

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
DAUPHIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE DINNER
HERSHEY MOTOR LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER
HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 16, 1977

THE WORLD ON JANUARY 20

NINE MONTHS AGO, GERALD FORD LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE AND JIMMY CARTER MOVED IN.

ON JANUARY 20, 1977, THE WORLD WAS AT PEACE. RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAD NEVER BEEN BETTER. WE WERE VERY CLOSE TO A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT. IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OUR STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY HAD WON THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE OF BOTH THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS, AND WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AN AMERICAN INITIATIVE HAD BROUGHT THE WARRING FACTIONS MUCH CLOSER TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD ENSURE MAJORITY RULE, GUARANTEE MINORITY RIGHTS, AND-- ABOVE ALL--AVOID BLOODSHED.

IN WESTERN EUROPE, OUR OLDEST ALLIANCES HAD NEVER BEEN STRONGER. IN THE FAR EAST, TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN WERE PROGRESSING VERY WELL, AND POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA WERE GOING FORWARD, DESPITE OUR REFUSAL TO BETRAY OUR OLD ALLIES ON TAIWAN.

OUR MILITARY STRENGTH HAD NEVER BEEN GREATER, AND PLANS FOR A NEW GENERATION OF DEFENSIVE WEAPONS WERE BEING LAID BY THE GREATEST DEFENSE EXPERT TO SIT IN THE OVAL OFFICE SINCE GENERAL EISENHOWER.

HERE AT HOME, THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WAS REBOUNDED STRONGLY FROM THE WORST RECESSION IN FORTY YEARS. THE STOCK MARKET WAS BOOMING. INFLATION HAD BEEN CUT IN HALF. MORE PEOPLE WERE ON THE JOB THAN EVER BEFORE. AN ENERGY POLICY HAD BEEN PROPOSED THAT WOULD HAVE STIMULATED NEW ENERGY PRODUCTION, ENCOURAGED GREATER CONSERVATION, AND MOVED THIS COUNTRY TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF TURMOIL AND STRIFE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE UNITED AS NEVER BEFORE, OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE. SOMEONE CALLED IT A "NEW ERA OF GOOD FEELING," AND HE WAS EXACTLY RIGHT.

THE WORLD ON OCTOBER 20

THAT WAS WHERE WE STOOD ON JANUARY 20, 1977. AS WE APPROACH OCTOBER 20, WHERE ARE WE NOW?

RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN WORSE THIS YEAR THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE COLD WAR. THE DEADLINE FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT CAME AND WENT ON OCTOBER FIRST, WITH NO AGREEMENT IN SIGHT.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE HAVE ALIENATED OUR OLD FRIENDS IN ISRAEL, THREATENING THEM WITH "TOTAL ISOLATION," AND IN THE WORDS OF FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN, TREATING THEM "BRUTALLY."

WE'VE BROUGHT THE SOVIET UNION RIGHT BACK INTO THE MIDDLE OF THAT SENSITIVE SITUATION WHEN EVERY COUNTRY IN THE REGION HAD KICKED THEM OUT. A MEANINGFUL PEACE AGREEMENT NEVER SEEMED THAT FAR AWAY.

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, A RECKLESS TALKING NEW U.N. AMBASSADOR FROM THE UNITED STATES HAS STIRRED THE COALS OF OLD PASSIONS AND INFLAMED A NEW RACIAL CONFLICT THAT MAY YET EXPLODE WITH THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE.

IN WESTERN EUROPE, WE READ THAT MR. CARTER'S IDEA OF DEFENDING THE CONTINENT IS TO CONCEDE MOST OF WEST GERMANY RIGHT AWAY AND SEE IF HE CAN HOLD FRANCE.

IN THE FAR EAST, AS PRESIDENT CARTER WITHDRAWS GROUND FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN WATCHES AND WONDERS IF THE UNITED STATES IS PULLING IN ITS OARS IN THE PACIFIC.

THE LEADERS OF CHINA SAY THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAVE TAKEN A GIANT STEP BACKWARD SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOOK OVER.

