

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

DEDICATION OF THE
BARTON COUNTY COMMUNITY JUNIOR COLLEGE
GREAT BEND, KANSAS
SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1971

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE IN GREAT BEND. AS A PRODUCT OF KANSAS EDUCATION -- FROM MY PUBLIC SCHOOL DAYS IN RUSSELL, TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS IN LAWRENCE, AND ON THROUGH LAW SCHOOL AT WASHBURN MUNICIPAL UNIVERSITY IN TOPEKA -- I HAVE A DEEP RESPECT FOR WHAT OUR STATE HAS DONE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

SUPPORTS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR THIS OCCASION, I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY JUNIOR COLLEGES.

AMERICA IS A LAND OF CONSTANT, RAPID CHANGE, AND BECAUSE WE MOVE AT SUCH HIGH SPEED, WE SOMETIMES GO OVERBOARD IN A GIVEN DIRECTION BEFORE REALIZING HOW FAR THINGS HAVE GONE.

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THIS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY TRUE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION SINCE WORLD WAR II.

THE G. I. BILL, THE RETURN OF PROSPERITY, AND THE "BABY BOOM" ALL COMBINED

TO CREATE A TREMENDOUS, SUSTAINED DEMAND FOR POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION.

LITERALLY MILLIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COULD NOT HAVE CONSIDERED COLLEGE IN

THE PAST NOW HAD THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE DESIRE TO ATTEND.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE JOB MARKET HAS

BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE, AND PLACED HIGHER EDUCATIONAL DEMANDS ON

APPLICANTS. POSITIONS THAT ONCE REQUIRED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA NOW OFTEN

REQUIRE A COLLEGE DEGREE, OR AT LEAST SEVERAL YEARS OF UNIVERSITY WORK.

THE IMPACT ON THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS INEVITABLE. THE

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MAMMOTH INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS LED TO AN EMPHASIS ON SIZE AND GROWTH IN OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

UNGOVERNED GROWTH A PROBLEM

AND LIKE MANY TRENDS, SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, IT BEGAN TO GET OUT OF HAND. WHEN WE LOOK AROUND THE COUNTRY TODAY AND EXAMINE THE CAMPUS TROUBLE SPOTS WHERE VIOLENCE HAS ERUPTED, WE OFTEN SEE INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS THAT GREW TOO MUCH, TOO FAST.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GOOD RESULTS FROM THIS GROWTH. WE HAVE TURNED OUT MORE CREATIVE THINKERS, MORE WRITERS, ENGINEERS, ARTISTS, DOCTORS, EDUCATORS AND LAWYERS THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY.

WE HAVE MADE REAL THE DREAM OF OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION --

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A DREAM CHERISHED BY ALL WHO LOVE THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE AND WHO BELIEVE
THAT EACH OF US DESERVES THE CHANCE TO GO AS FAR AND AS HIGH AS OUR ABILITY
WILL TAKE US.

BUT WE HAVE ALSO SEEN SOME LESS PLEASANT RESULTS ARISING FROM THE HEAD-
LONG RACE FOR GIANT CAMPUSES AND CLASSROOMS.

THE DE-PERSONALIZATION OF EDUCATION, THE REMOVAL OF THE HUMAN TOUCH
THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO ANY LEARNING EXPERIENCE, IS BROUGHT HOME AGAIN AND
AGAIN TO ANYONE WHO VISITS THE GIANT EDUCATIONAL COMPLEXES THAT MANY OF OUR
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES HAVE BECOME.

AUTOMATION, WHICH HAS A LEGITIMATE ROLE TO PLAY IN EDUCATION, IS
SOMETIMES CARRIED TOO FAR. IT IS A STRANGE SIGHT TO WATCH HUNDREDS OF COLLEGE

STUDENTS CROWDED INTO AN AUDITORIUM WATCHING A VIDEO-TAPED LECTURE ON CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION, WHILE THE PROFESSOR IS OFF SOMEWHERE WRITING A BOOK THAT WILL ALLOW HIM TO PUBLISH RATHER THAN PERISH IN THE MODERN ACADEMIC RAT RACE.

ISOLATION OF BIG CAMPUSES

ANOTHER SIDE EFFECT OF THE GIANT UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN THE CREATION OF AN ISOLATED SUB-CULTURE -- A SEPARATE, UNREAL WORLD IN WHICH STUDENTS AND FACULTY EXIST APART FROM THE GREATER COMMUNITY.

THIS KIND OF ISOLATION BREEDS FRUSTRATION AND INTOLERANCE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE IVORY TOWER. IT AGGRAVATES STUDENT DISTRUST AND RESENTMENT OF THE SO-CALLED ESTABLISHMENT, AND IT DEPRIVES STUDENTS OF MANY OF THE CONTACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST FOR REFORM WITHIN THE SYSTEM.

