THAT CONFLICT. OUR STRENGTH THERE IS NOT BEING ERODED BY THESE CAREFULLY PHASED WITHDRAWALS, NOR WILL IT EVER BE CUT ARBITRARILY OR CAPRICIOUSLY. THE FORCE WE NEED THERE WE HAVE THERE. BUT WE HAVE BEGUN TO BRING AMERICANS HOME -- AND IN LARGE NUMBERS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THESE MEN ARE NOT ALL RETURNING IN THE CONDITION THEY WERE IN WHEN THEY LEFT AMERICA. THE DEAD, OF COURSE, WE KNOW ABOUT. WE CAN DO NO MORE THAN HONOR THEM, AND SEEK TO BE WORTHY OF THEIR SACRIFICE. AND, CERTAINLY, WE CAN DO NO LESS.

RETURNING HEROES

BUT WE ARE ALSO BRINGING HOME YOUNG MEN THAT MANY PEOPLE IN AMERICA DO NOT KNOW ABOUT AND NEVER HEAR ABOUT. THESE ARE THE CRIPPLED, THE HANDICAPPED, THE MAIMED -- MEN WHO HAVE LOST LIMBS, OTHERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR MINDS.

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THERE ARE NO GOOD WARS -- EXCEPT THE ONES THAT DO NOT HAPPEN, THE ONES THAT ARE PREVENTED -- BUT CERTAINLY SOME WARS ARE WORSE THAN OTHERS. THE WAR IN VIETNAM IS ONE OF THE WORST.

THE VIET CONG ARE GOOD SOLDIERS, RUTHLESS AND ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT HUMANITY OR MERCY. THEY KNOW THAT IT IS MORE USEFUL TO WOUND A MAN THAN TO KILL HIM, BECAUSE THE WOUNDED REQUIRE CARE. AND THIS CARE MAY TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE MEN OUT OF ACTION TO PROVIDE IT.

THEY KNOW THAT THE SOUND OF THE WOUNDED IN PAIN IS DEMORALIZING, WHILE THE SILENCE OF THE DEAD ONLY STRENGTHENS THE RESOLVE OF THE AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN.

FOR THESE REASONS, AND BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN, AND BECAUSE IT IS A VERY PERSONAL, MAN-TO-MAN, SCATTERED SORT OF WAR, THE VIET CONG LAY GREAT EMPHASIS ON ANTI-PERSONNEL WEAPONS -- PARTICULARLY MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS.

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THIS IS A DIFFERENT SORT OF WAR, TOO, IN THAT OUR MEN RECEIVE BETTER CARE, MORE QUICKLY THAN THEY HAVE IN ANY PREVIOUS WAR IN WHICH AMERICANS -- OR ANYONE, FOR THAT MATTER -- HAVE EVER FOUGHT. MEN WHO WOULD HAVE DIED OF THEIR WOUNDS BEFORE RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION IN KOREA ARE IN FIELD HOSPITALS IN VIETNAM, FREQUENTLY WITHIN MINUTES OF BEING HIT, WHERE THEY RECEIVE THE FINEST MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CARE.

NOW, THE CONFLUENCE OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES -- HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ANTI-PERSONNEL ACTIONS AND RAPID AND EFFECTIVE MEDICAL CARE -- IS PRODUCING A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED VETERANS RETURNING TO THIS COUNTRY. AND THOSE MEN HAVE TO BE ASSIMILATED BACK INTO OUR SOCIETY. WE OWE THEM THAT.

I AM NOT SAYING WE OWE THEM A LIVING, NO. BUT WE OWE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN A LIVING. WE OWE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FULLY IN THE SOCIETY WE SENT THEM TO DEFEND.

