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REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE BOB DOLE

CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

YR LTS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

I want to thank Ron Romans the Chairman of the National Young Republicans and Joe Abate, the head of the College Young Republicans for the opportunity to talk to you today.

I don't have any intention of talking down to you about being the leaders of tomorrow and that kind of thing. You are the leaders of today or you wouldn't be here. You know where you want to go politically or you wouldn't be here. You are not just participants in the Republican Party, you are partners.

What you're looking for is help and ideas and for the voice of other experiences to help make you more effective, to help take you where you want to go.

As you go down that political path toward whatever may be your goal it is to the advantage of the leaders of the National Republican Party to help you and encourage you whenever and wherever possible.

Because party leadership and party organization begins at your levels--the levels of local politics and state politics.

It is you who will go out as Party leaders and as Party candidates and recruit directly the people who walk the precincts and ring the doorbells and man the phones and stuff the envelopes and take voters to the polls on election day.

The more help we can give you, the more effective we can make you the more Republican candidates and Republican programs at every level will benefit and prosper.

The Young Republicans and the College Republicans have been holding these leadership schools with great success in recent years.

But this year there is an added factor, an added reason to have you here.

That factor, of course, is the 18-year old to 21-year old vote.

There are 11 million of them out there looking for leadership, looking for a cause, seeking an idealistic banner to follow.

There are 11 million of them looking for something new, something more than the old leadership in the old parties has offered. That is where you come in.

You can bridge the political generation gap. You can take the word of what the Republican Party has to offer to the people of your generation.

You, better than we, can convince them that the Republican Party is the Party with a cause and with a banner to follow.

It is we, not the Democrats who are the Party of reform, who are the Party willing to adapt to change and willing to meet the challenge of our times.

It is we who have seen--as youth has seen--the dangers and inefficiencies of overly big, overly centralized, overly staffed bureaucracy.

It is we who have seen the need to return government closer to the people--all the people including those below 21 as well as those over 40.

It is we--not the Democrats who recognized that the big hangup youth had--and rightly so--was the draft--the fact that no young man could plan his future for the seven years, between the ages of 19 and 26.

President Nixon changed that. He made the selection more equitable and he limited draft vulnerability to a single year.

The Democrats have talked. We have acted.

Let me tell you. You have a message to take to your peers in the idealistic world of youth.

Do you know that the Nixon Administration is spending twice as much on civil rights programs as the Democrats did?

Do you know that it was a Republican administration, this administration, that quietly--and without violence has done more than any previous administration to integrate the public schools of the South?

Do you know that the Nixon administration is doing more than any previous administration to clean up the environment and protect our ecology?

You know for sure, it is a Republican President with a Republican plan who is ending a Democrat war in Southeast Asia and bringing American fighting men home.

You know it is a Republican President who is seeking to reform the disgrace of welfare and make it profitable for the poor to work, rather than to go on welfare.

Yes, you do indeed have something to sell and you have a constituency to sell it to. Nobody expects you to go out and change dyed in the wool democrats into Nixon Republicans--not even Dick Nixon--but there is a great and growing body of youthful uncommitted voters out there. Thirty nine percent of the under 30 voters--your friends and associates consider themselves independent voters.

They are waiting to be persuaded, waiting to find something to commit themselves to.

The job is yours and you can do it.

Now, I know, many of you think young Republicans find selling Republicanism difficult when you think you are only on the fringe of the action--that the main event is taking place down the street somewhere.

To some extent this is true of course in both parties.

But it is not as true today in the Republican Party as it was yesterday and it will be even less true tomorrow.

Richard Nixon knows where the action generation is and he intends to involve it more and more in government and in the affairs of the Republican Party.

At the Republican National Committee we will bring youth more into our councils. We will work not only to make the young Republican organizations more effective, but we will also work with them to make the entire Party more effective.

We intend to find out what the legitimate concerns and desires of the under 30 generation are.

We intend to devise programs which will help the nation and our Party and that will directly involve our youth. Programs that seek to bring the Party and the administration in tune with the average voter, programs that bring the Party as well as government closer to the people.

These are not easy tasks. In fact, without the enthusiastic work and cooperation by the leadership of the Young and the College and the Teen-Age Republicans they are impossible tasks.

It is you who must rally the half million young Republicans in our nation around our cause and inspire them to carry the word, to put together the programs and to work with the people at the state and local levels.

It is you who must bridge the political generation gap where we in Washington cannot.

The job is not an easy one, but I have not heard anyone of you ask for an easy job; all I have heard you ask for is a chance to work and to participate.

If you work, if you carry the message, if you build the Republican Party through the Young Republican organizations you will have contributed mightily.

You will have helped re-elect a Republican President, you will have helped re-elect Republican lawmakers and executives at all levels and each of you will have built for himself an integral

base in the Republican Party, a base from which a political career can be launched, or, if it has been launched, where it can be nurtured and allowed to flower.

My friends, all of us by working in the Republican Party and with the Republican Party and by participating in its policies and its campaigns, can help make the Republican Party the majority Party, can help realize the President's programs, can help build the future. If we can do that we will all benefit, singly and as a nation.

NOTE: Senator Dole may not adhere exactly to this text but he will stand behind the statements in it.