

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
ANNUAL REPUBLICAN DINNER
SPRINGFIELD (DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1971

I AM HONORED AND PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY. DELAWARE COUNTY HAS ONE OF THE STRONGEST, BEST-ORGANIZED REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. YOUR OUTSTANDING RECORD AS PARTY WORKERS REFLECTS THE KIND OF SPIRIT AND COMMITMENT THAT WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD UP IN GOP ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE NATION. IT IS THE KIND OF SPIRIT AND COMMITMENT THAT WILL SEE US THROUGH TO VICTORY IN 1972.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, I TRAVEL TO REPUBLICAN GROUPS ALL OVER AMERICA, AND YOU WILL BE GLAD TO KNOW THAT SPIRITS ARE HIGH AND THE ENTHUSIASM IS GREAT FROM ONE END OF THE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER.

I HAVE SENSED A NEW ATTITUDE IN OUR PARTY, AN ATTITUDE SHARED BY ELECTED AND WORKING REPUBLICANS AT ALL LEVELS. AN ATTITUDE THAT BODES WELL FOR ALL OF US IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

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GOP IN FIGHTING TRIM

AS THE ELECTION YEAR OF 1972 APPROACHES, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS IN FIGHTING TRIM. WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE THAT THE OPPOSITION CANNOT MATCH. WE ALREADY HAVE OUR CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, AND HE HAS A RECORD OF SUCCESS AND INTEGRITY THAT COMMANDS THE LOYALTY AND RESPECT OF THINKING AMERICANS EVERYWHERE.

IN LOOKING FORWARD TO 1972, I SEE TWO MAJOR ISSUES EMERGING. THEY ARE ISSUES THAT AMERICANS WERE WORRIED ABOUT IN 1968 WHEN THEY ELECTED RICHARD NIXON, AND HIS SUCCESS IN FACING THEM SHOULD DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF THE '72 ELECTIONS.

PEACE AND ECONOMY KEY ISSUES

AS I SEE THEM, THESE TWO ISSUES ARE PEACE AND THE ECONOMY. BECAUSE OF THE DELICATE TRANSITION FROM A WARTIME TO A PEACETIME ECONOMY, THEY ARE ALSO INTERDEPENDENT. THE COURSE OF ONE AFFECTS THE COURSE OF THE OTHER.

LOOK AT THE RECORD. EXAMINE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN BOTH CASES. THE CONCLUSION IS INESCAPABLE. RICHARD NIXON IS KEEPING HIS TRUST WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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I BELIEVE THAT RESULTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN RHETORIC -- IF ALL THIS NATION NEEDED WAS PRETTY WORDS AND EMPTY PROMISES, WE WOULD STILL BE LIVING IN THE DREAM WORLDS OF THE NEW FRONTIER AND THE GREAT SOCIETY.

I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S PROGRESS WITH YOU -- THE HARD, COLD FACTS OF REPUBLICAN ACHIEVEMENT. THEY ARE FACTS THAT EACH OF US CAN BE PROUD OF.

ECONOMY EXPANDS

THE NATION'S ECONOMY IS LEADING UPWARD TOWARD THE GOOD YEAR PREDICTED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND TOWARD THE EVEN BETTER YEAR ANTICIPATED FOR 1972. THE SIGNS ARE CLEAR. WE HAVE TURNED THE CORNER TOWARD MINIMAL INFLATION AND SOUND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS REVISING ITS ESTIMATE OF TOTAL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR UPWARD TO \$109 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT OVER THIS YEAR. THIS INCLUDES INCREASES IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS ----- HOUSING, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND HIGHWAY.

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GNP SETS RECORD

AS A SIGN OF HEALTHY GROWTH, THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT INCREASED BY \$28.5 BILLION DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, THE HIGHEST ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN HISTORY. MARCH FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES SHOWED A HEALTHY MONTHLY INCREASE OF 1.5 PERCENT. AUTOMOBILE SALES WERE 32 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO IN MARCH AND THE HIGHEST IN HISTORY FOR THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF APRIL.

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS LEVELED OFF, AND SHOULD SOON BE ON THE DECREASE; PERSONAL INCOME IS ON THE INCREASE. THE COST OF MONEY IS GOING DOWN. THE PRIME INTEREST RATE HAS DROPPED 3 1/4 POINTS, AND FHA AND VA MORTGAGE RATES HAVE ALSO LOWERED. INFLATION HAS SLOWED, AND HEALTHY GROWTH HAS INCREASED.

