

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
NATIONAL PET FOOD INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU THIS AFTERNOON. I UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK--AT LEAST UNTIL HE WENT FISHING FOR RABBITS IN GEORGIA. STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT: FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT HAD FALA, AND RICHARD NIXON HAD CHECKERS, AND LYNDON JOHNSON PULLED HIS BEAGLE'S EARS, BUT JIMMY CARTER MAY GO DOWN IN AMERICAN HISTORY AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT WHO WAS ALSO A BUNNY BASHER.

ACTUALLY, IT REMINDS ME OF HARVEY. YOU REMEMBER HARVEY-- THAT SIX FOOT RABBIT WHO KEPT ELWOOD P. DOWD, ALSO KNOWN AS JIMMY STEWART, COMPANY ON BROADWAY AND IN THE MOVIES. THE ONLY TROUBLE, OF COURSE, WAS THAT HARVEY WAS INVISIBLE. ELWOOD KEPT POINTING HIM OUT, BUT NO ONE COULD SEE HIM. IT SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE THE CARTER ECONOMIC POLICY.

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I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF THE DRIFT AND CONFUSION THAT HAVE MARKED THIS ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO INFLATION FIGHTING AND ECONOMIC STIMULATION. YOURS IS A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE EFFECTS OF DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION. MOREOVER, YOU SUFFER AS MUCH AS ANY OTHER SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMY FROM EXCESS FEDERAL REGULATION, INSENSITIVE GOVERNMENT AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TAX POLICIES THAT ACTUALLY DISCOURAGE BOTH INVESTMENT AND CONSUMPTION.

PETS ARE OBVIOUSLY MORE THAN PLAYTHINGS. THEY ARE ALSO AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FACT OF LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY. FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, THEY ARE COMPANIONS NECESSARY TO THE VERY ENJOYMENT OF LIFE. FOR SOME, THEY PROVIDE PLEASURE IN SPORTS EVENTS, FOR OTHERS THEY PROVIDE SIGHT AND DIRECTION TO THOSE WHO LACK THE VISION MOST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED.

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THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT ANIMALS CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMY.

DOGS ARE EMPLOYED IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES. WITHOUT THEM, A LOT OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY, THE INFIRM OR THE BLIND WOULD FEEL MORE THREATENED, MORE ALONE AND MORE ISOLATED.

WE ALL KNOW THE PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CANINE CORPS. THESE SPECIALLY TRAINED DOGS CONTRIBUTE TO A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS, AND ARE A VALUABLE TOOL IN THE CONTINUING WAR ON ILLEGAL DRUGS. NOW, BUILDING ON THE PROVEN RECORD OF SUCH ANIMALS IN POLICE WORK, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ITS OWN CANINE CORPS, WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND DOGS.

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POLICE OFFICIALS IN MARYLAND, WHERE ALL DOGS USED IN SUCH WORK ARE LICENSED, HAVE ESTIMATED THAT ONE MAN AND A DOG CAN EQUAL THE SERVICES OF THREE POLICE OFFICERS. THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF THIS ARE OBVIOUS, AND COULD RUN INTO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR.

I NEEDN'T REMIND YOU OF THE ROLE DOGS PLAY IN HUNTING, NOR OF THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF STATE INCOME DERIVED FROM PARI-MUTUAL BETTING ON DOG RACES. WITHOUT CATS, WE'D HAVE A LOT MORE RODENTS ON AMERICA'S FARMS, NOT TO MENTION HER URBAN AREAS.

THE LIST COULD GO ON AND ON FROM THERE. WHAT I MEAN TO SUGGEST IS THAT, EVEN APART FROM THE PLEASURE THAT PETS PROVIDE TO MANY AMERICANS, THE PET INDUSTRY, AS YOU WELL KNOW, IS VITAL ENOUGH TO THE ECONOMY TO REQUIRE THAT WE WHO MAKE AND ADMINISTER THE NATION'S LAWS TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR WORK. ONE REASON I'M HERE TODAY IS TO SOLICIT YOUR ADVICE ON SOME LEGISLATION PENDING BEFORE THE CONGRESS. YOU ARE THE EXPERTS; I'M ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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NUTRITION LABELING: SEEKING A BETTER WAY

MANY OF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN PRODUCING FOOD PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN, AS WELL AS ANIMAL, CONSUMPTION. AND ALL OF YOU SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO FIND A HARMONIOUS BALANCE BETWEEN THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE FOOD PRODUCT HE OR SHE IS BUYING, AND THE PRODUCER'S RIGHT TO MANUFACTURE A PRODUCT WITH AS LITTLE INTERVENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT AS POSSIBLE.

TODAY, A GREAT MANY AMERICANS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET ABOUT THE COST OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS. UPWARDS OF A HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR IS SPENT ON COMPLYING WITH THOUSANDS OF RULES AND EDICTS, MOST OF WHICH ARE SLAPPED ON ARBITRARILY AND WITH LITTLE OR NO THOUGHT TO THEIR POTENTIALLY HARMFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT.

