

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
STUDENT CONVOCATION
McPHERSON COLLEGE
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THESE ARE TIMES WHEN THE HISTORY OF GOOD DOES NOT DOMINATE THE NEWS.
IT SELDOM DOES. THE PAGES OF MAN'S HISTORY ARE FILLED WITH STRIFE AND
STRUGGLE WITH CRISIS AND CONFLICT, WITH DISASTER AND DISGRACE. THIS IS
ESSENTIALLY THE HISTORY OF BAD.

YET, THROUGH THE CENTURIES, AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH RECENT DECADES, MAN
HAS ALSO BEEN WRITING THE HISTORY OF GOOD. SOMETIMES IT'S NOT VERY CLEARLY
STATED. FREQUENTLY IT'S NOT WELL ARTICULATED. OFTEN IT IS OBSCURED IN THE
SHADOW OF THE BOLD HEADLINE THAT PROCLAIMS THE BAD AND THE SORDID.

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BUT THE HISTORY OF GOOD IS THERE, DAY BY DAY, WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE ON EARTH, AND GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN OF EVERY CLIME AND EVERY COLOR.

THERE IS A REAL HISTORY OF GOOD TO BE WRITTEN AS IT IS ENACTED DAILY BY ALL OF US IN THESE UNITED STATES.

YET, IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, MANY OF US FREQUENTLY FAIL TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE THE HISTORY OF GOOD.

THE SUBSTANTIVE HISTORY OF GOOD TENDS TO BE OVERSHADOWED BY THE CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF BAD. USUALLY THE CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF THE BAD IS A PASSING THING -- IT IS TRANSITORY.

A LASTING HISTORY OF GOOD

THE HISTORY OF GOOD IS NOT TRANSITORY. THE HISTORY OF GOOD REMAINS. WE

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BUILD ON IT FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION TO GENERATION. THAT IS THE HISTORY OF AMERICA. IF THAT WERE EVER TRUE, IT IS TRUE TODAY -- IN SPITE OF WHAT MAY HAVE OCCUPIED THE DOMINANT SPACE IN THE MORNING PAPER.

THIS IS A GREAT NATION BECAUSE IT IS A GOOD NATION.

THIS IS A GOOD NATION BECAUSE OF OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

IT IS DEMOCRATIC, AND IT IS REPRESENTATIVE. IT WORKS IN SPITE OF A FEW IMPERFECTIONS HERE AND THERE, BUT IT HAS FAR FEWER IMPERFECTIONS THAN ANY OTHER SYSTEM WE CAN COMPARE IT WITH. IT IS MORE SHOCKPROOF THAN ANY OTHER SYSTEM.

THIS IS A GOOD NATION BECAUSE OF OUR CONCEPT OF HUMAN DIGNITY -- THE WORTHWHILENESS OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEING.

GOVERNMENT EXISTS ESSENTIALLY TO SERVE THAT INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEING AND TO ENHANCE HIS HAPPINESS AND HIS WELFARE. THAT FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPT IS WRITTEN

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INTO OUR BASIC PHILOSOPHY, AND INTO THE ARTICLES WHICH FORM THE FOUNDATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

FREEDOM FROM TYRANNY

THIS IS A GOOD NATION BECAUSE OF THE FREEDOM IT GIVES TO THE HUMAN MIND.

IT IS GOOD BECAUSE OF OUR FREEDOM OF INQUIRY AND OUR SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION. THIS PHILOSOPHY WAS DEEPLY EMBEDDED INTO THIS COUNTRY IN OUR FOUNDING DAYS BY THE GREAT INTELLECTUALS WHO PUT THIS NATION TOGETHER.

THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS AMONG THE GREATEST OF THOSE EARLY AMERICANS, BECAUSE OF HIS DREAM OF WHAT AMERICA COULD BECOME. I AM INSPIRED EVEN NOW TO VISIT THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON AND TO READ THE WORDS CHISELED IN THE MARBLE INSIDE THE ROTUNDA OF THAT MONUMENT. THAT INSCRIPTION IS ONE OF JEFFERSON'S GREAT WRITINGS: "I HAVE SWORN UPON THE ALTAR OF GOD, ETERNAL HOSTILITY

AGAINST EVERY FORM OF TYRANNY OVER THE MIND OF MAN."

