

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
DEDICATION OF BLUESTEM HIGH SCHOOL  
LEON, KANSAS  
APRIL 28, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY AND TO JOIN WITH THE  
CITIZENS OF BUTLER COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS IN DEDICATING  
THE NEW BLUESTEM HIGH SCHOOL.

THE DEDICATION OF ANY NEW EDUCATIONAL FACILITY IS A MOST  
MOVING AND IMPRESSIVE OCCASION. THERE ARE USUALLY BANDS, SPEECHES  
AND MUCH CEREMONY ASSOCIATED WITH IT. BUT THIS IS REALLY MUCH MORE  
THAN AN EXCUSE FOR A HOLIDAY. ON SUCH OCCASIONS WE DO NOT MERELY  
CELEBRATE THE END OF A LONG JOB AND OPEN THE DOORS TO A NEW  
BUILDING. RATHER, BY THESE ACTIONS WE MAKE A MOST IMPORTANT  
PUBLIC GESTURE WHICH DESERVES A MOMENT OF REFLECTION AND  
EXAMINATION.

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AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT

THE DEDICATION OF A NEW SCHOOL IS, I BELIEVE, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A COMMUNITY. IT IS AN ACT WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE PRESENCE OF A VITAL ELEMENT OF HEALTH AND VIGOR WHICH ANY COMMUNITY -- LARGE OR SMALL -- MUST HAVE TO SURVIVE AND GROW AND PROSPER. AMERICA HAS HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF THIS VITAL ELEMENT THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY. AND NOWHERE CAN IT BE SEEN IN GREATER VIGOR OR IMPRESSIVE PROMINENCE THAN HERE IN LEON TODAY.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS POSSESSED IT IN THE EARLY, STRUGGLING DAYS OF OUR INDEPENDENCE. THE PIONEERS CARRIED IT WEST WITH THEM. AND OUR MODERN SOCIETY HAS ENABLED US TO DEVOTE TREMENDOUS RESOURCES TO IT.

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THIS ELEMENT IS A DEEP AND ABIDING FAITH IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. IT IS A UNIQUE DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN THEM AND A BROAD COMMITMENT TO THEIR WELL-BEING WHICH IS UNEQUALED IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN SOCIETY. IT HAS ITS HIGHEST FORM OF EXPRESSION IN AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO A UNIVERSAL PUBLIC EDUCATION OF HIGH QUALITY AND AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO WOULD REACH OUT FOR IT. AS A BRITISH OBSERVER PUT IT EARLIER IN THIS CENTURY: "THE YOUTH OF AMERICA IS THEIR OLDEST TRADITION. IT HAS BEEN GOING ON NOW FOR 300 YEARS".

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IT WOULD BE A SAD AND TRAGIC OCCASION IF THIS OR ANY ADULT GENERATION WERE TO DECLARE ITS HOSTILITY OR INDIFFERENCE TO ITS CHILDREN OR ITS CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. FOR IF WE LOSE FAITH IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WE HAVE LOST FAITH IN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING AND HAVE SOWN THE SEEDS OF OUR EVENTUAL DECLINE AND DOWNFALL.

SO BY CEREMONIES SUCH AS TODAY'S WE JOIN IN OPENLY DECLARING AND RENEWING THIS TRADITION OF YOUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF COMMITMENT FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF OUR YOUNG CITIZENS. AND DESPITE OTHER TROUBLES OR DIFFICULTIES WHICH MAY BESET US, THE PRESENCE OF



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THIS STRONG AND STEADFAST FAITH GIVES GREAT CAUSE FOR CONFIDENCE  
IN THIS COMMUNITY'S AND IN OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURES.

MAJOR COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT

OF COURSE TODAY IS ONLY THE CULMINATION AND FINAL RESULT  
OF THAT SPIRIT AND OF MUCH WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE. TWO YEARS  
AGO -- ALMOST EXACTLY TO THIS VERY DAY -- THE CITIZENS OF THIS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT REALLY PUT THEMSELVES ON RECORD BY APPROVING THE  
\$1,160,000 BOND ISSUE WHICH FINANCED THE CONSTRUCTION OF BLUESTEM  
HIGH SCHOOL. THIS WAS NOT A TIMID GESTURE OR A GRUDGINGLY WON  
VICTORY UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE VOTE  
ON MAY 2, 1972, WAS A RESOUNDING AFFIRMATION OF THIS FAITH.

