

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
WAYNE COUNTY LINCOLN DAY DINNER

WOOSTER, OHIO
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1978



NOT LONG AGO, THE REINS OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WERE TURNED OVER TO A NEW PRESIDENT, A MAN WHO CAPTURED HIS PARTY'S NOMINATION AND SURVIVED A CLOSE ELECTION WITH A PLEDGE TO SHAKE UP THE WASHINGTON ESTABLISHMENT, TO MAKE GOVERNMENT AS GOOD AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO ALTER THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF DOING THINGS IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL. THAT TRANSITION BROUGHT WITH IT A BREATH OF HOPE FOR MANY AMERICANS, A FLEETING MOOD OF OPTIMISM WHICH SEEMS TO ENGULF OUR NATION AT THE BEGINNING OF ANY NEW ADMINISTRATION AND, TOO, IT SERVED TO REMIND REPUBLICANS EVERYWHERE OF THE NARROWNESS OF OUR POLITICAL BASE, OF THE VITALITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, OF THE DESPERATE NEED FOR OUR PARTY TO REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO CONVINCE THEM THAT WHAT WE STAND FOR BEST SERVES THEIR INTERESTS.

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AMERICANS DISILLUSIONED

TODAY -- BARELY SIXTEEN MONTHS LATER -- THE BREATH OF HOPE HAS BEEN SUFFOCATED, THE MOOD OF OPTIMISM HAS VANISHED, AND THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF DOING THINGS IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE IN WASHINGTON. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE APPREHENSIVE, DISILLUSIONED WITH THEIR PRESIDENT, SKEPTICAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, UNSURE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. THE RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN AMERICA AT HOME AND ABROAD IS FADING. AND THE PROSPECTS FOR OUR PARTY -- IN WAYNE COUNTY, IN OHIO, AND AROUND THIS NATION -- ARE ONCE AGAIN ON THE RISE.

AS REPUBLICANS, WE SHOULD BE ELATED. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP BY THE DEMOCRATS HAS GIVEN US A NEW LEASE ON LIFE AND OPENED UP TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES THIS YEAR AND IN 1980.

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REPUBLICAN RESPONSIBILITY

BUT WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT OUR IMPROVED PROSPECTS REFLECT NOT JUST WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING TO STRENGTHEN OUR PARTY, BUT PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT THE DEMOCRATS HAVE FAILED TO DO FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE FIND AMERICA DIVIDED, UNEASY ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO PREEMINENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, UNSURE AND DISILLUSIONED ABOUT THE LACK OF DIRECTION HERE AT HOME, AND UTTERLY FRUSTRATED BY A GOVERNMENT INCREASINGLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE REAL WORLD PROBLEMS OF OUR PEOPLE. IN WAYNE COUNTY AND AROUND THIS NATION, WE REPUBLICANS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE POLICIES WHICH WILL RESTORE OUR NATION'S COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL STRENGTH, TO STABILIZE OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY, FEED THOSE WHO CANNOT FEED THEMSELVES, FIND JOBS FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM, AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE LESS REASON TO BE CYNICAL ABOUT THE PERSONALITIES AND PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT.

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MUST TAKE INITIATIVE

I THINK THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CAN MEASURE UP TO THIS TASK. WE CAN GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THEY WANT, IF WE WILL. IF WE ASPIRE TO LEADERSHIP, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE NEGATIVE. WE MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE. WE MUST PROPOSE RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES WHICH WILL RESTORE OUR POSITION OF WORLD LEADERSHIP, STRENGTHEN OUR CITIES, OUR STATES, AND OUR NATION, AND GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A GOVERNMENT THEY CAN BE PROUD OF.

WE REPUBLICANS CAN DO THESE THINGS IF WE ACT TOGETHER, MOTIVATED BY WHAT UNITES US AND NOT INHIBITED BY WHAT DIVIDES US. UNITED WE CAN BE A STRONG FORCE FOR GOOD IN OHIO AND IN AMERICA.