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IF I SEEM TO BE PAINTING A BLEAK PICTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, I APOLOGIZE. I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE TRYING AGE WE LIVE IN. RIGHT NOW, SOMEWHERE ON SOME UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE CAMPUS, A STUDENT OR PROFESSOR IS PROBABLY AT WORK ON THE BEGINNINGS OF A CURE FOR CANCER, OR A SOLUTION TO THE POLLUTION PROBLEM, OR AN ANSWER TO THE MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL ENIGMAS THAT HAVE PLAGUED MANKIND SINCE THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

I AM NOT CASTIGATING OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM. I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT, GOOD AS IT IS, THERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE IT BETTER -- WAYS TO MAKE IT MEET THE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES OF THE SEVENTIES AND THE YEARS BEYOND.

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THERE IS AN EXPRESSION MAKING THE ROUNDS IN WASHINGTON THESE DAYS.
IT GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS: "IF YOU AREN'T PART OF THE SOLUTION, YOU'RE
PART OF THE PROBLEM."

BARTON COUNTY SHOWS WAY

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT BARTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE THOU-
SANDS OF OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE PART OF THE SOLU-
TION TO EACH OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS I MENTIONED A MOMENT AGO.

THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS THE ANSWER TO GROWTH WITHOUT DEHUMANIZATION.
INSTEAD OF ADDING ANOTHER SWOLLEN ANNEX TO AN ALREADY OVERCROWDED URBAN CAM-
PUS, IT CREATES A NEW CENTER OF LEARNING IN THE HEART OF AN INDIVIDUAL COMMU-
NITY. IT BRINGS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER, RATHER THAN FURTHER ISOLATING
THEM.

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HERE IN KANSAS, THE SUCCESS OF THIS APPROACH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. IN
1960, THERE WERE 5,000 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN
OUR STATE. TODAY THERE ARE OVER 17,000, AND BY 1980, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT
THERE WILL BE MORE THAN 30,000.

JUNIOR COLLEGE MEETS NEEDS

A GOOD JUNIOR COLLEGE -- AND I AM CONVINCED BARTON COUNTY IS BECOMING
ONE OF THE BEST -- IS A SOURCE OF QUALITY EDUCATION THAT IS VERSATILE, FLEXI-
BLE, AND TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES.

IT IS NOT SOME GREAT STONE MONOLITH THAT IS A LAW UNTO ITSELF. IT IS
A LIVING, VITAL INSTITUTION.

IT CAN BE A WAY STATION FOR THE STUDENT EVENTUALLY PLANNING TO GO ON
TO A LARGER UNIVERSITY. IT OFFERS THE HOUSEWIFE AND THE BUSINESSMAN A CHANCE

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TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, TO EXPAND THEIR CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL OUTLOOKS,
AND TO SHARE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR OWN SONS AND DAUGHTERS. IT
OFFERS THE YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN IN NEED OF CAREER TRAINING THE MOST DIRECT,
EFFECTIVE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AVAILABLE. AND, IT OFFERS THE HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATE OR VETERAN WITH A YOUNG FAMILY TO SUPPORT THE CHANCE FOR AN ECON-
OMICAL, PART TIME EDUCATION THAT WILL BROADEN HIS PERSONAL HORIZONS AND OPEN
UP BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

WHEN BARTON OPENED ITS DOORS ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1969, A CHERISHED DREAM
THAT BEGAN IN 1960 WITH A PROPOSAL BY THE GREAT BEND JAYCEES, WAS BROUGHT
TO FRUITION. AND IT IS A DREAM THAT HAS CONTINUED TO GATHER MOMENTUM WITH

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THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

I WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT ENROLLMENT WAS UP TO 1,075 FOR THE 1970-71
SCHOOL YEAR, AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF MAKING A BROADENING RANGE
OF SUBJECTS AVAILABLE HAS KEPT BARTON TUNED IN TO STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ALIKE.

INVESTMENT IN FUTURE

WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID THAT THE BEST INVESTMENT ANY COMMUNITY
CAN MAKE IS PUTTING MILK INTO BABIES. HE CERTAINLY HAD A POINT. BUT PERHAPS
THE SECOND BEST INVESTMENT ANY COMMUNITY CAN MAKE IS PUTTING USEFUL, ACCES-
SIBLE LEARNING WITHIN THE REACH OF ITS PEOPLE, WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF.

THAT IS WHAT EACH OF YOU HAS PLAYED A PART IN DOING, AS A STUDENT,
A VOLUNTEER, A DONOR, A CIVIC LEADER, OR A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY. AND THAT,
TO MY MIND, IS AN ACHIEVEMENT WORTH CELEBRATING.

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AT A TIME WHEN SOME PEOPLE ARE QUESTIONING THE VALUES OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, WHAT YOU HAVE DONE HERE IS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE IDEALS OF COOPERATION, SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND HUMAN PROGRESS THAT BUILT OUR NATION AND KEEPS IT STRONG AND GROWING TODAY.

