

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
DEDICATION OF COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WICHITA, KANSAS
SUNDAY JUNE 16, 1974

IT IS A DISTINCT PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE TODAY. I COUNT IT AN HONOR TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH YOU IN THE DEDICATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

IT IS UNFORTUNATELY TRUE THAT, IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, MANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS WHICH TEND TO HOLD OUR SOCIETY TOGETHER, GIVE IT SUSTENANCE AND SPIRITUAL UNDERPINNINGS -- INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE CHURCH -- ARE LOSING THEIR ABILITY TO ATTRACT AND HOLD THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE PEOPLE.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IS THE GENERAL CASE HERE IN KANSAS, AND IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE CASE, AT ALL HERE.

IMPRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

I AM PERSONALLY MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE EFFORTS OF YOUR CONGREGATION -- TANGIBLE AND VISIBLE HERE IN THE NEWLY BUILT COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH -- AND ALSO, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, AS TANGIBLE IN THE GOOD WORK YOU DO IN REACHING OUT TO THE GREATER COMMUNITY.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEAN RUTHERFORD WHO HAS THE ABLE SUPPORT OF HIS FAMILY, THIS CHURCH AND ITS MOST ACTIVE CONGREGATION HAS GROWN IMPRESSIVELY. YOUR ADHERENCE STRONGLY TO YOUR FAITH -- AND YOUR WILLING AND ZEALOUS EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS -- IS INSPIRATIONAL.

YOUNG CHURCH

I CAN'T HELP BUT OBSERVE THE FACT THAT THIS IS A YOUNG CHURCH AND A DYNAMIC ONE. ONLY TWENTY YEARS AGO, DEAN RUTHERFORD STARTED WOODLAWN CHRISTIAN IN THE HALL OF A SCHOOL BUILDING. NOW, TODAY, YOU CELEBRATE

YOUR FIRST SERVICE IN THIS MAGNIFICENT NEW STRUCTURE.

YOU HAVE A YOUNG CONGREGATION OF VIBRANT, ENERGETIC PEOPLE WHO IN THESE OFTEN CONFUSING TIMES ARE DRAWN TO THE BEDROCK OF THEIR CHURCH AND USED TO LOOKING AT THINGS WITH A POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE YOUR FAITH GIVES YOU.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK -- HOPE FOR FUTURE

I AM SURE THAT WHILE YOU RECOGNIZE AND FULLY APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE AS A NATION AND A SOCIETY, THAT YOU ALSO RECOGNIZE HOW VERY MUCH THIS COUNTRY HAS GOING FOR IT -- HOW VERY MUCH THERE IS THAT IS GOOD IN THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY PEOPLE GOING AROUND, WRINGING THEIR HANDS ABOUT HOW BAD THIS COUNTRY IS, WHO CLAIM THE SYSTEM HAS FAILED US AND OUR FUTURE IS DARK.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I DON'T THINK YOU DO.

WE HAVE MORE PEOPLE LIVING BETTER IN AMERICA THAN AT ANY OTHER PLACE, AT THIS TIME, OR ANY OTHER TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. AND WE HAVE MORE PEOPLE WORKING TO HELP OTHERS LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES -- WORKING HARD TO HELP THEIR FELLOW MAN -- THAN THOSE WHO RUN DOWN AMERICA WOULD EVER DARE TO ADMIT.

YES, THERE IS MUCH RIGHT WITH THIS COUNTRY. AND THE FACT THAT THERE IS NEW HOPE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- DRAMATIC AND UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS TOWARD AN END TO THE HOSTILITIES THERE -- IS JUST THE MOST RECENT EVIDENCE OF IT.

THIS IS A GREAT COUNTRY, CAPABLE OF BEING A POWERFUL FORCE OF GOOD IN THE WORLD. THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS HAVE FOR MOST OF THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE

YEARS BEEN FIGHTING TO PROTECT WHAT THEY VIEW AS THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST. THE FACT THAT THEY NOW UNDERSTAND AND FULLY APPRECIATE THAT THEY HAVE AN EQUALLY COMPELLING COMMON INTEREST, NAMELY PEACE, IS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWERFUL INFLUENCE OF THIS COUNTRY TO BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

JUST AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE THROUGH DIPLOMACY TO RECONCILE THESE NATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, I ONLY HOPE THAT WE CAN MANAGE TO WORK OUT A RECONCILIATION OF EQUAL FORCE HERE AT HOME.

IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED, IT WILL HAVE TO BE WITH THE EFFORTS OF DEDICATED PEOPLE LIKE THIS CONGREGATION WHO WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR FAITH AND THE NEEDS OF THEIR WORLD.

REAL INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD

AND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO UNDER THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF DEAN RUTHERFORD -- NEVER FORGET -- DOES HAVE A REAL INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD. AN INFLUENCE THAT IS PERHAPS NOT ALWAYS APPARENT IN ITS FULLNESS -- BUT IS NONETHELESS VERY REAL AND MEANINGFUL AND MOST BENEFICIAL.

I AM REMINDED OF A STORY IN THIS CONNECTION, ABOUT THE FATHER OF A CHILD PRODIGY. THERE WAS NO TASK NOR CHALLENGE THE FATHER COULD ASSIGN THE SON, WHICH THE BOY COULDN'T DO WELL AND IN RECORD TIME. ONE SUNDAY THE MAN WAS SITTING DOWN TO HIS SUNDAY PAPER, AND HIS SON, PLAYING IN THE SAME ROOM, WAS CAUSING QUITE A DISTRACTION.

THE FATHER TO TELL THE TRUTH, WAS A LITTLE JEALOUS OF THE BOY. HE HIT ON A PLAN TO KEEP HIM QUIET FOR A FEW HOURS. HE RIPPED A PAGE OF THE PAPER OUT -- WHICH HAD A PICTURE OF THE WORLD ON IT -- AND TORE IT UP INTO HUNDREDS OF PIECES-- LITERALLY SHREDED IT.

HE GAVE THE PIECES TO HIS SON, AND SENT HIM INTO HIS ROOM WITH INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO COME OUT 'TILL IT WAS BACK TOGETHER. TEN MINUTES LATER, THE BOY EMERGED WITH A PICTURE OF THE WORLD, NEATLY TAPED TOGETHER AND MATTER -OF-FACTLY SHOWED IT TO HIS FATHER.

THE MAN, OF COURSE, WAS NONPLUSSED AND ASKED "HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO PUT IT TOGETHER SO FAST?"

THE BOY REPLIED, "OH THAT WAS NO PROBLEM". I NOTICED, BEFORE YOU RIPPED IT OUT, THAT THERE WAS A PICTURE OF A CHURCH ON THE BACK OF THE PAGE.

SO I JUST PUT THAT CHURCH TOGETHER -- AND THE WORLD TOOK CARE OF ITSELF."