

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
BOSTON PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT
LEADERSHIP FOR THE 1980'S



March 23, 1979

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN MASSACHUSETTS; I HAVE A FEELING YOU'LL BE SEEING MORE OF ME, AND I OF YOU, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. FIRST I WANT TO THANK MINORITY LEADER BILL ROBINSON FOR ALLOWING ME THE USE OF HIS OFFICE, AND POLLY LOGAN, WHO DID SOME OF THE ADVANCE PRESS WORK IN HER CAPACITY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MASSACHUSETTS REPUBLICAN CLUB.

AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE NATION, TO PLACES LIKE MASSACHUSETTS, MY OBJECTIVE IS SIMPLE: TO ATTEMPT TO OFFER A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE IN WASHINGTON. TODAY, AND IN THE DAYS TO COME, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT EXISTING PROBLEMS AND PROPOSE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. I WANT TO FORMULATE A LEADERSHIP THAT IS NOT BASED ON SLICK RHETORIC OR GOOD INTENTIONS ALONE, BUT WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE CONFLICTING NEEDS OF 220,000,000 AMERICANS.

-2-

AS A KANSAN, I CANNOT PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THAT THE CLASSIC FILM, "THE WIZARD OF OZ", WILL BE SHOWN ON TELEVISION TONIGHT. NOW IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WE GET MORE OF OUR FILL OF FANTASY, SO IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO FOLLOW THE GOINGS ON THERE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN WHAT WE SEE IN THE FILM AND WHAT WE SEE ON THE EVENING NEWS. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE LEADER OF OZ TURNED OUT TO BE A FAKE WIZARD, A "HUMBUG", NOTHING MORE THAN FIRE AND SMOKE.

THE GREAT AND POWERFUL OZ WAS SINGULARLY LACKING IN MORAL AUTHORITY. INSTEAD, HE RELIED ON ILLUSIONS AND THE WILLINGNESS OF PEOPLE TO BOW DOWN BEFORE THE LOUDEST VOICE AND THE APPEARANCE OF CONTROL.

EVENTUALLY HE WAS UNMASKED, AND BY A KANSAS FARM GIRL AT THAT. WE KANSANS HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN A SPECIAL PRIDE IN DOROTHY'S ACHIEVEMENTS. EVEN NOW, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT LIED BEHIND THE FIRE AND SMOKE OF MODERN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE STILL WORRIED LEST GOVERNMENT FAIL TO ROOT ITS ASSERTIONS IN MORAL AUTHORITY. AND SO ARE THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

-3-

IN NO AREA IS THIS MORE TRUE THAN IN THE AREA OF ENERGY. IN 1973, A GALLON OF GAS IN MASSACHUSETTS COST 38¢. TODAY, THAT FIGURE HAS SKYROCKETED IN PRICE FASTER THAN ANY OTHER FUEL SOURCE. IN 1972, HOME HEATING OIL COST LESS THAN 20¢ A GALLON. REMEMBER THAT? NOW IT COSTS YOU OVER 60¢ A GALLON.

SO PRESIDENT CARTER AND I AGREE THAT MASSACHUSETTS NEEDS TO FIND A WAY TO CUT ITS DEPENDENCE ON UNRELIABLE FOREIGN SUPPLIES OF OIL.

BUT THAT IS AS FAR AS WE AGREE. THE PRESIDENT AND I PART COMPANY WHEN IT COMES TO DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE ENERGY SHORTFALL. AND AS REPUBLICANS WHO SEEK THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP, WE PUT FORWARD MORE THAN MERE OPPOSITION--WE PROPOSE A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE.

-4-

NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PURSUED POLICIES OF REGULATION, PRICE CONTROL AND A SUBSIDIZATION OF IMPORTED PETROLEUM. FROM AMERICAN LABOR AND BUSINESS TO THE NAACP--THESE SHORTSIGHTED AND ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE POLICIES HAVE MASSIVE CONDEMNATION FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

THE FACT IS, PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY PROGRAM SO FAR IS A TAX PROGRAM. HE SEEKS TO DEPRESS ENERGY USE WHEN HE SHOULD ENCOURAGE NEW ENERGY PRODUCTION. HIS VISION OF THE FUTURE IS A BLEAK ONE, WITH MORE REGULATION, MORE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT. REPUBLICANS DON'T ACCEPT MR. CARTER'S MELANCHOLY VISION. WE DON'T FEAR WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.