OUR MILITARY STRENGTH IS BEING CALLED INTO QUESTION FOLLOWING A PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO SCRAP THE B-1 BOMBER AND STICK WITH A B-52 THAT'S OLDER THAN MOST OF ITS PILOTS AND A CRUISE MISSILE THAT HAS FAILED TO PERFORM IN FIVE CONSECUTIVE TESTS.

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HERE AT HOME, THE ECONOMY IS MAKING PEOPLE VERY NERVOUS. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS DOWN FOR THE FIFTH MONTH IN A ROW. THE STOCK MARKET HAS LOST ALMOST TWO HUNDRED POINTS SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOOK OVER. THE MAN WHO CAME TO OFFICE PROMISING TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT CAN'T GET IT BELOW SEVEN PERCENT. INFLATION WENT TO DOUBLE-DIGIT FIGURES EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET.

THE ENERGY PROGRAM PRESIDENT CARTER PROPOSED TURNED OUT TO BE NOT AN ENERGY PROGRAM AT ALL BUT A MASSIVE TAX INCREASE PROGRAM WHICH THE UNITED STATES RIGHTLY REFUSES TO PASS.

AMATEUR HOUR AT THE WHITE HOUSE

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LOST SOME OF THE CONFIDENCE THEY WERE GAINING SO RAPIDLY LAST YEAR, AND FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR PRESIDENT IN THE LAST NINE MONTHS, THEY HAVE GOOD REASON. THE ERA OF GOOD FEELING HAS GIVEN WAY TO AMATEUR HOUR AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS LAST YEAR THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO HAD NO PRIOR CONNECTION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

NOW A LOT OF THEM ARE WISHING THEY HAD A PRESIDENT WHO HAD AT LEAST A PASSING FAMILIARITY WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND WITH THE ART OF DIPLOMACY.

OBVIOUSLY IT'S TOO LATE TO ASK FOR A RECOUNT THOUGH CARTER MAY BE COMMANDING IT; IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START DEMANDING A LITTLE MORE COMPETENT LEADERSHIP.

PROMISES VS. PERFORMANCE

THE MAN WHO PROMISED US A HIGHER STANDARD OF MORALITY HAS GIVEN US BERT LANCE.

THE MAN WHO PROMISED US NEW FACES IN GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN US VANCE, CALIFANO AND SCHLESINGER.

THE MAN WHO SAID RICHARD NIXON WAS "WEIRD" KEEPS PERSONAL CONTROL OVER WHO USES THE WHITE HOUSE TENNIS COURT.

THE MAN WHO SAID JERRY FORD WASN'T SMART ENOUGH TO BE PRESIDENT
CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ENERGY PROGRAM AND A TAX
PROGRAM.

THE MAN WHO PROMISED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS HAS
JUST LET HIS ALLIES FILIBUSTER THE SENATE FOR TWO WEEKS, AND
THEN HIS OWN VICE PRESIDENT FLATTENED THOSE SAME ALLIES WITH
THE BIGGEST STEAMROLLER EVEN SEEN ON CAPITOL HILL.

THE MAN WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BLACKS
IN THIS COUNTRY CAN'T GET MANY OF THE BLACK LEADERS IN AMERICA
TO SPEAK TO HIM ANY MORE.

THE MAN WHO SAID HE WAS AGAINST SPECIAL INTERESTS IS PUSHING
A CARGO PREFERENCE BILL THAT IS NOTHING MORE OR LESS THAN A
100 MILLION DOLLAR THANK YOU NOTE TO THE MARITIME UNIONS FOR
THEIR CAMPAIGN SUPPORT LAST YEAR.

THE MAN WHO SAID REPUBLICAN FOREIGN POLICY GAVE TOO MUCH AWAY
IS TRYING AS HARD AS HE CAN TO GIVE AWAY THE PANAMA CANAL.

CARTER'S SUPPORT SLIPPING AWAY

THE POLLS ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT SLIPPING AWAY. NBC SAYS ONLY 46 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE APPROVE HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE. LOU HARRIS SAYS IT'S 48 PERCENT. HE ALSO SAYS IT'S ONE OF THE MOST PRECIPITOUS DROPS IN PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT HE'S EVER SEEN. AND THE REASON BEHIND IT, ACCORDING TO HARRIS, IS "A STEADY DECLINE IN THE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN CARTER'S ABILITY TO HANDLE MOST OF THE KEY ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY."

