

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE AT THE DEDICATION OF THE RYAN LIBRARY
SACRED HEART COLLEGE, WICHITA, KANSAS, SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1971

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON AT THE DEDICATION OF THE RYAN LIBRARY. OPENING A NEW LIBRARY MEANS OPENING THE MINDS OF PEOPLE TO MORE KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING.

THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF ANDREW CARNEGIE HAD NOT ENDOWED THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES WITH LIBRARIES. THEY GAVE THE AVERAGE MAN ACCESS TO THE GREAT IDEAS AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CENTURIES. THEY GAVE HIM SOMETHING TO STRIVE FOR, AND A MEANS OF ACQUIRING IT.

THE GROWTH OF LIBRARIES IN AMERICA IS A CRUCIAL INGREDIENT IN THE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS, BOTH SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL, THAT WE HAVE MADE AS A NATION IN THE PAST CENTURY.

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A SOURCE OF LIGHT AND LEARNING

IN OPENING THE DOORS OF THE RYAN LIBRARY, WE ARE GIVING TO THIS COLLEGE, A SOURCE OF LIGHT AND LEARNING THAT WILL NEVER STOP GIVING TO THIS COMMUNITY. EVERY NEW CLASS, EVERY NEW STUDENT WHO ENTERS THIS BUILDING WILL BENEFIT FROM IT. AND OUR WHOLE SOCIETY WILL GAIN FROM THE KNOWLEDGE EACH STUDENT ACQUIRES HERE.

WE CAN ALSO LEARN A LOT FROM THE THINGS THAT LED UP TO THE DEDICATION OF THIS LIBRARY COMPLEX. THEY TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT OURSELVES AND THE KIND OF SOCIETY WE LIVE IN. AND I THINK THEY ARE A SOURCE OF COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE FOR THOSE WHO FEAR THAT AMERICA IS LOSING THE MORAL FORCE AND COMMITMENT THAT BUILT OUR NATION.

THIS LIBRARY IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE A MAN WHO WAS HIMSELF DENIED A COLLEGE EDUCATION, RECOGNIZED THE BENEFITS IT BESTOWS. MR. JAMES J. RYAN, WITH A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS CAREER BEHIND HIM--A SUCCESSFUL CAREER THAT HE CERTAINLY DID NOT OWE TO OUR SYSTEM OF HIGHER

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EDUCATION--DECIDED TO GIVE THE STUDENTS OF SACRED HEART A LIBRARY THAT WOULD ADD TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

FOUNDATION OF COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

THIS GENEROUS GIFT MADE THE REST OF THE STORY POSSIBLE. IT IS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT WAS BUILT.

AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS, ONE GOOD WORK GENERATED OTHERS. A CHAIN REACTION OF COOPERATION AND GOODWILL WAS SET OFF BY MR. RYAN'S GENEROSITY.

I CAN REMEMBER THE PICTURES CARRIED IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS WHO TURNED OUT ON DECEMBER 10 and 11 TO CARRY 45 THOUSAND BOOKS FROM THEIR OLD LOCATION TO THE NEW FACILITY.

GOOD "STREET DEMONSTRATION"

AT A TIME WHEN THE HEADLINES ARE OFTEN HOGGED BY NEGATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS, HERE WAS A DISPLAY OF RESPONSIBILITY AND GOODWILL THAT OLD

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AND YOUNG SHARED TOGETHER. IT WAS GOOD FOR THE LIBRARY, IT WAS GOOD FOR WICHITA, AND I THINK IT WAS GOOD FOR THE NATIONAL MORALE.

THE BOOK WALK GAVE US ALL A WELCOME REMINDER THAT TEAM WORK AND VOLUNTARY EFFORT WILL STILL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THAT MOST YOUNG AMERICANS ARE EAGER TO DO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE-- TO DO WORK FOR SOMETHING. IT WAS THE KIND OF "STREET DEMONSTRATION" WE COULD USE MORE OF.

ECUMENICAL SPIRIT OF EXCHANGE

BUT IT WAS NOT THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS LIBRARY PROJECT HAS HELPED TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER. ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM THAT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN SACRED HEART AND FRIENDS UNIVERSITY.

BY MAKING THE RESOURCES OF EACH LIBRARY AVAILABLE TO THE STUDENTS OF BOTH SCHOOLS, THIS PROGRAM HAS BROADENED THE HORIZONS OF THE STUDENTS, AND GIVEN US ALL A SMALL BUT HEARTENING EXAMPLE OF THE ECUMENICAL SPIRIT.