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A PLURALITY IN MOST ELECTIONS IS CONSIDERED A SUCCESS. A BASIC MAJORITY IS SEEN AS A SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT. AND IN THE CONGRESS ANYTHING OVER 55 PERCENT IS CONSIDERED CLOSE TO A LANDSLIDE. BUT THE FAR GREATER THAN TWO-TO-ONE MARGIN OF APPROVAL FOR THE BLUESTEM BOND ISSUE WAS A RINGING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON BEHALF OF YOUR YOUNGSTERS AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

AND COMING AS IT DID, AT A TIME WHEN THE HEADLINES IN IN MANY OTHER AREAS WERE TELLING OF SCHOOL BOND ISSUE DEFEATS -- FOR THE SECOND, THIRD OR MORE TIMES -- THIS FIRST VOTE MARGIN OF VICTORY SPEAKS MOST HIGHLY OF THIS COMMUNITY'S CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN YOUR MOST VALUABLE AND PRECIOUS ASSET.

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CREDIT TO LEADERS AND VOTERS

A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT GOES TO YOUR CIVIC LEADERS AND TO YOUR SCHOOL BOARD WHO HAD THE VISION AND THE ENERGY TO PROPOSE, SUPPORT AND WORK FOR PASSAGE OF THIS BOND ISSUE. BUT WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO THE BASICS, THE REAL CREDIT BELONGS TO THE VOTERS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO RESPONDED IN SUCH AN OUTSTANDING MANNER TO THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED IN THAT ELECTION.

PUBLIC GESTURE

WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE ELECTION WAS WON BY MANY ANONYMOUS ACTS OF MARKING THE RIGHT BOX ON THE BALLOT IN THE PRIVACY OF THE VOTING BOOTH. TODAY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE MAKING A WHOLLY PUBLIC GESTURE EXPRESSING THAT SAME HIGH DEGREE OF MOTIVATION AND COMMITMENT.

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THROUGH TODAY'S CEREMONIES, WE ARE TURNING OVER THE RESULTS OF THAT ELECTION TO THESE AND FUTURE STUDENTS. WE ARE OPENING THE DOORS TO THEM AND SAYING IN EFFECT, "THIS IS THE BEST WE HAVE TO OFFER -- OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFT -- A PLACE FOR YOU TO LEARN, TO EXPLORE AND TO GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING REQUIRED TO IMPROVE THIS WORLD AND MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUR CHILDREN".

STRONG ELEMENT OF UNITY

AND THIS IS THE ASPECT OF TODAY'S CEREMONIES WHICH DESERVES SPECIAL ATTENTION. FOR REGARDLESS THE DIFFERENCES WHICH OCCASIONALLY MIGHT DIVIDE AND SEPARATE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AND VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE AREA, THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE GREAT UNITY AND SHARED PURPOSE WHICH JOINS YOU TOGETHER IN A REAL COMMUNITY. THIS



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ELEMENT OF UNITY IS MUCH STRONGER AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME MAY GET IN THE WAY OF OUR COOPERATION AND EFFORTS TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES.

I BELIEVE THAT AN OCCASION SUCH AS TODAY'S DEDICATION CAN SERVE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PURPOSE THROUGH ITS EMPHASIS OF THIS UNDERLYING BOND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. AND IF THIS BASIC UNITY IS RECOGNIZED, A GREAT DEAL CAN BE GAINED ON BEHALF OF THE OVERALL APPROACH TAKEN TO OTHER CHALLENGES, PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES WHICH MAY ARISE.

FOR A COMMUNITY WHICH HAS HARNESSSED SUCH A STRONG, UNIFIED BELIEF TO THE REALIZATION OF THIS GOAL, CAN CERTAINLY BUILD ON THIS IN MANY OTHER AREAS.

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IF WE CAN JOIN IN BELIEVING IN OUR CHILDREN AND IN THE  
GOOD THEY CAN ACHIEVE, THEN WE CAN BUILD NEW SCHOOLS, LIVE IN  
HARMONY WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND MAKE THIS PLACE AND THIS NATION  
A BETTER HOME FOR OURSELVES AND FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR IDEALS.

WORLDWIDE IMPLICATIONS

AND THIS PROCESS CAN EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE BORDERS OF  
BUTLER COUNTY, THE STATE OF KANSAS OR AMERICA.

THE COMMON INTERESTS AND THE COMMON NECESSITIES SHARED  
BY ALL KANSANS BY ALL AMERICANS AND BY ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE  
WORLD ARE MUCH DEEPER AND MUCH STRONGER THAN THE FORCES THAT WOULD  
DIVIDE AND SEPARATE US.

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SHARED INTERESTS OF NATIONS

ON THE LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THE CITIZENS OF EVERY COUNTRY SHARE A GREAT AND POWERFUL INTEREST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LASTING STRUCTURE FOR WORLD PEACE. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL IS AMERICAN, CHINESE, BRITISH OR RUSSIAN. THAT PERSON, HIS FAMILY AND HIS CHILDREN ARE UNITED WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS AROUND THE WORLD IN THE NEED FOR A STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WHICH WILL SPARE THEM FROM WAR BEING USED AS A TOOL FOR SETTling DIFFERENCES AND DISPUTES.