THE PROPHETS OF ECONOMIC DOOM AND GLOOM TRIED TO TALK THE ECONOMY INTO A TAILSPIN -- BUT THEIR PANIC TACTICS HAVE FAILED. THEY FAILED BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT AND UNAFRAID. THE SAME THING IS TRUE WITH THE ISSUE OF PEACE.

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VIETNAMIZATION WORKS

PRESIDENT NIXON'S VIETNAMIZATION OF THE WAR IS WORKING, AND IT IS PAYING OFF IN AMERICAN LIVES SAVED. CASUALTIES ARE DOWN AND GOING LOWER. EVERY DEADLINE FOR AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN MET OR SURPASSED. THE CREDIBILITY GAP -- A GAP THAT KEPT ON WIDENING DURING THE KENNEDY-JOHNSON YEARS -- HAS BEEN CLOSED. IT IS TRUE, OF COURSE, THAT SOME OF MY DEMOCRAT FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO RE-OPEN IT. BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WELL AWARE THAT "GAPOSIS" IS A DEMOCRAT INVENTION.

TRY AS THEY DO, THESE DIE-HARD CRITICS OF OUR PRESIDENT SIMPLY CANNOT ESCAPE THE FACTS. AND THE FACTS ARE ON OUR SIDE. WHEN RICHARD NIXON TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE IN 1969, THERE WAS NO END IN SIGHT TO THE WAR IN INDOCHINA. PAST ADMINISTRATIONS HAD ESCALATED OUR INVOLVEMENT TO WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE POINT OF NO RETURN. THEY GOT US IN, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW EITHER TO WIN OR TO GET OUT. THEY WERE BOGGED DOWN IN A QUICKSAND OF THEIR OWN MANUFACTURE.

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NIXON REDUCES TROOPS

NOW ALL THAT HAS CHANGED. PRESIDENT NIXON SAID HE WOULD BRING OUR MEN HOME AND EXTRICATE OUR NATION FROM INDOCHINA WITH HONOR, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE IS DOING. FROM A HIGH POINT OF OVER HALF-A-MILLION AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN, PRESIDENT NIXON HAS REDUCED OUR PRESENCE IN VIETNAM TO 284,000.

THIS IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. ASK YOURSELF: COULD A MAN LIKE HUBERT HUMPHREY, WHO ESCALATED THE CHEERING AS HIS BOSS ESCALATED THE WAR, OR EDMUND MUSKIE, WHO CLAIMS HE HAD HIS FIRST MISGIVINGS ABOUT AMERICA'S INDOCHINA POLICY IN 1965 -- BUT NEVER RAISED A FINGER IN PROTEST UNTIL 1969 ----- COULD THESE MEN, WHO SEE WELL ONLY WHEN LOOKING BACKWARD, HAVE MATCHED THE JOB PRESIDENT NIXON IS DOING? I THINK WE ALL KNOW THE ANSWER.

DEMOS MUFFED CHANCE

THE DEMOCRATS HAD THEIR CHANCE -- THEY HAD EIGHT YEARS OF CONTROL AS KEY MEMBERS OF THE PARTY IN POWER. AND THOSE YEARS WERE YEARS MARKED ONLY BY ESCALATION AND BY FAILURE.

BUT, THOSE YEARS ARE OVER NOW. BESIDES THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MEN HE HAS ALREADY BROUGHT HOME, PRESIDENT NIXON ANNOUNCED IN HIS LATEST TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION THAT ANOTHER 100,000 TROOPS WILL BE OUT OF VIETNAM BY DECEMBER.

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PREDICTS NEAR ZERO CASUALTIES

AND I HAVE A PREDICTION TO MAKE -- A PREDICTION BASED NOT ON INSIDE INFORMATION -- BUT ONE THAT, NEVERTHELESS, I AM CONFIDENT IS GOING TO BE PROVEN TRUE.

I PREDICT THAT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE AMERICAN CASUALTIES IN VIETNAM WILL BE AT OR NEAR ZERO. AND TO ME, THAT WILL MEAN MORE THAN ALL OF THE PLACARDS, ALL OF THE SLOGANS AND ALL OF THE PROTESTS OF THE MILITANTS AND THE IRRESPONSIBLE.

PRESIDENT NIXON DID NOT START THE WAR IN VIETNAM. BUT, JUST AS IKE ENDED THE FIGHTING IN KOREA, RICHARD NIXON IS ENDING OUR COMBAT INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. AND HE IS ENDING IT HONORABLY, IN A WAY THAT GIVES OUR ALLIES A FAIR CHANCE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND STAVE OFF A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER; AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO SURVIVE AS A FREE PEOPLE.

