

SPEECH BY
SENATOR ROBERT DOLE
NOMINATION OF GEORGE PRESCOTT BUSH FOR VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE U.S.,
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
JULY 17, 1980

TONIGHT WE GATHER TO SELECT A VICE-PRESIDENT -- A RUNNING MATE FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RONALD REAGAN.

BUT MY FELLOW REPUBLICANS, WE ARE REALLY HERE TO CELEBRATE, AS WELL AS NOMINATE.

AND WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO CELEBRATE.

WE HAVE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO SWEEPED THE FIELD IN THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND IS POISED ON THE EDGE OF VICTORY AS NOVEMBER APPROACHES EVER NEARER.

WE HAVE A PARTY THAT IS UNITED AS NEVER BEFORE, A PARTY THAT HAS PUT ASIDE IDEOLOGICAL AND REGIONAL DIFFERENCES FOR THE COMMON GOOD. WE HAVE A

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PLATFORM THAT REACHES OUT, WITH VIGOR, TO WORKING MEN AND WOMEN, WHICH OFFERS THEM HOPE RATHER THAN MALAISE, JOBS RATHER THAN DESPAIR.

FOR TONIGHT AMERICA SHALL WITNESS A PARTY IN THE FULL THROES OF A RENAISSANCE -- A REBIRTH OF SPIRIT AND STRENGTH THAT WILL REVERBERATE OUT OF JOE LOUIS ARENA WITH THE POWER OF A ROUNDHOUSE RIGHT. YES, LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE -- OUR PARTY IS TWO-FISTED TONIGHT.

WE HAVE UNITY OF PURPOSE THAT MAKES US A THREAT TO TAKE EVERY CONSTITUENCY FROM OUR DEMOCRATIC OPPONENTS. WE HAVE A TICKET THAT CAN APPEAL TO AMERICANS FROM SHORE TO SHORE, FROM SHOP FLOOR TO THE BOARD ROOM, FROM THE FARM TO THE ASSEMBLY LINE.

DETROIT HAS TOLD US THAT THEY LIKE A GOOD PARTY.

WELL, WE'VE GIVEN THEM ONE.

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WE'VE GIVEN THEM A PARTY THAT WILL FIGHT FOR AMERICANS, FOR FREEDOM IN THE MARKETPLACE, FOR SECURITY AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WE'VE GIVEN THEM A PARTY THAT BELIEVES IN HARD WORK -- AND A FAIR REWARD FOR THAT WORK.

WE'VE GIVEN THEM A PARTY THAT HAS COMPASSION AND A HEART -- A PARTY THAT WANTS TO BRING ALL AMERICANS -- BLACK, HISPANIC, HANDICAPPED, DISADVANTAGED AND UNDERPRIVILEGED -- INTO THE MAINSTREAM. AND DO SO ON THEIR OWN TERMS, WITH DIGNITY.

AND WE'VE GIVEN THEM A PARTY WITH TALENT -- MEN AND WOMEN WHO DESERVE TO SERVE.

ONE OF THESE IS THE MAN I AM NOMINATING TONIGHT. I KNOW HIM WELL. WE HAVE SHARED EXPERIENCES, HAVING SERVED IN THE CONGRESS TOGETHER AND HAVING BOTH HELD THE POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

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I GOT TO KNOW HIM BETTER THIS PAST YEAR. I GOT TO SEE HIM UP CLOSE -- WATCHING AS HIS CHARACTER WAS FORGED AND SHAPED ON THE CRUCIBLE THAT IS OUR PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION PROCESS. I WATCHED AS HE REACHED OUT TO HISPANICS IN PUERTO RICO, FARMERS IN IOWA, AUTO WORKERS IN MICHIGAN, AND ENGINEERS IN MASSACHUSETTS. I WATCHED -- AND I THOUGHT: HERE IS A MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS WHAT THIS PARTY MUST DO TO BECOME WHAT IT MUST BECOME -- THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THIS NATION.

