

STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
BEFORE THE
MEAT INSPECTORS OF THE
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
AT THE
INTERNATIONAL INN
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1975
10:00 A.M.

YOU AND I HAVE A COMMON BASIS FOR IDENTITY. ALL OF US HERE ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS. OUR GOAL IS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS AND THE ENTIRE NATION IN THE BEST MANNER POSSIBLE IN THE PARTICULAR JOB WE HAVE TO DO.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR SERVICE PRESENT SOME UNIQUELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THESE DAYS. WE HAVE ESPECIALLY HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES DURING A TIME OF LOW PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN OUR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. BUT I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR JOBS BECAUSE WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

2.

MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES RELATED

THIS CONGRESS WILL BE CONSIDERING NUMEROUS MEASURES IN THE COMING YEAR WHICH ARE BOUND TO HAVE DIRECT IMPACT ON YOU AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, AS TAXPAYERS, AS EMPLOYEES OF THE MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE.

WE WILL BE ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF THE ECONOMY, ENERGY, AND THE LIKE, AND MOST OF THE PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH THEM, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ORIGINATE, WOULD HAVE A LARGE IMPACT ON THE DAILY LIVES OF VIRTUALLY ALL AMERICANS.

A TAX REBATE WILL GIVE YOU MORE MONEY TO SPEND AS CONSUMERS. ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS, WHETHER ACHIEVED THROUGH HIGHER ENERGY TAXES OR BY A SYSTEM OF RATIONING OR ALLOCATION, ARE PRACTICALLY CERTAIN TO DRIVE UP YOUR FUEL BILL, AS MOTORISTS AND HOME OWNERS.

3.

FEDERAL ECONOMY PROPOSALS AS PUT FORWARD BY THE PRESIDENT ARE LIABLE TO AFFECT YOUR SALARIES AS CIVIL SERVANTS. PROPOSALS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE TO REVISE LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR AGENCIES MAY RECEIVE ACTION THIS YEAR AS WELL. AND, THE TREND AMONG STATES TO FEDERALIZE MEAT INSPECTION -- AS MANY AS 8 STATES HAVE ANNOUNCED OR ARE CONTEMPLATING FEDERALIZATION THIS YEAR -- IS BOUND TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOUR OWN AGENCY.

AND TOO, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SHIFT IN THE MAKE-UP OF THE CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY SO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TO A LESSER DEGREE IN THE SENATE.

4.

QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE IS GOAL

THE FULL IMPACT THESE CHANGES WILL HAVE IS NOT EASY TO PREDICT, BUT I THINK WE MUST KEEP OUR EYES ON THE GOAL WE -- YOU AND I -- ARE DEDICATED TO: HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE,

I HAVE BEEN AN ACTIVE AND LONG-TIME SUPPORTER OF THE MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE, FIRST IN THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AND NOW IN THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. HIGH STANDARDS OF SANITATION AND WHOLESOME PRODUCTS HAVE BECOME A CORNERSTONE OF THE MEAT INDUSTRY. YOU PEOPLE HAVE HELPED MAKE IT THAT WAY.

AMERICANS COULD NOT BUY THE CLEAN, UNADULTERATED MEAT THEY GET WITHOUT YOUR DEDICATION AND CONSTANT EFFORT. SO THAT IS WHY I HAVE BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF OUR MEAT INSPECTION SYSTEM. IN THE NUMEROUS ISSUES COMING BEFORE THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR, I AM DETERMINED TO DO MY SHARE TO INSURE THAT THE ACTIONS OF CONGRESS FACILITATE THE CONTINUED HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE YOU HAVE SHOWN.

5.

SO YOUR EFFORTS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO A WHOLE CLASS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN MEAT PRODUCING. YOU ARE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ^{TO THEM} JUST AS I AM FOR A LARGE GROUP OF MY CONSTITUENTS WHO LOOK TO THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE FOR INFORMATION AND FOR HELP AS THEIR SOLE POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE POLICY SETTING MECHANISMS OF GOVERNMENT.

BECAUSE WE ARE SO VIEWED, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ALL WORK HARDER. BUT THE CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY MAKE IT EVEN MORE IMPERATIVE.

CONFIDENCE CRISIS

IN ADDITION TO THE CRISIS IN THE ECONOMY AND THE ENERGY PROBLEM, WE HAVE A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE. IT AFFLICTS MANY OF OUR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, NONE MORE SO THAN GOVERNMENT.

6.

