

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
KANSAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1979

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN WITH YOU, WHO ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR PARTY, HERE IN KANSAS AND SO MANY OTHER STATES. AS A FORMER NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE LONG HOURS AND SELFLESS DEDICATION THAT MARK YOUR SERVICE TO THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE. I KNOW ALSO THAT YOUR EFFORTS DON'T ALWAYS RECEIVE THE APPRECIATION AND THE NOTICE THAT THEY DESERVE. AS FOR ME, MY GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT YOU'VE ALWAYS PROVIDED OVER THE YEARS IS BEYOND WORDS.

1980 - AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY

NOW, HAVING THANKED YOU FOR ALL YOUR WORK IN THE PAST, I CAN'T LET YOU GO OUT OF THIS ROOM TODAY WITHOUT IMPRESSING ON EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT IN 1980 YOU GIVE EVERY OUNCE OF YOUR ENTHUSIASM, YOUR COMMITMENT AND YOUR TALENT, BECAUSE THIS IS A TIME OF UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR PARTY. YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE POLLS, AND YOU CAN FEEL IT IN THE PULSE OF AMERICANS. I KNOW -- I'VE TALKED WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. I'VE SEEN THEM ON THE FARMS AND IN THE CITIES, IN FACTORIES AND BOARDROOMS, AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE UNION HALL. AND ONE THING THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS A YEARNING FOR SOMETHING BETTER THAN WHAT WE NOW HAVE IN WASHINGTON.

THAT, AND A SHARED FAITH IN WHAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY SPECIAL. NOW SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT MADE AMERICA THE GREATEST LAND ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. BUT YOU HAVEN'T. AND NEITHER HAVE I. WE BECAME GREAT BECAUSE WE HAD COURAGE, BECAUSE WE HAD VISION, AND BECAUSE WE BELIEVED IN OURSELVES AND OUR UNIQUE MISSION IN THE WORLD.

WE BELIEVED, NOT IN GOVERNMENT, BUT IN INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS. WE BELIEVED THAT THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT WAS TO UNLEASH INDIVIDUAL AMBITION -- NOT BURY IT IN RED TAPE OR REGULATION. WE BELIEVED THAT THE ULTIMATE FORM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WAS A JOB -- NOT A HANDOUT FROM SOME PATERNALISTIC GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON, BUT A STAKE IN SOCIETY. WE BELIEVED THAT THE FAMILY WAS THE BEDROCK OF OUR SOCIETY, AND THAT GOVERNMENT HAD AN OBLIGATION TO PROMOTE POLICIES THAT FOSTERED THE FAMILY.

WE BELIEVED, MY FELLOW KANSANS, AND WE BECAME GREAT BECAUSE OF OUR BELIEFS. WE STILL BELIEVE, BUT WE HAVE INSTALLED IN POWER A GOVERNMENT THAT DOESN'T ALWAYS SHARE OUR BELIEFS, OR IS TOO WEDDED TO BURNT-OUT IDEAS THAT USED TO WORK BUT DON'T ANYMORE. OUR PRESIDENT IS A DECENT MAN, BUT DECENCY ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE A PLACE LIKE WASHINGTON WORK FOR YOU. HIS INTENTIONS ARE GOOD, BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN GOOD INTENTIONS TO CUT INFLATION OR PROMOTE A WORKABLE ENERGY POLICY.

IT TAKES STRENGTH AND STAMINA AND A FEEL FOR WHAT IT'S LIKE TO STRUGGLE TO MAKE BOTH ENDS MEET. IT TAKES A SURE GRASP OF THE LIVES OF AVERAGE AMERICANS. IT REQUIRES EXPERIENCE, BECAUSE ONLY WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT WON'T WORK CAN YOU DEVISE A BETTER ALTERNATIVE. IT TAKES COMPETENCE AS WELL AS COMPASSION.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO KENNEDY NOSTALGIA

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR US REPUBLICANS TO SAY JIMMY CARTER'S
FAILED AND WE'RE AVAILABLE. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY TED
KENNEDY'S A LIBERAL BOGEYMAN -- WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THE
PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE, SOMETHING THEY
CAN SUPPORT WITH ENTHUSIASM.

THE FACT IS, TED KENNEDY IS TOO LIBERAL. HE IS TOO MUCH
OUT OF STEP WITH THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY IN 1979. BUT
LOOK AT THE RECORD . . . WHO CAN OFFER A SOLID
ALTERNATIVE TO KENNEDY NOSTALGIA?

I BELIEVE WE CAN SLOW INFLATION BY AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION TO PLACE LIMITS ON BOTH SPENDING AND TAXATION. BUT NOT SENATOR KENNEDY. I BELIEVE WE CAN PROTECT THE MIDDLE CLASS FROM INFLATIONARY PRESSURES BY INDEXING OUR TAX SYSTEM, MAKING SURE THAT A RAISE DOES NOT DISAPPEAR INTO AN ARTIFICIALLY HIGHER BRACKET. BUT NOT SENATOR KENNEDY.

I BELIEVE WE CAN PASS A SYSTEM OF CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE TO REMOVE THE CLOUD OF DOUBT NOW HANGING OVER MILLIONS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES. BUT NOT SENATOR KENNEDY.