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IN GENERAL TERMS, THIS IS A MAJOR DETRIMENT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH. IT DRIES UP CAPITAL NEEDED FOR INVESTMENT, AND IT CONTRIBUTES SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS-- AND THE COST OF BUYING A FINISHED PRODUCT. FOR ULTIMATELY, THE CONSUMER WINDS UP PAYING MOST OF THE REGULATORY BILL. AND, WHEN INFLATION IS RUNNING AROUND 13%, WITH NO SIGNS OF ABATEMENT ANY TIME SOON, I THINK THAT GOVERNMENT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO EASE THE UPWARD SPIRAL.

THAT'S WHY I'VE SUGGESTED A NEW HOOVER COMMISSION, BASED ON THE OLD COST-CUTTING COMMISSIONS OF THE FORTIES AND FIFTIES, TO TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT HOW WE REGULATE PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN THIS COUNTRY. THE IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN OF SUCH A COMMISSION WOULD BE MY FRIEND AND FORMER RUNNING MATE, JERRY FORD.

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BUT BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING ELSE, WE HAVE TO TAKE OUR OWN CAREFUL LOOK AT PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE ALREADY THICK BOOK OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS. A MONTH AGO, MY COLLEAGUE SENATOR McGOVERN, INTRODUCED TWO BILLS, S. 1651 AND 1652, WHICH WOULD TOGETHER REVAMP THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS ON NUTRITION LABELING. THEY WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MANDATE LABELS SHOWING FULL INGREDIENT LISTING, CALORIES PER SERVING AND SALT AND CHOLESTEROL CONTENT. THIS WOULD APPLY TO ALL PACKAGED FOODS PRODUCED IN AMERICA, AND WOULD REPRESENT A SHIFT AWAY FROM ANY RELIANCE UPON STATE REGULATION.

I THINK THE BILL IS AN HONEST EFFORT TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THE CURRENT LABELING SYSTEM, WHICH HAS SOMEHOW MANAGED TO OFFEND BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. SUCH IS NOT UNUSUAL WHEN IT COMES TO WASHINGTON'S ATTEMPTS TO REGULATE THE PRIVATE ECONOMY.

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BUT THE McGOVERN BILLS ARE NOT PERFECT. LET ME BE CANDID WITH YOU: I HAVE YET TO DECIDE HOW I WILL VOTE ON THEM. I DO HAVE SEVERAL RESERVATIONS WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU, AND THEN INVITE YOUR OWN OPINIONS.

FIRST OF ALL, THE McGOVERN PACKAGE WOULD REQUIRE LABELING WHEN MOST COMPANIES ALREADY DO SO VOLUNTARILY. IT WAS DRAFTED WITHOUT BENEFIT OF RECOMMENDATIONS GARNERED FROM EXTENSIVE HEARINGS HELD IN FIVE CITIES. MOREOVER, IT SETS UP A "PROGRAM OF CONSUMER EDUCATION" AND PROPOSES TO SPEND ON THAT PROGRAM SOME \$4 MILLION IN 1981, \$6 MILLION IN 1982, AND \$8 MILLION IN 1983. YET THE BILL MAKES NO EFFORT TO DEFINE OR GIVE DIRECTION TO SUCH A PROGRAM. AS A RESULT, WE ARE LEFT TO CONSIDER SOMETHING OF A NUTRITIONAL PIG IN A POKE.

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THE BILL WOULD ALSO, I FEAR, ENCOURAGE CONFLICTS IN OPEN DATING RULES BETWEEN STATES. EVERY FOOD, CONDIMENT OR SPICE WOULD HAVE TO BEAR NUTRITION LABELING--WHETHER OR NOT IT IS OF ANY IMPORTANCE TO CONSUMERS. IN FACT, THE BILL EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES THE ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IN LABELING ANY MEAT, FOOD PRODUCT OR POULTRY PRODUCT. IT WOULD INSTEAD CONCENTRATE SUCH AUTHORITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. AND THEIR RECORD OF RESPONSIVENESS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE PRODUCTION ETHIC IS NOT SOMETHING TO BOAST ABOUT.

NOW SENATOR McGOVERN HAS ARGUED THAT HIS BILLS REPRESENT A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE REGULATORY DILEMMA. HE SEES IT AS A NON-PUNITIVE SYSTEM THAT ELIMINATES CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF NUTRITION AND INGREDIENT LABELING RULES, AND SWITCHES TO A MORE RESPONSIBLE RELIANCE UPON CONSUMER EDUCATION IN LIEU OF FEDERAL WRIST-SLAPPING.

