

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

NATIONAL BLACK REPUBLICAN council  
BRECKENRIDGE INN  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1976

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
COULD BE AN EXTREMELY CLOSE CONTEST, MUCH LIKE THE ONES IN 1960 AND 1968.  
IF THIS IS TRUE, EVERY VOTE CAST IS IMPORTANT. YOU WILL RECALL THAT IT  
WAS SAID THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE 1968 ELECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT  
IF THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE COULD HAVE GOTTEN AS LITTLE AS ONE TO TWO  
VOTES PER PRECINCT IN THE PREDOMINANTLY BLACK AREAS IN CERTAIN MAJOR  
INDUSTRIAL STATES. IF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED, IT WOULD HAVE THROWN  
THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES FROM CERTAIN KEY STATES TO THE DEMOCRATIC  
CANDIDATE INSTEAD OF THE REPUBLICAN STANDARD BEARER. FOR EXAMPLE, IT  
IS SAID THAT AS LITTLE AS FIVE VOTES PER PRECINCT IN THE PREDOMINANTLY  
BLACK AREAS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS COULD HAVE THROWN THAT STATE'S  
ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES TO THE DEMOCRATIC RATHER THAN THE SUCCESSFUL  
REPUBLICAN OFFICE SEEKER. OR TO PRESENT THE REVERSE PICTURE, THE  
ELECTORAL VOTES IN THE STATES OF NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, MICHIGAN AND  
ILLINOIS WENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE IN 1960 PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF THE  
SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VOTES HE RECEIVED FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITIES IN  
THESE STATES. IN BOTH THESE ELECTIONS, LESS THAN 200,000 VOTES  
SEPARATED THE WINNING AND LOSING CANDIDATES.

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THIS YEAR'S ELECTION COULD BE JUST AS CLOSE AND THE OUTCOME COULD AGAIN REST ON AS LITTLE AS ONE VOTE PER PRECINCT IN THE SOUTH AND THE INDUSTRIAL STATES IN THE NORTH AND THE FAR WEST WHERE THE BULK OF BLACK AND OTHER MINORITY GROUP VOTERS RESIDE.

DURING THE CLOSE CAMPAIGNS OF 1960 AND 1968, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A NATIONAL BLACK REPUBLICAN COUNCIL NOR WAS THERE A PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY SUCH AS THE NATIONAL BLACK REPUBLICAN COUNCIL CONFERENCE YOU ARE HOLDING TODAY. YOUR ORGANIZATION AND THIS CONFERENCE INDICATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO POLITICS, AND YOUR GROWING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZED BLACK VOTER PARTICIPATION IN BOTH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND IN THE ELECTION PROCESS.

IT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. DURING MY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE CONGRESS, I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE NEED FOR POLITICAL INPUT FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITY. I AM PROUD THAT AS A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE I WAS ABLE TO HAVE A PART IN THE NAMING OF DR. HENRY LUCAS TO THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

IN KANSAS WE SAY THAT A GOOD STIFF CONTEST, WITH AGGRESSIVE COMPETITORS SEEKING TO FILL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, IS AN INDICATION OF A HEALTHY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. IT INDICATES THAT THE WINNERS WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO SECURE THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP AND TO CONTINUE TO WORK TO HOLD IT. THIS SAME EFFORT OUTSIDE YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL RESULT IN REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICE HOLDERS, POLICY MAKERS, PROGRAM MANAGERS AND OPINION LEADERS DURING AND BETWEEN ELECTIONS.

JOANNE COLLINS

MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT JOANNE COLLINS WILL BE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATE FOR MISSOURI'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. WE HAVE LONG BEEN SEEKING BLACK REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. AS A MEMBER OF THE KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, I HAVE TRIED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO ENCOURAGE BLACK REPUBLICANS TO ENTER CONGRESSIONAL RACES IN KANSAS. ALTHOUGH JOANNE IS NOT FROM KANSAS, WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN HER ACCOMPLISHMENT AND PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT DURING THE COMING ELECTION. JOANNE IS A SKILLED, ARTICULATE, POLITICIAN AND AN ABLE LEGISLATOR. SHE HAS ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT RECORD AS A MEMBER OF THE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI CITY COUNCIL. I KNOW SHE WOULD DO AN EXCELLENT JOB IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. WE MUST ALL PLEDGE TO HER OUR SUPPORT IN BOTH TIME AND MONEY.

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LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTING MRS. COLLINS, OR ANY OTHER BLACK CANDIDATES, TO CONGRESS. AS YOU KNOW, THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK/<sup>CAUCUS</sup>~~CONSISTS~~ OF 17 DEMOCRATS, ALL REPRESENTING MAJOR URBAN AREAS, AND SIZABLE BLACK CONSTITUENCIES. WHEN THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS CAUCUS, THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE AND THE BENEFITS OF HAVING THE BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS HELP THEM DEVELOP POLICIES, ISSUES, POSITIONS AND LEGISLATION THAT IS OF INTEREST TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY; WHERE THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE CAUCUS IS WITHOUT SUCH EXPERT COUNSEL, GUIDANCE, AND ADVICE.