WE ARE NOT CONTENT WITH REGULATION AND CONSERVATION ALONE. THE POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS HERE RIGHT NOW, IF ONLY WE HAVE THE VISION TO SEIZE IT. AMERICA HAS 1/3 OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY RESOURCES IN COAL -- YET WE USE COMPARATIVELY LITTLE. HERE IT TAKES 12 OR MORE YEARS -- TWICE AS LONG AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES --TO BUILD A NUCLEAR ELECTRIC PLANT. THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH I SERVE AS RANKING REPUBLICAN, HAS ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 100 YEARS OF OIL MIGHT BE RECOVERED FROM AMERICA'S SHALE OIL DEPOSITS. YET THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES INCENTIVES TO BEGIN EXPLOITING SUCH RESOURCES.

-5-

THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THE ENERGY CRISIS IS A TRIUMPH OF TIMIDITY OVER COURAGE, OF MUDDLING THROUGH INSTEAD OF MOVING FORWARD. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. BY RELAXING OUR REQUIREMENTS ON UNLEADED GASOLINE, WE COULD ADD SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND BARRELS OF OIL TO OUR SUPPLY EACH DAY. BY APPROACHING MEXICO WITH A FAIR TRADE OF AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC EXPERTISE FOR A FAIR SHARE OF THAT COUNTRY'S VAST OIL AND GAS RESERVES, WE COULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE OUR DEADLY DEPENDENCE ON THE UNSTABLE MIDDLE EAST.

IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY PRODUCTS CAN BE CONVERTED TO GASOHOL-- A BLEND OF SUCH PRODUCTS WITH ALCOHOL TO HELP FUEL OUR CARS. LAST YEAR CONGRESS PASSED AN AMENDMENT I SPONSORED TO ELIMINATE THE TAX ON GASOLINE USED AS GASOHOL.

-6-

THERE IS EVEN MORE, MUCH MORE, THAT WE CAN DO TO STIMULATE OUR OWN PRODUCTION. BY OFFERING TAX INCENTIVES TO PRODUCERS WE CAN ENCOURAGE NEW PRODUCTION--NOT ONLY OF OIL AND GAS, BUT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES--SOLAR POWER, WIND AND WATER, GEOTHERMAL AND NUCLEAR. THE PRIVATE APPROACH IS BETTER THAN ANY BUREAUCRATIC ONE BECAUSE IT IMPOSES NO ARTIFICIAL LIMIT ON WHAT WE MAY ACHIEVE. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ALL THE JOBS THEY CREATE, SHOULDN'T DEPEND ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION LEST THE PRIVATE COMPANIES FAIL TO PLOWBACK THEIR CURRENT PROFITS INTO THE SEARCH FOR NEW ENERGY SOURCES. BIG BUSINESS, NO MORE THAN BIG GOVERNMENT CAN BE ALLOWED TO PROFIT UNFAIRLY FROM THE SUFFERING OF CONSUMERS--THE ALTERNATIVE IS A WINDFALL PROFITS TAX.

IF WE DO NOT ACT SOON, NEW ENGLAND WILL BECOME THE NEW APPALACHIA. ALREADY THE SIGNS--LOWERED STANDARD OF LIVING AND A LOSS OF INDUSTRY--ARE THERE. NEW ENGLAND'S SICK ECONOMY MUST BE OF CONCERN TO ALL AMERICANS--IT CERTAINLY CONCERNS ME.

-7-

NEW HEALTH CARE BILL

ANOTHER AREA THAT IS OF INTEREST TO ME--AND SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO NEW ENGLANDERS--IS HEALTH CARE.