DEMOS CONTRADICT SELVES

NOW YOU MIGHT SUPPOSE THAT THESE ARE GOALS THAT ALL AMERICANS OF GOOD WILL COULD AGREE ON. YOU MIGHT THINK, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A MAN LIKE SENATOR MUSKIE, WHO ONCE SAID THAT TO ALLOW COMMUNIST AGGRESSION TO TRIUMPH IN VIETNAM WOULD BE TO "UNDERMINE THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AND PEACE" WOULD APPLAUD THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY FOR AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT.

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YOU MIGHT THINK THAT A MAN LIKE SENATOR BIRCH BAYH OF INDIANA WOULD, TOO, FOR IT WAS SENATOR BAYH WHO ONCE WARNED THAT "RESPONSIBLE AMERICANS REALIZE THAT GIVING IN TO AGGRESSORS CANNOT STOP THEM" AND THAT "THAT..... IS WHY WE ARE FIGHTING IN VIETNAM."

AND WHAT ABOUT HUBERT HUMPHREY? IT WAS SENATOR HUMPHREY WHO HELPED PUSH THE GULF OF TONKIN RESOLUTION THROUGH THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN 1964, AND WHO WARNED THAT "THE MINUTE WE BACK AWAY FROM COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM, WHERE THE COMMUNIST POWERS ARE GUILTY OF OUTRIGHT SUBVERSION AND AGGRESSION, ON THAT DAY THE STRENGTH, THE FREEDOM AND THE HONOR OF THE UNITED STATES STARTS TO BE ERODED."

WHERE ARE HIS WORDS OF COURAGE AND SUPPORT TODAY, WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON IS LEADING THIS NATION TO AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAM TRAGEDY?

OR, CONSIDER THE WORDS OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY. IN 1966, TEDDY KENNEDY WAS ASKED ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT IN VIETNAM. HIS ANSWER WAS CLEAR AND SIMPLE THEN. HE SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO UTILIZE

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EVERY RESOURCE IN OUR POWER WHETHER IT IS MILITARY OR DIPLOMATIC TO SEE THAT THIS COMMITMENT IS FULFILLED."

JOINED BUG-OUT BRIGADE

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT MEN WHO PROFESS TO BE NATIONAL LEADERS WOULD STAND BY THE PRESIDENT WHO IS SHOWING US THE WAY TO AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT. YOU MIGHT THINK THAT THEY WOULD BE TRUE TO THE COMMITMENTS I HAVE JUST QUOTED. YOU MIGHT THINK SO. BUT YOU'D BE WRONG.

TODAY THESE MEN NO LONGER TALK ABOUT AN HONORABLE, LASTING PEACE. THEY HAVE SIGNED UP INSTEAD WITH THE "BUG-OUT BRIGADE". AS ONE SENATOR SO ADMIRABLY PUT IT THE OTHER DAY, THEY HAVE TRIED TO MAKE A POLITICAL FOOTBALL OF THIS TRAGIC WAR.

I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SEE THROUGH THAT KIND OF POLITICS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE TOO MUCH GENUINE PROGRESS TOWARD ENDING OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR -- AND ENDING IT IN A WAY WE CAN BE PROUD OF -- FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT TO BE LOST IN A CLOUD OF MEANINGLESS POLITICAL RHETORIC.

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A LONG-RANGE ISSUE

FROM THE IMMEDIACY OF VIETNAM, I WOULD LIKE TO TURN FOR A FEW MINUTES TO A SUBJECT THAT IS OF MORE LONG-RANGE IMPORTANCE TO OUR NATIONAL WELFARE -- PERHAPS EVEN OUR NATIONAL SURVIVAL -- THAN ALL OF THE REST PUT TOGETHER. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU, AND YOUR NEIGHBORS, ARE ESPECIALLY AWARE OF ITS IMPORTANCE, AND EVEN PLAY A PART IN IT AT THE PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD. AND I KNOW THAT YOUR FINE REPRESENTATIVE, LARRY WILLIAMS, IS A FIRM AND EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS.

BUT AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, A MASSIVE ATTACK IS BEING MADE ON AMERICA'S KEY TO SURVIVAL -- OUR DEFENSE FORCES.

LESSON OF PEARL HARBOR

LAST MONTH I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO AN AUDIENCE IN HAWAII. THERE, TOO, I DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND THE UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK BEING LAUNCHED AGAINST OUR ARMED FORCES TODAY. BECAUSE IT WAS HAWAII -- AN OUTLYING LINK IN OUR CHAIN OF NATIONAL DEFENSES, AND THE SCENE, A GENERATION AGO, OF THE DAY THAT LIVED IN INFAMY --

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MISSILE FORCE.

