

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

DES MOINES ANNOUNCEMENT

DES MOINES, IOWA

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1979

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, YOU ARE GOING TO BE BOMBARDED WITH CRITICISM OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR FROM A HOST OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES THAT JIMMY CARTER HAS FAILED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH INFLATION, HAS FAILED TO CUT TAXES, HAS FAILED TO FORMULATE A COHERENT AND FORCEFUL FOREIGN POLICY, HAS FAILED TO MAINTAIN AMERICAN DEFENSE AT A LEVEL ADEQUATE TO OUR NEEDS.

ALL OF WHICH IS TRUE. THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION HAS COMPILED A LITANY OF BROKEN PROMISES AND EMPTY RHETORIC THAT HAVE ERODED EVEN THE NARROW MANDATE OF 1976. AND WE SHOULDN'T HESITATE TO CRITICIZE WHAT IS WRONG.

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BUT NEITHER SHOULD WE SHY AWAY FROM PROPOSING POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES. WE'VE GOT TO DO MORE THAN SAY JIMMY CARTER'S FAILED AND WE'RE AVAILABLE.

WHAT COUNTS NOW IS NOT WHAT WE ARE AGAINST, BUT WHAT WE ARE FOR. AND WE ARE FOR A SOCIETY THAT BELIEVES IN PRODUCTION AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AS A WAY OUT OF THE MESS CREATED BY BIG GOVERNMENT.

THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETY

THE OVERRIDING ISSUE FACING THIS NATION TODAY IS INFLATION AND THE ECONOMIC STAGNATION THAT GOVERNMENT HAS FOSTERED. JIMMY CARTER DIDN'T START OUR SLIDE TOWARD THE PANIC AND POLARIZATION THAT PERMANENT INFLATION CREATES. BUT HE HAS MADE IT WORSE. WHEN PRESIDENT FORD LEFT OFFICE IN 1977, THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS UNDER 5%. FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, PRICES HAVE CLIMBED AT A 13% CLIP. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEMS UNABLE TO COMPREHEND HOW THIS CAME ABOUT OR HOW TO ATTACK INFLATION AT ITS ROOTS.

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FOR 13 YEARS, WITH ONLY BRIEF PAUSES IN THE UPWARD SPIRAL, THE AMERICAN ECONOMY HAS LIVED OFF PAST PRODUCTIVITY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DIVIDED INTO WARRING CAMPS. BUSINESS VERSUS LABOR, FARMER VERSUS CONSUMER, TAXPAYER VERSUS GOVERNMENT. WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A WE VERSUS THEY SOCIETY, AT A COST FAR HIGHER THAN HAMBURGER OR GASOLINE.

WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATION BETWEEN PRODUCTIVITY AND PRICES. WHEN PRODUCTIVITY DECLINES, AS IT DID BY 4.5 PERCENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, IT MEANS LESS ECONOMIC GROWTH. ULTIMATELY IT MEANS REDUCED BUYING POWER AND INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT. IT MEANS FEWER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASPIRING BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN, FEWER AVENUES TO PROSPERITY FOR MINORITY AND OTHER DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS.

A NATION THAT SACRIFICES PRODUCTIVITY INVITES HIGH PRICES, AND A STAGNANT ECONOMY. ULTIMATELY, IT SACRIFICES WORLD LEADERSHIP. FOR A WEAKENED DOLLAR IS AS DANGEROUS AS A SOVIET MISSILE.

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THE STRANGLEHOLD OF GOVERNMENT

THE LARGEST SINGLE INFLUENCE ON THE PRIVATE ECONOMY IS THE PUBLIC SECTOR. MODERN GOVERNMENT HAS PUT A STRANGLEHOLD ON THE GENIUS OF AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE. IT HAS REGULATED AWAY \$100 BILLION IN INVESTMENT EACH YEAR, AND PASSED THE COST ON TO THE CONSUMER. IT HAS TAXED AGAINST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, SO THAT NATIONS LIKE WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND JAPAN, FOR INSTANCE, HAVE CAUGHT UP OR PASSED AMERICA IN THE CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY RACE. IT HAS PURSUED A POLICY OF REDISTRIBUTING RATHER THAN EXPANDING OUR WEALTH.

POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO MORE OF THE SAME

TO OVERCOME INFLATION, WE MUST BE WILLING TO RETURN TO THE IDEAS THAT MADE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. WE MUST STOP THINKING OF INCENTIVE AND PROFIT AS DUTY WORDS.

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WE MUST BE FOR A BALANCED BUDGET, WRITING INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF THE CONSTITUTION SAFEGUARDS AGAINST A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL NEVER LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS UNTIL IT HAS EXHAUSTED ALL OF OURS.