I CANNOT HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT IF THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE CAUCUS HAD ONE OR MORE BLACK REPUBLICANS REPRESENTING SIZABLE BLACK CONSTITUENCIES AS MEMBERS, THEY COULD HAVE PROVIDED INSIGHTS AND GUIDANCE AND WOULD HAVE HELPED THE CAUCUS TAKE POSITIONS ON LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HAVE IMPROVED THE PARTY'S IMAGE AMONG BLACK VOTERS. IN SHORT, BESIDES BEING AN EXCELLENT U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE VOTERS AND RESIDENTS OF HER DISTRICT AND THE STATE OF MISSOURI AS A WHOLE, SHE COULD DO MUCH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, INDUCE OTHER BLACKS TO SEEK OFFICE AS REPUBLICANS, AND IN THE PROCESS, BRING THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM TO THE NATION'S BLACK COMMUNITY.

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FINALLY, LET ME NOTE THAT A BLACK REPUBLICAN, ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT AND COULD DO MUCH TO PROMOTE YOUR CAUSE WITHIN THE OVAL OFFICE AND AT PARTY COUNCILS THROUGHOUT THE NATION. I URGE THAT THE DELEGATES AND OTHERS ATTENDING THIS NBRC DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE YOU PLACE ON HER ELECTION BY LENDING YOUR SUPPORT, IN BOTH TIME AND MONEY. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT SUCH ACTION ON YOUR PART WILL HELP US GET THE FUNDING NEEDED FOR HER TO DO THE ORGANIZING AND PUT ON THE KIND OF CAMPAIGN NEEDED TO WIN AGAINST A TOUGH INCUMBENT OPPONENT.

BLACKS AND THE DEMOCRAT PARTY

IF ONE WERE TO BE PERSUADED BY THE OPINION POLLS AND CONVENTIONAL WISDOM, HE WOULD CONCLUDE THAT JIMMY CARTER AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAVE A LOCK AND KEY ON THE NATION'S BLACK VOTE. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT SUGGESTION. I REFUSE BECAUSE THAT HAS NOT BEEN MY EXPERIENCE DURING MY POLITICAL LIFE. DURING MY ELECTION EFFORTS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS, I HAVE ENJOYED CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZED SUPPORT FROM MY STATE'S BLACK COMMUNITY. AS A RESULT, I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT NO ONE PARTY OR CANDIDATE HAS A LOCK ON THE BLACK VOTE. I FURTHER KNOW THAT IF A SENSIBLE ORGANIZED APPROACH IS TAKEN, IT WILL PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS AT THE POLLS.

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IN OTHER WORDS, I AM POSITIVE THAT THE BLACK COMMUNITY WANTS GOOD GOVERNMENT, QUALITY GOVERNMENT AND A MAN OF PROVEN ABILITY AND INTEGRITY AS THE NATION'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THAT WHEN THEY MEASURE THE TWO MEN -- FORD AGAINST CARTER -- MAN FOR MAN, EXPERIENCE-FOR EXPERIENCE, DECISION-FOR-DECISION, AND RECORD-FOR-RECORD, PRESIDENT FORD SURPASSES MR. CARTER ON EVERY SCORE.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO BE INVOLVED AND ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ORGANIZE YOURSELVES AND ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE AS BONAFIDE REPUBLICANS AND NOT ELECTION YEAR OPPORTUNISTS, I AM PREPARED HERE AND NOW TO PLEDGE TO DO ALL I CAN TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS AND FUTURE ELECTIONS. IN ADDITION, I PLEDGE TO COUNSEL WITH YOU AND YOUR LEADERS AND TO PROMOTE YOUR EFFORTS BETWEEN ELECTIONS. REMEMBER WE CAN ALL BE MORE EFFECTIVE -- YOU AS PARTY SUPPORTERS, AND ME AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL -- WITH A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

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CONCLUSION

LET ME RETURN TO MY OPENING STATEMENT AND REMIND YOU  
ONCE AGAIN THAT WE LOST A CLOSE ELECTION IN 1960 AND ALMOST LOST ANOTHER  
IN 1968, BECAUSE THE BLACK VOTE WENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE BY  
AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. LET'S NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN IN 1976.  
WE NEED A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF THE BLACK VOTE TO WIN THIS ELECTION  
AND WE ARE COUNTING ON THE NATIONAL BLACK REPUBLICAN COUNCIL AND ITS  
MEMBERS TO GET OUR MESSAGE INTO THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND A REPUTABLE  
SHARE OF THE BLACK VOTE AT THE POLLS.

THANKS FOR INVITING ME, AND GOOD LUCK ON DELIBERATION.

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