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THEY ARE COMING HOME. THEY ARE IN HOSPITALS AND REHABILITATION CENTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, AND THEY ARE SWELLING THE RANKS OF THE HANDICAPPED IN AMERICA. THEY HAVE TO BE GOTTEN OUT OF THOSE HOSPITALS AND THOSE CENTERS AND INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE. WE KNOW THAT. WE KNOW THERE IS A JOB TO BE DONE. WE KNOW THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT. OTHERWISE WE HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE JOB WILL BE DONE.

AMERICA'S CHALLENGE

EVEN NOW IN AMERICA, WE HAVE HANDICAPPED MEN AND WOMEN -- WE HAVE CHILDREN AFFLICTED BY CRIPPLING DISEASE OR BY BIRTH DEFECTS -- AND THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT ALL RECEIVING THE CARE THEY NEED AND SHOULD HAVE. I THINK WE CAN DO BETTER.

IN THE LIGHT OF WORLD HISTORY, AND IN THE EYES OF OTHER NATIONS, AMERICA IS A STRANGE PLACE PEOPLED BY A STRANGE BREED OF MEN AND WOMEN. FOR WE ARE A NATION OF BELIEVERS -- BELIEVERS IN OUR OWN ABILITY TO DO THE THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE.

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IT WAS THIS WILL AND THIS CAPACITY FOR BELIEF THAT MADE AN AMERICAN THE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON.

IT WAS THIS WILL AND THIS CAPACITY FOR BELIEF WHICH PROMPTED DE TOQUEVILLE TO WRITE OF THE AMERICAN THAT FOR HIM "NO NATIONAL BOUNDARY SEEMS TO BE SET TO THE EFFORTS OF MAN; AND IN HIS EYES WHAT IS NOT YET IS ONLY WHAT HE HAS NOT YET ATTEMPTED TO DO."

IT IS THIS WILL AND THIS CAPACITY FOR BELIEF THAT MAKES DOCTORS AND NURSES, RESEARCH ANALYSTS AND FUND RAISERS, AND JUST ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN WHO CARE -- IT IS THIS WILL THAT MAKES THEM DECIDE THAT A CRIPPLED CHILD SHALL WALK, THAT A PARALYZED ADULT SHALL CONTRIBUTE AND BE HAPPY, AND THAT EVERY BROKEN BROTHER OF OURS SHALL BE HEALED OR REHABILITATED.

BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE WHO CARE ENOUGH TO HELP. WITH THE WAR THE NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED IS GROWING FASTER THAN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN AND WILL HELP THE HANDICAPPED. THIS IS A BAD SITUATION.

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STATISTICS INDICATE THAT ALMOST 42 MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY SUFFER FROM DISABLING CONDITIONS. WE CANNOT AFFORD THIS. AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE THE TALENT AND ENERGY AND ABILITY OF BETTER THAN 20 PER CENT OF HER POPULATION. THESE PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE CARE THEY NEED, AND THEY MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

AND JUST LET ME SAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON IS ESPECIALLY AWARE OF THIS. IT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO INVOLVE THE HANDICAPPED IN MEANINGFUL AND PRODUCTIVE JOBS. LET ME READ YOU PART OF A MEMO PRESIDENT NIXON SENT TO THE HEADS OF HIS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES: "IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, IN STAFFING THE FEDERAL SERVICE, TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND SELECTIVE PLACEMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED.

"ADMINISTRATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES, SINCE WORLD WAR II, HAVE SET EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN OPENING THE GOVERNMENT'S DOORS

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TO MORE THAN ONE-QUARTER MILLION CITIZENS WHO, THOUGH HANDICAPPED, HAVE
NONETHELESS BEEN OCCUPATIONALLY QUALIFIED.

"I HAVE PERSONALLY OBSERVED THE MUTUAL BENEFITS THAT DERIVE
FROM HIRING THE HANDICAPPED, AND I WANT THIS...TO CONTINUE...."

THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN. I WOULD HOPE
THAT ALL AMERICANS IN THIS TIME WOULD FOLLOW THE PRESIDENT IN THIS MATTER
OF GREAT HUMAN CONCERN.

