

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

100TH CONGRESS GALA DINNER

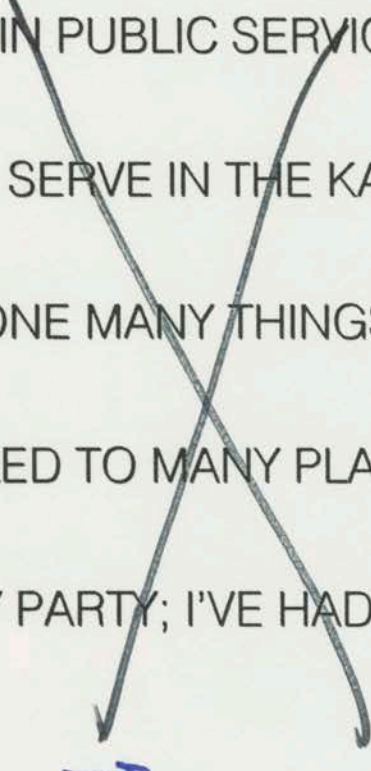
SEPTEMBER 14, 1988

THIS IS A WONDERFUL EVENING -- AN EVENING TO
SHARE WITH COLLEAGUES, WITH FRIENDS, WITH FAMILY.

FOR THE SENATE IS MANY, MANY THINGS; TO
THOSE OF US WHO HAVE SERVED IN THIS INSTITUTION --
AND I HAVE HAD THAT PRIVILEGE FOR NEARLY TWENTY
YEARS -- IT IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN A WORKPLACE.
ABOVE ALL, THE SENATE IS A FAMILY; AND IT IS IN THAT
SPIRIT THAT WE ARE HERE TONIGHT.

THE SENATE IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY -- AN
OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE HISTORY
OF THIS NATION, AND IN THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF
AMERICANS.

I HAVE BEEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE SINCE 1951, WHEN I
WAS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE KANSAS HOUSE. SINCE
THAT DAY, I'VE DONE MANY THINGS, SEEN MANY
PEOPLE, TRAVELLED TO MANY PLACES; I'VE BEEN
CHIARMAN OF MY PARTY; I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF
BEING



PLACED ON THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL TICKET AS A
VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE; AND I HAVE RUN FOR MY
PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION -- TWICE.

I'LL BE HONEST: WITHDRAWING FROM THE
PRESIDENTIAL RACE THIS YEAR WAS ^A↑ TOUGH BLOW. IT
TOOK SOME TIME TO GET OVER IT, TOO.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: WHEN I
CONSIDERED WHAT I HAD ACCOMPLISHED IN THE
SENATE; AND WHAT IS YET TO BE ACCOMPLISHED; WHEN

I REMEMBERED THAT I REPRESENT THE GOOD PEOPLE
OF KANSAS; AND THE FACT THAT MY COLLEAGUES HAD
CHOSEN ME TO BE THEIR LEADER; WHEN I REALIZED
AGAIN THAT I CAN MAKE A DIFFERERNC E FOR AMERICA,
DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT, RIGHT HERE; WELL, I FELT PRETTY
FORTUNATE, INDEED.

THERE IS NOTHING I AM PROUDER OF, OR THAT
GIVES ME MORE PERSONAL SATISFACTION, THAN MY
WORK IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

AND THAT IS WHAT TONIGHT IS ALL ABOUT: THOSE
OF US WHO NOW HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING IN
THE SENATE, PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED
BEFORE US; PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WORLD'S
GREATEST DELIBERATIVE BODY, THIS PLACE WE ALL
CALL HOME."

AND NO ONE ALIVE TODAY IS MORE ELOQUENT ON
THE SUBJECT THAN THE LEGENDARY MAJORITY LEADER,
MY GOOD FRIEND, BOB BYRD.

ON A QUIET FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN MARCH 1980,
BOB BYRD GAVE HIS FIRST -- IN WHAT HAS BECOME A
REMARKABLE SERIES -- OF SENATE HISTORY LESSONS. I
JUST CHECKED, AND AT LAST COUNT, HE HAD
DELIVERED ABOUT ONE-HUNDRED CHAPTER-LENGTH
SPEECHES, COLORFULLY DESCRIBING THE
TWO-HUNDRED-YEAR COURSE OF THE SENATE'S LIFE.

SENATOR BYRD PURSUED HIS PROJECT WITH THE
SAME DILIGENCE AND VISION THAT HE HAS APPLIED
DURING THIRTY YEARS AS A SENATOR FROM WEST
VIRGINIA. THE FIRST OF SEVERAL HANDSOME VOLUMES
OF WHAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL COME TO KNOW
AS "BYRD'S HISTORY" WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON -- A
MAJOR PRODUCT OF THE SENATE BICENTENNIAL. AND
WHEN OUR SUCCESSORS PLAN THE SENATE'S



TRICENTENNIAL, IN THE YEAR 2089, UNDOUBTEDLY, THEY
WILL RELY ON BOB'S "HISTORY" FOR SPECIAL INSIGHT
INTO THE SENATE'S FIRST TWO CENTURIES.

HISTORY AND TRADITION PLAY SUCH A REAL, VITAL
ROLE IN THE WAY THE SENATE WORKS, EVEN TODAY.
EVEN IF WE WANTED TO FORGET, WE ARE SURROUNDED
BY OUR SENATORIAL ANCESTORS. PORTRAITS OF
HENRY CLAY OF KENTUCKY, DANIEL WEBSTER OF
MASSACHUSETTS, JOHN C. CALHOUN OF SOUTH
CAROLINA,

WISCONSIN'S ROBERT LA FOLLETTE, SR., OHIO'S ROBERT
TAFT AMONG OTHERS, ADORN THE WALLS OF THE
RECEPTION ROOM, AND REMINDE US DAILY OF THE
SENATE'S PROUD HISTORY.

THEY REMIND US, THAT THIS INSTITUTION, UNIQUE
IN ALL THE WORLD, HAS BEEN AND, GOD WILLING
ALWAYS WILL BE, THE WORLD'S [✓]GREATEST DELIBERATIVE
BODY. ^{//} THE SENATE SOMETIMES WORKS IN STRANGE
AND MYSTERIOUS WAYS. BUT IT WORKS. AND BECAUSE
IT DOES, AMERICA REMAINS STRONG, FREE, AND
PROUD.

AND SO, I AM DELIGHTED TO HELP SALUTE THIS
GREAT INSTITUTION; AND TO SALUTE THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE IT WHAT IT IS -- QUITE SIMPLY,
THE CORNERSTONE OF HISTORY'S GREATEST
DEMOCRACY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.