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SENATOR BOB DOLE TOAST TO RETIRING SENATORS

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IT'S ALWAYS BEEN FASHIONABLE TO DESCRIBE THE SENATE AS A CLUB - A MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUB. OF COURSE, IF IT'S SO DARNED EXCLUSIVE, THEN WHY ARE SO MANY OF ITS MEMBERS WILLING TO FOREGO THE CLUBHOUSE FOR A WHITE HOUSE? MAYBE I'LL ASK ELIZABETH ABOUT THAT ONE. LIKE ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION, WE HAVE OUR RITUALS AND ROUTINES, OUR HEROES AND OUR HERETICS. WE ALL HAVE DAYS WHEN VISION GROWS SHORT, AND TEMPERS SHORTER. BUT CIVILITY RETURNS, AS SURELY IF NOT AS GRACEFULLY AS THE SWALLOWS AT CAPISTRANO.

- 2 -

IN THIS CLUB, TOO, WE MEET PERIODICALLY TO TAKE THE ROLL. INEVITABLY, WE FIND THAT THERE ARE THOSE DESTINED TO LEAVE US. AT SUCH TIMES, IS IT ANY WONDER THAT WE WHO DRAFT LAWS WITH WHICH TO GOVERN A NATION CAN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GOVERN OUR OWN EMOTIONS?

WITH THIS IN MIND, I PROPOSE TO BANISH THE WORD GOODBYE FROM THIS EVENING'S CONVERSATION. IN ITS PLACE, LET US HAVE THE WARM GLOW OF MEMORY, THE CAMARADERIE OF THE CLOAKROOM, AND THE TRUST FORGED IN A HUNDRED BATTLES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE.

THIS EVENING, THERE ARE NO DIVISIONS IN OUR RANKS, ONLY THE BIPARTISAN GRATITUDE OF 94 SENATORS FOR 6 RETIRING BREATHREN. THEY HAVE LENT STATURE TO OUR DELIBERATIONS, AND STATESMANSHIP TO A TOWN MORE ACCUSTOMED TO RAW AMBITION. THEIR EXAMPLE

- 3 -

REMAINS; THAT, AND THE IMPRINT OF THEIR CHARACTERS UPON THIS INSTITUTION AND THE NATION THEY HAVE SERVED SO WELL. AND SO TO LONG, EAGLETON AND HART, AS TO MATHIAS, GOLDWATER AND LAXALT, I RISE IN TRIBUTE. AND I RECALL SOME WORDS FROM A MAN WHO NEVER SAT IN OUR COUNCILS, BUT WHO THE HISTORIANS TELL ME USED TO PUT ON HIS JUDICIAL ROBES IN WHAT IS NOW THE OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER.

"THE RIDERS IN A RACE DO NOT STOP SHORT WHEN THEY REACH THE GOAL," SAID MR. JUSTICE HOLMES. "THERE IS A LITTLE FINISHING CANTER BEFORE COMING TO A STANDSTILL. THERE IS TIME TO HEAR THE KIND VOICE OF FRIENDS AND TO SAY TO ONE'S SELF, 'THE WORK IS DONE'. BUT JUST AS ONE SAYS THAT, THE ANSWER COMES: 'THE RACE IS OVER, BUT THE WORK NEVER IS DONE WHILE THE POWER TO WORK REMAINS'".

- 4 -

IT HAS BEEN OUR PRIVILEGE TO SHARE THE RACE-TRACK  
WITH SUCH AS YOU. HOWEVER NEAR OR DISTANT THE FINISH  
LINE, I COUNT IT AN HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR DEBT AND  
EXPRESS OUR AFFECTION.

GODSPEED.