

REMARKS OF SNEATOR BOB DOLE
4th OF JULY PICNIC
SHAWNEE MISSION PARK
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE SHAWNEE MISSION
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION.

THERE IS SO MUCH THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SAY ON THIS
PARTICULAR DAY IN THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTY YEAR OF OUR
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. IT IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY ON WHICH
A FEW MEN -- IN THE NAME OF MANY --DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND
ASSERTED THEIR RIGHT TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THEIR OWN DESTINIES.

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RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

SINCE THAT TIME, AMERICANS HAVE BUILT A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT --
AND A HABIT OF DEDICATION TO PRINCIPLE -- OF WHICH WE CAN ALL BE PROUD.

WE CANNOT LET OURSELVES LOSE SIGHT OF THAT ACHIEVEMENT AND
PRINCIPLE. EVERYTHING WE DO -- AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A NATION --
SHOULD BE, IN LINCOLN'S PHRASE, "CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY" -- AND IT SHOULD
BE DEDICATED TO THAT PROPOSITION.

NATIONAL UNCERTAINTY

WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME OF NATIONAL UNCERTAINTY. IT IS A TIME WHEN
MANY PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN OUR BASIC INSTITUTIONS -- ESPECIALLY
OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. THERE

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ARE DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR POLITICAL PROCESS.

THE QUESTIONS THAT MANY OF US HAVE, AND THE DOUBTS THAT WE ENTERTAIN, ARE NATURAL AND TO BE EXPECTED. BUT WE MUST NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THIS COUNTRY, IN ALMOST TWO CENTURIES OF EXISTENCE, HAS BEEN THROUGH CRISES BEFORE. AND WE HAVE WEATHERED EVERY ONE.

LOOK BACK AS BICENTENNIAL APPROACHES

AS WE APPROACH THE OBSERVANCE OF THE UNITED STATES' 200TH ANNIVERSARY -- OUR BICENTENNIAL -- WE SHOULD TAKE A LONG LOOK AT AMERICA -- ITS PAST, ITS TRIUMPHS AND ITS PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE.

MANY PROBLEMS AROSE DURING THOSE 200 YEARS AND MANY SOLUTIONS -- SOME ALMOST MIRACULOUS -- WERE BROUGHT ABOUT.

THE ORIGINAL STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE NATIONHOOD, THE BURNING OF WASHINGTON BY THE BRITISH, THE STRUGGLE TO PUSH BACK THE FRONTIER AND THE WRENCHING HEARTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR WERE ALL PART OF OUR FIRST 100 YEARS.

RECONSTRUCTION, CHILD LABOR, THE GREAT DEPRESSION, TWO WORLD WARS AND KOREA MARKED THE FIRST TWO-THIRDS OF THE SECOND CENTURY.

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AND NOW THE SHADOWS OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, WATERGATE AND THE ENERGY CRISIS THREATEN TO MAR THE CELEBRATIONS WHICH ARE PLANNED FOR AN OFFICIAL YEAR OF BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCES SET TO BEGIN ONLY SOME SEVENTEEN MONTHS FROM NOW.

OVERCOME NEAR INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS

IT IS WELL TO REMEMBER, ON THIS DAY ABOVE ALL OTHERS, THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT LARGE -- AND THEIR POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS -- HAVE OVERCOME THOSE EARLIER OBSTACLES THAT APPEARED INSURMOUNTABLE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM CAN SHARE THE COMMON CREDIT FOR ALL THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

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AND THIS COUNTRY HAS ACHIEVED MUCH -- BOTH FOR ITSELF AND IN AID TO OTHERS -- PRECISELY BECAUSE ITS PEOPLE HAVE CONSCIENTIOUSLY ADHERED TO THEIR SYSTEM. THEY HAVE KEPT IT STRONG, AND HAVE KEPT FAITH WITH THEIR DEDICATION TO THE IDEALS THAT MOTIVATE OUR COUNTRY -- THE FREEDOM AND DIGNITY OF ALL MEN, AND EACH MAN AND WOMAN'S RIGHT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY AND THEIR OBLIGATION TO TREAT OTHERS WITH JUSTICE AND COMPASSION.

PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS REMAIN

CERTAINLY WE HAVE MANY PROBLEMS STILL REMAINING. BUT THE GREAT THING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY IS THAT THEY CAN ALL BE SOLVED. WE ARE THE FIRST COUNTRY OF THE WORLD MILITARILY, DIPLOMATICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY --

AND WE HAVE DONE IT IN JUST 200 YEARS. WE HAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES;
WE HAVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES; WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY. NOW ALL THAT
WE NEED IS A CONTINUING WILL TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. THAT IS SOMETHING
AN AWARENESS OF PAST AMERICAN EXPERIENCE CAN HELP GIVE US -- A
REGENERATION OF THE SPIRIT OF '76.

SPIRIT OF '76

WHAT WAS THAT SPIRIT -- AND INDEED WHAT IS THAT SPIRIT?

IT IS A SPIRIT OF LIBERTY COURSING THROUGH OUR NATIONAL VEINS.
IT IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE MAN'S FREEDOM, ONE WOMAN'S FREEDOM
IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON EARTH.

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IT IS THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE -- OF SHARING BURDENS AND
CONFLICTS.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM -- OF KNOWING THAT WE CAN
ALWAYS MAKE THINGS BETTER IF ONLY WE WOULDN'T SPEND SO MUCH TIME
BEMOANING HOW THEY COULD BE WORSE.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE FRONTIER -- OF NOT FEARING TO GO
WHERE MAN HAS NOT REACHED.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF CONFIDENCE -- OF NOT BEING CONSTRAINED
BY EARTHLY BOUNDARIES AND OF THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT MAN CAN
MASTER HIS FATE.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF DIVERSITY -- ALLOWING EVERYONE HIS OWN
VIEW AND HIS DISTINCTIVE WAYS AND WELCOMING THE DIFFERENCES
IN OUR SOCIETY.

INDEED, THE "SPIRIT OF '76" WAS, AND IS, MANY THINGS EACH OF WHICH HAS BEEN A BUILDING BLOCK OF OUR NATIONAL GREATNESS. OUR COUNTRY GREW ON THAT SPIRIT AND PROSPERED ON THAT SPIRIT.

THE WAY IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE AND COMMEMORATE AMERICA'S 200TH BIRTHDAY WILL HAVE A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE MANNER AND SPIRIT IN WHICH WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY AS A NATION. THE BICENTENNIAL OFFERS US A CHANCE TO REKINDLE THE SPIRIT THAT IN 200 YEARS BUILT THIRTEEN SMALL DEPENDENT COLONIES INTO THE STRONGEST NATION IN THE WORLD.

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GOOD REASON TO CELEBRATE

AND THAT IS WHAT THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS REALLY ALL ABOUT -- A REBIRTH, AS WELL AS A BIRTHDAY -- A REDISCOVERY OF OUR SPIRIT, AS WELL AS A REDISCOVERY OF OUR STRENGTH AND POTENTIAL AS A FREE PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER. IT WILL BE A BANNER UNDER WHICH ALL AMERICANS CAN MARCH, HOWEVER DISPARATE THEIR VIEWS. IT WILL CROSS STATE BOUNDARIES AND PARTISAN LINES. IT CAN BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS MINORITY AND ETHNIC DIVISIONS AND ACROSS GENERATION GAPS. IT OFFERS US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER OUR PAST, TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT

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TO THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED, AND TO GIVE
NEW MEANING TO THOSE GOALS OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

AND IF THERE WERE EVER GOOD CAUSE TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S FOUNDATION
AND ITS FUTURE IS THAT CAUSE -- AND THE TIME IS NOW.

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