

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FUNDRAISER

ASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 3, 1978

Constitution

IN OUR NATION, THE TRANSITION FROM ONE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
TO ANOTHER BRINGS WITH IT A BREATH OF HOPE FOR MANY AMERICANS.
A BRIEF MOOD OF OPTIMISM SEEMS TO ENGULF OUR NATION AS WE
CEREMONIOUSLY USHER IN A NEW LEADER. AND SO IT WAS IN JANUARY
OF 1977. THE NEW PRESIDENT PLEDGED TO MAKE GOVERNMENT AS
GOOD AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO ALTER THE TRADITIONAL WAY
OF DOING THINGS IN WASHINGTON, TO BRING A FRESH, RATIONAL
APPROACH TO AMERICAN STATECRAFT.

*Bakersville -
M. Stahl*

St. V. C. [unclear]

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AMERICANS DISILLUSIONED

TODAY, LESS THAN TWO YEARS 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 THE NATION'S CAPITOL. AIMLESS MEANDERINGS ON FOREIGN POLICY, LACK OF DIRECTION HERE AT HOME, CONSTANT BICKERING WITH CONGRESS -- THESE HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARKS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BECOME APPREHENSIVE, DISILLUSIONED ONCE AGAIN WITH THEIR PRESIDENT, SKEPTICAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, UNSURE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

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AS REPUBLICANS, I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD BE ELATED. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND ON CAPITOL HILL HAS OPENED UP TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR REPUBLICAN SUCCESS THIS YEAR AND IN 1980. DEMOCRATIC INEPTITUDE HAS PROVIDED US WITH A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR POLITICAL BASE -- ESPECIALLY HERE IN THE SOUTH, TO CONVINCE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WHAT WE STAND FOR BEST SERVES THEIR INTERESTS.

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.

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SO WHILE WE, AS REPUBLICANS, MAY REAP POLITICAL BENEFITS IN 1978, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO RISE THIS EVENING WITH ANY SENSE OF POLITICAL SATISFACTION OR JUBILATION.

RATHER, I COME BEFORE YOU AS A VERY TROUBLED AMERICAN -- YOUR PARTISAN ALLY--WITH A GROWING SENSE OF SADNESS AND DISMAY AT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON, HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY, HAPPENING TO OUR NATION IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

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REPUBLICANS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY

WE FIND AMERICA DIVIDED, UNEASY ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO PREEMINENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, UNSURE AND DISILLUSIONED ABOUT OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY, AND UTTERLY FRUSTRATED BY A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INCREASINGLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE REAL WORLD PROBLEMS OF OUR PEOPLE. IN NORTH CAROLINA AND AROUND THIS NATION, WE REPUBLICANS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE POLICIES WHICH WILL RESTORE OUR NATION'S COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL STRENGTH, PUT THE ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK, FIND JOBS FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM, FEED THOSE WHO CANNOT FEED THEMSELVES, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE LESS REASON TO BE CYNICAL ABOUT THE PERSONALITIES AND PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT.

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I, FOR ONE, THINK THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CAN MEASURE UP TO THIS TASK. WITH MEN LIKE JESSE HELMS AND CURT RATCLIFF ON THE BALLOT WE CAN PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP AND GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THEY DESERVE. BUT WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF WE ACT TOGETHER, MOTIVATED BY WHAT UNITES US AND NOT INHIBITED BY WHAT DIVIDES US.

SEARCH FOR LEADERSHIP

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. BUT THEY WANT MORE THAN INSPIRED RHETORIC ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY AND FREE ENTERPRISE

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AND NATIONAL STRENGTH. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA--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 ASHVILLE, IN RALEIGH, AND IN WASHINGTON.

THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO MAKE THAT EXTRA EFFORT TO SPELL OUT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT THE REPUBLICAN PHILOSOPHY MEANS TO THEM. WE HAVE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE DON'T LIKE THE STATUS-QUO ANY BETTER THAN THEY DO, THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS THE ONLY FORCE IN WASHINGTON WHICH CONSISTENTLY FIGHTS FOR LOWER TAXES, FOR LESS GOVERNMENT REGULATION, FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS, FOR MEANINGFUL WELFARE REFORM, FOR FARM POLICIES WHICH STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY FARM, AND FOR AMERICAN MILITARY STRENGTH SECOND TO NONE.