AS A YOUNG MAN, HE SAW THE FLAMES OF WAR SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE, AND ENLISTED IN THE ARMED FORCES. HIS SERVICE AS A PILOT EARNED HIM MANY DECORATIONS FOR HEROISM IN THE PACIFIC.

IN HIS TWENTIES, HE WENT TO TEXAS WITH BARBARA, AND THERE HE BUILT A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS, FROM THE GROUND UP.

IN HIS THIRTIES, HE RAN AND WON A SEAT IN CONGRESS IN A DISTRICT THAT HAD NEVER BEFORE ELECTED A REPUBLICAN. AND ONCE AGAIN, HE LEFT HIS MARK, BECOMING A VALUED MEMBER OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

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IN HIS FORTIES, HE BEGAN A SECOND CAREER -- IN PUBLIC SERVICE -- IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT -- WHERE HE SERVED WITH EXCEPTIONAL SKILL AS OUR AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AS AMERICAN ENVOY TO CHINA, AND AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE. ALONG THE WAY, HE EVEN SQUEEZED IN A TERM AS A VERY SUCCESSFUL CHAIRMAN OF OUR PARTY.

NOW TONIGHT, IN HIS FIFTIES, HE EMBARKS UPON A NEW JOURNEY -- TO BECOME THE NEXT VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE RECORD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED. YET, THE TRUE MARK OF A LEADER LIES NOT IN THE TITLES HE HAS HELD, BUT THE VISION AND HOPE HE HAS INSPIRED.

LET ME ALSO SAY THIS: HE RAN A POSITIVE CAMPAIGN, AN UPLIFTING CAMPAIGN, THE KIND OF CAMPAIGN THAT WILL BE A VITAL ASSET IN HELPING TO INSURE THAT RONALD REAGAN IS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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EXPERIENCE, HONOR, VISION -- THESE ARE THE QUALITIES THAT HE WILL BRING TO OUR TICKET. AND UPON THESE FOUNDATIONS, ALL OF US CAN HELP TO MAKE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF OUR LAND -- RONALD REAGAN -- ONE OF THE GREATEST PRESIDENTS IN OUR HISTORY.

HE WILL STAND WITH RONALD REAGAN, AND TOGETHER THEY WILL FIGHT TO THROW OFF THE GLOOM AND DESPAIR THAT HAS DESCENDED OVER OUR BELOVED COUNTRY.

WE CAN WIN THIS ELECTION BY TWO WAYS, MY FELLOW REPUBLICANS. WE CAN WIN IT AS A REJECTION OF JIMMY CARTER AND ALL THE MISTAKES WE HAVE COME TO ASSOCIATE WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION, OR WE CAN WIN IT ON OUR OWN, BY OFFERING A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE THAT PROMOTES GREATER PROSPERITY, GREATER EMPLOYMENT, GREATER NATIONAL SECURITY, AND A MORE COMPASSIONATE WAY OF HELPING THOSE WHO WANT NOTHING MORE FROM LIFE THAN A CHANCE TO JOIN IN THE COMPETITION THAT IS THE AMERICAN BIRTHRIGHT.

WHETHER WE WIN IS UP TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WHETHER WE DESERVE TO WIN IS UP TO OURSELVES.

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THE MAN I AM ABOUT TO NOMINATE TONIGHT WILL HELP ENSURE THAT WE DESERVE TO WIN THAT VICTORY. HE IS A MAN OF VISION -- HE IS A MAN DEDICATED TO MAKING AMERICA AMERICA AGAIN.

WE ARE NOT FACED SIMPLY WITH AN ELECTION IN 1980 -- WE ARE FACED WITH A REFERENDUM ON THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE. WE ARE LITERALLY VOTING ON OUR FUTURES AND ON THE KIND OF WORLD WE ENVISION FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN AS WE MOVE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

I BELIEVE THIS MAN CAN BUILD A BETTER WORLD -- JUST AS HE HAS BUILT UPON EACH OF HIS VARIED EXPERIENCES TO MOVE FROM SUCCESS TO SUCCESS.

AND SO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I NOMINATE THE NEXT VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES -- GEORGE PRESCOTT BUSH.