

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
KANSAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
RICCARDI CENTER - BENEDICTINE COLLEGE
ATCHISON, KANSAS
APRIL 17, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS EVENING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF SO MANY OUTSTANDING KANSAS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE CHOICE OF THE LOCATION FOR THIS 78th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION.

AMELIA EARHART'S EXAMPLE

ATCHISON WAS THE HOME OF AMELIA EARHART -- ONE OF THE FIRST MODERN WOMEN TO SHOW THAT A PERSON'S SEX WAS NO BARRIER TO SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT AND COURAGE.

SHE WAS A GREAT AMERICAN, A GREAT PIONEER IN AVIATION, A GREAT KANSAN. AND AMELIA EARHART WAS A WOMAN WHOSE LIFE, EVEN IN THIS AGE OF ASTRONAUTS AND MOON LANDINGS, STILL PROVIDES INSPIRATION TO WOMEN AND MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS WHO HEAR THE STORY OF HER ADVENTURES.

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HER STORY WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL -- AS WAS HER LIFE. AND EVEN THOUGH SHE DISAPPEARED UNDER TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES; IT IS, NONETHELESS, THE GOOD OF HER LIFE WHICH ENDURES AND FOR WHICH WE ARE THANKFUL.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE HISTORY OF GOOD DOES NOT DOMINATE THE DAILY NEWS. IN FACT, 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.

A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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. AND DRAWING ON YOUR THEME OF "RESPONSIBILITY" THIS YEAR, LET ME POINT TO A VERY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY WE AMERICANS HAVE TO OURSELVES AND TO OUR ~~H~~ERITAGE.

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 FORGET OUR RESPONSIBILITY 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 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 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 FOUNDLING 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

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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.

A NATION UNDER GOD

THIS IS A GOOD NATION BECAUSE OUR LITERATURE AND OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS CONSTANTLY REMIND US THAT WE ARE A NATION UNDER GOD.

SOME CRUSADERS HAVE TRIED TO TAKE GOD OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS, OUT OF OUR GOVERNMENT, AND EVEN OUT OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE. BUT HE HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. HE REMAINS AS A PART OF OUR LITERATURE, OUR PHILOSOPHY, AND OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE. HE REMAINS FOR MANY OF US AS A GREAT SOURCE OF PERSONAL AND NATIONAL STRENGTH.

WHEN I TAKE A QUARTER FROM MY POCKET, I FIND INSCRIBED ON IT THE WORDS, "IN GOD WE TRUST." THAT SAME INSCRIPTION IS ON EVERY COIN AND EVERY PIECE OF CURRENCY YOU CARRY. IN NO OTHER NATION AROUND THE WORLD HAVE I SEEN ON THEIR CURRENCY ON THEIR COIN OR THEIR POSTAGE ANYTHING LIKE "IN GOD WE TRUST," "IN ALLAH WE TRUST," OR "IN BUDDHA WE TRUST." THIS BASIC TRUST IN A SUPREME DEITY IS A FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IT PROVIDES AN EXTRAORDINARY SOURCE OF POWER AND INSPIRATION FOR ALL OF US WHO WOULD USE IT.

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WHILE ONLY A LITTLE OVER HALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE OFFICIAL CHURCH MEMBERS AND STILL FEWER ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY, SOMEHOW THE EFFECT IS FELT BY ALL OF US AS A NATION.

AS A RESULT, WE HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL FAITH THAT AMERICA IS MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER NATION. IT IS A NATION WITH A DESTINY -- A GREAT DESTINY. THAT DESTINY FINDS EXPRESSION IN THE MANY FORMS OF PROGRESS WHICH HAVE MADE THE UNITED STATES THE WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE AND MOST POWERFUL NATION.

INCENTIVES AND REWARDS

ONE PRIME REASON AMERICA HAS SUCH A REMARKABLE HISTORY OF GOOD IS THAT WE ARE BASICALLY AN INCENTIVE SOCIETY.

AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE OF OUR INSISTENCE ON THE RIGHT OF EVERYBODY TO BE DIFFERENT, TO DISSENT, TO ACHIEVE, TO DREAM, TO ACCOMPLISH, TO SUCCEED -- AND TO FAIL.

WE HAVE BEEN A NATION OF ENTREPRENEURS -- OF "MONEY-MAKERS." UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE SEEN OUR INCENTIVE ORIENTATION WEAKENED IN RECENT YEARS. ONE INSTANCE IS THE CASE OF THE WAGE-EARNER WHO MANS THE PRODUCTION LINE IN THE ASSEMBLY PLANT -- WHERE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ASSOCIATE IN HIS OWN MIND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY AND THE PROFIT SYSTEM.

YET, IN PARTICULARLY EVERY CASE THAT SAME WORKER IS AN OWNER OF BUSINESS -- EITHER DIRECTLY AS A SHAREHOLDER, OR AS A LIFE INSURANCE OWNER, OR AS AN OWNER OF STOCKS AND BONDS IN HIS PENSION FUND. THEREFORE, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND ANY LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT AFFECTED DIRECTLY BY THE SUCCESS OF THE INCENTIVE SYSTEM.

THE INCENTIVE SYSTEM WORKS. THOSE OF US WHO COME FROM ESSENTIALLY RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE SEEN THIS INCENTIVE SYSTEM WORK FIRSTHAND ON OUR FARMS WHICH ARE TYPICALLY FAMILY ENTREPRENEURAL UNITS -- WITH CAPITAL ON THE LINE,

TAKING RISKS, WORKING HARD, NOT PUNCHING THE 40-HOUR CLOCK, NOT TAKING WEEKENDS OFF -- ALWAYS WITH THE HOPE OF MAKING A PROFIT.

OUR INCENTIVE SYSTEM HAS BEEN AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE UNDER HEAVY ATTACK. YET, WE LEARNED THROUGH OUR PAINFUL EXPERIENCE WITH PRICE CONTROLS THAT THE INCENTIVE SYSTEM IS THE FAIREST AND MOST EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC SYSTEM. IT IS STRENGTHENED TODAY BECAUSE IT WAS TESTED.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR NATION

AMERICA IS ALSO GREAT BECAUSE AMERICA HAS BEEN A GOOD NEIGHBOR IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

AMERICA POURED IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS -- AND FORGAVE BILLIONS MORE IN DEBTS -- TO HELP LIFT MANY NATIONS OUT OF THE DEBRIS OF WORLD WAR II.

WHEN DISTANT NATIONS ARE HIT BY EARTHQUAKES OR FAMINE OR FLOOD, IT IS THE UNITED STATES THAT HURRIES IN TO HELP. AMERICA HAS MOVED TO PROP UP FOREIGN CURRENCIES IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING.

INDEED, AMERICA HAS A GREAT HISTORY OF PROGRESS AND GREATNESS -- A PROUD HISTORY OF GOOD -- OF PERMANENT GOOD IN THE WORLD. THIS NATION HAS RECENTLY MADE PERHAPS MORE PROGRESS THAN HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE IN OUR LIFETIMES TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS FROM WHICH LASTING PEACE IS MADE.

WE HAVE RAPPORT WITH RUSSIA, 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 CHINA AND THE QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION THAT LIVES BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN -- WHOM WE 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.

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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.

A CHALLENGE TO EACH OF US

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 EACH OF US WHO, IF WE SO CHOOSE, CAN WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTERS IN THE HISTORY OF GOOD.

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EACH OF US OWES MUCH TO THE GENERATIONS OF GOOD HISTORY WRITERS WHO WENT BEFORE OUR TIMES. BUT WE ALSO OWE MUCH TO THE GENERATIONS WHO WILL FOLLOW. HE OR SHE WILL SERVE BEST WHO RESOLVES EACH DAY TO WRITE A LINE IN THE HISTORY OF GOOD. SOME DAYS, IF WE DREAM WELL, WE 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.

James T. Hollman
Son -
1st sub-
Sister

Doyle
Mud
People

first term - last term →