

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, *Sen. Phipps* FORGIVE ME FOR FOREGOING THE STANDARD INTRODUCTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, BUT I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. FOR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY GOES BEYOND PROTOCOL, BUT I ASSURE YOU, IT WON'T GO BEYOND FIFTEEN MINUTES. IT IS A SIMPLE, UNCOMPLICATED MESSAGE.

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 TOGETHER.~~

~~IN THE WORDS OF OLDER PEOPLE WHOSE VOTES OUGHT TO BE YOURS BUT COULD GO TO CARTER IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOURSELVES -- GET YOUR PERSPECTIVE BACK.~~

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IN SHORT -- ~~GET GOING -- 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 FEEL I DON'T~~  
~~SURPRISE YOU, HOWEVER, BY SAYING THAT JIMMY CARTER IS NOT~~  
~~NUMBER ONE.~~

JERRY FORD IS MY <sup>First</sup> ~~FACE~~ -- AND I WILL TELL YOU WHY.  
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 REBOUNDED 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.

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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 <sup>Party</sup> ~~HOUSE~~ DIVIDED -- CAN UNDO IT.

A <sup>Party</sup> ~~HOUSE~~ 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  OPPOSE 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.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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ext 6

*[Handwritten notes, possibly including "9164" and "658"]*

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.