SENATOR BOB DOLE

MISSOURI REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION June 11, 1976

FRIENDS, FELLOW REPUBLICANS.

WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS NOT VERY COMPLICATED. NOT VERY COMPLICATED AT ALL. PRESIDENT -- JIMMY -- CARTER. LET ME SAY IT AGAIN -- JIMMY -- CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

AND LET ME ADD JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE -- PRESIDENT

JIMMY CARTER AND A TWO-THIRDS DEMOCRAT MAJORITY OF THE

CONGRESS -- THAT IS THE PROSPECT WE FACE IF WE DON'T GET

MOVING.

GOVERNOR BOND, FORGIVE ME. ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANFORTH, CONGRESSMAN TAYLOR, CONGRESSMAN

For as long as I can remember, people -- knowledgeable people presumably -- have been predicting the death of the Republican Party. I never believed it. I still don't but I can be convinced.

OF ONE THING, I'M SURE, IF THIS REPUBLICAN PARTY DIES, IT WILL DIE BY ITS OWN HAND.

IN THAT OTHER PARTY, WHERE PHILOSOPHY IS APPARENTLY TAKEN SO LIGHTLY THAT BASIC DIFFERENCES CAN BE IGNORED, HANDS ARE REACHING OUT TO EMBRACE AND ANNOINT JIMMY CARTER.

IN OUR OWN PARTY, WHERE I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT PHILOSOPHY WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY, ESSENTIAL SIMILARITIES ARE BEING IGNORED AND OUR HANDS ARE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

IN THE WORDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE VOTES YOU HAVE
TO WIN, AFTER ALL GET YOUR ACT TOCHURER.

BE YOURS BE YOUR PERSPECTIVE PACK

IN SHORT -- GET COINS -- TOWARDS A VICTORY IN

NOVEMBER AND LET IT BE SAID OF MISSOURI -- AND THIS

MISSOURI CONVENTION -- THAT THE VICTORY WHICH WON BACK

AMERICA'S BIRTHRIGHT OF FREEDOM AND A UNIFIED REPUBLICAN

PARTY WHICH SECURED IT FOR US -- STARTED HERE -- HERE IN

MISSOURI.

THE CHOICE, I THINK IS YOURS -- AND VERY DRAMATICALLY.

Don't misunderstand what I am about to say.

Governor Reagan is a friend of mine. He is a patriot.

He is honest, sincere, intelligent, and tough. He is a principled man.

I DO NOT DENIGRATE HIM IN THE LEAST BY SAYING
WITH PRIDE, CONFIDENCE AND AFFECTION THAT HE IS MY SECOND
CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I BON'T
SUPPLIES YOU BY SAYING JIMMY CARTER NOT

JERRY FORD IS MY
HERE IS A MAN WHO DIDN'T SEEK THE OFFICE.
WHO WOULD HAVE -- UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES?
BUT HE TOOK OFFICE IN THE WORST OF TIME -- AND
HE MADE THE BEST OF IT.

THE PRESIDENCY IS NOW AGAIN A POSITION OF HONOR. IN 1974, ON AUGUST 9TH, IT WASN'T.

THE ECONOMY IS NOW REBOUNDING MIGHTILY. ON AUGUST 9TH, 1974, IT WASN'T.

AMERICA IS NOW AGAIN A KNOWN -- AND RESPECTED -QUANTITY IN WORLD AFFAIRS. ON AUGUST 9TH, 1974, IT WASN'T.

AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT OF WHERE THEIR PRESIDENT STANDS -- AND WHERE THEY STAND -- BUT ON AUGUST 9TH, 1974, THEY WEREN'T.

INFLATION IS NOW WELL BELOW TWO DIGITS -- IT WAS 2.9% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR -- ON AUGUST 9TH, 1974, IT WASN'T.

If you doubt it, look at the record I just outlined.

The economy, the veto-proof Congress -- and the vetoes which proved its undoing -- the rise in total employment and the decline in inflation, not to mention the first time ever in recent memory that a responsible defense budget looks likely to pass the Congress, Jerry Ford did all that.

AND A HOUSE DIVIDED -- CAN UNDO IT.

A DIVIDED -- LET ME STRESS, IS THE ONLY
THING THAT CAN UNDO IT.

Some of you may remember an earlier Republican Convention when a relatively young Ed Dirksen Looked down menacingly from the podium in Chicago and Said, "You snatched defeat from the Jaws of Victory."

LET THE SAME THING NEVER BE SAID OF THE MISSOURI REPUBLICAN PARTY.

VICTORY CAN BE OURS.

I AM CONVINCED THAT IT IS OURS-- IF WE CAN GET OUT PERSPECTIVE BACK AND OUR ACT TOGETHER -- AND IF WE GET GOING -- TOGETHER.

If we get our perspective back -- then we will recognize that Jerry Ford is the most conservative President this Party has enjoyed in the memory of most of us alive today.

If we get our act together then we will realize
THIS THIS NOMINATION FIGHT IS BEING WAGED OVER NOTHING
MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN SOMETHING EVEN DEMOCRATS HAVE
APPARENTLY BEEN ABLE TO SEE BEYOND -- NAMELY PERSONALITIES.