YESTERDAY SENATOR KENNEDY ANNOUNCED HE WILL INTRODUCE HIS HEALTH INSURANCE BILL WITHIN A MONTH. EVEN WITHOUT KNOWING THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF THE KENNEDY PLAN, LET ME MAKE THIS PREDICTION: THE KENNEDY BILL HAS NO CHANCE OF PASSING THE CONGRESS. IT WILL PROMISE A GREAT MANY THINGS TO A GREAT MANY PEOPLE, BUT IN REALITY IT WILL NO DOUBT ACTUALLY PROVIDE THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED AMERICAN TAXPAYER WITH ADDED COSTS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ACCELERATE OUR ALREADY OUT-OF-CONTROL INFLATIONARY RATE.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S BILL--WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY--IS NOT MUCH BETTER. WHILE IT STARTS OFF SLOWLY, STEP BY STEP IT LEADS TO THE SAME KIND OF RIGID--AND EXPENSIVE--FEDERALLY CONTROLLED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CONTEMPLATED BY KENNEDY.

-8-

ON MONDAY I, ALONG WITH SENATORS DANFORTH AND DOMENICI, WILL OFFER A REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE TO THE KENNEDY AND ADMINISTRATION PLANS. IT WILL REPRESENT A REALISTIC LEGISLATIVE APPROACH TO THIS PRESSING PROBLEM. IT WILL SHOW THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS NOT SIMPLY OPPOSED TO THINGS, BUT IS ALSO WILLING TO BE FOR SOMETHING. AND THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE REPUBLICANS ARE FOR ACCESS TO GOOD, QUALITY HEALTH FOR ALL AMERICANS.

NO ONE IN THIS NATION SHOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE POORHOUSE AFTER LEAVING THE HOSPITAL, NOR SHOULD ANY AMERICAN BE DENIED TREATMENT BECAUSE OF COST. OUR PROPOSAL, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE RELEASED ON MONDAY, WILL NOT BE A SHOTGUN APPROACH, BUT RATHER A TARGETED PROGRAM. IT WILL UTILIZE THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND WILL INVOLVE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF RED TAPE--AND TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

AS I'VE SAID, I'M GLAD TO BE HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS, AND I'M ESPECIALLY GLAD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS WITH YOU. AS WE LOOK TOWARDS THE 1980'S, OUR NATION FACES DIFFICULT, YET EXCITING CHALLENGES. I BELIEVE THAT GIVEN THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP, WE CAN RISE TO THOSE CHALLENGES.



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOSTON PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT "Leadership for the 1980's"

BOSTON--The following is Senator Dole's (R-Kansas) opening statement at a 2:00 p.m. press conference at the State House in Boston, Massachusetts:

"I'm delighted to be back in Massachusetts; I have a feeling you'll be seeing more of me, and I of you, in the months ahead. First I want to thank Minority Leader Bill Robinson for allowing me the use of his office, and Polly Logan, who did some of the advance press work in her capacity as executive director of Massachusetts Republican Club.

As I travel around the nation, to places like Massachusetts, my objective is simple: to attempt to offer a positive alternative to the confusion and drift that characterize the present Administration in Washington. Today, and in the days to come, I want to talk about existing problems and propose practical solutions. I want to formulate a leadership that is not based on slick rhetoric or good intentions alone, but which takes into account the conflicting needs of 220,000,000 Americans.

As a Kansan, I cannot pass up an opportunity to note that the classic film, "The Wizard of Oz", will be shown on television tonight. Now in Washington, D.C., we get more of our fill of fantasy, so it may be difficult for those of you who follow the goings on there to differentiate between what we see in the film and what we see on the evening news. You will recall that the leader of Oz turned out to be a fake wizard, a "humbug", nothing more than fire and smoke.

The great and powerful Oz was singularly lacking in moral authority. Instead, he relied on illusions and the willingness of people to bow down before the loudest voice and the appearance of control.

Eventually he was unmasked, and by a Kansas farm girl at that. We Kansans have always taken a special pride in Dorothy's achievements. Even now, we are concerned about what lies behind the fire and smoke of modern government. We are still worried lest government fail to root its assertions in moral authority. And so are the people of Massachusetts.

In no area is this more true than in the area of energy. In 1973, a gallon of gas in Massachusetts cost 38¢. Today, that figure has skyrocketed in price faster than any other fuel source. In 1972, home heating oil cost less than 20¢ a gallon. Remember that? Now it costs you over 60¢ a gallon.

