

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Shawnee Mission
Speech

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
DEDICATION CEREMONY
SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER
SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1977

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO HELP DEDICATE THIS IMPRESSIVE NEW MEDICAL CARE FACILITY.

WHEN MOST OF US THINK OF LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS, WE TEND TO DIVERT OUR ATTENTION TO WORLD LEADERS OR WASHINGTON OR VARIOUS POWER CENTERS. BUT MANY MORE LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS ARE ACTUALLY MADE HERE BY THE DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED SO DEVOTEDLY AND DILIGENTLY OVER THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS TO MAKE SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER THE GREAT INSTITUTION IT IS. I KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATORS, THE PHYSICIANS, THE NURSES, AND THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THIS HOSPITAL HAVE EARNED THE HEARTFELT GRATITUDE OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA WHO HAS BEEN ILL OR WHO WILL BE IN NEED OF THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THIS CENTER. AND, OF COURSE, ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SICK TO KNOW THAT HAVING A FACILITY OF THIS QUALITY NEARBY CAN BE A TREMENDOUS COMFORT.

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IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING THAT TODAY, MAY 8, 1977, IS THE DAY ON WHICH WE DEDICATE THE \$28 MILLION EXPANSION OF THE MEDICAL CENTER. IT WAS FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THAT THE MEDICAL CENTER WAS OPENED AND TWO YEARS AGO THIS WEEK THAT CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW BUILDING WAS BEGUN. TODAY, THE BEGINNING OF NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK, IS AN ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE TIME TO DEDICATE THIS BUILDING AND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTLESS DAYS, WEEKS, AND YEARS OF WORK BY THE MANY PEOPLE HERE IN JOHNSON COUNTY WHO MADE THIS EXPANSION POSSIBLE.

HEART OF JOHNSON COUNTY MEDICAL SYSTEM

TODAY, SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER IS THE HEART OF THE MODERN MEDICAL SYSTEM IN JOHNSON COUNTY. THE COMPLETION OF THE LARGE EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AT THE MEDICAL CENTER SAYS SEVERAL THINGS ABOUT JOHNSON COUNTY, MOST NOTABLY THAT A COMMUNITY CAN, IF IT HAS THE RESOLVE AND IS WILLING TO WORK, ACHIEVE SATISFYING RESULTS.

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BUT GOVERNMENT, TOO, HAS A ROLE TO PLAY. IT MUST DO ALL IT CAN TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, BY MAKING IT EASIER FOR COMMUNITIES TO FINANCE NEEDED HOSPITAL EXPANSION THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS. I AM SURE YOU HERE IN JOHNSON COUNTY WOULD HAVE FOUND IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CONSTRUCT THIS NEW BUILDING IF THOSE IN CONGRESS WHO WOULD ELIMINATE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE FINANCING HAD HAD THEIR WAY. SOME OTHER SOURCE OF \$24 MILLION WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE FOUND. AND THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASY.

AND, CONGRESS MUST UNDERSTAND THE COST PRESSURES ON LOCAL HOSPITALS BEFORE LAUNCHING INTO ANY SHORT-SIGHTED COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM. OF COURSE, WE'RE ALL INTERESTED IN HOLDING DOWN THE RAPID RISE IN HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. UNLESS THE GROWTH IN HEALTH CARE COSTS IS SOMEHOW RESTRAINED, FEDERAL SPENDING FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ALONE IS EXPECTED TO CLIMB 75% WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO OVER \$66 BILLION A YEAR. SUCH MASSIVE INCREASES IN HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES HAVE DRAMATIC IMPLICATIONS NOT JUST FOR THE PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF PATIENTS, BUT FOR THE FISCAL WELL-BEING OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

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MEDICARE AND MEDICAID REFORM

THREE DAYS AGO, I JOINED SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE --
CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE --
IN SPONSORING LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES CONSTRUCTIVE REFORM
OF THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROGRAMS. IN MY VIEW, OUR
PROPOSAL REPRESENTS A RESPONSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO EFFORTS
TO ARBITRARILY IMPOSE A 9% CAP ON HOSPITAL REIMBURSEMENT
INCREASES. WITHOUT ASSURING THAT CORRESPONDING LIMITS WILL
BE PLACED ON PRICE HIKES AND IMPROVED SERVICES WHICH
HOSPITALS MUST PURCHASE, HOWEVER, IT IS UNREALISTIC AND
INEQUITABLE TO EXPECT OUR HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS TO
BEAR THE ENTIRE BURDEN OF ALLEVIATING THE RISING HEALTH
COSTS PROBLEM. IF THERE ARE SAVINGS TO BE REALIZED FROM
INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION,
THEN THE ALTERNATIVE MEASURE WHICH I AM COSPONSORING IS
DESIGNED TO BRING THEM ABOUT WHILE MAINTAINING A REALISTIC
VIEW OF CHANGES WHICH PROVIDERS ARE AND ARE NOT ABLE TO
MAKE.

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QUALITY MEDICAL FACILITIES LIKE THIS ONE ARE EXPENSIVE. IF WE WANT TO PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR OUR CITIZENS, IT'S GOING TO COST MONEY. AND I THINK THE PEOPLE OF JOHNSON COUNTY ARE WILLING TO PAY REASONABLE CHARGES FOR THE KIND OF TREATMENT THEY RECEIVE AT THIS FINE FACILITY.

IN CONCLUSION, I AGAIN WISH TO COMMEND THOSE WHOSE LONG HOURS OF HARD WORK HAVE MADE THIS EXPANSION PROJECT A REALITY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE CITIZENS OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY AREA WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OFFERED AT THIS CENTER. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY, AND I OFFER YOU MY ENCOURAGEMENT AND WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS.

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