

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
AT A DINNER OF THE  
KANSAS KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
BEN. PAULEN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1974  
6:30 P.M.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE AND TO ATTEND WITH YOU THIS  
DINNER IN HONOR OF GEORGE REMSBERG, THE NEW GRAND COMMANDER OF  
THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN KANSAS.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, NOW SOME 10,000 STRONG IN KANSAS, APPEAR  
TO HAVE CHOSEN WELL IN THEIR SELECTION OF GEORGE REMSBERG. I HAVE  
HEARD GREAT THINGS ABOUT HIM, ABOUT THE HARD WORK HE HAS ALREADY  
PUT IN, IN SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY -- AND DURING HIS MANY YEARS  
AS A MASON, IN SERVICE TO HIS FELLOW MEMBERS.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IMMUNE

I COMMEND HIM FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND I COMMEND YOU FOR  
HAVING SELECTED HIM AS YOUR GRAND COMMANDER.

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IT IS A CURIOUS AND TROUBLING THING TO NOTE THE LOW ESTATE TO WHICH SO MANY OF OUR INSTITUTIONS HAVE FALLEN IN RECENT YEARS. THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, AND THE MASONS GENERALLY, HAVE NOT BEEN A VICTIM OF THIS WIDESPREAD SYNDROME.

BUT RECENT POLLS, AND A LITTLE CASUAL OBSERVATION, CONFIRM THAT SOME OF OUR MOST CHERISHED AND UNTIL RECENTLY MOST TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS -- LIKE THE PRESIDENCY AND THE CONGRESS, LIKE ORGANIZED LABOR, LIKE BUSINESS AND EVEN ORGANIZED RELIGION ARE ALL, IN VARYING DEGREES, LOSING THEIR GRIP ON THE LOYALTIES OF THE PEOPLE.

COMMON PROBLEM

I THINK IT IS TRUE OF EACH OF THESE INSTITUTIONS THAT A LARGE PART OF THE PUBLIC LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITIES TO PERFORM IS TRACEABLE, MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY, TO A COMMON PROBLEM.

WE HAVE GONE THROUGH A RATHER LONG ERA OF WHAT HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS "RISING EXPECTATIONS". THE MORE WE GOT, THE MORE WE EXPECTED TO GET.

AND THE DEMAND ON TRADITIONAL AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS GREW AS OUR EXPECTATIONS GREW. THE SAME INSTITUTIONS WHICH WE CREDITED WITH HAVING MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US AS A NATION AND A SOCIETY TO PROGRESS NOW ARE ASSIGNED THE BLAME FOR OUR FRUSTRATIONS AT BEING UNABLE TO PROGRESS EVEN MORE RAPIDLY.

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WE THE PEOPLE ERRED IN ASSIGNING THE BLAME. THE INSTITUTIONS TOO, ERRED, BY ACCEPTING IT IMPLICITLY AND ASSURING US AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY THAT THEY REALLY COULD WORK WONDERS IF WE WOULD ONLY GIVE THEM A LITTLE MORE TIME.

INSTITUTIONS, IN SHORT, OVER-PROMISED AND THE PEOPLE MADE THE MISTAKE OF BELIEVING THOSE INFLATED ASSURANCES THEY WERE GIVEN.

TOO MUCH PIE IN THE SKY

GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS PARTICULARLY, SUFFERED FROM THIS FAILING. PRESIDENTS, IN RECENT YEARS HAVE PROMISED US JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WE HAVE ASKED FOR, FROM A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT TO A GREAT SOCIETY WITH NO POVERTY, NO HATRED, NO WAR.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, THE CONGRESS PASSES A FEW LAWS AND PROMISES THAT THEY WILL BRING AN END TO THE URBAN CRISIS, AN END TO DISCRIMINATION, AN END TO POLITICAL CORRUPTION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, AND ALL THE OTHER ILLS OF SOCIETY.

THE LEVEL OF RHETORIC FAR EXCEEDED THE LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

THE RESULT HAS BEEN A CREDIBILITY CRISIS, NOT RESTRICTED TO ONE MAN OR ONE INSTITUTION BUT EXTENDING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND -- I REPEAT -- INVOLVING OUR MOST CHERISHED AND PREVIOUSLY MOST TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS.