So President Carter and I agree that Massachusetts needs to find a way to cut its dependence on unreliable foreign supplies of oil.

But that is as far as we agree. The President and I part company when it comes to doing something about the energy shortfall. And as Republicans who seek the awesome responsibility of leadership, we put forward more than mere opposition--we propose a positive alternative.

NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN

The Administration has pursued policies of regulation, price control and a subsidization of imported petroleum. From American labor and business to the NAACP--these shortsighted and essentially negative policies have massive condemnation from all walks of life.

The fact is, President Carter's energy program so far is a tax program. He

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seeks to depress energy use when he should encourage new energy production. His vision of the future is a bleak one, with more regulation, more government oversight. Republicans don't accept Mr. Carter's melancholy vision. We don't fear what the future holds.

We are not content with regulation and conservation alone. The potential for energy self-sufficiency is here right now, if only we have the vision to seize it. America has 1/3 of the world's energy resources in coal--yet we use comparatively little. Here it takes 12 or more years--twice as long as in other countries--to build a nuclear electric plant. The Senate Finance Committee, on which I serve as ranking Republican, has estimated that up to 100 years of oil might be recovered from America's shale oil deposits. Yet the Carter Administration opposes incentives to begin exploiting such resources.

The Administration's approach to the energy crisis is a triumph of timidity over courage, of muddling through instead of moving forward. But it doesn't have to be that way. By relaxing our requirements on unleaded gasoline, we could add several hundred thousand barrels of oil to our supply each day. By approaching Mexico with a fair trade of American industrial and economic expertise for a fair share of that country's vast oil and gas reserves, we could dramatically reduce our deadly dependence on the unstable Middle East.

In many parts of the country, including Northern New England, agriculture and forestry products can be converted to gasohol--a blend of such products with alcohol to help fuel our cars. Last year Congress passed an amendment I sponsored to eliminate the tax on gasoline used as gasohol.

There is even more, much more, that we can do to stimulate our own production. By offering tax incentives to producers we can encourage new production--not only of oil and gas, but of alternative sources--solar power, wind and water, geothermal and nuclear. The private approach is better than any bureaucratic one because it imposes no artificial limit on what we may achieve. Research and development and all the jobs they create, shouldn't depend on the annual budget of the Energy Department. At the same time, we should exercise caution lest the private companies fail to plowback their current profits into the search for new energy sources. Big business, no more than big government can be allowed to profit unfairly from the suffering of consumers--the alternative is a windfall profits tax.

If we do not act soon, New England will become the new Appalachia. Already the signs--lowered standard of living and a loss of industry--are there. New England's sick economy must be of concern to all Americans--it certainly concerns me.

NEW HEALTH CARE BILL

Another area that is of interest to me--and should be of interest to New Englanders--is health care.

Yesterday Senator Kennedy announced he will introduce his health insurance bill within a month. Even without knowing the merits and demerits of the Kennedy plan, let me make this prediction: The Kennedy bill, as currently drafted, has no chance of passing the Congress. It will promise a great many things to a great many people, but in reality it will no doubt actually provide the already overburdened American taxpayer with added costs and would undoubtedly accelerate our already out-of-control inflationary rate.

The Administration's bill-- which was announced yesterday--is not much better. While it starts off slowly, step by step it leads to the same kind of rigid--and expensive--federally controlled health care system contemplated by Kennedy.

On Monday I, along with Senators Danforth and Domenici, will offer a Republican alternative to the Kennedy and Administration plans. It will represent a realistic legislative approach to this pressing problem. It will show that the Republican Party is not simply opposed to things, but is also willing to be for something. And there can be no doubt that the Republicans are for access to good, quality health for all Americans.

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No one in this nation should have to go to the poorhouse after leaving the hospital, nor should any American be denied treatment because of cost. Our proposal, details of which will be released on Monday, will not be a shotgun approach, but rather a targeted program. It will utilize the private sector and will involve the least amount of red tape--and taxpayer dollars.

As I've said, I'm glad to be here in Massachusetts, and I'm especially glad to have this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you. As we look towards the 1980's, our nation faces difficult, yet exciting challenges. I believe that given the right leadership, we can rise to those challenges.