

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Dole". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located in the upper right corner of the page.

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1972

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN HOUSTON TODAY WITH YOU. AND IT IS BOTH A PLEASURE AND A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORUM WITH CONGRESSMAN HALE BOGGS, THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. AND I MIGHT ADD, THAT IT IS PARTICULARLY REFRESHING BECAUSE IT IS GETTING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND A DEMOCRAT MEMBER OF CONGRESS LIKE YOURSELF, HALE, WHO IS NOT SEEKING THE WHITE HOUSE.

I DO WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY BOTH TO MEET WITH SO MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE ASSEMBLED HERE FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND ALSO TO GET AWAY FROM WASHINGTON FOR A LITTLE WHILE. THE LATTER I FIND NOT ONLY REFRESHING, BUT PARTICULARLY USEFUL AT THE START OF A NEW SESSION OF CONGRESS.

PEOPLE WHO WORK IN WASHINGTON, PRESUMABLY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY AT LARGE, SEEM TO HAVE THE IDEA THAT WASHINGTON IS THE COUNTRY. IN THEIR HASTE TO DO GOOD FOR EVERYONE AND TO DEVISE

-2-

FORMULAS FOR HOW YOU OUGHT TO BE RUNNING YOUR STATE GOVERNMENTS AND YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EVEN YOUR PERSONAL LIVES, THEY OFTEN LOSE SIGHT OF THE LIMITS OF THEIR POWER AND THE VARIETY OF PEOPLE AND THE VARIETY OF THEIR PEOPLE'S NEEDS IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. I WISH EVERY MEMBER OF CONGRESS WOULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT WE DO IN WASHINGTON.

I SUPPOSE THAT THE MOST OBVIOUS THING ABOUT THE POLITICAL SCENE AT THE START OF THIS 1972 ELECTION YEAR IS CLUTTER. THE DEMOCRAT FIELD OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SUFFERS FROM ITS OWN PECULIAR VERSION OF THE POPULATION EXPLOSION AND ABOUT THE BEST THE DEMOCRAT NATIONAL COMMITTEE CAN HOPE FOR NOW AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS ZERO POPULATION GROWTH.

I KNOW THAT LARRY O'BRIEN, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATS WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE BIRTH OF NEW CANDIDACIES. SOME OF THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES THEMSELVES HAVE TAKEN TO ARGUING IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSITION IN THIS SPECIALIZED POLITICAL FORM. AND I HAVE HEARD THAT IN PRIVATE, AT LEAST, SOME OF THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING THAT THIS SPECIALIZED FORM OF CONTROL BE APPLIED TO THEIR RIVALS AND BE MADE RETROACTIVE.

-3-

TO UNDERTAKE SERIOUSLY A FORECAST OF WHAT IS AHEAD FOR US POLITICALLY IN 1972, HOWEVER, I THINK WE FIRST HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO DEVELOP IN SEVERAL AREAS OF PUBLIC POLICY AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES.

RECORD HOUSING STARTS SET TREND

AND I EXPECT THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD AND FOR PROGRESS HERE AT HOME. I SPEAK OF THE KIND OF PROGRESS THAT IN SPITE OF THE DEMOCRAT NAY-SAYING AND PREDICTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, MADE 1971 A RECORD YEAR IN HOUSING. 1971, AS I AM SURE YOU KNOW, SAW THE GREATEST NUMBER OF NEW HOUSING STARTS IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY.

FOR THAT, MANY OF YOU HERE DESERVE A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT. BUT I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION AND THE IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP OF HIS HOUSING SECRETARY GEORGE ROMNEY HELP TO MAKE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAST YEAR POSSIBLE. OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH AND YOUR SOLID SUPPORT FOR THE INNOVATIVE THINKING IT REPRESENTS CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO MAKING THE YEAR JUST ENDED A YEAR IN WHICH, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, OVER 2 MILLION INDIVIDUAL UNITS OF HOUSING WERE PUT INTO PRODUCTION.

-4-

THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR INDUSTRY, OF COURSE. BUT IT ALSO HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENTIRE ECONOMY. THE RISE IN HOUSING STARTS WILL PRODUCE AN ECONOMIC FALL-OUT THAT CANNOT HELP BUT STIMULATE NUMEROUS OTHER INDUSTRIES RELATED TO HOUSING. AND THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR HOUSEHOLD GOODS, APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, CARPETS AND DRAPERIES, WILL STIMULATE INCREASED SALES AND INCREASED PRODUCTION MEANING INCREASED DEMANDS ON THE JOB MARKET AND DECREASED UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE FACT IS THAT EACH OF THE PRESENT DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES SEEMS CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL WANT TO MAKE A NEW BEGINNING IN 1972 AND THAT THEY WILL WANT TO ABANDON THE LEADERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND START ALL OVER AGAIN WITH THE DEMOCRATS.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO CONVINCING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THIS IS SO? IF THE YEAR AHEAD BRINGS FAILURES OF PUBLIC POLICY, IF WE WERE TO SEE NO PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS THIS PRESIDENT HAS SET -- GOALS WHICH AMERICANS HAVE ADOPTED FOR THEIR OWN -- THEN THE PEOPLE MIGHT OPT FOR ONE OF THE NEW STARTS THAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE OFFERING.

IF THE PRESIDENT, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD DONE NOTHING TO END OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR, THEY MIGHT BE SO CONVINCED. IF PRESIDENT NIXON HAD FAILED TO LIVE UP TO HIS PROMISE OF A PLAN TO BRING THAT ABOUT, THEY MIGHT RIGHTLY BE SO CONVINCED.

-15-

PERFORMANCE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN US A RECORD OF UNPAR-  
ALLELED ACCOMPLISHMENT. AT A TIME WHEN THIS COUNTRY COULD NOT  
LOOK ANY FARTHER AHEAD THAN NEXT WEEK'S CASUALTY TOTAL IN VIETNAM  
OR NEXT DAY'S OUTBREAK OF DEATH DEALING VIOLENCE IN OUR CITIES,  
RICHARD NIXON TOOK OFFICE AS THE 38TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HIS LEADERSHIP IN THAT OFFICE HAS TURNED THIS COUNTRY AWAY  
FROM ITS MORBID PREOCCUPATIONS WITH ITS FAILURES. RICHARD NIXON  
HAS RECALLED THIS COUNTRY TO LIFE AND RESTORED ITS FAITH IN ITS  
GREATNESS. AND IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THAT RESTORED FAITH THAT  
AMERICA AND THE WORLD CAN LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD  
PRESIDENT NIXON'S GOALS OF A BETTER NATION IN A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.