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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
MYERS FOR CONGRESS DINNER
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1978

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I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN TERRE HAUTE THIS EVENING ON BEHALF OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN MYERS, ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND POPULAR REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

I WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS IN TONIGHT'S AUDIENCE. THAT IS A TESTAMENT TO JOHN MYERS' BROAD APPEAL HERE IN THE 7TH DISTRICT AND SHOULD SERVE TO REMIND REPUBLICANS ACROSS INDIANA AND AROUND THE NATION THAT, IF WE ARE TO HAVE A STRONG TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IN AMERICA, WE NEED TO REACH OUT ACROSS THE WHOLE BROAD SPECTRUM OF OUR POPULATION FOR NEW SUPPORTERS.

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IF WE DO, IF WE FOLLOW JOHN MYERS' EXAMPLE, 1978 WILL BE A REPUBLICAN YEAR, A YEAR FOR CITIZENS EVERYWHERE WHO YEARN FOR COMMON SENSE IN GOVERNMENT, FOR A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS COMPASSIONATE YET FRUGAL, IDEALISTIC BUT NOT FOOLHARDY, RESPONSIVE TO ITS CITIZENS AND RESPONSIBLE TO ITS TAXPAYERS, A YEAR WHEN THE REPUBLICAN MESSAGE, THE REPUBLICAN VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA IS BOLDLY IMPRINTED ON THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

BECAUSE, UNLIKE MANY OF OUR OPPONENTS, UNLIKE PRESIDENT CARTER, WE WON'T HAVE TO SHAPE OUR POLICIES AND ATTITUDES TO FIT THE MOOD OF THE ELECTORATE. BECAUSE THE CONCERNS, THE FEARS, THE FRUSTRATIONS, THE HOPES, AND DREAMS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN 1978 ARE AND HAVE BEEN REPUBLICAN CONCERNS, FEARS, FRUSTRATIONS, HOPES, AND DREAMS FOR YEARS.

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AFTER DECADES OF DEMOCRATIC DOMINATION IN THE CONGRESS, AFTER LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF RENEWED DEMOCRATIC STEWARDSHIP IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH. THEY'RE CYNICAL ABOUT THE PERSONALITIES AND PROCESSES OF POLITICS, ANGRY ABOUT INCESSANT GOVERNMENT MEDDLING IN THEIR BUSINESSES AND PRIVATE LIVES, ALARMED ABOUT AMERICA'S SAGGING FORTUNES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, FINANCIALLY BURDENED BY GOVERNMENT-INDUCED DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION, AND FED UP WITH THE TOLL GOVERNMENT EXTRACTS FROM THEM IN EVER-INCREASING TAXES.

REPUBLICANS PROVIDING LEADERSHIP

YOU AND I KNOW THERE'S NO A FORCE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY BETTER EQUIPPED TO ARTICULATE THESE CONCERNS, THIS MORE REALISTIC

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PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT THAN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. IN INDIANA, IN THE MIDWEST, AND AROUND THIS NATION WE REPUBLICANS KNOW THAT, GIVEN A CHANCE, WE CAN DELIVER TO THE VOTERS. BUT ONLY IF WE ACT TOGETHER, MOTIVATED BY WHAT UNITES US, NOT INHIBITED BY WHAT DIVIDES US.

THE PEOPLE OF INDIANA ARE LOOKING TO OUR PARTY FOR LEADERSHIP. OTIS BOWEN, DICK LUGAR, AND JOHN MYERS ARE PROVIDING THAT LEADERSHIP.

WHAT A CONTRAST TO THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY. ON ISSUE AFTER ISSUE, POLICY AFTER POLICY, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS STUMBLED, HESITATED, SHIFTED DIRECTION, AND, IN THE PROCESS, CONFUSED BOTH ITS SUPPORTERS AND DETRACTORS.

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ADMINISTRATION ECONOMICS OUT OF CONTROL

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE SOME OF THE CREDIT FOR THE GAINS IN PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. BUT THE FIRES OF INFLATION ARE ONCE AGAIN RAGING OUT OF CONTROL. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT A PROBLEM INHERITED FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENT FORD REPEATEDLY FOUGHT THE CONGRESSIONAL BIG SPENDERS AND BEAT BACK INFLATION TO LESS THAN SIX PERCENT IN THE LAST YEAR OF HIS PRESIDENCY, ONLY TO SEE DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION REINTRODUCED TO OUR ECONOMY A YEAR LATER BY HIS SUCCESSOR.

PRESIDENT FORD HAD THE RIGHT IDEA LONG BEFORE PROPOSITION 13 "FEVER" SWEEPED THE NATION: VETO UNNECESSARY SPENDING BILLS, RESTRAIN THE GROWTH OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND CUT THE PEOPLES TAXES. HE TRIED REPEATEDLY AND WAS REBUFFED BY THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS.