YOU AND I HAVE SEEN CRIPPLED CHILDREN. WE HAVE SEEN THE COURAGE
WITH WHICH THEY MEET THE WORLD AROUND THEM. I DO NOT THINK ANY OF US IS
WILLING FOR THAT WORLD TO BE LESS REWARDING FOR THEM THAN IT IS FOR THE
CHILD WHOSE BODY, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, IS STRAIGHT. I DO NOT THINK ANY
OF US IS WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT A HANDICAP SHOULD PREJUDICE A CRIPPLED
CHILD'S RIGHT TO BE HAPPY. AND I DO NOT THINK WE ARE WILLING TO BELIEVE
THAT THEIR LIVES NEED BE LESS PRODUCTIVE.

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WE CAN AND WE MUST DO MORE TO INSURE THAT THEIR LIVES WILL BE PRODUCTIVE. AND, LIKEWISE, WE CAN AND WE MUST DO MORE TO BRING THE HANDICAPPED VETERAN INTO A PRODUCTIVE ROLE IN SOCIETY JUST AS RAPIDLY AS HE CAN POSSIBLY BE BROUGHT IN.

NEW AWARENESS

IT IS TRUE THAT MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS REGARD. WE HAVE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT REHABILITATION IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE. THE OTHER HALF HAS BEEN TO EDUCATE THOSE WHO ARE NOT CRIPPLED -- THOSE WHO ARE NOT HANDICAPPED, TO PUSH BACK THE DARK NIGHT OF CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING AND WORTHLESS PITY WHICH FOR SO LONG ISOLATED THE HANDICAPPED IN OUR SOCIETY.

NOW EMPLOYERS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT SIMPLY BECAUSE A MAN IS HANDICAPPED DOES NOT MEAN HE IS NON-PRODUCTIVE.

THERE IS A STORY TOLD OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR IN ANCIENT GREECE ABOUT A YOUNG ATHENIAN WHO CAME INTO THE FRONT LINES AT SYRACUSE. THE BOY HAD A CRIPPLED FOOT, AND SO THE OTHER SOLDIERS LAUGHED AT HIM FOR

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COMING THERE. BUT THE BOY SAID, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY FOOT. I AM HERE TO FIGHT -- NOT TO RUN."

AND THE SOLDIERS STOPPED LAUGHING.

THE SAME SPIRIT OF COURAGE, DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE IS TO BE FOUND IN THE HANDICAPPED IN AMERICA. AND ALL AMERICANS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE IT. THEY ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT A HANDICAP IS A RELATIVE MATTER.

BUT WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN DONE, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. IN THE REHABILITATION PERIOD, THESE PEOPLE NEED THE SORT OF PERSONAL CONCERN AND PERSONAL ATTENTION THAT THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED THERAPISTS AND ATTENDENTS SIMPLY CANNOT PROVIDE. THEY NEED THE HELP THAT VOLUNTEERS CAN PROVIDE.

THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH EACH OF YOU CAN MAKE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION -- BY GOING TO THE V. A. HOSPITALS, BY GOING TO THE REHABILITATION CLINICS, BY GOING TO THE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE RETARDED -- BY REACHING OUT YOUR HAND. AND IS THIS NOT WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT? IS THIS NOT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN? TO BE WILLING TO REACH OUT?

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THE INFORMATION PROBLEM

AND WE HAVE A JOB TO DO IN INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED. CERTAINLY THE PUBLIC IS BECOMING ENLIGHTENED IN ITS ATTITUDES, BUT IT STILL HAS MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED. YOU CAN HELP IN EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS HERE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE CONTINUE TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT BUILDINGS THAT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE SIMPLY CANNOT USE. ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS NEED A MORE SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE CAN DO BETTER THAN TO PUT UP BUILDINGS THAT 20 PER CENT OF OUR PEOPLE CANNOT USE.