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POSITIVE CANDIDATES WITH A POSITIVE PHILOSOPHY

BUT UNITY ALONE WILL NOT MAKE GOVERNMENT BETTER OR ELECT MORE REPUBLICANS. WE'VE GOT TO BE POSITIVE. WE'VE GOT TO OFFER POSITIVE CANDIDATES WITH A POSITIVE PHILOSOPHY. WE CAN'T BE CONTENT TO CRITICIZE A VULNERABLE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR LEADERS WHO SHARE THEIR SENSE OF FRUSTRATION, WHO WANT GOVERNMENT OFF THEIR BACKS AND OUT OF THEIR POCKETS, WHO BELIEVE THAT THE PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AS SERVANT , NOT MASTER, OF THE PEOPLE IS NOT AN OUTDATED NOTION. THEY WANT MORE THAN INSPIRED RHETORIC ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY AND FREE ENTERPRISE AND NATIONAL STRENGTH. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF OHIO -- AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE-- ALREADY SHARE OUR BASIC VALUES, OUR PHILOSOPHY. WHAT THEY WANT FROM US ARE CANDIDATES AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO WILL PUT THAT PHILOSOPHY TO WORK IN WAYNE COUNTY, IN OHIO, AND IN WASHINGTON.

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REPUBLICANS IN FRONT

I CAN TELL YOU TODAY THAT REPUBLICANS ARE DOING JUST THAT. WE'RE OUT FRONT WITH POSITIVE PROGRAMS TO REDUCE TAXES, TO INCREASE DOMESTIC ENERGY SUPPLIES, TO PROVIDE TUITION RELIEF FOR PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS, TO REFORM OUR NATION'S ANTIQUATED WELFARE SYSTEM, TO ENSURE AN AMERICAN DEFENSE POSTURE SECOND TO NONE.

ADMINISTRATION FLOUNDERING

THE ADMINISTRATION IS FLOUNDERING, DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR AN ISSUE THAT WILL ENABLE THE PRESIDENT TO RECAPTURE THE POPULIST APPEAL OF HIS 1976 CAMPAIGN.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE. IF YOU HAD BEEN IN OFFICE NEARLY A YEAR AND A HALF, IF YOU SHARED POWER WITH OVERWHELMING CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITIES OF YOUR OWN PARTY, AND IF YOUR ONLY SUBSTANTIAL LEGISLATIVE "VICTORY" WAS RATIFICATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OPPOSED, YOU'D BE LOOKING FOR A POPULAR ISSUE, TOO. I THINK THAT'S

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HOW PRESIDENT CARTER IS REACTING.

UNABLE TO GET A SUBSTANTIVE ENERGY PROGRAM PASSED BY A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT LEVELED A BROADSIDE ATTACK ON EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE TARGET, THE BIG OIL COMPANIES. SUCCESSFUL IN FORCING THE COAL COMPANIES TO ACCEPT A HUGE WAGE PACKAGE FROM THE MINERS, PRESIDENT CARTER TURNED AROUND AND BLASTED THE STEEL COMPANIES WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED PRICE INCREASES TO COMPENSATE FOR THE HIGHER ENERGY COSTS.

NOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS AIMED HIS RHETORICAL BARRAGE TOWARDS PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.

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ATTACK ON PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

FIRST, HE BLASTED THE LEGAL PROFESSION AS UNRESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN, AND CARING ONLY ABOUT THE LEGAL MANEUVERINGS OF BIG BUSINESS AND THE WEALTHY. WHAT THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T MENTION WAS THAT THE DEMAND FOR LEGAL SERVICES FROM BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE BIG GOVERNMENT PHILOSOPHY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF EMBRACES. THE PRESIDENT'S OWN DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, HIS PROPOSED CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY, AND SCORES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, BUREAUS, AND DEPARTMENTS KEEP THOUSANDS OF LAWYERS ON THE GOVERNMENT PAYROLL AND FORCE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO HIRE COUNTLESS MORE TO KEEP UP WITH THE WEB OF RULES AND REGULATIONS SPEWING FORTH FROM WASHINGTON DAY AFTER DAY.

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AND HE WENT AFTER THE DOCTORS TOO, ACCUSING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THWARTING ALL THE GOOD IDEAS HE HAS FOR HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES -- IDEAS LIKE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, WHICH WOULD COST UP TO \$200 BILLION A YEAR, AND ARBITRARY PRICE CONTROLS ON HOSPITAL SERVICES.

WHAT EARTHLY GOOD, OTHER THAN TO THE PRESIDENT'S OWN POPULARITY RATINGS, CAN SUCH DEMAGOGIC ATTACKS DO? WHY NOT DO SOMETHING RESPONSIVE LIKE REDUCING FEDERAL PAPERWORK BURDENS SO THAT MORE LAWYERS CAN CONCENTRATE ON PROBLEMS OF THE AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL, LIKE WORKING CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH CONGRESS FOR A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM WHICH WILL INSURE THAT NO AMERICAN FAMILY WILL BE FINANCIALLY WIPED OUT DUE TO SERIOUS ILLNES?

