



REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

JAYCEES BANQUET

ELKS LODGE

GREAT BEND, KANSAS

FEBRUARY 2, 1974

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO JOIN WITH ALL  
OF YOU AT THE GREAT BEND JAYCEES ANNUAL AWARD DINNER TO HONOR AND  
CONGRATULATE A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY WHOSE SERVICE, AS CITIZEN,  
TO HIS SOCIETY HAS MERITED SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

1.

2.

I AM GLAD TO BE HERE FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS MONTH AND TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE REST OF THIS IMPORTANT YEAR WE HAVE JUST BEGUN.

IN THE CONGRESS, CERTAINLY, AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WE HAVE A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES AHEAD. AND IT WOULD BE LESS THAN ACCURATE IF WE DID NOT ADMIT THAT SOME OF THESE, AT LEAST, HAVE US ALL, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ON THE EDGE OF OUR SEATS.

#### IMMEDIATE ENERGY CHALLENGE

THE ENERGY CRISIS IS ONE THAT FITS INTO THIS CATEGORY. WHEN I WAS HERE IN GREAT BEND A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, MANY AREA RESIDENTS WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME WITH ME. THEY TOLD ME WHAT THEIR CHIEF CONCERNS WERE AND WHAT THEY EXPECTED FROM GOVERNMENT BY

3.

WAY OF ACTION. HERE IN GREAT BEND AND ACROSS KANSAS DURING THE THREE WEEKS OF THE JANUARY RECESS, SERIOUS POPULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE ENERGY CRISIS WAS REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I AM PLEASED, BUT OF COURSE NOT SURPRISED, THAT IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, THE PRESIDENT LISTED AS HIS TOP PRIORITY GOAL THE EFFORT TO "BREAK THE BACK OF THE ENERGY CRISIS." I WAS PLEASED, TOO, AS I SAT IN THE CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO SEE WHAT APPEARED TO BE A GENUINE POSITIVE RESPONSE BY ALMOST ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO HIS STATEMENT OF THAT GOAL.

#### POLITICS AND ENERGY

BUT I WAS PERHAPS MOST GENUINELY GRATIFIED BY SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED IN CONGRESS A FEW DAYS BEFORE WE MET IN JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE STATE OF THE UNION.

4.

THE VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE EMERGENCY ENERGY CONFERENCE REPORT, JUST THE DAY BEFORE, AND THE SENATE VOTED BY A WIDE MARGIN TO SEND THAT BILL BACK TO THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. WE CAN MARK FROM THAT DATE, JANUARY 29, 1974, THE BEGINNING OF SERIOUS EFFORTS BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS; TO PUT ASIDE POLITICS AND THE SEARCH FOR SCAPEGOATS AND TO START LOOKING FOR MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS.

#### SECOND LOOK AT ENERGY BILL

THE BILL, IN MANY RESPECTS, WAS FLAWED, NOT BEYOND REPAIR, PERHAPS, BUT FLAWED SERIOUSLY. IT CARRIED WITH IT ALL THE FAULTS ONE MIGHT EXPECT TO CROP UP IN A TOO HASTY EFFORT BY A COMMITTEE OF 535 MEN AND WOMEN, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, TO UNDERSTAND AND TAME ALL THE ECONOMIC FORCES WHICH AFFECT THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNTS OF ENERGY NEEDED TO KEEP THE MACHINERY OF THIS COUNTRY GOING.

5.

IT WAS AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF CONGRESS -- FOR THE MOST PART A SINCERE THOUGH RUSHED ONE -- TO DO SOMETHING, TO SHOW SIGNS OF POSITIVE ACTION, TO BRING THE CRISIS UNDER CONTROL.

THERE WERE THOSE FEW IN THE CONGRESS WHO SAW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE AND THE GAIN OF A FEW PERCENTAGE POINTS IN THE POLLS. AND THESE, TOO, WERE ACTIVE IN THE EFFORT TO SHOW THAT CONGRESS, UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP PRESUMABLY, WAS REALLY DOING SOMETHING.

IN THE ELEVENTH HOUR, ALL OF THAT CAME TO A HALT. POLITICKING AND SCAPEGOATING AND OVERSIMPLIFICATION WERE CUT SHORT, AND THE BILL WAS HELD UP TO GIVE TIME FOR A SECOND AND MORE THOUGHTFUL LOOK AND FOR MORE CAREFUL STUDY.

6.

RANGE OF PRIORITIES

AND AS A RESULT, NOW THE CONGRESS CAN GET TO WORK MORE SERIOUSLY ON OUR FIRST GOAL, BREAKING THE BACK OF THE ENERGY CRISIS.

AS TO THE OTHER GOALS THE PRESIDENT LISTED, THERE IS MORE ROOM FOR DEBATE AND DIFFERENCES. THE PRIORITIES OF SOME MAY LIE ELSEWHERE. WHETHER REFORM OF THE WELFARE SYSTEM WILL GET PRIORITY ATTENTION IN THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS OR NOT IS UP TO THE MEMBERS THEMSELVES.