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THE VALUE OF BOTH OF THESE FINE SCHOOLS HAS BEEN INCREASED THROUGH CLEAR THINKING AND COOPERATION. AT A TIME WHEN MANY ARE QUESTIONING THE MORAL ROOTS OF OUR SOCIETY AND OUR CIVILIZATION, TWO WICHITA SCHOOLS HAVE GIVEN US A GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF THE GOLDEN RULE'S PRACTICAL VALUE AND RELEVANCE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

GOOD BOOKS ARE FOR GOOD PEOPLE

WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID THAT THE BEST INVESTMENT ANY COMMUNITY CAN MAKE IN ITS FUTURE IS PUTTING MILK INTO BABIES. HE CERTAINLY HAD A POINT. BUT ANOTHER GREAT INVESTMENT FOR ANY COMMUNITY IS PUTTING GOOD BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF GOOD PEOPLE-- PASSING ON THE TORCH OF LEARNING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF SHARING AND GOODWILL. THAT IS WHAT HAS BEEN BEGUN HERE BY SACRED HEART--- AND WE ARE ALL THE RICHER FOR IT.

AGE OF CHALLENGE

PRESIDENT NIXON HAS SAID THAT THIS DAY AND AGE WE LIVE IN,

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WITH ITS TREMENDOUS FRUSTRATIONS AND EQUALLY TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES,
IS PROBABLY THE MOST EXCITING TIME FOR A YOUNG AMERICAN TO BE ALIVE.
IF WE ALL COULD APPLY THE SPIRIT OF THIS OCCASION MORE WIDELY IN OUR
EVERYDAY LIVES, IT WOULD ALSO BE THE MOST HELPFUL, PROMISING TIME FOR
ANY AMERICAN TO BE ALIVE IN.

IT IS TRUE THAT WE FACE GREAT CHALLENGES. BUT I HAVE FAITH THAT
MOST YOUNG AMERICANS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO RESPOND TO THOSE CHALLENGES.
TRYING TIMES BRING OUT THE BEST IN GOOD PEOPLE AND THE WORST IN BAD
PEOPLE---WHICH EXPLAINS SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND DISASTERS OF THE
PAST FEW YEARS.

BUT I BELIEVE THERE IS MORE GOOD THAN BAD IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE--
BE THEY YOUNG OR OLD, BLACK OR WHITE. AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE CON-
FIDENCE IN THE FUTURE WE SHARE.

NOT THE FIRST TIME

OUR COUNTRY IS PASSING THROUGH A TIME OF TESTING. BUT IT IS NOT
THE FIRST TIME, AND WITH GOD'S HELP, IT WILL NOT BE THE LAST.

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

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 THERE MIGHT BE AN AMERICAN NATION. HISTORIANS ESTIMATE THAT NO MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FELLOW COLONISTS EVER ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE PATRIOT CAUSE, WITH ALMOST AS MANY AMERICANS BACKING THE BRITISH. THERE WERE PROBABLY EVEN A FEW CRITICS WHO ACCUSED GEORGE WASHINGTON OF "WIDENING THE WAR" WHEN HE CROSSED THE DELAWARE THAT CHRISTMAS NIGHT IN 1776.

AMERICA SURVIVED "POLARIZATION"

AGAIN, A LITTLE MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, AMERICA FACED ANOTHER GREAT TEST--A BLOODY, FRATRICIDAL CIVIL WAR. IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME WHEN AMERICA WAS "POLARIZED"; IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME TO DESPAIR, AND DECIDE THAT THE SYSTEM HAD FAILED AND THE FUTURE WAS HOPELESS, IT

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WAS DURING THE EARLY 1860'S, WHEN THE NATION WAS LITERALLY TORN ASUNDER, AND AN ENTIRE PEOPLE WERE PLUNGED INTO A BLOODY NIGHTMARE. RECONCILIATION SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE. BUT FINALLY--AFTER YEARS OF SLOW, PAINFUL REBUILDING---RECONCILIATION CAME.

AND THERE ARE THE MILLIONS OF SMALLER HUMAN TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES THAT EVERY IMMIGRANT FAMILY THAT EVER CAME TO OUR SHORES HAS FACED---AND EVERY POOR FAMILY, AND EVERY BLACK FAMILY AND EVERY ETHNIC FAMILY AS WELL.