ON TOP OF ALL THIS, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS DEVELOPING A NEW ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEM, SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE FOUR COMPLEXES NOW PROTECTING MOSCOW.

AND WITHIN RECENT WEEKS, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE RUSSIANS MAY BE SPEEDING UP DEVELOPMENT OF A NEWER, MORE DEVASTATING MODEL OF ICBM.

PATTERN CLEAR

THE PATTERN IS AS CLEAR AS IT IS OMINOUS. THE RUSSIANS AREN'T BUILDING AND DEPLOYING ALL OF THIS NUCLEAR ~~HARDWARE~~ JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT, OR TO MAINTAIN A "FULL-EMPLOYMENT ECONOMY." THEY MEAN BUSINESS, AND THEIR PAST RECORD AS AN AGGRESSOR SHOWS US EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS THEY MEAN.

ALL OF WHICH UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR OUR NATION TO LOOK AT ITS OWN DEFENSES, AND TO MAINTAIN THE KIND OF REALISTIC DETERRENCE ADVOCATED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD.

NEED FOR STRONG ECONOMICAL DEFENSE

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT UNCLE SAM SHOULD GIVE A BLANK CHECK TO THE PENTAGON. AS THE RECORD SHOWS, PRESIDENT NIXON IS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO TRIM THE UNNECESSARY FAT FROM OUR DEFENSE PROGRAM. THE FACT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAVED \$8 BILLION IN DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON SENT HIS BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1971 TO THE CONGRESS, SPENDING ON HUMAN RESOURCES SUCH AS HEALTH AND EDUCATION OUTPACED DEFENSE SPENDING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO DECADES.

THERE CAN BE NO DENYING THE DEDICATION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION -- AND ALL REASONABLE MEN -- TO AN ECONOMICAL NATIONAL DEFENSE. BUT TO ECONOMIZE IS NOT THE SAME THING AS TO DESTROY, ANY MORE THAN DIETING IS THE SAME THING AS STARVING TO DEATH.

THE WARNING OF HISTORY

HISTORY IS LITTERED WITH TRAGIC EXAMPLES OF GREAT AND LITTLE NATIONS THAT GREW COMPLACENT AND SELF-SATISFIED. IT IS LITTERED WITH CIVILIZATIONS THAT FLOWERED AND THEN LOST THE WILL AND THE STRENGTH NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL.

AS AMERICANS, WE ARE CITIZENS OF PERHAPS THE GREATEST NATION TO EMERGE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF RECORDED HISTORY. BESIDES OUR COUNTRY'S IMMENSE POWER AND WEALTH, IT HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A SET OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS UNRIVALED IN THE ANNALS OF MANKIND. AND YET, IF THE VOICES OF IRRESPON-

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SIBILITY TRIUMPH, AND AMERICA IS STRIPPED OF HER DEFENSES, FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY LOOK BACK ON US AS JUST ONE MORE EXTINCT CIVILIZATION THAT GREW RIPE AND THEN ROTTEN -- THAT PERISHED THROUGH ITS OWN WEAKNESS AND APATHY.

THAT IS A TRAGIC EPITAPH THAT NEVER SHOULD AND NEVER SHALL BE WRITTEN AS LONG AS DECENT, REASONABLE AMERICANS OF ALL PARTIES AND PERSUASIONS STAND BEHIND A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.

AS REPUBLICANS, WE HAVE A SPECIAL DUTY TO SUPPORT THE DEFENSE POLICIES OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. OUR SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SURVIVAL RUNS EVEN DEEPER. FOR WHEN WE TALK ABOUT NATIONAL DEFENSE, WE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES OF LITERALLY MILLIONS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN BELONGING TO THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

EACH OF YOU CAN HELP BY GETTING THIS MESSAGE ACROSS TO YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS, ALONG WITH THE WHOLE RANGE OF SUCCESS STORIES THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TO ITS CREDIT.

AS REPUBLICANS AND AS CONCERNED AMERICANS, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PASS THE WORD ALONG, AND STAND BEHIND THE PRESIDENT. I AM PROUD OF HIS RECORD, AS EACH OF YOU CAN BE. IT IS UP TO US TO GIVE THE MAN, AND THE OUTSTANDING JOB HE HAS DONE, OUR FULLEST, MOST EFFECTIVE SUPPORT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

Agree... can't be wanted
- Visit with H4m
... Dave Baumgart