WHY SHOULD A GROUP LIKE THE MASONS BE IMMUNE FROM THIS SYNDROME. WHY SHOULD THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BE ABLE TO ATTRACT THE ALLEGIANCE AND

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LOYALTIES OF OVER 10,000 ACTIVE AND INVOLVED MEMBERS IN A STATE LIKE KANSAS AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE OVER THE COUNTRY.

THE REASON, I THINK, IS CLEAR. THERE HAS NEVER GROWN UP AROUND THE MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS ANY NOTION OF A SEPARATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS.

THE ORGANIZATION IS ITS MEMBERS.

THE PEOPLE ARE THE GOVERNMENT

OUR TRADITIONS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD DICTATE THE SAME ATTITUDE ABOUT OUR CITIZENSHIP. IN AMERICA, OUR GOVERNMENT IS THE PEOPLE.

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BUT WE HAVE LOST THE SENSE OF PARTICIPATION WHICH MAKES THAT REAL .  
WE SPEAK OF US AND THEM, OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE AS IF  
THEY WERE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM EACH OTHER.

AND UNFORTUNATELY, IN TOO MANY WAYS, THEY ARE.

GOVERNMENT MAKES PROMISES TO DO THIS OR THAT FOR US, TO GIVE  
US THIS OR THAT. BUT THE FACT WE HAVE LOST SIGHT OF IS THAT  
GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE US ONLY WHAT IS ALREADY OURS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE NOW SEEM TO HAVE THIS UNFORTUNATE TENDENCY TO VIEW GOVERN-  
MENT AS A REMOTE, SEPARATE AND DISTINCT INSTITUTION NOT CONNECTED  
MEANINGFULLY TO THE PEOPLE.

A VERY GREAT CHALLENGE NOW FACING THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED  
ABOUT GOVERNMENT IS TO RESTORE GENUINE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. THE  
CHALLENGE IS A UNIVERSAL ONE.

THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND SHARED DECISION MAKING -- THE INTUITIVE AMERICAN FEELING THAT MEN AND WOMEN OUGHT TO BE PARTICIPANTS AND NOT JUST PASSIVE OBSERVERS OF THE LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITIES -- IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE IN THIS COUNTRY. VOLUNTARY FRATERNAL AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR ARE AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE.

WHY CAN WE NOT RESTORE THAT SAME SPIRIT IN GOVERNMENT?  
THERE IS NO GOOD REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT.

TRANSFER SPIRIT OF KNIGHTS TO PUBLIC SECTOR

WE CAN DO IT. AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE, IN SOME DISCERNIBLE WAYS, ALREADY BEGUN TO DO IT. ALMOST INEVITABLY, AS POWER CENTRALIZES AND IS CONSOLIDATED, IT BECOMES REMOTE FROM THE PEOPLE. THE ANSWER THEREFORE, IS TO DECENTRALIZE. AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE A BEGINNING AT DECENTRALIZATION.



IF WE BUILD THEN THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND  
COMMON BOND WHICH MOTIVATES SUCH FINE ORGANIZATIONS AS THE KNIGHTS  
TEMPLAR, THAT EXAMPLE MAY SPREAD ONCE AGAIN INTO OTHER INSTITUTIONS  
IN OUR SOCIETY -- GOVERNMENT NOT THE LEAST OF THEM.

AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THEN THE SPIRIT WHICH MAKES THE KNIGHTS  
A DYNAMIC PRIVATE GROUP, MAY CATCH FIRE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND  
GET US MOVING AGAIN TOWARDS THE MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WHICH  
HAVE BEEN SUCH SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN OUR AMERICAN SOCIETY.

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I BELIEVE IT WILL HAPPEN. AND I ASK THAT YOU, IN ALL YOUR  
CIVIC INVOLVEMENTS HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN -- BY TAKING WITH YOU INTO  
THE PUBLIC SECTOR THE SPIRIT OF FRATERNITY, OF COOPERATION AND  
OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT WHICH MAKES THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
SUCH A FINE ORGANIZATION.

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