

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

MARINERS' CLUB DINNER
VILLAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KANSAS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1971

"AMERICA: A PROGRESS REPORT"

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS EVENING -- TO
BE BACK HOME HERE IN KANSAS.

I LEFT WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON TO FLY OUT HERE AND, OF COURSE,
I ALWAYS ENJOY ANY CHANCE TO GET BACK TO KANSAS -- BUT IT IS ESPECIALLY
BEAUTIFUL THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. THE LAND IS CHANGING, MOVING INTO
AUTUMN -- YOU CAN SEE THE RICH FIELDS AND ORCHARDS HARVESTED OR
BEING HARVESTED, AND THERE IS THE SENSE OF ANOTHER YEAR WANING.
ANOTHER GOOD YEAR.

- A GREAT NATION -

IT IS A GOOD THING, PERHAPS, TO FLY ACROSS AMERICA LIKE THIS,
AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR -- TO SEE IN ONE SWEEP THE GREAT BOUNTY OF
AMERICA, TO SEE SO MANY OF THE BLESSINGS OF OUR LAND, AND TO SEE,
TOO, THE PRODUCT OF THE HARD WORK OF AMERICANS. YOU KNOW THERE ARE
PROBLEMS DOWN THERE WHICH YOU CANNOT SEE. BUT YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE
EQUAL TO OUR PROBLEMS -- YOU KNOW THAT THINGS ARE WELL IN AMERICA.
IT'S PRETTY REASSURING AFTER READING SOME OF THE EDITORIALS IN THE
NEW YORK TIMES TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS REALLY
NOT ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION.

I THOUGHT I WOULD BRING YOU THAT COMFORTING THOUGHT TONIGHT.
I KNOW IT IS VERY GENERAL, BUT I THINK IT IS VERY WELL FOUNDED.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INDICES BY WHICH WE
CAN MEASURE AMERICA'S PROGRESS IN THE LAST YEAR -- PERHAPS I SHOULD
SAY IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, BECAUSE WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS THE
ACCUMULATED THRUST OF THE NIXON ERA: IT IS POSITIVE, IT IS
PROGRESSIVE, AND ITS HALLMARK IS PERFORMANCE.

IN THOSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BY WHICH NATIONS DETERMINE THEIR
FUTURE IN THE WORLD AND, IN SOME CASES, WHETHER THE WORLD HAS A
FUTURE, GREAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE, AND GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN
MADE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THE PRIORITIES IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE
ARE FIRST, TO ACHIEVE IT, OF COURSE; AND, SECOND, TO MAINTAIN IT.
THE PRESIDENT HAS MOVED VIGOROUSLY AND SKILLFULLY IN BOTH AREAS.

- A REAL END TO WAR -

ENDING A WAR, PARTICULARLY A WAR SUCH AS WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN IN VIETNAM, IS A DELICATE BUSINESS. IT IS DELICATE, ABOVE ALL ELSE, BECAUSE THERE ARE THE LIVES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AT STAKE. PART OF THE BUSINESS OF GETTING OUT OF VIETNAM ABSOLUTELY MUST BE TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE PRISONERS -- TO GET THEM OUT OF VIETNAM. AND IT IS A DELICATE BUSINESS BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO INSURE THAT ENDING THE WAR IN VIETNAM BRINGS A TRUE END TO WAR AND A NEW BIRTH OF PEACE IN ALL OF ASIA.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN EUROPE LED TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR AROUND THE GLOBE. THE SECOND WORLD WAR SPREAD THE SEEDS OF SO MANY OF THE WARS WHICH HAVE COME SUBSEQUENTLY -- KOREA, INDOCHINA, ALGERIA, AND VIETNAM ITSELF.

IF WE ARE TO HAVE A GENERATION OF PEACE IN THE WORLD, WE CANNOT SIMPLY SETTLE FOR A TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF WAR AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. WE MUST PURSUE THE LONG, HARD PATH WHICH LEADS TO A JUST AND EQUITABLE PEACE THAT CAN BE KEPT. THIS IS THE AGONY OF THE FINAL DAYS OF VIETNAM -- TO BRING A REAL END TO THE FIGHTING AND THE DYING -- AND NOT JUST A POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT END WHICH LEADS TO ANOTHER OUTBREAK IN SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR OR TWO YEARS.

- INITIATIVES FOR PEACE -

EVEN AS HE MOVES TO END VIETNAM, THE PRESIDENT IS ACTING TO KEEP THE PEACE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, TO MAKE IT A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE THAT ALL PARTIES WILL HAVE AN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING. IN THE MIDDLE EAST THE WORK GOES ON. IT IS SLOW WORK, HAMPERED BY THE ANCIENT HATREDS OF ONE PEOPLE AND THE OBSTINATE WILL OF ANOTHER PEOPLE TO SURVIVE -- TO LIVE. BUT THE SHOOTING HAS BEEN STOPPED. AS LONG AS IT IS STOPPED, THE HOPE GROWS THAT REASONABLE MEN MAY FIND REASONABLE WAYS TO INSURE THAT IT WILL NOT START AGAIN.