A PERSON IN A WHEEL CHAIR CANNOT GET DOWN OFF A CURB BY HIMSELF. AND A PERSON ON CRUTCHES CAN ONLY DO SO WITH VARYING DEGREES OF DIFFICULTY. IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER TO GRADE RAMPS INTO OUR CURBS FOR THESE PEOPLE, BUT HOW MANY OF OUR TOWNS AND CITIES DO IT?

THESE ARE PROBLEMS THAT STEM FROM THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE STILL NOT SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED -- AND THOSE WHO

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HAVE HANDICAPS ARE FREQUENTLY RELUCTANT TO PUSH THEIR CASE VERY HARD BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO ASK FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. BUT IT IS NOT SPECIAL TREATMENT TO GIVE A PERSON THE CHANCE TO BE HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE. IT IS COMMON SENSE. THE NATION CANNOT AFFORD TO WRITE OFF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 20 PER CENT OF ITS PEOPLE. SO WE MUST MAKE THE CASE FOR THEM.

FINALLY, JUST AS THE HANDICAPPED SUFFER FROM WHAT THE REST OF THE PUBLIC DOES NOT KNOW, THEY ALSO SUFFER FROM WHAT THEY DO NOT KNOW THEMSELVES. THE HANDICAPPED HAVE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH THEY CAN DRAW UPON. IN THE AREAS OF CARE, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, IN THE RESULTS OF ON-GOING RESEARCH; IN REHABILITATION FACILITIES -- IN ALL THESE AREAS THERE IS AID AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED. BUT ALL TOO FREQUENTLY THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THIS -- THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO THEM. SO HERE, TOO, WE NEED AN EDUCATIONAL EFFORT.

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NATIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AGO I INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE A MEASURE WHICH SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED. THIS CENTER WOULD BE LOCATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, AND IT WOULD SERVE AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION OF VALUE TO THE HANDICAPPED. THEY COULD DRAW ON THIS CENTER FROM ALL OVER THE NATION, THUS VIRTUALLY ENDING ONE OF THE GREATEST SOURCES OF FRUSTRATION, NEEDLESS EXPENSE, AND FAILURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED -- WHICH IS PURELY AND SIMPLY A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT SERVICES AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT IN OUR OWN STATE THIS MEASURE HAS RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT. A FEW OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING IT WERE THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, AND KANSAS HEART ASSOCIATION, AND THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COUNSELING SERVICE.

AND I AM ALSO PROUD TO TELL YOU THAT THIS MEASURE PASSED THE SENATE BY A VOTE OF 64 TO 1.

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CONCLUSION

BUT THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE, AND THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH THE NEEDS OF OUR FELLOW MAN IS TO REALIZE THAT IF WE DO NOT DO THE JOB, IT WILL NOT GET DONE. THERE IS AN OLD SAYING IN POLITICS: NEVER SEND A BOY TO DO A MAN'S JOB -- SEND A LADY. SO I AM DELEGATING ALL OF YOU TO DO THIS GREAT WORK THAT SO URGENTLY NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CREATE A GREAT BACKLOG OF HANDICAPPED HUMAN BEINGS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR, SO WE HAVE TO WORK HARDER THAN EVER NOW TO KEEP UP.

LET US LIGHT CANDLES TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS OF LIVES WASTED BY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL AFFLICTIONS.

LET US LIGHT CANDLES TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS OF CONFUSION AND IGNORANCE THAT HAMPERS THE WAY OF THE HANDICAPPED IN HIS PUBLIC LIFE.

LET US LIGHT CANDLES TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS OF CONFUSION AND IGNORANCE IN THE LIVES OF THE HANDICAPPED THEMSELVES.

LET US DO THESE THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE, AND WE WILL BRING NEW LIGHT INTO OUR OWN LIVES AS WELL AND NEW LIGHT INTO THE LIFE OF OUR GREAT NATION.