IT WOULD BE WELL FOR ALL OF US TO BEAR IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE HIGH "TRUST QUOTIENT" WHICH ALL OF US USED TO ENJOY HAS BEEN ERODED SOMEWHAT BY RECENT EVENTS. BUT THE CONFIDENCE CRISIS MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE.

NOT JUST THOSE OF WHO ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS, BUT ALL OF US IN GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED A NEW BURDEN OF PROOF BY THE GENERAL POPULATION.

CRISIS HAS DEEP ROOTS

QUESTIONS OF GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY HAVE ARISEN, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, AS THE LEGACY OF OUR VIETNAM EXPERIENCE AND OF WATERGATE. THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO SUCH PREVIOUSLY UNQUESTIONED AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE FBI AND CIA, CONTINUE TO REINFORCE THE DOUBTS AND SUSPICIONS OF ^{MANY} AMERICANS ABOUT THE EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRITY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. EVEN THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STAFF STRUCTURE HAS DEVELOPED CLAY FEET, AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED IN THE WASHINGTON POST RECENTLY.

7.

IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN OUR KIND OF SYSTEM IF THE DOUBTS ARE, ON THE WHOLE, GROUNDLESS. IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN OUR SYSTEM IF THIS NEW BURDEN OF PROOF IS BEING THRUST ON A VAST MAJORITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO ARE HONEST, SINCERE AND EFFECTIVE, AND HAVE DONE NOTHING TO MERIT SUSPICION.

FOR IN OUR SYSTEM, AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE PERCEIVE THERE TO BE A PROBLEM, THERE IS A PROBLEM. IF POPULAR TRUST IN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL OF GOVERNMENT IS DAMAGED, THEN THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED IS IN SOME DEGREE DIMINISHED.

AND IT IS OUR JOB -- INDEED IT IS FOR NOW OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY -- TO RESTORE THAT TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

8.

ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS TESTED

AS A PERSONAL NOTE, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME, MY ELECTION LAST FALL WAS A VERY CLOSE ONE. I BELIEVE THAT THE CLOSENESS OF THE MARGIN, NOT JUST OF MY OWN RACE BUT OF MANY OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY, IS INDICATIVE OF THE GENERAL UNCERTAINTY PEOPLE FEEL THESE DAYS. AND THE LOW TURNOUTS IN THESE RACES IS INDICATIVE OF A GENERAL APATHY, THE FEELING THAT IT MAY NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AFTER ALL WHO GETS ELECTED.

IF THAT IN FACT IS THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO SEE HOW IT AFFECTS YOU AS CIVIL SERVANTS. FOR IT TRANSLATES VERY QUICKLY INTO A FEELING THAT, NOT JUST ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE UNRESPONSIVE, BUT ALL GOVERNMENT IS.

SO WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT TEST TO PASS.

9.

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EFFORT

AND IN THE MANY ISSUES BEFORE THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR THAT WILL AFFECT YOU, I HOPE WE CAN REACH SOLUTIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU DO YOUR JOB IN THE BEST POSSIBLE MANNER. MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE OFTEN CALLED UPON TO SHOW LEADERSHIP IN THE CRISES FACED BY THE NATION. IN SOME CASES, THAT LEADERSHIP MAY NOT BE PAINLESS. LAST YEAR, I VOTED AGAINST INCREASING PAY FOR CONGRESS. SO I CAN SAY TRUTHFULLY THAT THAT VOTE WAS NOT ENTIRELY PAINLESS. AND THE PAY INCREASES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WILL PROBABLY COME TO A VOTE IN THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR. I SUPPORT GIVING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES THE PAY THEY DESERVE AND SO VOTED THAT WAY WHEN THIS ISSUE CAME UP LAST YEAR.

10.

NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE HOW THE CONGRESS WILL VOTE ON A PAY INCREASE THIS YEAR, BUT THE DECISION MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY PAINLESS. IN ANY EVENT, WHICHEVER WAY THE VOTE SHOULD GO, I AM HOPEFUL THAT, AS PUBLIC SERVANTS, WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO OUR JOB IN THE BEST POSSIBLE MANNER.

IN ADDITION, THE LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS LEGISLATION THAT MAY COME UP IN THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

I SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GREATEST LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY. IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE CAN CREATE LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL.

SO I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN OVERCOME THE CRISES WE FACE AS A NATION AND CAN ACHIEVE THE PRIMARY GOAL OF OUR DEDICATION -- THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE POSSIBLE.

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