

**SENATOR BOB DOLE
REMARKS DELIVERED AT
GRIDIRON DINNER
MARCH 27, 1993**

MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE GRIDIRON, POLICY WONKS, BEAN COUNTERS, FORMER U.S. ATTORNEYS, GAYS IN THE MILITARY, ILLEGAL ALIENS, MY FELLOW AMERICANS AND THOSE HERE WHO WEREN'T CONSIDERED FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL, I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

I'D BE A BIT MORE DELIGHTED IF OLIVER NORTH'S SPEECHWRITERS HADN'T STOLEN MY BEST MATERIAL.

I ENJOYED THE FINE MEAL. IT WAS WORTH ALL OF TWENTY DOLLARS. THEY WERE GOING TO SERVE CHERRIES FLAMBEE FOR DESSERT, BUT NBC RAN OUT OF THOSE LITTLE ROCKETS.

AND HELEN THOMAS--WHO TALKED ME INTO THIS--YOU LOOK ELEGANT. THE LOVELY DRESS HELEN IS WEARING TONIGHT IS FROM THE NEW J. EDGAR HOOVER COLLECTION.

AND GRIDIRON PERFORMERS--THANKS FOR THOSE ENTERTAINING SKITS. I HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN SINCE MY PROSTATE OPERATION.

BUT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE SKITS ASIDE, THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY LONG EVENING. WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE FOUND OUT THAT TONIGHT WAS CLOSED TO OUTSIDERS, THEY DECIDED TO HOLD A HEALTH CARE MEETING.

ONE THING THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT BOTH OF US ARE MARRIED TO DETERMINED WOMEN. IN FACT, WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, I WONDER HOW MANY PINTS OF BLOOD I'VE GIVEN.

THE CLINTONS REALLY ARE A GOOD TEAM, THOUGH. A SMALL STATE POLITICIAN WITH A POWERFUL WIFE--IF IT HAD ONLY WORKED IN '88, I'D BE SPEAKING LAST TONIGHT.

BUT THE GRIDIRON WAS RIGHT IN ASKING ME TO SPEAK TONIGHT. WITH BUSH GONE, POLLS SHOW THAT I'M THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL REPUBLICAN IN WASHINGTON--JUST BEHIND BOB STRAUSS.

AND WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THE WAY THE BUSH RE-ELECTION EFFORT WAS CONDUCTED?...EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DR. KEVORKIAN'S FIRST EFFORT AS A CAMPAIGN MANAGER.

WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE DR. KEVORKIAN WITH US THIS EVENING...AS BOB NOVAK'S GUEST...THEY WILL HAVE A SMALL INVITATION ONLY RECEPTION AFTER DINNER.

AND I UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT LATER MISS STRESIAND AND DR. KEVORKIAN ARE GOING TO SING A SPECIAL RENDITION OF "PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE."

ANYWAY, WE REPUBLICANS LOST, AND NOW WE HAVE A FORMER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNOR IN THE WHITE HOUSE. BUT THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RUNNING A SMALL STATE AND RUNNING THE NATION. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BEING THAT WHEN THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST IN ARKANSAS, THEY'RE REAL CHICKENS.

AND, TO BE FAIR, YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE AL GORE CREDIT FOR THE ELECTION, TOO. SOMEHOW, HE CONVINCED EVERYONE HE WAS JUST A GOOD OLD BOY FROM A TENNESSEE FARM. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE ONLY TIME AL USES THE WORD "HAY" IS WHEN IT'S FOLLOWED BY THE WORD "ADAMS."

THE WASHINGTON POST RECENTLY REPORTED HOW THE VICE PRESIDENT PUTS IN LONG HOURS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WORKING ON THE ENVIRONMENT. AND, AL, THE LAWN LOOKS GREAT.

YOU KNOW, REPORTERS FREQUENTLY ASK ME, "BOB, HOW'S THE PRESIDENT DOING?" WELL, LET ME TELL YOU:

AS YOU WILL RECALL, DURING THE CAMPAIGN, PRESIDENT CLINTON PROMISED TO LEAD AMERICA IN A NEW DIRECTION. AND HE'S DOING JUST GREAT...IF YOU CONSIDER CIRCLES A DIRECTION.