WE MUST BE FOR SUBSTANTIAL TAX REDUCTIONS, BOTH PERSONAL AND CORPORATE. SIGNIFICANT NEW AMOUNTS OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL CAN BE CREATED TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF IOWA.

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER, WE MUST ENACT A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF TAX INDEXING, TO DO AWAY WITH GOVERNMENT'S INSIDIOUS HABIT OF RAISING REVENUE THROUGH INFLATION. AS IT IS, YOU GET KICKED UPSTAIRS INTO A HIGHER BRACKET BECAUSE INFLATION HAS PUSHED UP YOUR WAGES. THEN GOVERNMENT SLITHERS IN TO SNATCH A LARGER PART OF THAT INCOME. IT'S CALLED "BRACKET CREEP" AND IT'S AS UNFAIR A WAY OF RAISING TAXES AS GOVERNMENT HAS EVER DEvised.

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INDEXING OUR TAX SYSTEM WOULD BE MUCH FAIRER. BUT IT WILL TAKE A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO ENACT IT INTO LAW.

CUTTING THE TAX BURDEN, AND REGULATING THE REGULATORY STRUCTURE, WILL PUT MORE MONEY IN THE HANDS OF IOWANS. IT WILL ALSO STIMULATE INVESTMENT AND HALT THE RELENTLESS DECLINE IN AMERICAN PRESTIGE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS.

THE SAME POLICY OF PROGRESS THROUGH PRODUCTION CAN HELP THIS STATE'S AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS. I'M PUSHING FOR THE PRODUCTION OF GASOHOL, ONE ALTERNATIVE FUEL THAT RELIES UPON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BLENDED WITH CONVENTIONAL GASOLINE. BY PASSING NEW INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS, WE CAN STIMULATE GASOHOL PRODUCTION, BUILDING PLANTS TO MANUFACTURE THIS ALTERNATIVE FUEL AND AT THE SAME TIME AIDING THE FARM POPULATION OF IOWA AND OTHER STATES.

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FOOD FOR PEACE--PRODUCTIVE HUMANITARIANISM

1979 IS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM, CREATED BY ANOTHER REPUBLICAN FROM AMERICA'S HEARTLAND, DWIGHT EISENHOWER, FOOD FOR PEACE IS BOTH IDEALISTIC AND PRACTICAL. IT WEDS FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES TO THE BRILLIANT TECHNOLOGY THAT HAS MADE AMERICA BREADBASKET FOR THE WORLD.

LAST YEAR, AMERICAN FARM EXPORTS MADE A \$15 BILLION CONTRIBUTION TO OUR OVERALL BALANCE OF TRADE. FARMERS SHOULD BE PROUD OF THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT. THE BENEFITS OF FARM EXPORTS ARE SHARED BY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS AND BUSINESSMEN IN RELATED FIELDS. SO BOOSTING FOOD FOR PEACE IS BOTH MORALLY ADMIRABLE AND ECONOMICALLY VITAL.

FOOD AND FIBER FROM AMERICAN FARMS HAVE SAVED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS. YET THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, FOR ALL ITS EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN, HAS FAILED TO UTILIZE THIS BASIC TOOL OF FOREIGN AID TO FULL POTENTIAL. THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET HAS LOOKED UPON IT ONLY IN NARROW, SELF-DEFEATING TERMS.

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I STRONGLY URGE THE PRESIDENT TO USE HIS AUTHORITY TO MOVE LARGER QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS INTO THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM. THE PRESIDENT IS RECOMMENDING ONLY AROUND \$800 MILLION WHEN IN THE PAST UP TO \$1.5 BILLION HAS BEEN EXPENDED.

MORE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD MOVE LARGER QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS INTO THE WORLD. SUCH A STEP WOULD HELP THE PEOPLE OF IOWA, IMPROVE FARM PRICES, REDUCE THE COST OF GOVERNMENT FARM PROGRAMS AND HELP FEED THE PEOPLE OF THIRD WORLD NATIONS. THE ULTIMATE HUMAN RIGHT IS THE RIGHT TO EAT. AND THAT'S WHAT A DOLE ADMINISTRATION WOULD PROMOTE THROUGH FOOD FOR PEACE.

PRODUCTIVITY AND JUSTICE

THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETY IS ALSO THE JUST SOCIETY. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NOT EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS HAD A FAIR CHANCE TO DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS. INTOLERANCE AND OUTRIGHT PREJUDICE HAVE CONDEMNED MILLIONS OF AMERICANS TO DEPENDENCE ON A FEDERAL TREADMILL.

WE WANT TO GET THEM OFF THAT TREADMILL.

