

3/15/86

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1986

TO: SENATOR
FROM: DALE
SUBJECT: LINCOLN DAY SPEECH, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ATTACHED IS A SHORT SPEECH I'VE WRITTEN FOR TOMORROW NIGHT'S LINCOLN DAY DINNER. I SPOKE WITH FRED UPTON EARLY IN THE WEEK. HE SAID, PROBABLY THE BEST TOPIC WAS THE DEFICIT. THERE ARE SOME FARMERS IN THE AREA, HOWEVER THEY ARE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS WHO EVIDENTLY RESENT SOME OF THE FEDERAL SUBSIDIES OTHER FARMERS RECEIVE.

YOU WILL BE INTRODUCED BY GINNY ATONSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY. THERE SHOULD BE BETWEEN 800 AND 1000 PEOPLE ATTENDING THE DINNER. MARK SILJANDER WILL ATTEND, AS WELL AS FRED, WHO ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK HE WILL RUN AGAINST SILJANDER FOR THE GOP NOMINATION. BILL LUCAS WILL ALSO BE THERE.

THEY HAVE SLOTTED ABOUT 25 MINUTES FOR YOU TO SPEAK. BUT IT'S UP TO YOU HOW LONG.

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
BERRIEN COUNTY LINCOLN DAY DINNER
LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE, BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN
MARCH 15, 1986

THANK YOU GINNY (ATONSON) IT IS PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU THIS EVENING. YOU HAVE SOME FINE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES HERE. BILL LUCAS, WHO'S RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR.

EVERY YEAR, IN SMALL TOWNS, AND LARGE CITIES ALL ACROSS THIS NATION, MEN AND WOMEN GATHER TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

IT IS NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY. THIS SIMPLE MAN, WITH HIS HOMESPUN HUMOR, HIS INNATE, WISE RELIANCE ON COMMON SENSE, AND MOST OF ALL, HIS UNFLINCHING BELIEF IN THE EQUALITY OF MAN, TO THIS DAY REMINDS OF ALL THAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT ABOUT AMERICA.

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IN ONE OF HIS MOST QUOTED LINES, SPOKEN AT COOPER UNION, NEW YORK IN 1860, LINCOLN SAID:

"LET US HAVE FAITH THAT RIGHT MAKES MIGHT; AND IN THAT FAITH LET US TO THE END, DARE TO DO OUR DUTY, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT."

KEEPING THAT FAITH CAN BE A AWESOME TASK ESPECIALLY TODAY. CONFRONTED BY A STEADY STREAM OF TOUGH CHOICES, WHETHER IT IS THE FEDERAL DEFICIT, OR AID TO THE NICARAGUAN REBELS, OR THE CRISIS ON THE FAMILY FARM, THOSE OF US IN PUBLIC LIFE HAVE PLENTY OF REASONS TO WANT TO RUN AND HIDE.

BUT WE DARE NOT. BECAUSE IF WE HESITATE, IF WE EQUIVOCATE, THEN ALL THE ENORMOUS GAINS WE HAVE MADE -- IN CIVIL RIGHTS, IN EDUCATION, IN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, IN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, WILL BE LOST. LOST NOT TO US, BUT TO OUR FUTURE.

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LAST MAY 10, SENATE REPUBLICANS SHOWED THAT THEY HAD THE FAITH AND THE COURAGE TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS. WHEN WE VOTED TO CUT THE FEDERAL DEFICIT BY MORE THAN \$150 BILLION OVER THREE YEARS WE KNEW THAT THE BUDGET CONTAINED SOME DIFFICULT AND CONTROVERSIAL POLICY CHANGES.

BUT WE ALSO KNEW THAT THE OVERRIDING DOMESTIC CONCERN FOR A MAJORITY OF AMERICAN'S WAS TO DEAL WITH THE DEFICIT IN A MEANINGFUL AND LASTING WAY. AND WE RECOGNIZED THAT IF WE WERE FAIR, EVENHANDED IN THE WAY WE DEALT WITH REDUCING FEDERAL SPENDING, THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT US. UNFORTUNATELY THERE WERE OTHERS WHO DID NOT SHARE THE SENATE REPUBLICANS' FAITH IN THE WISDOM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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SO HERE WE ARE, BACK AGAIN. IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR. IN WASHINGTON THE CROCUSES AND BUDGET PLANS START BLOOMING ABOUT THE SAME TIME. THE SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST WEEK OR SO DRAFTING A BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. AND I BELIEVE THAT A CONSENSUS IS BUILDING.