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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS EMBRACED JUST THE OPPOSITE APPROACH. THE BUDGET HAS GROWN TO OVER HALF A TRILLION DOLLARS. AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAS PROPOSED MORE TAX INCREASES AND OPPOSED MORE TAX REDUCTIONS THAN ANY NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN RECENT HISTORY. HE HAS ALREADY SIGNED A \$225 BILLION SOCIAL SECURITY TAX HIKE, PROPOSED ANOTHER \$125 BILLION IN ENERGY TAXES, THREATENED TO IMPOSE \$15 BILLION IN "FEES" ON IMPORTED FUELS, AND REPEATEDLY RESISTED REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL REDUCTIONS IN FEDERAL TAXES.

INDEED, NEARLY EVERY EFFORT TO REDUCE TAXES IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN MET WITH STRONG OPPOSITION BY THE ADMINISTRATION, BY DEMAGOGIC CHARGES OF TAX WINDFALLS FOR THE WEALTHY, BY TRUMPED-UP STATISTICS DESIGNED TO LEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO BELIEVE

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THAT REPUBLICAN-BACKED TAX REDUCTION PROGRAMS WILL BENEFIT ONLY A CHOSEN FEW.

I, FOR ONE, DON'T THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO FALL FOR SUCH DEMAGOGUERY. WE MUSTN'T LET THEM. THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW THAT WE, THE REPUBLICANS, WANT GOVERNMENT OFF THEIR BACKS AND OUT OF THEIR POCKETS, THAT WE WILL FIGHT FOR LOWER TAXES, REDUCED FEDERAL REGULATIONS, AND BUDGETARY RESTRAINT.

NEED FOR LEADERSHIP, REALISTIC POLICIES

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PARTY IN POWER HAVE LEFT A HUGE VACUUM ON THIS ISSUE. IT IS A VACUUM WE CAN -- AND MUST -- FILL. BUT WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS. WE MUSTN'T DEMAGOGUE THE TAX AND SPENDING ISSUE

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LEST OUR CREDIBILITY BE LOST. WE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT ADVOCATE UNREALISTIC SPENDING AND TAX REDUCTION POLICIES WHICH REALLY WOULD FORCE GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS COMMENDABLE EFFORTS TO HELP THE NEEDY, TURN A DEAF EAR TO THE UNQUESTIONED NEEDS OF OUR CITIES, OR IGNORE THE ECONOMIC CRUNCH FACING OUR FAMILY FARMERS. WE KNOW GOVERNMENT CAN BE A POSITIVE FORCE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVICES WITHOUT INCURRING HUGE BUDGET DEFICITS, WITHOUT EXTRACTING UNNECESSARY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAXES EACH YEAR FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL WELCOME THIS KIND OF FRANKNESS IN THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS. BECAUSE ITS A TYPE OF CANDOR SADLY LACKING IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND IN THE CONGRESS TODAY.

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TAX PROGRAM INSTEAD OF ENERGY POLICY

ON NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY, THE PRESIDENT HAS REFUSED TO SEND CONGRESS AN ENERGY PROGRAM, OPTING INSTEAD FOR A HIGHLY INFLATIONARY ENERGY-TAX PROGRAM. THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN HAS BEEN STALLED FOR MONTHS IN THE CONGRESS, NOT BECAUSE OF REPUBLICAN INTRANSIGENCE, NOT BECAUSE CONGRESS DOESN'T WANT A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY, BUT BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL ENERGY PROPOSALS COULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. YOUR CONGRESSMAN, JOHN MYERS, IS ACUTELY AWARE OF OUR ENERGY PROBLEMS AND HE'S NOT AFRAID TO TAKE A STAND ON THIS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE. AS THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, JOHN HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE HIS OPINION ON NUMEROUS APPROPRIATIONS MATTERS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE FUNDING OF MANY OF OUR ENERGY PROGRAMS. HE HAS USED

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THIS FORUM TO EFFECTIVELY ARGUE THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO SHARPLY REDUCE OUR PETROLEUM IMPORTS, WE MUST SHARPLY INCREASE OUR EMPHASIS ON DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION AND ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

IF WE ARE TO LEAD THIS NATION ONCE AGAIN, OUR CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION MUST BE MEASURED, OUR ALTERNATIVE POLICIES CLEARLY SPELLED OUT.

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INFLATION, TAXATION, SPENDING -- THESE SEEM TO BE THE ISSUES OF THE DAY, THE ISSUES TO WHICH THE VOTERS OF AMERICA ARE MOST RESPONSIVE. BUT, PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION IS THE URGENT NEED FOR AMERICA TO REASSERT ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE FREE WORLD, TO CHART A CONSISTENT, PRUDENT COURSE OF FOREIGN POLICY.

