

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
SEK-CAP ANNUAL MEETING
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
PITTSBURG, KANSAS
APRIL 27, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN PITTSBURG TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SEK-CAP.

THE SOUTHEAST PART OF OUR STATE HAS, FOR MANY YEARS, FACED A UNIQUE SET OF PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. BUT THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA HAVE ALSO DEMONSTRATED A SPECIAL WILLINGNESS AND CAPACITY FOR RESPONDING TO THESE SITUATIONS. EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE AREA'S ECONOMIC BASE; REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT; AND MEET THE PRESSING NEEDS OF YOUTH, THE ELDERLY AND MINORITIES HAVE BEEN EXERTED BY A GREAT NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

2.

SEK-CAP'S RECORD

AND AMONG THESE, SEK-CAP STANDS OUT AS PERHAPS THE MOST BROADLY BASED AND WIDELY SUPPORTED OF ALL THOSE WHICH GIVE THEIR MAJOR EMPHASIS TO THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS OF THE AREA. THEREFORE, I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE SEK-CAP ANNUAL MEETING AND REVIEW THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SEK-CAP IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS. I WISH TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM GARRISON, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SEK-CAP, AND SEK-CAP EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITY WORKERS WHO HAVE MADE THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM A PROGRAM OF SERVICE TO THE NEEDY OF SOUTHEAST KANSAS. YOUR PROGRAMS PROVIDE A RAY OF HOPE FOR THE NEEDY, THE ELDERLY, AND THE DISADVANTAGED RESIDENTS OF THIS AREA.

3.

FEDERAL SUPPORT

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS PROGRAM, PROVIDING NEARLY \$2 MILLION IN FEDERAL SUPPORT TO SEK-CAP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR. WITH OEO PROVIDING THE BASIC CORE SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS, HEW, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAVE ADDED PROGRAM MONEY TO AID THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, MANPOWER, AND ELDERLY PROGRAMS OPERATED THROUGH SEK-CAP. THE PROGRAM FUNDS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE AND ARE INCLUDED IN THE 1975 BUDGET FIGURES FOR THE VARIOUS AGENCIES. HOWEVER, AS I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE, THE FUTURE OF THE OEO SUPPORT FOR SEK-CAP IS IN JEOPARDY.

4.

OUTLOOK FOR LEGISLATION

I AM SURE MANY OF YOU ARE CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE OEO FUNDING AS THESE MONIES HAVE BEEN USED TO FINANCE THE CENTRAL CORE OF SEK-CAP OPERATIONS. THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT, WHICH FUNDS CAP AGENCIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY EXPIRES JUNE 30th OF THIS YEAR. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MOVED FORWARD WITH THEIR PLAN OF DISMANTLING OEO AS A SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY. AND TO ADD TO THESE PROBLEMS, OEO IS STILL TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THE HORROR STORIES OF MISMANAGED AND MISAPPLIED FUNDS AND MISFORTUNATE ENDEAVORS. IT IS IN THIS ATMOSPHERE THAT CONGRESS IS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS, AND THE TASK HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY ONE.

5.

BUT THANKS TO THE EXCELLENT RECORD OF MANY CAP AGENCIES -- INCLUDING SEK-CAP AND OTHER CAP AGENCIES IN KANSAS -- THERE IS HOPE FOR AN EXTENSION OF CAP FUNDING. THE FUNDING MAY NOT COME THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY SUCH AS OEO, AND THE PROGRAM MAY UNDERGO SOME SLIGHT REVISIONS. BUT THERE IS LEGISLATION UNDER CONSIDERATION IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO EXTEND CAP SUPPORT AND ACTION IS EXPECTED ON THESE BILLS.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

ANOTHER PROGRAM OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU IS THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT SIGNED INTO LAW LAST MAY. I WAS A CO-SPONSOR OF THIS BILL WHICH LAST YEAR PROVIDED MORE THAN \$2 MILLION DOLLARS IN SUPPORT FOR KANSAS ELDERLY PROGRAMS. APPROXIMATELY \$150,000 OF THESE FUNDS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO THE SOUTHEAST KANSAS AREA AGENCY ON AGING TO OPERATE A NUTRITION AND COMMUNITY CENTERS PROGRAM IN THIS AREA. ADDITIONAL FEDERAL DOLLARS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

6.

INVOLVEMENT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

HAVING SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS ON THE SENATE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER SEVERAL OF THE VARIOUS FEDERAL APPROACHES TO STIMULATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I FEEL I HAVE HAD A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THESE PROBLEMS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE PROGRAMS. I WAS ESPECIALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP APPROACH WHICH ESTABLISHES A FORMAL BASE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN WORKING OUT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

7.

OF COURSE, THIS CONCEPT HERE IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS IS REPRESENTED BY THE OZARKS REGIONAL COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION'S WORK IS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THIS AREA'S APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND I BELIEVE THE STATEWIDE EXPANSION OF ITS JURISDICTION -- WHICH I SECURED EARLIER THIS YEAR -- WILL PAY EVEN GREATER BENEFITS TO THE ORIGINAL O.R.C. AREA IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS AND TO THE ENTIRE STATE. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WILL AVOID WASTEFUL DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND FRAGMENTATION OF POLICIES WHICH CAN SERIOUSLY HINDER ANY SUCH EFFORT.

