

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
AT A LINCOLN DAY DINNER IN
INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1974

THIS LINCOLN DAY DINNER IS ONE OF ABOUT 500 SUCH EVENTS
BEING HELD, BY REPUBLICANS, THIS YEAR.

IN AT LEAST 500 LOCATIONS, ACROSS THE COUNTRY DURING THE
MONTH OF FEBRUARY AND IN EARLY MARCH, REPUBLICANS LIKE
OURSELVES ARE GATHERING TO COMPARE NOTES, SOCIALIZE AND
GEAR UP FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

IN SOME AREAS, THEY ARE COMING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE
REPUBLICAN VICTORIES, SOME QUITE UNEXPECTED ONES, IN STATE AND
LOCAL ELECTION RACES WHICH WERE HELD DURING 1973.

NOT AS PREDICTED

ITS HARDLY THE PICTURE ONE EXPECTS TO SEE, IF HE PAYS
TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE PREDICTIONS OF DISASTER WHICH HAVE

Rev. Manning
[Signature]
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BEEN MADE -- WHICH ARE STILL BEING MADE -- IN CERTAIN CIRCLES
BY SOME OBSERVERS OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE.

NATIONALLY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS VIBRANT AND
ACTIVE. IN THE FACE OF ITS PROBLEMS -- AND NO ONE DENIES THAT
WE HAVE PROBLEMS -- REPUBLICANS ARE SHOWING THEIR WILLINGNESS
TO WORK AND WORK HARDER. AND THAT WORK IS NOW -- AND WILL
CONTINUE -- PAYING OFF.

OPTIMISM AMONG REPUBLICANS

IT WAS IN TOPEKA TWO WEEKS AGO FOR THE KANSAS DAY
FESTIVITIES. THE ENTHUSIASM AND OPTIMISM I SAW THERE WAS GREATER
THAN ANY I HAVE SEEN BEFORE, AND I HAVE BEEN TO A LOT OF KANSAS
DAYS. THERE WERE PLENTY OF NEW FACES THERE, YOUNG PEOPLE
EAGER TO GO TO WORK AND FULLY PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER THEY

COULD TO FURTHER REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES AND ACHIEVE REPUBLICAN VICTORIES IN 1974 AND BEYOND.

THE PEOPLE AT KANSAS DAY, YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG, WEREN'T GIVING MUCH WEIGHT TO THE PREDICTIONS OF DISASTER FOR THE GOP WHICH ARE BEING MADE. THE VETERANS -- AND EVEN SOME OF THE NEW RECRUITS -- CAN REMEMBER BACK TO EARLIER ELECTIONS WHEN DISASTER FOR ONE PARTY OR ANOTHER WAS BEING PREDICTED BUT THAT WAS NEVER REALIZED. THIS SAME SPIRIT PREVAILED THIS WEEK IN REPUBLICAN ACTIVITIES FEATURING GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN AND FORMER GOVERNOR NELSON ROCKEFELLER.

1966 AND THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OF THAT YEAR WERE FULLY ANTICIPATED TO BE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S FUNERAL, COMING AS THEY DID AFTER THE BIG DEFEAT OF 1964. BUT IN 1966, THE GOP PICKED UP 47 HOUSE SEATS, 4 MORE IN THE SENATE AND 8 NEW GOVERNORSHIPS.

UNITED FRONT

1974 CAN BE ANOTHER SUCH YEAR, WHEN THE EXPERTS WILL BE CONFOUNDED AND WILL SEE THEIR DIRE PREDICTIONS THOROUGHLY UP-ENDED.

AM I SAYING THAT WATERGATE WON'T HAVE AN EFFECT, THAT IT IS UNIMPORTANT? HARDLY.

BUT WATERGATE WAS NOT THE FAULT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY -- AND I THINK THAT MOST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THAT. AND IF ANYTHING, WATERGATE HAS HAD THE TENDENCY OF BRINGING REPUBLICANS CLOSER TOGETHER, WITH A FIRMER RESOLVE TO PUT UP A UNITED FRONT, BASED ON OUR PRINCIPLES AND BASED ON OUR PRIDE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

WE REPUBLICANS KNOW THAT POPULAR CONCERN ABOUT WATERGATE IS SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIAL. BUT WE KNOW, TOO, THAT WE HAVE NO APOLOGIES TO MAKE ABOUT IT.

IF CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT IS A PROBLEM, IT IS NOT ONE THAT STEMS SOLELY FROM WATERGATE, NOR IS IT ONE THAT IS RESTRICTED TO THE PRESIDENCY, NOR IS IT ONE WHOSE FALL-OUT WILL BE SCATTERED DISPROPORTIONATELY ON REPUBLICANS.

THE PROBLEM IS A MORE GENERAL ONE AND STEMS NOT ALONE FROM WATERGATE. A POLL PUBLISHED EARLIER THIS WEEK SHOWS THAT THE APPROVAL RATING OF THE CONGRESS IS LOWER THAN THAT OF THE PRESIDENT.

REPUBLICANS HAVE UPPER-HAND

THIS CONGRESS, CONTROLLED BY THE DEMOCRATS LIKE ALMOST EVERY CONGRESS IN THE PAST FORTY YEARS, IS HELD IN LOW ESTEEM FOR ONE REASON -- ITS FAILURE TO COME TO GRIPS, SERIOUSLY AND SOBERLY, WITH THE CHALLENGE OF SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS. THIS

CONGRESS, WHICH MY COLLEAGUE SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY LEADER MANSFIELD CONTENDS WON A MANDATE FROM THE PEOPLE IN 1972, HAS A TWENTY-ONE PERCENT APPROVAL RATING BECAUSE OF THAT FAILURE.

AT ROOT, THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY, AS ALWAYS, LIES NOT IN UNREASONING PARTISANSHIP, NOR IN UNQUESTIONING ADHERENCE TO PARTY LABELS. IT LIES IN AN HONEST SEARCH FOR LEADERSHIP AND FOR PROGRAMS WHICH CAN PROMISE RESULTS.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFERS THAT KIND OF PROGRAM AND CANDIDATES WHO PROMISE THAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP.

AND IN SHORT, THAT GIVES THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND ITS CANDIDATES IN 1974, THE UPPER-HAND.