

MF-9-1545

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

SUMMER KICK-OFF BANQUET  
JOHNSON COUNTY COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE  
GLENWOOD MANOR  
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS  
FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1971

362 -

6241

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN JOHNSON COUNTY THIS EVENING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE START OF YOUR SUMMER DRUG PROGRAM.

THE FEATURE OF THIS PROGRAM WHICH IS MOST IMPRESSIVE TO ME IS THE FACT THAT IT IS A GENUINE COMMUNITY EFFORT. OF COURSE, IT IS NOT SURPRISING TO SEE THIS EFFORT~~BEING~~ MADE HERE, BECAUSE JOHNSON COUNTY HAS A NATIONWIDE REPUTATION FOR ITS SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND FOR ITS PRIDE IN BEING A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE. YOUR COUNTY RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY AS BEING ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING METROPOLITAN REGIONS IN AMERICA. BUT JOHNSON COUNTY HAS ADDITIONALLY MADE A REPUTATION FOR ITSELF IN TERMS OF ITS MANY UNDERTAKINGS TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THIS AREA AS THE TYPE OF PLACE ITS CITIZENS WANT IT TO BECOME. AND THIS REPUTATION, MORE THAN MERE STATISTICS REFLECTING ADDITIONAL POPULATION AND PROPERTY VALUES, IS THE REAL MEASURE OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

-2-

JOHNSON COUNTY CONTAINS MANY OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF WHAT INVOLVED AND CONCERNED CITIZENS CAN ACHIEVE. ONE ONLY HAS TO DRIVE THROUGH THE COUNTY AND SEE THE CLEAN, WELL-KEPT NEIGHBORHOODS; THE MANY MODERN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES; THE PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND MANY RECREATIONAL AREAS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A VITAL, ACTIVE AND DYNAMIC AREA. AND ONE ALSO KNOWS THAT THIS PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE SET COMMON GOALS, IDENTIFIED SHARED PROBLEMS -- AND ABOVE ALL, BECAUSE THEY HAVE WORKED TOGETHER.

#### EARLIER PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS

IN EARLIER TIMES, PROBLEMS FACING THE TOWNS AND CITIES IN JOHNSON COUNTY WERE CHIEFLY ASSOCIATED WITH STIMULATING AND DIRECTING THE AREA'S GROWTH. ZONING PROBLEMS NEEDED TO BE SETTLED, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES HAD TO BE BUILT, STREETS AND HIGHWAYS NEEDED TO BE PLANNED, NEW BUSINESS WAS SOUGHT AND PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES REQUIRED PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION. THESE WERE SOME OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS FACING THIS AREA IN THE DECADES OF THE 50'S AND 60'S. BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT COMPLETE SOLUTIONS WERE FOUND

-3-

IN EVERY AREA OR THAT ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES HAVE NOT DEVELOPED. BUT THE STRENGTH OF YOUR EFFORTS CAN BE GAUGED BY THE BROAD AND IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS YOU HAVE MADE. JOHNSON COUNTY, BECAUSE OF ITS CITIZENS' UNTIRING EFFORTS AND DETERMINED COOPERATION, IS BECOMING A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE, TO WORK, AND TO RAISE FAMILIES.

CONTINUING EFFORTS NEEDED

THE MAJOR PROBLEM WITH SUCCESS IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES HOWEVER, IS THAT THE WORK IS NEVER FINISHED AND THE LAURELS OF PAST ACCOMPLISHMENT DO NOT STAY FRESH FOR LONG.

WINSTON CHURCHILL STATED THE MATTER WITH HIS USUAL PRECISION WHEN HE SAID:

"HUMAN BEINGS AND HUMAN SOCIETIES ARE NOT STRUCTURES THAT ARE BUILT OR MACHINES THAT ARE FORGED. THEY ARE PLANTS THAT GROW AND MUST BE TENDED AS SUCH."



-4-

TODAY IN JOHNSON COUNTY TENDING THE GROWTH OF HUMAN BEINGS AND THE GROWTH OF HUMAN SOCIETY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS EVER IN THE PAST. IN FACT, IN CERTAIN WAYS IT MAY BE EVER MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PROCESS OF MATURE GROWTH -- FOR INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS SOCIETIES -- REQUIRES GREAT CARE TO GUARD AGAINST THREATS TO THE CONTINUED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF EACH.

THE THREAT OF DRUG ABUSE

SUCH A THREAT EXISTS TODAY IN DRUG ABUSE. THIS THREAT IS CERTAINLY NOT UNIQUE TO YOUR AREA. IT EXISTS EVERYWHERE IN OUR NATION. BUT THE DANGER IT POSES IS NO LESS REAL THAN IF IT WERE ONLY A PROBLEM HERE.

THE DANGER OF DRUG ABUSE IS NOT JUST TO INDIVIDUAL YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. FOR THEM, OF COURSE, IT RAISES A WHOLE NEW RANGE OF LEGAL, MORAL, HEALTH AND SOCIAL RISKS. BUT IN A BROADER SENSE, DRUG ABUSE THREATENS THE WHOLE OF SOCIETY AND TOUCHES EVERY ELEMENT AND SPECIAL SEGMENT IN IT.

