

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT HERMANN

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1980

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SYLVIA AND MEMBERS OF AB'S FAMILY:

OF ALL THE WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, PERHAPS THE HARDEST TO SAY IS THE WORD GOOD-BYE. ULTIMATELY, OF COURSE, IT MUST BE. BUT NOT THIS AFTERNOON. THIS AFTERNOON, WE PREFER OTHER WORDS -- WORDS LIKE FRIEND, MENTOR, GENIUS AND INSPIRATION. IT IS NOT A DEATH THAT WE MOURN BUT A TRIUMPHANT LIFE THAT WE CELEBRATE. CAN YOU IMAGINE AB HAVING IT ANY OTHER WAY?

AB WAS A MAN WHO KNEW HOW TO LOVE. HE LOVED HIS FAMILY, HE LOVED HIS FRIENDS, AND HE LOVED WHAT HE ALWAYS CALLED "THE GREAT STATE OF NEW JERSEY." HE ALSO LOVED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY -- AND THOSE OF US WHO WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE PARTY CERTAINLY LOVED HIM.

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THE GRAND OLE PARTY HAS LOST A GREAT REPUBLICAN WARRIOR. HE WAS AS OLD AS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, PLUS ONE, AND DURING HIS LIFE HE SAW HIS COUNTRY AND HIS PARTY UNDERGO REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE. HE WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF MANY OF THOSE CHANGES. BECAUSE HE LOVED OUR PARTY, HE WANTED HER TO BE WHAT SHE WAS INTENDED TO BE AT HER BIRTH -- A VEHICLE FOR THE IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF EVERY AMERICAN REGARDLESS OF SURNAME, POWER, OR ECONOMIC STATION.

WALT WHITMAN, THE GREAT POET OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, PUT IT THIS WAY...
"I DARE NOT SHIRK ANY PART OF MYSELF, NOT ANY PART OF AMERICA, GOOD OR BAD, NOT TO BUILD FOR THAT WHICH BUILDS FOR MANKIND, NOT TO BALANCE RANKS, COMPLEXIONS, CREEDS AND THE SEXES. I AM FOR THOSE THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN MASTERED, I AM FOR THOSE WHO WALK ABREAST WITH THE WHOLE EARTH, WHO INAUGURATE ONE, TO INAUGURATE ALL."

AB'S BELIEF IN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WAS NEVER MASTERED. AND IT LED HIM TO GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS. LONG BEFORE BLACKS AND WOMEN AND ETHNIC AMERICANS CLAIMED THEIR PLACE ON THE PUBLIC STAGE, AB HERMANN WAS

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FIGHTING TO GIVE THEM A SHARE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THERE WERE FRUSTRATIONS ALONG THE WAY, AND THERE MUST HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN EVEN AB WONDERED ABOUT THE LONG-RANGE PROSPECTS. BUT HE WAS A PERSISTENT MAN, PERSISTENCE WAS A HERMANN QUALITY. PERSISTENCE MINGLED WITH THE AGILITY THAT WON HIM ELEVEN ATHLETIC LETTERS, MADE HIM AN ALL AMERICAN IN THREE SPORTS, AND LATER ALLOWED HIM TO PERFORM EQUALLY MARVELOUS BALANCING ACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF STRONGLY HELD OPINIONS. THE BOSTON BRAVES LOSS WAS THE PARTY OF LINCOLN'S GAIN.

FOR ME, I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT AB DID FOR A FRESH AND VERY GREEN YOUNG CONGRESSMAN FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT OF KANSAS WHO ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON IN 1961 -- AND WHO PROMPTLY DISCOVERED A SAGE AND WIT WHO WAS WILLING TO SHARE HIS VAST EXPERIENCE WITH ONE WHO HAD A LOT TO LEARN.

AB BROUGHT TO LIFE FOR ME THE ABSTRACT IDEALS IN WHICH WE ALL CLAIM TO BELIEVE. HE MADE THOSE OLD FOURTH OF JULY CHESTNUTS LIVE AND BREATHE -- BECAUSE HE LIVED HIS LIFE UNDER THEIR INFLUENCE, HE PAINTED A VIVID

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PICTURE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS IT SHOULD BE, AS THE HOME OF BLACK AND HISPANIC AND JEWISH AND ITALIAN AND MILLIONS OF OTHER AMERICANS WHO HAVE TOO LONG BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE POLITICAL MAINSTREAM. AB WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH COUNTRY CLUB POLITICS.

WHEN I HAD THE HONOR OF WORKING WITH AB AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, I FOUND HIM TO BE A MAN WHO AVOIDED THE LIMELIGHT, A MAN OF HUMILITY, WHO WAS HAPPY WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES. YOU COULD FIND AB IN HIS OFFICE, ON THE PHONE, QUIETLY WORKING AWAY, THAT IS, IF YOU COULD MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE LAYERS OF CIGAR SMOKE.

HE WAS ALWAYS A TOWER OF STRENGTH, A PERSON YOU COULD RELY ON FOR A WORD OF WISDOM OR ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN THE OCCASION WARRANTED. AB WAS ALWAYS CAUTIONING ME NOT TO TALK TOO LONG AND I CAN SEE HIM NOW IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM, LOOKING AT HIS WATCH -- SENDING ME A SIGNAL. WE HAD GREAT TIMES BANTERING BACK AND FORTH. I OFTEN INTRODUCED AB AS "ABE LINCOLN'S ADVANCE MAN" BECAUSE OF HIS LONG SERVICE, AND HE WAS CONSTANTLY REMINDING ME NOT TO TAKE MYSELF TOO SERIOUSLY -- IN FACT, I'LL BET HE'S SMILING NOW.

AB HERMANN WAS AN UNCOMMON MAN. HE ACHIEVED GREAT THINGS WITH HIS BODY, WITH HIS MIND, WITH HIS UNCOMMONLY LARGE HEART. HE LOVED A WOMAN, AND THEIR LOVE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL WHO KNEW THEM. HE LOVED TWO DAUGHTERS, AND THREE GRANDCHILDREN, AND THEY WILL BE BLESSED ALL THEIR LIVES WITH THAT VERY SPECIAL GIFT. THEY WILL LEAVE HERE WITH MEMORIES THAT AGE CANNOT TARNISH. LIKE ALL OF US, THEY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SAY GOOD-BYE -- BUT THEN, THE GOOD-BYES WILL BE TEMPERED BY HAVING SHARED SO MUCH IN A LIFE CROWNED WITH TRIUMPH.

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