

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
STUDENT ASSEMBLY
HOCKER GROVE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS
APRIL 18, 1974

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.

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 OVER-SHADOWED 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.

THIS IS A GOOD NATION BECAUSE OF OUR CONCEPT OF HUMAN DIGNITY -- THE WORTH 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.

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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 ON 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. AND 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 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 UNDERSTANDABLE QUESTIONS, BUT I THINK THEY HAVE A LEGITIMATE RESPONSE.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

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

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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 SIZABLE PERCENTAGE OF YOU SIT HERE TODAY, HEALTHY AND VIGOROUS --
INSTEAD OF BEING A STATISTIC IN THE COURTHOUSE -- BECAUSE MY GENERATION
WIPED 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 AND
THE NATION WHICH DID THAT.

STEPS TOWARD PEACE

I AM PROUD OF WHAT MY GENERATION HAS DONE AND IS DOING TO WORLD PEACE -- PARTICULARLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. THIS NATION HAS RECENTLY 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 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 SHEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS." WE ARE AT THE DAWN OF THAT DAY.

THAT IS A HISTORY OF GOOD. AND IT 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. BUT 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. YOUNG AMERICANS, EACH OF YOU OWES 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 DAY, IF YOU DREAM WELL, YOU MIGHT EVEN WRITE A FULL PARAGRAPH. AND 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.