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WE MUST LET THEM KNOW THAT WE'RE ON THEIR SIDE, FIGHTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROGRAM TO INCREASE TAXES FOR NEARLY HALF OF ALL AMERICAN FAMILIES BY NEXT YEAR, THAT WE OPPOSED THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, THAT WE DON'T INTEND TO RUBBER STAMP A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT WHICH FURTHER ERODES OUR STRATEGIC POSITION IN THE WORLD, THAT WE'RE FIGHTING ONE-SIDED LABOR "REFORM" LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD FORCE UNIONISM ON UNWILLING WORKERS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

REPUBLICANS FIGHTING FOR FISCAL STABILITY

ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, AT LEAST, WE HAVE ONE MAJOR ADVANTAGE OVER THE DEMOCRATS. WE'VE BEEN CONSISTENT OVER THE YEARS IN CAUTIONING AGAINST THE EVILS OF INFLATION. FOR TOO LONG, DEMOCRATS IN THE CONGRESS HAVE RIDICULED TRADITIONAL REPUBLICAN CONCERNS ABOUT INFLATION. THEY'VE SAID WE WERE INSENSITIVE, THAT HUGE

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BUDGET DEFICITS WERE ACCEPTABLE IF GOVERNMENT SPENDING WAS BEING USED TO HELP PEOPLE. WHAT THE DEMOCRATS HAVE IGNORED-- AND WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS STILL IGNORING--IS THAT FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND THE MIDDLE CLASS, THE EVILS OF INFLATION FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS FROM GOVERNMENT OVERSPENDING.

REPUBLICANS HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED THIS. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR RESTRAINTS ON FEDERAL SPENDING AND FOR TAX CUTS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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IN SHARP CONTRAST, PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANTI-INFLATION POLICIES HAVE BEEN AN ABYSMAL FAILURE. THE PRESIDENT INHERITED AN INFLATION RATE SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW 5% FROM PRESIDENT FORD. A YEAR AND A HALF LATER, INFLATION HAS AGAIN TOPPED DOUBLE DIGIT LEVELS WITH LAST MONTH'S RATE CLOSE TO 11% ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THIS SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE EVERYTHING IMAGINABLE TO INCREASE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. HE HAS PROPOSED MASSIVE NEW ENERGY TAXES, SIGNED LEGISLATION WHICH DRAMATICALLY INCREASES SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES FOR MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS, INCREASED THE MINIMUM WAGE, INCREASED BUDGETS FOR REGULATORY AGENCIES, SUPPORTED AN ILL-FATED CARGO PREFERENCE BILL, PROPOSED A ONE-HALF TRILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL BUDGET AND NOW ENLISTED THE MAN WHO PERSUADED THE COAL OPERATORS TO ACCEPT A 40% INCREASE IN WAGES AND BENEFITS AS HIS CHIEF ANTI-INFLATION SPOKESMAN.

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THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THEIR PRESIDENT. THAT'S WHY I THINK THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA WILL TURN TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, TO MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHARE THEIR CONCERNS OVER INFLATION AND HIGH TAXES. BUT WE WON'T GET THEIR VOTES UNLESS WE TELL THEM WHERE WE STAND AND CONVINCE THEM THAT WE WE STAND FOR BEST SERVES THEIR INTERESTS. FRANKLY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HASN'T BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE IN COMMUNICATING OUR PHILOSOPHY TO THE VOTERS, ESPECIALLY HERE IN THE SOUTH. BUT JESSE HELMS AND CURT RATCLIFF KNOW THAT. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE TALKING TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA. AND THAT'S WHY I'M VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES THIS YEAR IN NORTH CAROLINA.

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NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE BALANCE

JESSE HELMS AND CURT RATCLIFF KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW MERITORIOUS OUR INITIATIVES, NO MATTER HOW WELL TAKEN OUR VIEWPOINT, REPUBLICAN POLICIES 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 RE-ELECT OUTSTANDING INCUMBENTS LIKE JESSE HELMS AND INCREASE OUR NUMBERS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO ADVANCE OUR OWN PROGRAMS BEYOND THE RHETORICAL STAGE.

AND SO WE STAND AT A POINT IN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF OUR NATION WHEN THE NEED FOR A 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

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WE NEED NOT REMAIN A MINORITY PARTY. NEITHER THE STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA 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.
TONIGHT'S A GOOD TIME TO START.

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