JEFFERSON WAS NOT SPEAKING OF THE TYRANNY OF KINGS, THE TYRANNY OF DICTATORS OR THE TYRANNY OF DESPOTS. HE WAS SPEAKING OF THE TYRANNY OF IGNORANCE, THE TYRANNY OF PREJUDICE, THE TYRANNY OF SUPERSTITION, THE TYRANNY OF HALF-TRUTH, THE TYRANNY OF UNTRUTH.

MANY OF THOSE TYRANNIES FLOAT ABOUT TODAY THREATENING THE VERY FABRIC OF WHICH THIS NATION IS MADE -- THE FREEDOM OF INQUIRY AND THE RIGHT OF THE MIND OF MAN TO DREAM, TO GROW, AND TO ACHIEVE. OUR CONTINUED GOODNESS AS A NATION WILL DEPEND UPON OUR SUCCESS IN THWARTING SUCH TYRANNY.

IMPATIENCE WITH PROBLEMS

SOMETIMES YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IMPATIENT ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS AND TEND TO BE CRITICAL OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE GENERATION REPRESENTED BY THOSE IN POSITIONS

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OF LEADERSHIP. THEY ASK "WHY DID YOU LEAVE US THIS LEGACY OF DISTRESS AND CONFLICT WITH WHICH WE LIVE?" "WHY DO WE STILL HAVE RACIAL PROBLEMS AND POCKETS OF POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND ALL THE OTHER PROBLEMS PLAYED UP BY THOSE WHO WOULD WRITE THE HISTORY OF BAD?" THESE ARE LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS, AND I THINK THEY HAVE A LEGITIMATE RESPONSE.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

FOR I AM NOT PARTICULARLY ASHAMED OF WHAT MY GENERATION HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN AMERICA.

IT HAS GIVEN US THE BEST LEVEL OF EATING IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. IT HAS GIVEN US THE HIGHEST CONSUMPTION LEVEL OF ANIMAL PROTEIN. IT HAS CRACKED MANY TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS TO PUT SCIENCE TO WORK FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN HAPPINESS AND HUMAN WELFARE.

MY GENERATION HAS PUT THIS NATION ON WHEELS. IT PUT ELECTRICITY AND CENTRAL HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING IN OUR HOMES. IT BROUGHT THE MARVELS OF TELEVISION AND RADIO AND COMMUNICATION VIA SATELLITE.

MY GENERATION HAS RAISED THE LEVEL OF HEALTH IN THIS COUNTRY. WE SEE NO HUNCHBACKS ANYMORE, BECAUSE WE HAVE ERADICATED BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS. UNDULANT FEVER IS VIRTUALLY GONE, BECAUSE WE HAVE ELIMINATED BRUCELLOSIS FROM OUR DAIRY HERDS. NOT TOO MANY YEARS AGO WE ALWAYS EXPECTED TO FIND A COUPLE OF FAMILIES WITH KIDS OUT OF SCHOOL BECAUSE THERE WAS A SIGN ON THEIR DOOR AT HOME THAT SAID "QUARANTINED -- DIPHTHERIA HERE" OR "SCARLET FEVER HERE." WE HAVE ELIMINATED THAT.

A SIZEABLE PERCENTAGE OF YOU SIT HERE TODAY, HEALTHY AND VIGOROUS -- INSTEAD OF BEING A STATISTIC IN THE COURTHOUSE -- BECAUSE MY GENERATION WIPED

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OUT POLIO, AND TYPHOID, AND SCARLET FEVER. WE DRASTICALLY CUT CHILDHOOD MORTALITY BY ELIMINATING DISEASES THAT A GENERATION OR TWO AGO WOULD HAVE CLAIMED A FOURTH OF YOU BEFORE AGE 20.

MY GENERATION MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE ON WELFARE IN AMERICA TO LIVE BETTER -- IN TERMS OF ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER, CENTRAL HEAT, INDOOR TOILETS, RADIO, TELEVISION, AUTOMOBILES, PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND OTHER PHYSICAL THINGS -- THAN THE TOP THIRD OF THE PEOPLE IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

THERE IS SOMETHING VERY RIGHT -- AND GOOD -- ABOUT THE GENERATION WHICH DID THAT.