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I HAVE PROPOSED A HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE--WITHOUT BANKRUPTING OUR ECONOMY. I KNOW THAT CRADLE-TO-GRAVE HEALTH INSURANCE WON'T WORK. I KNOW IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE, TOO FARFETCHED TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF ADOPTION IN THIS OR ANY FORSEEABLE CONGRESS.

BUT THAT DOESN'T RELIEVE US OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET UNMET NEEDS. LAST YEAR 7 MILLION FAMILIES PAID 15% OR MORE OF THEIR INCOME ON HEALTH COSTS. CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS POSES AN ECONOMIC THREAT OF DEVASTATING DIMENSION, EVEN TO UPPER MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS. IT'S THERE--WE CAN'T WISH IT AWAY. WE OUGHT TO ADDRESS IT WITH A FIRM PREFERENCE FOR THE PRIVATE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, UNLESS WE PLUG THOSE GAPS NOW, FUTURE CONGRESSES ARE LIKELY TO APPROVE A FAR MORE RADICAL, FAR MORE EXPENSIVE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

THAT'S WHY I'VE INTRODUCED A HEALTH INSURANCE PACKAGE OF MY OWN. I WANT TO END THE THREAT OF BANKRUPTCY THAT ACCOMPANIES CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS IN AMERICA, AND I WANT TO END IT THIS YEAR.

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SALT

AS A GREAT NATION, AMERICA HAS IDEALS TO LIVE UP TO--ABROAD AS WELL AS AT HOME. I CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM FOR CONCLUDING A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. IN THE MONTHS TO COME, I LOOK FORWARD TO A DEBATE THAT IS POSITIVE AND NOT PARTISAN. WE ALL AGREE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ARMS CONTROL. THE QUESTION IS, HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE IT?

I VOTED FOR THE FIRST SALT TREATY. I WANT TO VOTE FOR SALT II. BUT I CANNOT UNTIL A NUMBER OF TOUGH QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED TO MY SATISFACTION. I CAN NEVER SUPPORT ANY ARMS CONTROL PACKAGE THAT MIGHT INSTALL THE SOVIET UNION IN A POSITION OF PERMANENT SUPERIORITY.

MOREOVER, WE WON'T BE CONSIDERING SALT IN A VACUUM. LIKE IT OR NOT, THE REST OF THE WORLD LOOKS ON AND WONDERS IF AMERICA HAS LOST HER WILL TO DEFEND FREEDOM WHEREVER IT EXISTS. I WANT TO REVERSE THE SLIDE IN AMERICAN DEFENSE. I WANT TO SEE OUR NAVY BEEFED UP, OUR FORCES IN EUROPE PROVIDED WITH MODERN WEAPONRY, OUR BARGAINING CHIPS LIKE THE B-1 BOMBER AND THE MX MISSILE RETAINED FOR THEIR PEACEMAKING POTENTIAL. WE MUST SPEND DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE, OR WE WILL SPILL BLOOD IN BATTLE.

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EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP

FOR 18 YEARS, I HAVE SERVED IN THE CONGRESS. I KNOW HOW WASHINGTON WORKS AND HOW IT FAILS TO WORK. AS GERALD FORD'S RUNNING MATE IN 1976, I TRAVELED THE LENGTH OF AMERICA. I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES THE FRUSTRATION AND THE SUFFERING THAT OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT HAS CAUSED FOR MILLIONS OF OUR CITIZENS. WE CAN PUT AN END TO ALL THAT NEXT YEAR. BUT FIRST WE MUST ASK OURSELVES . . .

WILL WE ALLOW THE TREND TOWARD OMNIPOTENT GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE UNCHECKED? WILL WE GO ON MORTGAGING OUR FUTURE TO PAY FOR GOVERNMENT BY CREDIT CARD?

THE TIME HAS COME TO SAY ENOUGH, AND NO MORE. IT'S TIME FOR AMERICA TO BE GREAT AGAIN.

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IT IS A TIME FOR FRESH BEGINNINGS. THE CHALLENGES ARE GREAT, THE RISKS ARE REAL, THE OPPORTUNITIES PROFOUND. BUT, IN THE WORDS OF EDWARD R. MURROW, "WE ARE NOT DESCENDED FROM FEARFUL MEN." CONFIDENT OF OUR CAUSE, AGGRESSIVE IN OUR DETERMINATION TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS OF THE AGE, WE CAN ONCE AGAIN INSTILL WASHINGTON WITH A SENSE OF PURPOSE. I WANT TO TRY TO DO JUST THAT. JOIN WITH ME IN PUTTING OUR BELIEFS INTO PRACTICE. TOGETHER, WE CAN RETURN TO OUR BASIC FAITH IN PEOPLE INSTEAD OF GOVERNMENT, IN PRODUCTION INSTEAD OF CONSUMPTION, IN ACCOMPLISHMENT INSTEAD OF COMPLACENCY. WE CAN SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS.