

NOV. 28, 1984

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

REPUBLICAN DINNER

THANKS VERY MUCH, AND LET ME REASSURE EVERYONE - I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING A SPEECH. WE HAVE TOO MANY OF THOSE ELSEWHERE TO JUSTIFY THEM HERE. BUT SOME THINGS NEED TO BE SAID. OF COURSE, I COULD BEGIN BY PAYING TRIBUTE TO HOWARD - BUT WHAT I MIGHT ADD WOULD COUNT FOR VERY LITTLE INDEED COMPARED TO WHAT THE HISTORY BOOKS WILL SAY. THEIR JUDGMENT ON HOWARD'S LEADERSHIP WILL SURPASS EVEN THAT OF TODAY'S EDITORIAL WRITERS AND COLUMNISTS. AND THAT'S SAYING QUITE A LOT!

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO SAY, SOMETHING THAT COMES FROM THE HEART. THE CONTEST DECIDED TODAY WAS NO BEAUTY PAGEANT - I GUESS THAT MUCH IS ALREADY OBVIOUS. WHATEVER FACTORS MAY HAVE ENTERED INTO THE VOTING, I KNEW LONG BEFORE I EVER WALKED INTO THE CONFERENCE THIS MORNING THAT I WAS CONTENDING WITH FOUR OF THE FINEST MEN I KNOW, ANY ONE OF WHOM WOULD HAVE MADE AN OUT-STANDING MAJORITY LEADER.

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WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE TOLD FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT THAT IT WAS FUN TO SHARE THE SAME CENTURY WITH HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPART. MAY I PARAPHRASE THAT TO SAY HOW MUCH I ENJOY SHARING THE SAME CHAMBER WITH THE LIKES OF PETE DOMENICI, DICK LUGAR, JIM McCLURE AND TED STEVENS. TO TELL THE TRUTH, SEEING YOUR NAME BESIDE THEIRS' ON A CANDIDATES' ROSTER IS APT TO GO TO YOUR HEAD A LITTLE. OF COURSE, I CAN COUNT ON ALL OF YOU TO BRING ME BACK TO EARTH - ABOUT TEN TIMES EACH DAY FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

BUT THAT'S O.K. HOWARD'S DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR A MAJORITY LEADER TO SPEAK WITH AND FOR HIS TROOPS - AND NOT AT THEM. AND I HAVE TOO MUCH VENERATION FOR THIS BODY, WHICH I AM PROUD TO SAY HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR SIXTEEN YEARS NOW, TO FORGET THAT IT WORKS BEST WHEN IT WORKS HARDEST TO DISSOLVE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AND FORGET INDIVIDUAL EGOS. WE ARE, IN A VERY REAL SENSE, A FAMILY HERE. THAT MEANS THAT WE HAVE OUR INTERNAL DISSENSION, AND FROM TIME TO TIME, VOICES GET RAISED AND FEELINGS GET BRUISED. BUT IF WE REMEMBER TO BE DELIBERATE IN OUR DELIBERATIONS, AND CIVIL IN OUR

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DISAGREEMENTS; IF WE BEGIN EACH DAY'S EFFORT WITH A SENSE OF A NATION'S FATE BEFORE US, THEN I'M CONVINCED THAT HISTORY WILL SAY OF US - AS IT NO DOUBT WILL SAY OF THE DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE - THAT WE TOO BELONG IN THE COMPANY OF TAFT AND JOHNSON AND LAFOLLETTE AND WEBSTER, MEN WHO EXPRESSED THEIR LOVE OF COUNTRY EVERY TIME THEY OPENED THEIR MOUTHS ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE.

WITH SUCH EXAMPLES TO GUIDE US, AND WITH THE UNWAVERING COMPASS OF INDIVIDUAL CONSCIENCE TO SHOW US THE WAY, I HAVEN'T A DOUBT ABOUT THE FUTURE, OR THE 52 COLLEAGUES WHO WILL SHAPE IT IN SO MANY WAYS, LARGE AND SMALL. THE CHALLENGE IS IMMENSE - BUT SO IS THE COLLECTION OF TALENTS HERE ASSEMBLED. I INTEND TO MEET THE ONE BY UTILIZING THE OTHER. AND I WOULD BEGIN WITH A GESTURE OF RECOGNITION - A TOAST TO FOUR OF OUR MOST TALENTED BREATHREN: TO PETE, DICK, JIM AND TED - WHO DAILY RAISE OUR STANDARDS AND ELEVATE OUR SIGHTS.