

Sept. 23, 1983

REMEMBERING ED SEXTON  
A CHAMPION OF EQUALITY

MEN AND WOMEN IN EVERY CORNER OF THIS COUNTRY LOST A FRIEND LAST WEEK WITH THE DEATH OF ED SEXTON, A TIRELESS CHAMPION OF EQUALITY WHO SPENT A LIFETIME PREACHING POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT.

THIS DEDICATED KANSAN WAS A LEADING FIGURE IN AMERICAN POLITICS. HE URGED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS AS THE KEY TO EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND ACHIEVING ECONOMIC POWER.

ED'S ACHIEVEMENTS COULD FILL PAGES -- AS A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER HE WAS A VOICE FOR BLACK KANSAS; AS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMERCE DEPARTMENT HE WAS AN ADVOCATE FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES; AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE WICHITA URBAN LEAGUE; AND AS A SUCCESSFUL EXECUTIVE HE WAS A SYMBOL OF SUCCESS.

ON THE NATIONAL SCENE, ED SEXTON BECAME A DRIVING FORCE IN THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, BRINGING WITH HIM HIS FERVENT DESIRE TO ATTRACT ALL MINORITIES TO THE PARTY. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RNC DURING THAT TIME, I KNOW FIRSTHAND ABOUT ED'S FULL COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE ROUND-THE-CLOCK EFFORT TO ACHIEVE IT.

ALWAYS THE OPTIMIST, ED NEVER LET HIS AMBITION GET IN THE WAY OF MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR ALL. HIS LEGACY IS A SIMPLE ONE: WE ARE ALL BETTER TODAY BECAUSE OF THIS GRACIOUS, CARING HUMAN BEING.