A CONSENSUS THAT WOULD MEET THE DEFICIT TARGETS UNDER THE GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS LAW, BUT WOULD NOT GUT DEFENSE AND WOULD NOT RAISE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXES. AND ONE THAT WOULD MAKE SOME BASIC REFORMS BY ELIMINATING OUTDATED PROGRAMS, AND WOULD PROTECT GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO THE POOR AND ELDERLY. WE AREN'T THERE YET. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DETAILS TO BE IRONED OUT. BUT I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT AN AGREEMENT IS WITHIN REACH.

ONE THING MOST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE FINALLY LEARNED IS THERE IS NO MIRACLE CURE FOR OUR DEFICIT AILMENTS. BUT TAKING OUR MEDICINE NOW, WHILE THE ECONOMY IS BOOMING, IS THE BEST INSURANCE POLICY WE CAN BUY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

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JUST THIS PAST WEEK THE SENATE DEBATED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REQUIRING A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET. THE FINAL VOTE WON'T COME UNTIL MARCH 25. ITS FATE IS UNCERTAIN. AND EVEN IF THE SENATE DOES ADOPT IT, WHICH I BELIEVE IT ULTIMATELY WILL, THE HOUSE IS UNLIKELY TO. THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S BODY -- DOESN'T SEEM AS ATTUNED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS THE SENATE.

IN ADDITION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, I HOPE THAT THE SENATE WILL THIS YEAR APPROVE LEGISLATION GIVING THE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO VETO SPECIFIC ITEMS IN AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL -- THE SO-CALLED LINE-ITEM VETO. AND OF COURSE, WE HAVE THE GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS LAW, WHICH PUTS US ON A DECLINING DEFICIT PATH UNTIL WE REACH ZERO IN 1991.

WE NEED ALL THE RESTRAINTS, ALL THE DISCIPLINE AVAILABLE TO FORCE US TO LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS. LET'S FACE IT, WE CAN'T DO TOO MUCH, GO TOO FAR, IN THE EFFORT TO CONTROL FEDERAL SPENDING.

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THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER PRESSING ISSUES BEFORE CONGRESS.
IN THE COMING DAYS, WE WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PROVIDE U.S.
AID TO THE NICARAGUAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS, OR CONTRAS. AND IN THE
MONTHS AHEAD WE WILL DEAL WITH TAX REFORM, DEFENSE POLICY -- A
WHOLE LITANY OF ISSUES THAT WILL AFFECT YOUR LIFE, AND I GUESS
MINE.

1986 IS AN ELECTION YEAR. AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CONSIDER
YOURSELF GOOD REPUBLICANS, RETAINING GOP CONTROL OF THE SENATE
WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WE IN FACT BECOME THE MAJORITY
PARTY WE CLAIM WE ARE.

IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS WE CAN SOLIDIFY THE GAINS WE HAVE MADE
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RONALD REAGAN. OR WE CAN FIND OURSELVES
FRUSTRATED AT EVERY CORNER, BECAUSE THE DEMOCRATS CALL THE SHOTS
IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

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WE HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY. WE HAVE
SHOWN THEM THAT REPUBLICANS ARE RESPONSIBLE, EFFECTIVE LEADERS.

AND WE HAVE TO LIVE UP TO THE CHALLENGES WE ARE PRESENTED

WE HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN IF MEET TODAY'S CHALLENGES. AND
EVERYTHING TO LOSE IF WE TURN AWAY AND HIDE.

FOR AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID:

"IF YOU ONCE FORFEIT THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS,
YOU CAN NEVER REGAIN THEIR RESPECT AND ESTEEM. IT IS TRUE THAT
YOU MAY FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME; YOU CAN EVEN
FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME; BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ALL OF
THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME."

THANK YOU.