

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

IOWA STATE DINNER

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AMES, IOWA

1980 - A HISTORIC CHOICE

In 1980, all America will face a choice. It may be the most dramatic choice posed in a generation or more. It is a choice between centralization of power in Washington, or reliance upon local and state government. It is a choice between the policies that have brought us 13% inflation, rising unemployment, record interest rates, a weakened dollar and an energy program that may aggravate the problem rather than solve it - and a return to the free marketplace as the only genuine antidote to our current problems.

It is a choice between regulation and production, between encouragement of individual genius or an equal share of mediocrity. It is a choice between a future, bright with promise, and the policies that have failed in the past.

Ted Kennedy is now edging toward an open candidacy. That's no great news in Iowa. Not now. But I've been warning my fellow Republicans about a Kennedy candidacy for months. When everyone else was training their criticism on the failures of the Carter Administration - and there's been plenty to criticize - I've been looking at Senator Kennedy's record, and you know what I've found?

America can't afford Ted Kennedy in the White House. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

When I voted against giving away the Panama Canal, Senator Kennedy was voting to strike the American flag from the Canal Zone. When I voted to limit federal funding for abortion, Senator Kennedy voted against any such restriction. When I sponsored legislation to give tax relief for farms and small businesses inherited by relatives, Senator Kennedy opposed it.

DOLE VS. KENNEDY - NO CLEARER CHOICE

I want to end inflation, and reduce the power of the federal government to dictate the smallest details of our lives. I want to pass a constitutional amendment to cap both federal spending and federal taxation.

But not Senator Kennedy.

I want to index our tax system, so that when you get a raise, you keep a raise, and government doesn't inflate the economy simply to rip off more of your hard-earned dollars.

But not Senator Kennedy.

I want to pass new incentives for capital formation, plus tax incentives to encourage hiring of the poor and the disadvantaged, and get our economy moving again toward a level of productivity consistent with our standing as a great nation.

But not Senator Kennedy.

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When the czars of big labor, out of touch with the economic aspirations of their own members, insisted that the Congress rubber stamp common situs picketing and a so-called "labor law reform" package that would actually gut the heart of the collective bargaining process in this country, I stood up and said enough is enough - and no more.

But not Senator Kennedy.

Everyone's for energy conservation - but I want to go a step further - to produce the new energy sources that we need so desperately. That means greater reliance on coal and shale oil, a stringently safeguarded nuclear industry, and exploration for more oil and gas through the private, not the public sector. I want to pass a windfall profits tax that will actually encourage production, not simply punish producers.

But not Senator Kennedy.

I want to pass a system of catastrophic health insurance, so millions of middle class Americans won't have to worry about going bankrupt when they go into a hospital. I want to structure that system so that the private, not the public sector, delivers what most Americans regard as the finest health care in the world.

But not Senator Kennedy.

I care about promoting a military strength second to none. I've seen the horror of war firsthand - so I yield to no man in my commitment to peace - peace through strength. And I know firsthand of the struggle of the American farm family to scratch a living from the earth - while Senator Kennedy harvests headlines.

All of these are ideas I'm promoting as senior Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. All of them can become national policy if we have a new president in 1981, a man who combines grassroots sympathies with knowledge of what makes Washington work - or fail to work.

Ted Kennedy will be a formidable foe. But he can be defeated - not by focusing on personalities, but by asking the American people to take a long, hard look at what his record suggests and what kind of policies he would promote in the Oval Office.

And we have to present an alternative of our own. Positively, boldly, we have to talk common sense to the American people. We have to convince them that a marketplace economy is the best way to answer their needs. We have to display compassion as well as competence.

We have to reassert our belief that, in America, the individual is more important than the government, and the dream of individual success is still valid.

Join with me, fellow Republicans, and give new life to that old dream. The American people are waiting for something better than the status quo - something even better than Camelot.

We have the resources. We have the genius, the technology, the raw materials of greatness. What America needs in the 1980's is leadership. Do not turn your backs on the heritage of freedom - do not reject a future as glorious as our past. Make it happen, my fellow Republicans, give America a direction. Give America back to the American people.

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