NUTRITION AND STANDARDS OF LIVING

I AM PROUD OF MY GENERATION'S RECORD IN AGRICULTURE. WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN THE JOB OF SATISFYING MAN'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL NEED FOR FOOD. AFTER

ALL, IN MANY RESPECTS, THE HISTORY OF MANKIND IS THE HISTORY OF THE QUEST FOR FOOD. THE QUEST FOR FOOD LIES BACK OF MANY OF THE ARMED CONFLICTS THAT HAVE ENGULFED NATIONS IN OUR LIFETIME, AND INDEED THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

IT WAS MAHATMA GHANDI, OVER A QUARTER CENTURY AGO, WHO REMARKED THAT "EVEN GOD DARE NOT APPROACH A HUNGRY MAN EXCEPT IN THE FORM OF BREAD." THERE IS NO POINT IN TALKING TO STARVING PEOPLE ABOUT HUMAN FREEDOM OR HUMAN DIGNITY OR DEMOCRACY. WHEN A MAN IS STARVING, THE FIRST THING ON HIS MIND IS ATTAINING HIS DAILY BREAD. AMERICANS HAVE LEARNED HOW TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF FOOD AROUND THE WORLD, AND TO USE IT IS A POWERFUL TOOL IN THE KIT OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.

STEPS TOWARD PEACE

I AM PROUD OF MY GENERATION'S RECORD IN ACHIEVING WORLD PEACE -- PARTICULARLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. THIS NATION'S LEADERSHIP HAS RECENTLY

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MADE PERHAPS MORE PROGRESS THAN HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE IN MY LIFETIME TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS FROM WHICH LASTING PEACE IS MADE.

WE HAVE RAPPORT WITH THE WORLD'S SECOND MOST POWERFUL NATION -- THE NATION THAT IS GAINING ON US IN PRODUCTIVITY AND IN RELATIVE STRENGTH. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED RAPPORT WITH THE QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION THAT LIVED BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN -- WHOM WE HAVE PRETENDED FOR 30 YEARS WERE NOT THERE. WE HAVE NOW CRACKED OPEN THE DOORS OF COMMUNICATION -- NOT WIDE, BUT AT LEAST THERE IS A CRACK IN THE DOOR AND IT'S WIDENING. WE HAVE ENDED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM WITH HONOR. OUR PRISONERS OF WAR ARE HOME. THE DRAFT IS ENDED. WE HAVE LED THE MARCH TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. OUR FOOD PRODUCTION POTENTIAL WAS A CRITICAL ASSET IN ALL THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

WE ARE BRINGING TO FRUITION THE DREAM OF THE ANCIENT PROPHET WHEN HE WROTE THAT "SOME DAY WE SHALL BEAT OUR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES AND OUR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS." WE ARE AT THE DAWN OF THAT DAY.

THAT IS THE HISTORY OF GOOD. THAT IS THE SUBSTANTIAL HISTORY OF AMERICA. MANY THINGS THESE DAYS AND IN THIS ERA WILL BECOME A CHAPTER, A PERMANENT CHAPTER, IN THE HISTORY OF GOOD. WE MUST ACCENTUATE THOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WE MUST NOT LET THOSE CHAPTERS GET LOST AMONG THE FOOTNOTES OF HISTORY THAT WILL ULTIMATELY CARRY THE RECORD OF THE BAD AND THE SORDID.

YOU CAN WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER

AND BIG CHALLENGES AWAIT YOU WHO, IF YOU SO CHOOSE, CAN WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTERS IN THE HISTORY OF GOOD. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE YOUNG AMERICANS, EACH

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OF YOU, OWE MUCH TO THE GENERATIONS OF GOOD HISTORY WRITERS WHO WENT BEFORE YOU. BUT YOU ALSO OWE MUCH TO THE GENERATIONS WHO WILL FOLLOW YOU. HE WILL SERVE BEST WHO RESOLVES EACH DAY TO WRITE A LINE IN THE HISTORY OF GOOD. SOME DAYS, IF HE DREAMS WELL, HE MIGHT EVEN WRITE A FULL PARAGRAPH. THIS IS THE HISTORY WHICH WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

THIS IS A GREAT NATION BECAUSE IT IS A GOOD NATION. IT IS A GOOD NATION BECAUSE SO MANY OF US, EACH IN HIS OWN WAY, ARE WRITING THE HISTORY OF GOOD.