THIS WEEK, OF COURSE, WE CONSIDERED THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO RAISES TAXES, INCREASE SPENDING, AND GUT DEFENSE. I'VE BEEN ASKED WHAT NUMBERS TO LOOK FOR WHEN ANALYZING THE CLINTON PLAN. THE NUMBER THAT COMES TO MY MIND IS "1996."

WELL, AS GEORGE BUSH SAID, ENOUGH ABOUT THE ECONOMY, LET'S MOVE ON TO FOREIGN POLICY.

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL BE MEETING WITH BORIS YELTSIN IN ABOUT A WEEK. THE TALKS WILL CENTER ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FREE MARKET SYSTEM. I HOPE BORIS CAN TALK HIM INTO IT.

YELTSIN CALLED PRESIDENT CLINTON ON THE PHONE LAST WEEK AND SAID, "WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING. IT'S BORDERING ON CHAOS. NO ONE KNOWS WHO'S IN CHARGE, OR WHAT'S GOING ON."

AND THE PRESIDENT SAID, "WHY ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT THE NEW YORK POST?"

SPEAKING OF NEW YORK...MR. PRESIDENT, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU ASKING GOVERNOR CUOMO TO SERVE ON THE SUPREME COURT. JUSTICE WHITE WAS THERE FOR 31 YEARS. IT WILL TAKE MARIO THAT LONG TO MAKE UP HIS MIND.

NOW I DON'T WANT TO BE TOO PARTISAN ABOUT ALL THIS. THE CLINTONS HAVE MANY GOOD POINTS. THEY'RE VERY ACTIVE WITH THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND...OF COURSE, SOMEONE'S GOTTA LOOK AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF.

THERE'S A LOT OF COMPLAINTS AROUND TOWN, MR. PRESIDENT, ABOUT THE YOUTHFULNESS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF. PERSONALLY I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT...AFTER ALL, CHELSEA'S GOTTA HAVE SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH.

BUT I LEARNED FIRSTHAND HOW YOUNG THE CLINTON STAFF WAS WHEN I ATTENDED A MEETING WITH THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF...AND GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS ASKED IF HE COULD WEAR GENERAL POWELL'S HAT.

A POSITIVE NOTE--I'M PLEASED THE PRESIDENT IS TAKING CARE OF HIS HEALTH. IN FACT, I GAVE HIM \$250 FOR HIS JOGGING TRACK. A CAPITOL HILL REPORTER SAID TO ME, "WHY'D YOU DO THAT? I SAID "I'D RATHER HAVE HIM RUNNING AROUND DOWN THERE, THAN RUNNING AROUND UP HERE."

I WANT TO CONCLUDE THIS EVENING BY NOTING THE PRESENCE OF MRS. VIRGINIA KELLEY, THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER.

MRS. KELLY, I'M JUST ONE OF MANY WHO HAS BEEN INSPIRED BY HOW YOU PERSEVERED AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S FATHER DIED.

MY MOTHER, BINA DOLE, HAD A VERY SPECIAL PHILOSOPHY ABOUT LIFE AND NOT GIVING UP. SHE SUMMED IT UP IN THE WORDS "CAN'T NEVER DID ANYTHING." AND, MRS. KELLEY, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT NOT ONLY DO YOU LIVE BY THAT PHILOSOPHY, BUT YOU ALSO INSTILLED IT IN YOUR SON, THE PRESIDENT.

MRS. KELLEY, YOU'VE DONE A REMARKABLE JOB UNDER TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES, AND I KNOW THAT EVERYONE HERE JOINS ME IN SAYING YOU HAVE OUR RESPECT.

PLEASE LET HER KNOW THAT THE THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS OF EVERYONE HERE ARE WITH HER FATHER.

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I MAY SLIP OUT THE BACK DOOR. BUT, I'LL BE BACK IN THE MORNING TO SEE HOW IT'S GOING.