

4/19/85

SENATOR BOB DOLE SPEECH

1985 GREAT AMERICAN AWARD OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE  
RADISSON MUEHLEBACH HOTEL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FIRST, LET ME EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO SAM MONTAGUE AND ALL THE FINE PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMITTEE OF ONE, FOR HONORING ME WITH THIS AWARD.

I ALSO WANT TO ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: ELTON FRAZIER, HATTIE MATTISON, TERESA POTTS, DE AMOS REMSON AND JULIE SMITH, WHO WERE CITED EARLIER TODAY BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY IN MASSACHUSETTS-- WHERE IT IS A LEGAL HOLIDAY-- AND MARATHON RUNNERS -- PATRIOT'S DAY IS LARGELY IGNORED BY AMERICANS.

BUT THE DAY COMMEMORATING THE FATEFUL RIDE OF PAUL REVERE,  
AND THE START OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, IS CLEARLY ONE OF THE  
MOST IMPORTANT IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY. AS RALPH WALDO EMERSON  
WROTE IN A POEM HONORING APRIL 19.

BY THE RUDE BRIDGE THAT ARCHED THE FLOOD  
THEIR FLAG TO APRIL'S BREEZE UNFURLED  
HERE ONCE THE EMBATTLED FARMERS STOOD  
AND FIRED THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD.

THAT SHOT, SIGNALLING THE FOUNDING FATHERS' DETERMINATION TO  
FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, TO FIGHT FOR LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE  
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, STILL REVERBERATES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WHEREVER YOU TRAVEL -- IN EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA-- AMERICA IS  
STILL REGARDED AS THE "PROMISED LAND" A PLACE WHERE ANYTHING AND  
EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

AND I VIEW THE ROLE OF A MODERN-DAY PATRIOT AS ONE WHO WORKS TO SAFEGUARD AND TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS TO PURSUE THE AMERICAN DREAM.

THAT IS THE COMPELLING REASON BEHIND MY NUMBER ONE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY -- MY DRIVE TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT THIS YEAR. IT MAY BE HARD FOR MANY AMERICANS TO UNDERSTAND HOW ELIMINATING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS LIKE THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN MASS TRANSIT SUBSIDIES, WILL HELP THEM RATHER THAN HURT.

BUT IT IS CRITICAL TO THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR COUNTRY -- FOR THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF OUR FARMERS, THOSE WHO TRY TO EXPORT GOODS ABROAD, THOSE WHO WANT TO START NEW BUSINESSES OR EXPAND OLD ONES, THAT WE SLASH THE FEDERAL DEFICIT. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT THE DOLLAR REMAINS STABLE, INTEREST RATES CONTINUE TO DECLINE, AND INFLATION STAYS AT THE VERY LOW LEVELS WE HAVE ENJOYED FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. AND IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN OFFER OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN THE PROSPECT OF ATTAINING THAT AMERICAN DREAM.

ABOUT A WEEK AGO, NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST WILLIAM SAFIRE WROTE A COLUMN ABOUT ALL THE POSSIBLE CONTENDERS FOR THE 1988 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. FOR SOME REASON, MY NAME WAS MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T GIVE ME VERY GOOD ODDS. BUT HE DID CALL ME "THE RELENTLESSLY RESPONSIBLE BOB DOLE." WELL, I CONSIDER THAT A REAL COMPLIMENT -- ONE THAT I HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO. AND IF I CAN, THEN PERHAPS I CAN LIVE UP TO BEING CALLED A PATRIOT, AND THE RECIPIENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE'S GREAT AMERICAN AWARD.