

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
SENATE/HOUSE REPUBLICAN DINNER

WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1979

AS YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW, I WENT HOME TO KANSAS LAST WEEK TO ANNOUNCE MY CANDIDACY FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. IT WAS AN OLD FASHIONED KIND OF DAY--SCHOOL BANDS AND NEIGHBORS CARRYING HOMEMADE SIGNS AND THE KIND OF HONEST EMOTION THAT TELEVISION DOESN'T ALWAYS CONVEY.

IT WAS THE KIND OF A CROWD THAT NELSON ROCKEFELLER WOULD HAVE WORKED ~~VE~~ WITH RELISH. I THOUGHT OF HIM THAT DAY, I THOUGHT WITH MORE THAN A LITTLE SORROW THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST NATIONAL CAMPAIGN IN A GENERATION THAT WON'T BE BRIGHTENED BY HIS INFECTIOUS ENTHUSIASM, OR ELEVATED BY HIS VISION OF WHAT AMERICA COULD BE.

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NELSON LOVED PEOPLE. YOU COULD SEE IT IN EVERY WINK, EVERY HANDSHAKE, EVERY PIZZA OR BLINTZ SAMPLED. HE BELIEVED PASSIONATELY THAT GOVERNMENT EXISTS TO SERVE PEOPLE, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

AND EACH ONE OF US CAN SERVE HIS MEMORY. NOT JUST TONIGHT, BUT FOR YEARS TO COME. WE CAN ADVOCATE A GOVERNMENT THAT IS AS COMPASSIONATE--AND AS COMPETENT--AS HE WAS. WE CAN CONDUCT A POSITIVE CAMPAIGN. WE CAN TELL PEOPLE, NOT ONLY WHAT WE'RE AGAINST, BUT WHAT WE'RE FOR.

HIS MEMORY WAS VERY MUCH WITH ME DURING PART OF MY REMARKS AND I'D LIKE TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU TONIGHT.