CHINA IS A WORLD POWER -- A POWER THAT FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE IS GOING TO HELP DETERMINE THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE WORLD. TO IGNORE THIS, TO ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE A NATION OF SUCH POTENTIAL DANGER AND OF SUCH POTENTIAL PROMISE IS TO KNEEL TO THE IRRESPONSIBLE FANTASIES OF THE FEW WHO WOULD REJECT REALITY AT THE EXPENSE OF ALL. NO PRUDENT MAN WOULD DO THIS. NO AMERICAN PRESIDENT CAN AFFORD TO.

A FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE FUTURE CANNOT BE SHAPED BY THE RESENTMENTS OF THE PAST, NOR DISTORTED BY THE HATREDS BORN OF LOST OPPORTUNITY. IT IS TO KEEP THE PEACE WE PRAY FOR -- THE PEACE PRESIDENT NIXON IS WORKING FOR -- THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE HIS HISTORIC JOURNEY TO PEKING IN THE COMING DAYS.

THERE ARE THOSE, OF COURSE, WHO SAY HE SHOULDN'T GO -- THAT IT IS BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO GO TO CHINA. THIS IS NONSENSE. THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD GO ANYWHERE IN SEARCH OF PEACE. HISTORY WILL DETERMINE ON HIS DIGNITY, AND GENERATIONS OF GRATEFUL AND ALIVE CHILDREN WILL WRITE THAT HISTORY. I BELIEVE IT WILL SAY, AS WAS SAID OF OLD -- "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS". AND SO HE IS GOING.

- DOMESTIC CHALLENGES -

AT HOME, THE RECORD IS EQUALLY PROMISING AND THE EFFORTS EQUALLY VIGOROUS. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS BEFORE THE CONGRESS -- MATTERS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE WHICH REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION, AND HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED SUCH ACTION.

THE NEEDS OF THE NATION ARE GREAT, AND IT WILL TAKE GREAT WISDOM AND GREAT COOPERATION TO MEET THOSE NEEDS. I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS WILL RISE TO THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH IT HAS YET TO MEET IN MANY VITAL AREAS.

THESE INCLUDE WELFARE REFORM TO CLEAN UP THE DEGRADING WELFARE MESS WHICH BENEFITS NO ONE, AND WASTES THE TAX DOLLAR OF THE AMERICAN WORKER.

IT INCLUDES REVENUE SHARING, AIMED AT HELPING PUT THE TAX RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE AT THOSE LEVELS WHERE THEY CAN BE MOST WISELY SPENT -- AS THEY CANNOT BE WISELY SPENT NOW BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE SOME AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WHO BALK AT THE IDEA OF ALLOWING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO RUN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THIS IS A PRETTY REACTIONARY VIEW, AND MAYBE IT IS -- BUT IT IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED, AND I KNOW THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES IN IT. WE HOPE WE CAN GET THE CONGRESS TO ACCEPT IT -- EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF GIVING UP A LITTLE OF THEIR OWN POWER.

OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS INCLUDES GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION. THE FIRST STEP HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN: POSTMASTER GENERAL BLOUNT VERY SKILLFULLY MANEUVERED POSTAL REFORM THROUGH THE CONGRESS AND INTO LAW AND THE NEW POSTAL SERVICE IS NOW IN OPERATION. AS SOON AS IT IS ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE FULL REFORM PROGRAM, WE WILL SEE A VERY DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN THE U.S. MAIL SERVICE. FULL REFORM IS ESTIMATED TO REQUIRE ABOUT FIVE YEARS.

IN OTHER AREAS, THE EFFORT FOR REORGANIZATION HAS NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL -- BUT THE PLAN IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS, AND THE SIMPLE DEMANDS OF GOVERNING A COMPLEX NATION IN COMPLEX TIMES WILL VERY SOON DEMONSTRATE TO THEM THAT REORGANIZATION REALLY IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME.

WE ARE AWAITING MOVEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA -- I KNOW THERE ARE SOME -- PARTICULARLY IN CONGRESS -- WHO THINK THE WAY TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA IS TO KICK THE DOCTORS. THEY SEEM TO THINK YOU CAN IMPROVE MEDICAL CARE WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

YOU KNOW, THAT WOULD BE LIKE TRYING TO RUN THE COUNTRY WITHOUT THE CONGRESS -- JUST COULDN'T BE DONE. MAYBE IF IT WERE PRESENTED TO THEM THAT WAY, THEY'D UNDERSTAND IT BETTER. BUT HEALTH CARE IS STILL ON THE AGENDA.

SO IS THE SPECIAL OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THIS OFFICE ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY EXECUTIVE ORDER. THERE IS PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THE WAR ON DRUG ABUSE IN AMERICA. IT IS A SLOW AND PAINSTAKING PROGRESS, AND THERE IS A LOT OF LEARNING GOING ON IN THE PROCESS.

BUT WE ARE MOVING FORWARD AND IN THE END, WE ARE GOING TO END THE DRUG MENACE IN AMERICA; WE ARE GOING TO CLOSE OFF THE SOURCES OF DRUGS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN -- THIS IS ONE PRONG OF THE EXTENSIVE FEDERAL EFFORT UNDER WAY NOW. THE OTHER PRONG IS TO REHABILITATE THOSE WHO ARE ADDICTED, TO TAKE UP THAT HEAVY BURDEN, AND LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE. THIS WORK, TOO, IS GOING FORWARD.

- PROGRAMS FOR A SOUND ECONOMY -

THE ECONOMY REQUIRED DRASTIC MEASURES. DRASTIC MEASURES WERE TAKEN. I THINK MOST OF YOU LISTENED YESTERDAY EVENING, AND YOU KNOW THAT THE RESULTS OF THE WAGE-PRICE FREEZE HAVE BEEN VERY PROMISING.

THE PRESIDENT IS NOT GOING TO LET THE GAINS REALIZED UNDER THE FREEZE BE LOST BY LIFTING ALL RESTRAINTS AND THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND. INSTEAD, A CAREFUL PROCESS OF RESTORATION TO REALLY SOUND, SOLID ECONOMIC GROWTH IS BEING UNDERTAKEN. YOU CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESIDENT'S BELIEF THAT, AS HE SAID, "1972 CAN BE A GREAT YEAR".

I DO KNOW THAT UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS STILL PERSIST, AND I KNOW IT IS POINTLESS AND MAY EVEN SOUND CRUEL FOR ME TO SAY, WELL, EVERYTHING IS FINE IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, TO A MAN WHO DOESN'T HAVE A JOB.

THE PRESENT UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE SOLUTION TO ANOTHER PROBLEM -- WHICH IS THE WAR IN VIETNAM. IT IS ENDING, AS I HAVE SAID. WE ARE SHIFTING FROM A WAR-TIME ECONOMY TO A PEACE-TIME ECONOMY. IN THE PROCESS, A LARGE NUMBER OF DEFENSE-ORIENTED POSITIONS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED -- NEARLY TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION POSITIONS. THIS MEANS THAT OUT OF THE APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILLION PEOPLE UNEMPLOYED TODAY, ABOUT HALF HAVE BEEN PUT OUT OF WORK BY THE COMING OF PEACE. IT IS A HARD PRICE -- BUT IT IS NOT PERMANENT. AND AS PAINFUL AS IT IS, WHAT MAN WOULDN'T PAY IT?

WHEN YOU LIFT THOSE TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION JOBS OUT OF THE EQUATION, YOU WILL FIND THAT PRESENT UNEMPLOYMENT IS THREE PERCENT LOWER THAN IT HAS BEEN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1953. SO I THINK IT IS VERY OBVIOUS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC DIRECTION IS SOUND, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MOST OF THOSE UNEMPLOYED -- CERTAINLY THOSE DISPLACED BY THE HIGHER PRIORITY OF PEACE -- WILL SOON BE ABSORBED AGAIN INTO A VIGOROUS AND GROWING ECONOMY. EVEN NOW, THE ECONOMIC STEPS BEING TAKEN WILL HELP TO EXPAND THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW PEACETIME ECONOMY.

- A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE -

FINALLY, I SUPPOSE IT IS INEVITABLE AS ONE FLIES ACROSS THE FACE OF AMERICA IN THE FALL, THAT THERE IS A SORT OF SERENITY, A FEELING OF TRANQUILITY ON THE LAND -- IT IS NOT A LACK OF ENERGY, NOR IS IT SELF-SATISFACTION NOR, CERTAINLY, IS THERE ANY SENSE OF RESIGNATION. THERE IS, I THINK, RATHER A SENSE OF THINGS BEING ON THE RAILS AGAIN AND GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

A CONFIDENT PEOPLE, HAVING WORKED HARD AND, IT IS TRUE, HAVING SUFFERED MUCH IN THE LONG YEARS SINCE THE EARLY AND MIDDLE SIXTIES, ARE CONTENT TO REST A MOMENT -- CERTAIN OF THEMSELVES, TESTED IN THE CRUCIBLE OF THOSE HARD YEARS, THEY HAVE REMINDED THEMSELVES AGAIN THAT THEY ARE AS STRONG AS THEY WILL THEMSELVES TO BE, AS WISE AS THEY NEED TO BE, AS GREAT AS THEY DARE TO BE.

THINGS ARE WELL IN AMERICA IN THIS FALL OF 1971, AND AS WE TURN TO OUR THANKSGIVING TABLES NEXT MONTH, WE CAN THANK GOD NOT ONLY FOR SUSTENANCE, NOT ONLY FOR THE WILL TO GO ON -- BUT WE CAN SAY THANK YOU, TOO, FOR MANY OF OUR NATION'S PRAYERS NOW ANSWERED AT LAST.