HOW THE CONGRESS RESPONDS TO THE REQUIREMENT OF MILITARY STRENGTH IN AMERICA -- AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THAT STRENGTH IN THE YEARS TO COME -- AND HOW THE CONGRESS DECIDES ON THE CONTROLLING QUESTION OF HOW MUCH IT MAY BE WILLING TO SPEND TO DO IT, IS LIKEWISE UP TO THE MEMBERS THEMSELVES. I AM HOPEFUL -- AND OPTIMISTIC --

7.

THAT IN THE EFFORT TO RESTRAIN FEDERAL SPENDING, THE CONGRESS WILL NOT RESORT TO THE FALSE AND SHORT-SIGHTED ECONOMY OF MEAT-AX CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING.

HOW ADEQUATELY EACH OF THESE URGENT NATIONAL ISSUES IS TREATED -- OR HOW BADLY -- DEPENDS ON A WIDE RANGE OF VARIABLES. THE WORK LOAD FACING THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR, AS LAST, IS STAGGERING.

"MUST" LEGISLATION

AS ALWAYS, WE HAVE THE HARD AND TEDIOUS TASK OF APPROPRIATIONS AHEAD -- THE PROCESS OF DECIDING HOW MUCH OF OUR FINITE FISCAL RESOURCES CAN GO TO WHICH FEDERAL PROGRAM. AMONG ALL THE WORTHY CAUSES IN AMERICA WHICH MERIT FEDERAL ATTENTION, TO WHICH CAN WE DEVOTE THE MOST, OR THE MOST EFFECTIVE ATTENTION, IN TERMS OF DOLLARS APPROPRIATED. THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL FACE THE CONGRESS IN

8.

THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS, WHICH IS, IN ITSELF, ONLY ONE AMONG MANY OF THE ITEMS FACING US.

EXTENSION AND REVISION OF IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THE END OF THE 93rd CONGRESS.

THIS SPRING, BEFORE THE APRIL 30th EXPIRATION DATE, WE MUST ALSO DECIDE WHETHER TO EXTEND THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT, WHICH CONTAINS THE AUTHORITIES TO INVOKE WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS. SHALL WE EXTEND IT, OR, AFTER OUR THREE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH CONTROLS POLICIES AND THE NIGHTMARES OF IMPLEMENTATION, LET IT PASS INTO HISTORY WHERE IT BELONGS?

9.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON GOALS

THE WORK AGENDA AHEAD IS A LONG ONE, ALMOST AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE. AND TO THIS OVERALL LIST, WE MUST ADD THE INDIVIDUAL PRIORITIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, WITH THEIR OWN CONSTITUENCIES AND OWN SPECIAL PROBLEMS.

HOW THE CONGRESS AS A WHOLE MAY ORGANIZE ITSELF FOR THE TASK, I CANNOT SAY. MY HOPE THAT THEY WILL LEAVE POLITICS ASIDE IN THE EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THE MOST PRESSING OF OUR PROBLEMS IS A HOPE I BELIEVE IS SHARED BY ALL BUT THE MOST INTRANSIGENT OF PARTISANS.

10.

FOCUS ON REGIONAL PROBLEMS

I AGREE WITH MANY OF THE GOALS THE PRESIDENT OUTLINED AND IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE REACTION OF THE CONGRESS TO HIS SPEECH THAT MOST MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES AGREED.

BUT, THOUGH I WILL WORK HARD WITH MY COLLEAGUES ON THESE ISSUES, I AM NOT HESITANT TO SAY THAT I HAVE MY OWN LIST OF "MUST" ITEMS. THEY COMPLEMENT THE OVERALL EFFORT OF THE CONGRESS IN THE COMING YEAR. OF THAT I AM SURE. BUT THEY MAY BE OVERLOOKED IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO GET ENMESHED ONLY IN THE CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROBLEMS ON A NATIONAL SCALE AND OVERLOOK SOME OF THE REGIONAL ASPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THOSE SAME PROBLEMS.

11.

NATIONALLY -- SOME RELIEF

BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, LET ME CITE THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE NEWS WE HAVE HAD OF IT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP, SOME SAY. THE FUEL SHORTAGE SITUATION IS STILL SERIOUS AND LIKELY TO REMAIN SO. ON THAT ALL AGREE.

BUT BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND BECAUSE OF THE "RELATIVELY MILD WINTER" THE NATION HAS ENJOYED, IT IS SAID THAT WE ARE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN ANTICIPATED.

12.

PROPANE PROBLEM PERSISTS

MY CONCERN IS THAT THESE VERY GENERAL, NATIONAL STATISTICS, WHICH SHOW A RELIEVED CRISIS, NOT BE ALLOWED TO OBSCURE THE FACT THAT SOME VERY REAL PROBLEMS REMAIN HERE IN KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE MID-WEST.

IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THE NATION HAS HAD A MILD WINTER. BUT KANSAS, AS I KNOW FIRST HAND BECAUSE I WAS HERE IN JANUARY'S 15 AND 20 BELOW TEMPERATURES, HAS NOT.

WE ARE GLAD TO HEAR THAT HEATING OIL IS IN GOOD SUPPLY AND THAT THE PRICE IS FALLING. BUT FOR THE VAST NUMBER OF KANSANS AND OTHER MIDWESTERNERS WHO HEAT WITH PROPANE AND WHO ARE STILL SPENDING TWO OR THREE TIMES AS MUCH FOR IT THIS YEAR AS LAST, THAT IS SMALL CONSOLATION.

13.

PROPOSAL FOR RELIEF

SO I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK, AS A MATTER OF PERSONAL PRIORITY,  
FOR SOME RELIEF IN PROPANE PRICES. I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH FEDERAL  
ENERGY ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM SIMON ON THIS MATTER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS  
AND WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS THROUGH A REGULATION CHANGE THAT WILL  
STABILIZE PRICES.

BUT WE NEED MORE ACTION. WE NEED LOWER PRICES AND THAT IS  
WHY I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO BRING THAT ABOUT AND I INTEND TO  
PURSUE THAT LEGISLATION IN THE EFFORT TO GET THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE  
ACTION.

14.

WINTER DST MUST GO

ANOTHER ITEM ON MY PERSONAL LIST OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IS THE REPEAL OF THE ILL-CONCEIVED AND HASTILY IMPLEMENTED YEAR-ROUND DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME DECISION. THIS LAW WAS PASSED IN THE CLOSING DAYS OF THE LAST SESSION, WHEN CONGRESS WAS UNFORTUNATELY STILL IN THAT RUSH TO DO SOMETHING, TO DO ANYTHING, TO SHOW IT WAS ON TOP OF THE ENERGY CRISIS.

BUT IT TOOK NO MORE THAN A FEW DAYS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE NEW LAW -- WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN GOING TO SCHOOL IN FULL DARKNESS AND RADIO STATIONS SILENT UNTIL ALMOST 9 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING -- TO REALIZE A MISTAKE HAD BEEN MADE.

15.

I VOTED AGAINST THE YEAR ROUND DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL AND HAVE NOW INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO REPEAL IT. I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS RECEIVED GOOD BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT FROM MY COLLEAGUES, EVEN FROM SOME WHO VOTED FOR THE BILL THE FIRST TIME AROUND.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL OBTAIN ITS REPEAL FAIRLY EARLY IN THIS SESSION. WE WILL STILL HAVE SUMMER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME -- AND THERE IS PROOF AT LEAST THAT IT CAN SAVE US ENERGY. BUT IF WE SUCCEED IN THE REPEAL EFFORT, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A MORE NORMAL WINTER NEXT YEAR, WITHOUT THE HARDSHIP, THE INCONVENIENCE AND THE DANGER OF EXTENDING NIGHTTIME DARKNESS WELL INTO THE MORNING HOURS.

16.

ESSENTIAL UNITY

THIS LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR THIS CONGRESS HAS NOT BEEN EXHAUSTIVE AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE SO. IT DOES RANGE FROM DECISIONS INVOLVING THE DEFENSE AND FUTURE SECURITY OF THESE UNITED STATES TO THE TIME THE SUN WILL COME UP NEXT WINTER.

BUT THESE ARE THE RANGE OF LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I KNOW, FROM MY MEETINGS LAST MONTH ACROSS THIS STATE, THAT THEY ARE THE CONCERNS OF KANSANS. COMPARING NOTES WITH MY COLLEAGUES, MANY OF WHOM SPENT THE RECESS IN THEIR OWN HOME STATES, I KNOW THAT THESE CONCERNS ARE SHARED WIDELY.

THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, I THINK, ARE IN AGREEMENT. THEY ARE OF ONE MIND, AT LEAST, ON THE DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE AND NEED TO SOLVE.

17.

GREATEST RESOURCE

BUT THEIR ESSENTIAL UNITY, WHICH MORE THAN MAKES UP FOR THE DIFFERENCES THEY MAY HAVE OVER SPECIFICS, EXTENDS BEYOND THE DEFINITION OF PROBLEMS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BY AND LARGE, ARE UNIFIED IN THEIR CONFIDENCE THAT OUR PROBLEMS CAN AND WILL BE SOLVED. WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD FACE ONE CRISIS OR ANOTHER, BE IT FROM LACK OF FUEL OR SOMETHING ELSE, THEY CANNOT MATCH THE ABILITY AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY TO FACE THAT CRISIS AND TO FACE IT DOWN.

ON THIS, MUCH MORE THAN ON THE SPECIFIC ACTS OF ANY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, OUR FUTURE RESTS.

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