

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
ROAST OF GOVERNOR LEE DREYFUS

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1979

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M DEEPLY TOUCHED TO BE HERE THIS EVENING -- THOUGH PROBABLY NOT AS DEEPLY AS EACH OF YOU WERE. AND HOW ABOUT THIS CROWD? I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS MANY PEOPLE IN ONE ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF JIMMY CARTER'S CHIEF ENERGY SPOKESMEN.

I ALWAYS FEEL AT HOME IN WISCONSIN, WHERE AGRICULTURE IS AN HONORED PROFESSION AND POLITICS IS SOMETHING OF AN ART FORM. COMING FROM KANSAS, I THINK I HAVE A SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR LIFE ON THE FARM. THE OTHER DAY, A WASHINGTON RADIO STATION CRITICIZED ME FOR ACCEPTING AN HONORARIUM FOR ADDRESSING THE AMERICAN FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION. OF COURSE, THEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT MY SPEECH HAD A LOT IN COMMON WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S CHIEF PRODUCT.



AND THESE ARE GREAT DAYS FOR AGRICULTURE. IF YOU WORK LONG ENOUGH AND HARD ENOUGH -- YOU CAN MAKE A FORTUNE -- AS LONG AS YOU STRIKE OIL. AND GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS ANXIOUS TO HELP OUT. THESE DAYS, ALL YOU NEED TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FARMER IS FAITH, HOPE AND PARITY.

NOW LEE DREYFUS IS NOT EXACTLY A MAN OF THE SOIL. EVEN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR WAS FREE OF DIRT. AS A YOUNG MAN OF 17, HE LIED ABOUT HIS AGE TO GET INTO THE NAVY DURING WORLD WAR II. THIS WAS EARLY EVIDENCE OF HIS FITNESS TO ENTER POLITICS.

TO EARN MONEY IN COLLEGE, HE AND HIS KAPPA SIG BROTHERS TENDED BAR -- ANOTHER VALUABLE PREPARATION FOR THE ASPIRING POLITICO. AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS, VISITING COUNTRIES LIKE CHINA, VIETNAM AND TAIWAN. HE GOT TO POLAND BEFORE THE POPE DID. HE CALLED THESE TRIPS "EDUCATIONAL MISSIONS". IN WASHINGTON, WE CALL THEM JUNKETS.



SO LEE DREYFUS WAS READY AND WILLING TO GO AFTER THE GOVERNORSHIP COME 1977. HIS OUTFIT WAS PURE RED-- BUT HIS POLITICS WERE PURE REPUBLICAN.

WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY, HE HAD LITTLE NAME IDENTIFICATION, ALMOST NO CAMPAIGN FUNDS AND LESS THAN ADEQUATE ORGANIZATION. IN SHORT, A TYPICAL REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE. BUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE. LEE DREYFUS WON.



THIS EVENING, WE CELEBRATE THE FIRST 150 DAYS OF THE DREYFUS ADMINISTRATION. NOW, UNLIKE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, LEE HASN'T ELECTRIFIED HIS PEOPLE WITH PROMISES OF BETTER THINGS AHEAD. UNLIKE DWIGHT EISENHOWER, HE HASN'T RESTORED THEIR FAITH IN GOVERNMENT. UNLIKE LYNDON JOHNSON, HE HASN'T PASSED A COUPLE OF HUNDRED BILLS THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE HASN'T BEEN RECALLED BY THE VOTERS EITHER. AND NOT ONE MEMBER OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE HAS MOVED TO IMPEACH HIM.

IT REMINDS ME OF THE STORY ABOUT THE FRUSTRATED WIFE WHO FINALLY WENT TO A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR AND STATED, "MY HUSBAND HAS NO OUTSTANDING VICES, BUT I'M GOING TO DIVORCE HIM ANYWAY."



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?" REPLIED THE COUNSELOR. "WHEN YOU MARRIED YOUR HUSBAND, IT WAS FOR LIFE".

"I KNOW." SIGHED THE WOMAN, "BUT EVER SINCE WE GOT MARRIED HE HASN'T SHOWN A SIGN OF LIFE."

NOW 125 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WAS BORN IN RIPON, WISCONSIN. LEE OUGHT TO KNOW THAT; THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK HE WAS THERE. BUT IN ALL THE YEARS SINCE, THIS STATE HAS GIVEN AMERICA SOME OF THE FINEST POLITICAL SERVANTS I KNOW. MEN LIKE BOB LAFOLLETE, ALEX WILEY, WARREN KNOWLES AND THE LATE AND BRILLIANT CONGRESSMAN BILL STEIGER. ALONG THE WAY, OF COURSE, YOU'VE MADE OCCASIONAL SLIP-UPS--BUT I'LL REFRAIN FROM AWARDED ANYONE A GOLDEN FLEECE AWARD.



AND NOW, YOU'VE GIVEN US LEE DREYFUS. THE MAN IN THE RED VEST, THE TAXCUTTER WHO KEPT HIS PROMISE, THE CITIZEN POLITICIAN. I'M A POLITICIAN, AND I'M PROUD TO MAKE THAT CLAIM. I'M EVEN PROUDER TO SEE MEN LIKE YOUR GOVERNOR GET INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA AND BRING SOME COLOR AND SOME LUSTER TO A PROFESSION SADLY TARNISHED IN RECENT YEARS. WE NEED MORE LIKE HIM--THAT IS, IF THERE'S ANYONE QUITE LIKE HIM. IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL SETTLE FOR WHAT WE HAVE.