WE MUST HAVE A SYSTEM WHEREBY OUR COMMON INTEREST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IS NEVER ALLOWED TO BE OVERSHADOWED BY DISPUTES OR DIFFERENCES -- HOWEVER SERIOUS. WE MUST BE ABLE TO

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DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH CAN  
LEAD TO COMPROMISE, ADJUSTMENT AND ACCOMMODATION RATHER THAN IN  
A SETTING WHICH HAS NO OUTLET BUT RESORT TO MILITARY BLUFF AND  
POSSIBLY UNCONTROLLABLE HOSTILITY.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE SEEN A GREAT DEAL ACCOMPLISHED IN  
THIS AREA THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT  
YEARS. BY SKILLFUL DIPLOMACY AND A CONSISTENT APPROACH TO  
FOREIGN POLICY, WE HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM THE COLD WAR APPROACH  
EMPHASIZING THE DIFFERENCES AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS  
WITH OUR ADVERSARIES. AND WE HAVE REACHED A POSITION OF ATTEMPTING  
TO FORM CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL NATIONS, BASED ON A  
RECOGNITION OF SHARED INTERESTS.



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OF COURSE, WE CANNOT IGNORE THE VAST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR SYSTEM AND ITS VALUES AND THOSE OF RUSSIA OR CHINA. THERE IS MUCH ABOUT WHICH WE DISAGREE AND WHICH WE CAN NEVER EXPECT TO FIND A COMMON GROUND. BUT HOW MUCH BETTER IT IS TO BE COMMUNICATING WITH THE SOVIETS AND THE CHINESE IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD WHERE WE CAN BUILD, AGREE WHERE WE CAN AGREE AND SHARE WHAT WE CAN SHARE -- THAN TO BE MENACING EACH OTHER OVER THE BARRELS OF TANKS OR THE CONSOLES OF OUR MISSILE LAUNCHERS. IT REMINDS ME A GREAT DEAL OF DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE'S MESSAGE OF "THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING", OR THE NEWER "I'M O.K. -- YOU'RE O.K." APPROACH TO LIFE.

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THESE IDEAS SEEM TO HAVE SOUND APPLICATION IN DEALINGS  
BETWEEN NATIONS AS WELL AS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, AND I THINK WE  
CAN ALL FIND A GOOD LESSON AT BOTH LEVELS.

MANY SHARED INTERESTS

THESE SHARED INTERESTS REACH OUT FAR BEYOND SUCH FINAL  
ISSUES AS WAR AND PEACE. JUST THINK HOW THE PEOPLE OF INDIA,  
IN THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN REGIONS OF AFRICA, AND THE JAPANESE, THE  
EUROPEANS AND MANY LATIN AMERICANS HAVE A COMMON INTEREST WITH  
THE PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER. WITHOUT OUR  
PRODUCTION, OUR RICHNESS AND CAPABILITY, MANY OF THE MILLIONS IN  
POOR COUNTRIES WOULD FACE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

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OR IN THE CASE OF THE MORE PROSPEROUS COUNTRIES, THEY WOULD FACE VAST DIFFERENCES IN THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH LUXURY ITEMS AS BEEF AND PORK IN THEIR DIETS.

THE ENERGY SITUATION IS STILL ANOTHER EXAMPLE. FOR ALL NATIONS, OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ALIKE, SHARE A BASIC INTEREST IN THE STATE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. AND IT WILL DO THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES NO GOOD AT ALL TO PRECIPITATE A MASSIVE DEPRESSION, FOR THEY WOULD LOSE THEIR CUSTOMERS AND THE VAST EXPORT INCOME THEY NOW EARN.

SO IN MANY WAYS AND ON MANY LEVELS, IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL RECOGNIZE THE GREAT UNIFYING FORCES THAT BIND US TOGETHER MUCH MORE STRONGLY AND PERMANENTLY THAN MOST OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT MAY OCCASIONALLY SEEM SO HARSH AND UNMANAGEABLE.

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AND WHETHER WE LOOK AT A SCHOOL BOND ELECTION HERE IN BUTLER COUNTY OR AT A SUMMIT MEETING IN MOSCOW OR PEKING AMONG THE WORLD'S GREAT POWERS, THESE UNIFYING ELEMENTS ARE PRESENT AND WAITING TO BE SEIZED UPON.

CONCLUSION

SO I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE IN LEON TODAY, AND I BELIEVE WE CAN ALL TAKE HOME WITH US AN IMPORTANT REALIZATION OF THIS SENSE OF UNITY WHICH MEANS SO MUCH TO EACH OF US INDIVIDUALLY AND TO THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AND HARMONY IN THE WORLD.

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