- 5 -

NARROW APPROACHES

ALL ACROSS AMERICA IN RECENT YEARS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH DRUG ABUSE. PARENTS HAVE WORRIED OVER IT. SCHOOLS AND POLICE HAVE TRIED TO CONTEND WITH IT. THE MEDICAL PROFESSION HAS STUDIED IT. AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO COPE WITH THE RESULTS OF IT. MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN, MORE HAS BEEN DEBATED AND STILL MORE HAS BEEN PHILOSOPHIZED OVER IT.

BUT THE MAJOR CHARACTERISTIC ABOUT DRUG ABUSE CONTROL EFFORTS HAS BEEN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN NARROW AND RELATED TO THE SPECIAL PREJUDICES OF WHATEVER GROUP OR BODY HAS UNDERTAKEN THEM. ARREST, EDUCATION, MEDICATION, COUNSELLING -- ALL OF THESE HAVE BEEN TRIED. AND ALL OF THESE REMEDIES, WHEN UNDERTAKEN ALONE AND IN ISOLATION, HAVE FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH ANY MEANINGFUL PROGRESS AGAINST THE THREAT OF DRUGS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO THE SOCIETY OF WHICH THEY FORM SUCH A VITAL PART.

-6-

A COMMUNITY-WIDE APPROACH

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, JOHNSON COUNTY HAS MADE A REPUTATION AS A COMMUNITY-MINDED AREA THAT WORKS TOGETHER AND WORKS TOGETHER SUCCESSFULLY.

IT IS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING THEREFORE TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE TURNED THIS COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE. TONIGHT'S BANQUET REPRESENTS MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE START OF A PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMER OF 1971. IT SERVES NOTICE TO EVERYONE THAT THE PEOPLE OF JOHNSON COUNTY ARE AGAIN ON THE MOVE -- THAT YOU ARE UNITED AND DEDICATED TO ACHIEVING THE SAME SUCCESS IN THIS PROBLEM AREA THAT YOU HAVE HAD IN SO MANY OTHER ENDEAVORS.

I HAVE SEEN THE WORK THAT THE JOHNSON COUNTY COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE HAS DONE IN ORGANIZING THE D.I.G. AND A.I.G. PROGRAMS. IT IS THOROUGH AND COMPREHENSIVE. THE PROGRAMS THEMSELVES ARE IMAGINATIVE, AND THEY ARE AIMED AT RESULTS, NOT JUST NICE-SOUNDING IDEAS.



-7-

BUT WHAT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE BROAD INVOLVEMENT OF SO MANY SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY -- LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATORS, P.T.A., COUNTY GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS AND ORDINARY CITIZENS IN THIS COMMITMENT TO COMBATTING THE THREAT OF DRUG ABUSE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES.

I KNOW THE FACT THAT I AM IMPRESSED BY YOUR EFFORTS REFLECTS SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST PRIDE IN THE WORK OF KANSANS, FOR MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE SEEN THE COUNCIL'S PLANS HAVE ALSO BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED.

LEAA GRANT AWARD

NOT THE LEAST OF THESE OTHER PARTIES HAS BEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ALL OF YOU ARE AWARE OF THE WORK THE COUNCIL HAS DONE TO OBTAIN FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE D.I.G. AND A.I.G. PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS FOR THE FULL DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM. EARLY THIS YEAR, AN EXTENSIVE AND EXTREMELY WELL-DOCUMENTED GRANT APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. I BELIEVE THIS PROPOSAL WAS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE AND MOST THOUGHTFULLY PREPARED PLANS EVER PUT TOGETHER TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE ANYWHERE IN AMERICA. AND EVIDENTLY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT THOUGHT SO TOO, BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE GRANT APPLICATION HAS RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL IN WAHSINGTON, AND THE AWARD WILL BE MADE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,050.

-8-

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM WHEELER AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO HAVE~~P~~UT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO ORGANIZING THESE PROGRAMS AND PREPARING THE GRANT APPLICATION.

THE CITIZENS OF JOHNSON COUNTY ARE ALSO TO BE CONGRATUATED FOR GIVING THEIR VALUABLE SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS WORK.

MUCH WORK STILL REQUIRED

ONCE AGAIN, THE DETERMINATION AND COOPERATION OF JOHNSON COUNTY'S CITIZENS HAVE BEEN HARNESSSED TO SOLVE A COMMUNITY PROBLEM. JUDGING BY THE SUCCESS YOU HAVE HAD IN THE PAST, I BELIEVE THIS PROGRAM -- WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND HARD WORK -- HAS GREAT CHANCES OF ACHIEVING ITS GOALS. THE PROGRAM AND THE EXAMPLE OF THE DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL WILL, IN MY OPINION, SERVE AS A MODEL FOR EFFORTS IN OTHER LOCALITIES.



-9-

NOW THAT YOUR GRANT HAS BEEN APPROVED, YOUR WORK CAN GET UNDERWAY ON A FULL SCALE. THE CHALLENGE IS SUBSTANTIAL, BUT SUCCESS WILL REPAY YOUR EFFORTS IN DIVIDENDS OF A STRONGER COMMUNITY AND A BETTER CHANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT AND THE WORLD IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING, AND BEST WISHES FOR A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.