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AS I'VE SAID, MY MIND REMAINS OPEN ON THE SUBJECT. THE TWO BILLS FILED BY SENATOR McGOVERN COULD HAVE A POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UPON THE WAY YOU DO YOUR BUSINESS. THAT I CAN RESPECT AND RESPOND TO. BUT I DO THINK WE HAVE TO MOVE TOWARD A MORE UNIFORM SYSTEM OF NUTRITION LABELING, AND IF THE KINKS IN THE McGOVERN BILL CAN BE IRONED OUT, IT MAY WELL BE WORTH CONSIDERING SERIOUSLY.

NITRITES

NITRITES HAVE BEEN AN ISSUE NOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS. OPINIONS ABOUT THEIR PROPER REGULATION HAVE DIFFERED--I HAVE MY OWN SOLUTION IN MIND.

FIVE MONTHS AGO, I CO-SPONSORED WITH SENATOR JEPSEN OF IOWA A BILL, S. 818, TO BRING SOME SENSE OF REASON AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NITRITE CONTROVERSY.

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THE BILL WOULD PROHIBIT THE SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE FROM BANNING THE USE OF NITRITES IN MEAT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT PROOF OF ANY CARCINOGENIC EFFECT NITRITES MAY BE REPRESENTED TO HAVE, OR UNTIL THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH FROM BOTULISM.

I DON'T BELIEVE ANY SUBSTANTIAL WORK OR DECISIONS WILL BE MADE IN THIS AREA UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY IN 1980. AS YOU KNOW, THE FDA HAS COMMISSIONED A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS TO REVIEW THE DR. PAUL NEWBERNE STUDY AND THEIR REPORT IS NOT EXPECTED FOR ANOTHER FOUR TO SIX MONTHS.

YOU CAN BE SURE I WILL BE WATCHING NITRITES CLOSELY, AND WILL BE WORKING WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS TO DEVELOP RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATION THAT PROTECTS THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS ALIKE.

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RETURNING TO A PRODUCTION ETHIC

ON THE FARM, AS IN THE DECAYING URBAN GHETTO, THE OIL FIELD AND THE CORPORATE BOARDROOM, AMERICA MUST RETURN TO AN ECONOMY AND A NATIONAL ETHIC THAT IS BASED UPON PRODUCTION INSTEAD OF REGULATION, ON TAKING RISKS INSTEAD OF GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS. FOR NEARLY A HALF CENTURY, OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEHAVED LIKE SOME BLOATED LADY BOUNTIFUL, REGARDING THE REST OF US AS AN UNDRAINABLE WELL FROM WHICH TO MEET ITS UNSLAKEABLE THIRST.

IN THE NAME OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND HUMANE COMPASSION, WE HAVE PUT MILLIONS OF OUR CITIZENS ON ECONOMIC TREADMILLS, AND ROBBED THEM OF INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY. WE'VE TURNED PRODUCER AGAINST CONSUMER, LABOR AGAINST CAPITAL, WASHINGTON AGAINST THE REAL AMERICA.

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IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. AS SENIOR REPUBLICAN ON THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, I'M TRYING TO REVERSE THIS DEADLY COURSE, BY LIMITING ONCE AND FOR ALL THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT TO TAX AWAY OUR EARNINGS AND DISCOURAGE OUR HISTORIC WILLINGNESS TO INVEST IN AMERICA'S FUTURE. I WANT TO ADOPT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CAPPING BOTH SPENDING AND TAXATION AT 18% OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, EXCEPT IN TIME OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. I WANT TO ADOPT A SYSTEM OF TAX INDEXING, TO PROTECT MILLIONS OF MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES FROM THE PRACTICE CALLED BRACKET CREEP. THAT'S THE NASTY HABIT GOVERNMENT HAS OF ACTUALLY ENCOURAGING INFLATION, SO AS TO SOAK UP MORE TAX DOLLARS FROM ARTIFICIALLY INFLATED INCOMES.

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I WANT TO ENACT NEW TAX PROVISIONS, TO PROVIDE GREATER INCENTIVE FOR CAPITAL FORMATION, AND GENERALLY PUT OUR ECONOMY ON A COURSE THAT CALLS FOR MAXIMUM PRODUCTION OF BOTH TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

THE CHALLENGE THAT CONFRONTS US IS A GREAT ONE--IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN TURNING THIS COUNTRY AROUND, MAKING HER ONCE AGAIN THE LEADING ECONOMIC FORCE ON THE GLOBE. IT WON'T BE EASY. BUT IT CAN BE DONE. IT CAN BE DONE IF MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHARE OUR BELIEFS GET INVOLVED, ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES, AND SAY, THIS IS MY GOVERNMENT, TOO. I'M NOT GOING TO SIGN IT OFF TO WASHINGTON LOBBYISTS, THE LIBERAL PRESS, OR MISINFORMED DO-GOODERS.

THE GOOD WE CAN DO IS TO GET INVOLVED. AND THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS THE ULTIMATE MESSAGE WITH WHICH I WISH TO LEAVE YOU TODAY.

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