AND IF WE GET GOING, DON'T EVER FORGET IT -- IF WE GET GOING TOGETHER -- NOTHING CAN STOP US, WE WILL WIN IN NOVEMBER, AGAINST JIMMY CARTER OR WHOMEVER THE DEMOCRATS

MAY POPPOSE US WITH.

THIS MAY BE THE YEAR OF THE ANTI-POLITICIAN AND ANTI-WASHINGTON CROWD, BUT AS FAR AS THIS POLITICIAN, BOB DOLE, AND BY FAR MOST OF MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS ARE CONCERNED, WE WANT JERRY FORD NOT ONLY BECAUSE HE IS ELECTABLE, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE ELECTABLE WITH HIM.

PEOPLE TRUST JERRY FORD.

THAT IS WHAT THE POLLS SAY. THAT IS WHAT THE POLITICOS SAY.

THAT IS WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY. AND ULTIMATELY, NO MATTER WHAT THE INTERVENING PRESS ACCOUNTS MAY SUGGEST, THAT IS WHAT THE VOTERS WILL SAY -- IN NOVEMBER.

I AM SURE OF IT. I AM SURE OF IT AT LEAST IF WE,
HERE AND NOW, IN THIS MISSOURI CONVENTION OF 1976, GIVE HIM
THE SAME KIND OF SUPPORT HE GAVE US REPUBLICANS IN 1974,
WHEN IT WASN'T POPULAR FOR HIM TO DO IT.

BUT IN 1974, HE DID DO IT FOR THE REPUBLICANS WHO WERE CAMPAIGNING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT FORD DID IT THEN GIVES REAL SUBSTANCE TO HIS PROMISE NOW TO CAMPAIGN THROUGH THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN 1976. THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE -- WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME AN INCUMBENT REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT RAN WITH THE PARTY?

IN THE PAST THEY HAVE SEEMED TO RUN AWAY, OR AT LEAST TO SHY AWAY FROM THE PARTY AFTER CONVENTION TIME.

PRESIDENT FORD HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE INTENDS

TO RUN WITH US BECAUSE HE KNOW PERHAPS AS WELL AS ANY

REPUBLICAN HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO GO AFTER A PARTY VICTORY.

AND TO SET OUR SIGHTS ON THE VERY ATTAINABLE GOAL OF A

RESTORATION OF BALANCE BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

IN GOVERNMENT.

THE TIMES ARE WITH US.

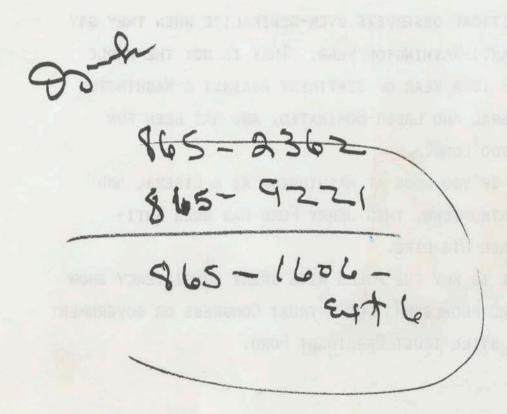
POLITICAL OBSERVERS OVER-GENERALIZE WHEN THEY SAY
THIS IS AN ANTI-WASHINGTON YEAR. THAT IS NOT THE WHOLE
TRUTH. THIS IS A YEAR OF SENTIMENT AGAINST A WASHINGTON
THAT IS LIBERAL AND LABOR-DOMINATED, AND HAS BEEN FOR
MANY YEARS TOO LONG.

AND IF YOU LOOK AT WASHINGTON AS A LIBERAL AND LABOR DOMINATED TOWN, THEN JERRY FORD HAS BEEN ANTI-WASHINGTON ALL HIS LIFE.

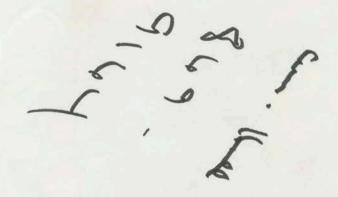
THAT IS WHY THE POLLS WITH GREAT CONSISTENCY SHOW

THAT THE SAME PEOPLE WHO DON'T TRUST CONGRESS OR GOVERNMENT

IN GENERAL, STILL TRUST PRESIDENT FORD.



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TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IS NOW HIGHER THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN -- ON AUGUST 9TH, 1974, IT WASN'T.

THIS CONGRESS -- THIS 94TH, TWO-TO-ONE DEMOCRAT CONGRESS WHICH WAS VETO-PROOF IN JANUARY, 1975 -- ISN'T ANYMORE. FOR IN 1976 AFTER 42 SUCCESSFUL UN-OVERRIDDEN VETOES WHICH TOOK COURAGE AND PRINCIPLE -- IT CAN'T BE.

AND AS A RESULT, REPUBLICANS LIKE US CAN HOLD OUR HEADS HIGH AGAIN AND TAKE OUR LESS-GOVERNMENT, MORE FREEDOM MESSAGE PROUDLY TO THE PEOPLE -- ON AUGUST 9TH, 1974, WE COULDN'T.

JERRY FORD DID THAT AND BELIEVE ME, IT WAS HE AND NOBODY ELSE SIGNING THE VETOES AND TAKING THE HEAT.

When all of us in Washington were doing the same thing everyone else was -- watching and waiting -- Jerry Ford was taking action.