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THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HEARD ALL THE RHETORIC BEFORE. I THINK THEY'D LIKE TO SEE THE ADMINISTRATION TALK LESS AND ACCOMPLISH MORE. THEY'D LIKE TO SEE GOVERNMENT WORK WITH BUSINESS AND UNIONS AND DOCTORS AND LAWYERS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN AMERICA. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR PRESIDENT SPEND MORE TIME TO GETTING HIS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER, AND LESS TIME CAMPAIGNING FOR THE JOB HE'S ALREADY SUPPOSED TO BE DOING.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSALS

REPUBLICANS HAVE PROPOSED SEVERAL SCHEMES TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE TAX BURDEN ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF PRODUCTIVE, REWARDING JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH TAX REDUCTION AND BUSINESS INCENTIVES. I'VE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO INDEX THE TAX SYSTEM, SO THAT TAX RATES WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING.

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OTHER REPUBLICANS IN THE SENATE HAVE INTRODUCED TUITION TAX CREDITS, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SOME MEASURE OF RELIEF FOR HARD PRESSED MIDDLE INCOME TAXPAYERS WHO ARE TRYING TO SEND THEIR KIDS TO COLLEGE.

WE'RE WORKING ON PROGRAMS TO EXPAND FEDERAL NUTRITION EDUCATION EFFORTS, SO THAT WE CAN PREVENT ILLNESS AND THWART THE BIG SPENDERS IN CONGRESS WHO WOULD FORCE COSTLY COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ON THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

MY PLAN TO REFORM THE NATION'S FOOD STAMP SYSTEM HAS ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED AND IS BEING IMPLEMENTED THIS FALL. OTHER REPUBLICANS HAVE PROPOSED WELFARE REFORM PROGRAMS WHICH WILL BREAK THE CYCLE OF WELFARE DEPENDENCY WITHOUT BANKRUPTING THE TREASURY.

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AS A MINORITY PARTY, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE OUR OBLIGATION TO OPPOSE ILL-CONCEIVED SPENDING PROGRAMS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ALLIES IN CONGRESS. THAT'S WHY MANY OF US ARE FIGHTING ONE-SIDED LABOR "REFORM" LEGISLATION WHICH COULD FORCE UNIONISM ON UNWILLING WORKERS. THAT'S WHY WE OPPOSED THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, AND WHY WE'LL VIEW WITH SKEPTICISM ANY STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT WHICH MAKES UNDUE CONCESSIONS TO THE RUSSIANS.

YET, NO MATTER HOW WELL TAKEN OUR VIEWPOINT, NO MATTER HOW MERITORIOUS OUR INITIATIVES, THEY FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE AT BEST BECAUSE THERE IS A DEMOCRAT IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND A TWO-TO-ONE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS. UNLESS WE INCREASE OUR NUMBERS IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ADVANCE OUR OWN PROGRAMS BEYOND THE RHETORICAL STAGE.

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NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE BALANCE

AND SO WE STAND AT A POINT IN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF OUR NATION WHEN THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE BALANCE IN WASHINGTON IS GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE. THE PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY ARE NOT PROBLEMS FOR A ONE-PARTY CONGRESS OR A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT. THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT MEN LIKE RALPH REGULA BE RE-ELECTED TO CONGRESS AND JIM RHODES TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. THESE MEN, LIKE THE MANY OTHER REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES HERE IN OHIO, ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN MATTERS THAT CONCERN THE PEOPLE OF THE BUCKEYE STATE. HERE IN OHIO AND AROUND THIS NATION, REPUBLICANS HAVE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES IN 1978.

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WE NEED NOT REMAIN A MINORITY PARTY. NEITHER THE STATE OF
OHIO OR THE UNITED STATES HAS LEGISLATED OUR MINORITY STATUS.
BUT NEITHER HAVE THEY LEGISLATED OUR EXISTENCE. SO WE HAVE
SACRIFICES TO MAKE, WE HAVE HARD WORK TO DO. IF WE WORK
TOGETHER, I THINK WE'LL BE QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

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