PRESENT FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONABLE

UNFORTUNATELY, AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, UNDER THE INEXPERIENCED DIRECTION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, DOES NOT PROJECT SUCH AN IMAGE. OUR GOALS ARE BLURRED, OUR COMMITMENT TO ALLIES QUESTIONED, OUR RESOLVE TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH ADVERSARIES DOUBTED. UNCERTAINTY, CONTRADICTION, FREQUENT SHIFTS IN POLICY,

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AND INCONSISTENCY CHARACTERIZE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICIES TODAY. OUR IMAGE IS OF A NATION WHICH HAS SEEMINGLY LOST ITS GRIP ON THE RUDDER OF FREE WORLD LEADERSHIP.

AS REPUBLICANS, AS CONCERNED CITIZENS OF AMERICA, WE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY. WE MUST SPEAK OUT, CONSTRUCTIVELY CRITICIZING THE ADMINISTRATION WHEN APPROPRIATE, SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE IS RIGHT, AND DEMANDING STABLE, COHERENT STRATEGIES TO GUIDE OUR FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES. BECAUSE WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THERE CAN BE NO STRENGTH OF PURPOSE. AND, SADLY, THIS ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO HAVE HAD NO VISION, NO PURPOSE.

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RATHER THAN ADHERING TO A CONSISTENT, PRACTICAL OUTLOOK TOWARDS OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS OVER-REACTED TO THE MOOD OF THE MOMENT, AND PERMITTED LOFTY IDEALISM TO SUPPLANT HARD-NOSED REALITY. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ARE DETERIORATING. OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE POSTURE IS SLIPPING. EVEN THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED WITH GREAT FANFARE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, IS FADING.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RHETORIC HAS BEEN TOUGH, ITS DEEDS WEAK. WE HAVE UNILATERALLY GIVEN UP ON ONE WEAPONS SYSTEM AFTER ANOTHER, THROWN AWAY BARGAINING CHIP AFTER BARGAINING CHIP IN THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS. WE HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO

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BECOME INVOLVED IN BLATANT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH, AT FIRST GLANCE, APPEAR NOT TO AFFECT US DIRECTLY FOR FEAR OF INTERVENING IN THE "INTERNAL AFFAIRS" OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. BUT I SAY TO YOU THAT SO LONG AS THERE IS SUCH BLATANT DISREGARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE SCHARANSKY, PETKUS, AND GINZBURG TRIALS, THE CAMBODIAN HOLOCAUST, THE CUBAN ADVENTURES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, NONE OF US CAN HIDE BEHIND NATIONAL BORDERS.

AS REPUBLICANS, AS THE LOYAL OPPOSITION, WE SHARE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER A DUTY TO PURSUE POLICIES WHICH BEST REFLECT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, THAT MEANS AN AMERICA WHICH IS FIRM BUT NOT INTRANSIGENT, COMMITTED TO FREEDOM AND SELF-RULE, DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE GLOBE.

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WE DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO THE DAY TO DAY TENSIONS OF THE COLD WAR. WE ASK ONLY FOR REALISM IN FOREIGN POLICY, FOR FAITHFUL ADHERENCE TO AMERICAN PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND DECENCY, FOR UNSWERVING COMMITMENT TO THE NOTION THAT FREEDOM IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF ALL MEN, THAT THE DESTINY OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD -- THOSE LIVING AND TO BE BORN -- IS TO BE FREE.

NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE BALANCE

FOREIGN POLICY, TAXATION, SPENDING, GOVERNMENT REGULATION, ENERGY, HEALTH CARE, FARM POLICY, WELFARE REFORM, URBAN POLICY -- THESE ARE THE ISSUES OUR PARTY MUST ADDRESS IF WE ARE TO REASSERT OUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AMERICA. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFERS THE BEST HOPE FOR OUR NATION. WE STAND TODAY AT A POINT IN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF OUR NATION WHEN THE NEED FOR

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RESPONSIBLE BALANCE IS GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE. THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY ARE NOT PROBLEMS FOR A ONE-PARTY CONGRESS OR ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN INDIANA, AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, SHARE OUR BASIC VALUES, OUR PHILOSOPHY, OUR CONCERN ABOUT GOVERNMENT GONE AWRY, OUR DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIGH TAXES AND WASTEFUL SPENDING, OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN STRENGTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.

1978 CAN BE THE YEAR WHEN WE TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS RESTORING BALANCE AND REINVIGORATING THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IN AMERICA. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, THIS COUNTRY WILL BE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. AND OUR WORLD WILL BE A FAR SAFER PLACE FOR US, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

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