THE SAME KIND OF DEDICATION THAT HAS FED MILLIONS OF STARVING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ---- THAT HAS CONQUERED SO MUCH DISEASE AND HUMAN SUFFERING ---- AND THAT HAS WITNESSED, IN OUR OWN LIFETIMES, THE CONQUEST OF OUTER SPACE ---- THIS SAME DEDICATION IS AT WORK IN BARTON COUNTY, MAKING A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT SLICE OF AMERICA LIVE UP TO ITS IDEALS.

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AGE OF CHALLENGE

PRESIDENT NIXON ONCE REMARKED THAT THIS DAY AND AGE WE LIVE IN,
WITH ITS TREMENDOUS FRUSTATIONS AND EQUALLY TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES, IS
PROBABLY THE MOST EXCITING TIME FOR A YOUNG AMERICAN TO BE ALIVE.

I AGREE. AND I HAVE FAITH THAT MOST YOUNG AMERICANS WILL CONTINUE
TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE DAY. IN MANY WAYS, OUR COUNTRY IS
PASSING THROUGH A TIME OF TESTING. IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME, AND IT WILL
NOT BE THE LAST.

THE FIRST COLONISTS UNDERWENT AS GREAT AN ORDEAL, WARRING AGAINST
HOSTILE WILDERNESS ELEMENTS TO CARVE OUT A DECENT LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND
THEIR CHILDREN.

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THE MEN AND WOMEN OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GENERATION HAD TO RISK
EVERYTHING ---- THEIR LIVES, THEIR FORTUNES AND THEIR SACRED HONOR, AS
JEFFERSON WROTE IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ---- IN ORDER THAT
AMERICA MIGHT BE FREE.

AGAIN, A LITTLE MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, AMERICA FACED ANOTHER
GREAT TEST ---- A BLOODY, FRATRICIDAL CIVIL WAR. IF EVER THERE WAS A
TIME TO DESPAIR, TO DECIDE THAT THE SYSTEM HAD FAILED AND THAT THE FUTURE
OF AMERICA WAS HOPELESS, IT WAS DURING THE EARLY 1860'S, WHEN THE NATION
LITERALLY WAS RENT ASUNDER AND RECONCILIATION SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE.

SOME DESPAIR

EACH OF THESE GREAT TESTS MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED A WEAKER PEOPLE OR A

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MORE INADEQUATE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. DURING EACH OF THEM, THERE WERE THOSE WHO ACTUALLY DID GIVE UP HOPE FOR AMERICA AND PREDICTED, AS SOME DO TODAY, THAT THE END HAD COME ---- THAT WE WERE A HOPELESSLY "SICK" SOCIETY RUSHING TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION.

YET EACH TIME, AFTER THE SMOKE HAD SETTLED AND THE SHOUTING HAD DIED DOWN, THERE WAS AMERICA, AND THERE WERE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, STRONGER AND MORE NUMEROUS THAN BEFORE, AND GOING FORWARD WITH THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING A BETTER, MORE JUST SOCIETY.

THAT, OF COURSE, IS THE KIND OF GOAL THAT IS NEVER COMPLETELY ACHIEVED. NO SOCIETY MADE UP OF HUMAN BEINGS, WITH ALL OF THEIR VIRTUES AND

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VICES, WILL EVER BE PERFECT. BUT A SOCIETY BASED ON JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CAN IMPROVE. ITS BASE CAN BE EXPANDED AND ITS OPPORTUNITY SPREAD TO EVER-GROWING NUMBERS.

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK DOWN THE LONG, HARD ROAD WE TOOK TO BECOME A NATION OF FREE MEN, THE CONCLUSION IS INESCAPABLE. WE HAVE NOT TRAVELED ALL THAT WAY SIMPLY TO SHRUG OUR SHOULDERS AND TOSS IN THE SPONGE IN THE FACE OF A NEW SET OF CHALLENGES.

A REAFFIRMATION

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT LOST THEIR CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK, COURAGE OR COMPASSION, AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS NOT LOST ITS CAPACITY FOR ORDERLY CHANGE AND ITS ATTACHMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

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EVERY TIME A NEW COMMUNITY LIBRARY, HOSPITAL, OR COLLEGE OPENS
ITS DOORS, THESE FACTS ARE REAFFIRMED.

SO TODAY MARKS MORE THAN THE DEDICATION OF AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY,
IMPORTANT AS THAT IS. WE ARE MARKING THE CONSECRATION OF A LIVING, GROW-
ING IDEAL THAT IS A VITAL PART OF BARTON COUNTY. IT IS EVIDENCE OF WHAT A
COMMUNITY CAN ACCOMPLISH WHEN IT PUTS ITS MIND TO IT, AND ITS PEOPLE PULL
TOGETHER. AND IT IS A REASON FOR ALL OF US TO LOOK WITH A LITTLE ADDED
CONFIDENCE TO THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTY, THIS STATE AND THIS NATION.