8.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

TO DATE, THE OZARKS COMMISSION HAS SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS TOTALING MORE THAN \$9 MILLION, SO I BELIEVE IT HAS HAD A MOST BENEFICIAL AND POSITIVE IMPACT IN THIS AREA.

ALSO, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS. AND HERE IN PITTSBURG, -- IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OZARKS COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF PITTSBURG -- E.D.A. HAS SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW MILLION-DOLLAR REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARK. THE COMBINED INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE LOCATED THERE ARE PROVIDING IN EXCESS OF 200 JOBS, AND CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK PROMISES A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ITS IMPACT IN PITTSBURG.

9.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL PARKS SUPPORTED IN THIS SAME FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIP HAVE ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED AT CHETOPA, INDEPENDENCE, PARSONS, BAXTER SPRINGS, AND CHERRYVALE. AND THE PARSONS COMMUNITY CENTER, THE COFFEYVILLE VO-TECH SCHOOL AND IOLA'S WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED THIS SUPPORT.

GOOD INVESTMENT

SO I BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR THAT THROUGH THIS PARTNERSHIP APPROACH THE PEOPLE OF THIS NINE-COUNTY AREA HAVE BENEFITED SIGNIFICANTLY AND THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONVERT THE INVESTMENT OF SOME \$3 MILLION INTO MORE THAN \$9 MILLION IN PROJECTS. AND THAT IS A GOOD RETURN ON ANYBODY'S INVESTMENT.

10.

CONTROL OF INFLATION AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY MENTIONING ONE GENERAL SUBJECT WHICH IS NOT DIRECTLY TIED TO SEK-CAP OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, BUT IT DOES DEAL WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT GENERAL ECONOMIC SUBJECT FACING CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC TODAY. AND AS FAR AS THE ECONOMY IS CONCERNED, THE CONTROL OF INFLATION IS THE NUMBER ONE MOST CRITICAL AND SERIOUS PROBLEM FACING THE COUNTRY.

INFLATION, OF COURSE, HITS EVERYONE. BUT THOSE WHO LIVE ON FIXED AND LOW INCOMES ARE ALWAYS THE ONES WHO SUFFER FIRST AND MOST SERIOUSLY. THEIR BUDGETS HAVE LESS FLEXIBILITY AND ROOM FOR ADJUSTMENT. SO WHEN THE PRICE OF FUEL OR FOOD OR CLOTHING GOES UP, THEY ARE HURT AND REALLY HAVE NO WAY TO ESCAPE THIS IMPACT.

11.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CONTROLLING INFLATION, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT PROBABLY THE MOST BASIC CONCERN OF AMERICA'S ELDERLY, ITS BELOW-AVERAGE INCOME GROUPS AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN AREAS OF CHRONIC ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY. I BELIEVE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ACHIEVING REAL LIMITATIONS ON INFLATION IS TO CONTROL UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING. AND THIS CAN BE SEEN FROM A LOOK AT THE FIGURES.

FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975, WE FACE AN ALL TIME RECORD FEDERAL BUDGET OF \$304.4 BILLION. IT IS UP SOME \$30 BILLION OVER LAST YEAR'S. AND MOST DISTURBING OF ALL, SOME 73 PERCENT OF IT IS DEEMED "UNCONTROLLABLE" FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.

THIS POSES AN IMMENSELY DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR THOSE OF US WHO KNOW THAT THE ECONOMIC REALITIES OF CONTINUAL DEFICIT SPENDING CAN ONLY BE IGNORED AT THE RISK OF THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IN THE FUTURE.

12.

SENATE BUDGET REFORM BILL

FORTUNATELY, I BELIEVE ONE IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING WAS TAKEN WHEN THE SENATE PASSED ITS BUDGET REFORM BILL LAST MONTH. BY FORCING THE HELTER-SKELTER LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH OVERALL SPENDING LIMITATIONS AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR MATCHING REVENUES AND OUTLAYS, I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE ARE NOW FINALLY ON THE ROAD TO APPROACHING BUDGET MATTERS IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND ORDERLY WAY.

WE CANNOT BEGIN TO CONTROL INFLATION WITHOUT CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING, SO I AM HOPEFUL THAT THIS REFORM OF CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES WILL BE THE FIRST, BUT NOT THE LAST, STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. AND EVERY AMERICAN HAS A STAKE IN SEEING SUCCESS IN THIS EFFORT.

13.

DECISIONS ON SPENDING

AS THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS CONTINUES, THERE WILL BE MANY CHOICES AND MANY DECISIONS. BUT I BELIEVE NO MORE IMPORTANT STANDARD CAN BE APPLIED TO ANY OF THESE DECISIONS THAN THE SIMPLE MATTER OF WHETHER ANY GIVEN DECISION WILL MEAN RESPONSIBLE AND NECESSARY GOVERNMENT SPENDING OR NOT.

THE RESULTS OF THESE DECISIONS WILL BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO EVERY AMERICAN, FOR WE MUST CONTROL INFLATION TO GUARANTEE A STABLE AND SECURE ECONOMY FOR THE UNITED STATES AND MEANINGFUL PROTECTION FOR THE PAYCHECKS, PENSIONS AND SAVINGS OF EVERY AMERICAN.

#