THE GOING HAS NEVER BEEN EASY FOR MOST OF OUR PEOPLE, THOUGH WE SOMETIMES TEND TO FORGET THIS IN AN AGE OF AFFLUENCE. EACH OF THESE GREAT AND LITTLE ORDEALS MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED A WEAKER PEOPLE OR A MORE INADEQUATE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. DURING EACH OF THEM, THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE--OFTEN VERY ARTICULATE, VERY CONVINCING PEOPLE--WHO ACTUALLY DID GIVE UP, AND TRIED TO PASS THEIR PESSIMISM ON TO THE REST. SOME OF THEM RETURNED TO THE OPPRESSION OF THE OLD WORLD. OTHERS SOUGHT ELUSIVE RICHES IN AFRICA AND THE ORIENT. SOME OF THEM, EVEN THEN, CROSSED THE BORDER TO CANADA--ALTHOUGH THIS WAS LONG BEFORE

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THE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT HAD BEEN PASSED. BUT MOST OF THEM STAYED ON, SHRUGGING THEIR SHOULDERS AND MOCKING THE EFFORTS OF THE DOERS. THE MORE YOU STUDY AMERICAN HISTORY, THE MORE YOU COME TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW ABOUT PESSIMISM. DESPAIR IS THE OLDEST COP-OUT THERE IS. THERE WERE SOME WHO SAID EVERYTHING WAS HOPELESS AT PLYMOUTH ROCK. THERE WERE SOME WHO WANTED TO GIVE UP AT VALLEY FORGE. THERE WERE SOME WHO SAID THAT THE CIVIL WAR MEANT THE END OF "ONE NATION UNDER GOD". AND THERE ARE SOME TODAY WHO STILL ECHO THE HOLLOW DESPAIR OF THE PAST.

AMERICA BUILDS JUSTER SOCIETY

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SHORTAGE OF THOSE WHO PREDICTED, AT EACH NEW CRISES, THAT AMERICA WAS A "SICK" SOCIETY RUSHING TOWARDS SELF-DESTRUCTION.

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

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THAT, OF COURSE, IS A GOAL WE CAN NEVER COMPLETELY ACHIEVE.
NO SOCIETY MADE UP OF HUMAN BEINGS, WITH ALL OF THEIR VIRTUES
AND VICES, WILL EVER BE PERFECT. BUT A SOCIETY BASED ON JUSTICE
AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CAN AND WILL IMPROVE.

IT CAN AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXTEND THE OPPORTUNITIES AND
FREEDOM IT OFFERS TO AN EVER GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK DOWN THE LONG HARD ROAD WE TOOK TO BECOME
A NATION, THE CONCLUSION IS INESCAPABLE. WE HAVE NOT COME ALL THIS
WAY SIMPLY TO SIGN AND TOSS IN THE SPONGE IN THE FACE OF A NEW SET
OF CHALLENGES.

CAPACITY FOR REFORM

YOUNG AND OLD, WE HAVE NOT LOST OUR CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK,
COURAGE AND COMPASSION, AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS NOT LOST
ITS CAPACITY FOR HUMANE REFORM.

THAT CAN ONLY HAPPEN IF WE TURN OUR BACKS ON IT; IF WE ALLOW
OUR MINDS TO BE POISONED AND OUR SPIRITS DRAINED BY THE VOICES OF
HATRED, DISTRUST AND DESPAIR.

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I KNOW THAT THESE VOICES HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN WASHINGTON, DESPITE THE LOUDNESS AND FREQUENCY OF THE ATTACKS, AND, LOOKING AROUND ME HERE THIS AFTERNOON, I KNOW THAT THEY HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED AT SACRED HEART.

WELL, AS SIR JOHN FALSTAFF ONCE PUT IT, "SO ENDS MY CATECHISM". IT IS A CATECHISM OF FAITH IN THE BASIC DECENCY OF AMERICANS OF ALL AGES, AND THE WAY OF LIFE THEY HAVE BUILT.

AND EVERY TIME A NEW LIBRARY, HOSPITAL OR COLLEGE OPENS ITS DOORS, THAT FAITH IS REAFFIRMED.

TODAY MARKS MORE THAN JUST THE DEDICATION OF A VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY--IMPORTANT THOUGH THAT IS. WE ARE MARKING THE CONSECRATION OF A LIVING, GROWING IDEAL THAT IS A VITAL PART OF WICHITA--NOT JUST A PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF BOOKS, AND MAGAZINES, STEEL AND CONCRETE.

THE RYAN LIBRARY 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 WICHITA, KANSAS, AND THE NATION.