I BELIEVE WE CAN BEST HELP THE POOR BY ADOPTING A WELFARE SYSTEM STRESSING INCENTIVE OVER DEPENDENCE, REPLACING OPEN-ENDED MATCHING FUNDS WITH FIXED BLOCK GRANTS. BUT NOT SENATOR KENNEDY.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT HAVE CANCELLED THE B1 OR
SLOWED THE MX MISSILE SYSTEM. BUT NOT SENATOR
KENNEDY.

I BELIEVE IN PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH -- AND THAT MEANS
NOT TURNING OUR BACK ON OLD FRIENDS AND ALLIES ABROAD.
BUT NOT SENATOR KENNEDY.

AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT TED KENNEDY KNOWS ANYTHING
ABOUT AGRICULTURE? DO YOU THINK HE APPRECIATES THE
STRUGGLES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK TO MAKE A LIVING
FROM THE SOIL?

I'VE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY FARM BY ADOPTING A "FLEXIBLE PARITY" SYSTEM OF INCREASED MARKET PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS. I'VE WORKED HARD TO STEP UP OUR FARM IMPORTS, TO CUT DOWN ON BEEF IMPORTS, AND EXPAND THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM. THAT'S NOT A WELFARE GIVEAWAY, MY FRIENDS -- IT'S A LEGITIMATE EXPRESSION OF SOCIAL CONCERN -- WHICH ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A BIG BOOST TO AGRICULTURE IN THIS STATE.

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE VITALITY OF THE FAMILY FARM. IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GOING TO SUCCEED IN GETTING THIS CONGRESS TO REDUCE FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES LEVIED ON FARMS AND SMALL BUSINESSES. WE ATTACHED JUST SUCH A PROVISION TO THE WINDFALL PROFITS BILL, AND I'M VERY HOPEFUL OF SHEPHERDING IT SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

AND WHAT ABOUT ENERGY? EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT. THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM IS REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A LOT OF NEW TAXES. SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD TRY AND KEEP ARTIFICIAL CONTROLS ON OIL AND GAS -- CONTROLS WHICH HAVE LED TO SHORTAGES AND WHICH DISCOURAGE NEW PRODUCTION.

WELL, YOU CANT'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. YOU CAN'T BUILD AN ECONOMY, AS WE AMERICANS HAVE DONE, UPON THE IDEA OF THE MARKETPLACE AND MAXIMUM PRODUCTION AND STILL HOPE TO SHOEHORN ENERGY INTO SOME SORT OF ARTIFICIAL STRAITJACKET.

IN ADDITION, WE'RE WORKING TO SAFEGUARD THE JOBS OF 11,000 KANSANS WHO ARE DIRECTLY EMPLOYED IN OIL PRODUCTION. I INTRODUCED A SUCCESSFUL AMENDMENT ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO EXEMPT THE INDEPENDENT STRIPPER WELL -- THAT'S A WELL PRODUCING LESS THAN 10 BARRELS PER DAY -- FROM THE WINDFALL TAX. THIS MEANS MORE INCENTIVE FOR PRODUCTION OF KANSAS OIL -- AND MORE JOBS FOR KANSANS.

IF WE BELIEVE IN ANYTHING AS A PARTY, WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO MAKE ALL THAT HE OR SHE CAN FROM THEIR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS. GOVERNMENT ALONE CAN'T DO THAT. BUT A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT CAN HELP. THAT'S THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WE MUST PROMOTE IN 1980.

A WOMAN OF INSPIRATION

JUST A WEEK AGO, MY FRIENDS, ALL KANSANS PAUSED TO REMEMBER A GREAT WOMAN. MAMIE EISENHOWER LIES BESIDE HER GENERAL NOW, IN THE SIMPLE BEAUTY OF A LIMESTONE CHAPEL IN ABILENE. SHE WILL BE MISSED, BUT IN HER MEMORY WE CAN FIND RENEWED INSPIRATION, AS WE FOUND SO MUCH TO ADMIRE IN HER LIFE.

MAMIE LOVED HER FAMILY. SHE LOVED HER COUNTRY. SHE LOVED THIS PARTY. THOSE ARE LOVES WE SHARE. MAY WE IN KANSAS NEVER FORGET THE NEIGHBORLY QUALITIES THAT MAKE THIS PLACE SPECIAL, AND WHICH ANIMATED THE LIFE AND CAREER OF MAMIE AND DWIGHT EISENHOWER.

THEY WERE LEADERS. THEY GAVE US A SENSE OF PRIDE
IN OURSELVES, AND A DIRECTION WE COULD FOLLOW WITH UNABASHED
ENTHUSIASM. LET'S BE PROUD AGAIN. LET'S RETURN TO THE
ROAD THAT THE EISENHOWERS TRAVELED, THE REPUBLICAN ROAD THAT
IS PAVED, NOT WITH GOOD INTENTIONS ALONE, BUT WITH SOLID
ACHIEVEMENT. LET'S MAKE THIS COUNTRY ONCE MORE ALL THAT
SHE CAN BE. LET'S GIVE AMERICA BACK TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.

AND LET THAT CAMPAIGN BEGIN HERE, IN THE HEARTLAND, WHERE
PEOPLE STILL KNOW AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AS SOMETHING
MORE PERSONAL THAN NUMBERS ON A CHART.

HISTORY HAS GIVEN US A MISSION. WITH CONFIDENCE IN OUR
PRINCIPLES, WITH FAITH IN GOD'S BOUNTY, WE CANNOT FAIL.
OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL NOT PERMIT IT.