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS LOST 22 POINTS IN BLACK SUPPORT SINCE JULY. WHITE CATHOLICS GIVE HIM A 50 PERCENT NEGATIVE RATING. IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, IT'S 60 PERCENT NEGATIVE. AND 54 PERCENT OF THE UNION MEMBERS OF AMERICA THINK HE'S DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

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ON ONE ISSUE AFTER ANOTHER, FROM INSPIRING CONFIDENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, TO HANDLING THE ECONOMY, TO ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GIVE JIMMY CARTER POOR GRADES.

THE STEEL CRISIS

AND THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA HAVE PARTICULAR REASON TO DOUBT THE COMPETENCE OF MR. CARTER, CONSIDERING THE WAY HE'S HANDLING THE PRESENT CRISIS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

HE SAID AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THE OTHER DAY THAT LIMITING STEEL IMPORTS IS "AN EXCEPTIONALLY ARTIFICIAL AND SIMPLISTIC APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY".

THAT'S A LITTLE LIKE SAYING THAT PUTTING OUT THE FIRE IS A SIMPLISTIC APPROACH TO SAVING A BURNING BUILDING.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HIMSELF HE HAS A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT THE STEEL INDUSTRY, WHICH COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA. BUT THIS IS JUST ONE MORE FAILING OF AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS SUBSTITUTED STYLE FOR SUBSTANCE SO LONG IT

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DOESN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

PROSPECTS FOR THE G.O.P.

MR. CARTER'S PROBLEMS WILL VERY LIKELY BENEFIT OUR PARTY. BUT HIS FAILINGS ALONE WILL NOT ENSURE OUR SUCCESS, AND AS PATRIOTIC AMERICANS, WE CAN TAKE NO COMFORT -- AND CERTAINLY NO SATISFACTION -- IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD OF FAILURE.

IT IS FORTUNATE FOR OUR PARTY, AND FOR OUR COUNTRY, THAT THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS HAVE PROVEN THIS YEAR TO BE A COHESIVE, POSITIVE FORCE IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE NATION.

WE WILL DO THE BEST WE CAN TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF GOOD GOVERNMENT, BUT WE NEED HELP. WE NEED TO WIN THE WHITE HOUSE BACK IN 1980.

BUT WE MUST DO MORE THAN THAT. WE MUST CONCENTRATE MORE THAN WE EVER HAVE BEFORE ON ELECTING REPUBLICANS TO CONGRESS. WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON ELECTING MORE REPUBLICANS TO STATE LEGISLATURES,

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TO COUNTY COUNCILS, AND TO THE GOVERNORSHIPS.

WE CAN WIN THOSE ELECTIONS. WE CAN WIN THEM IN 1978.
BUT IT WILL TAKE A LOT OF WORK, AND THE SOONER WE LEARN TO
WORK WITH EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF AGAINST EACH OTHER, THE BETTER
OFF THIS PARTY WILL BE.

WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DISTRACTED BY FACTIONAL STRIFE.
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ENFORCE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS OR SET ARBI-
TRARY STANDARDS OF IDEOLOGICAL PURITY. IF WE REMAIN TRUE TO OUR
COMMON PRINCIPLES -- LIMITED GOVERNMENT, LOWER TAXES, CONCERN
FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE -- AND IF WE
DO A MORE EFFECTIVE JOB OF RELATING THOSE PRINCIPLES TO THE
EVERYDAY INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, OUR CAUSE WILL PREVAIL.

WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER SOME MAJOR GAINS IN 1978.
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS WORK HARD, WORK TOGETHER, BELIEVE IN OUR-
SELVES, AND PERSUADE A FEW OF OUR NEIGHBORS THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING
WORTH VOTING FOR.

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I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANGES, AND I KNOW THAT WITH GOOD
PEOPLE LIKE YOU WORKING FOR THE CAUSE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A
GREAT YEAR IN 1978 AND A GREAT YEAR IN 1980.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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