

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
WAKE FOREST COLLEGE REPUBLICANS AND
FORSYTH COUNTY GOP COMMITTEE

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.
FEBRUARY 18, 1978

ONE OF THE GENUINE HONORS THAT COMES TO MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY THIS TIME OF YEAR IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN IN THE ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF OUR PARTY, TO COME TOGETHER WITH OTHERS TO REFLECT ON OUR POLITICAL HERITAGE, AND TO DERIVE FROM THAT HERITAGE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEMPORARY EVENTS IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE -- OF WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE OUGHT TO GO, AND HOW WE OUGHT TO GO IF WE ARE TO BE WORTHY OF OUR REPUBLICAN HERITAGE.

IT IS A TASK -- IT IS, INDEED, A HALLOWED OPPORTUNITY -- TO WHICH ALL AMERICANS, AND NOT JUST REPUBLICANS, MIGHT WELL COMMIT THEMSELVES.

FUTURE OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

SO, WHERE ARE WE, WHERE IS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN 1978?
WELL, IT CERTAINLY ISN'T DEAD OR DYING AS THE PUNDITS OF 1976 AND 1977 WOULD HAVE HAD US BELIEVE. WE'RE SCORING VICTORY AFTER VICTORY IN SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS. INCLUDING A DRAMATIC UPSET IN A NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT WITH A 3 TO 1 DEMOCRATIC

Context: GOP

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REGISTRATION MAJORITY. AND THE PARTY IS REACHING OUT ACROSS THE WHOLE BROAD SPECTRUM OF OUR POPULATION FOR NEW REPUBLICANS AND NEW REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES. OUR PROSPECTS FOR SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN THE CONGRESS, THE STATEHOUSES, AND COURTHOUSES ARE BRIGHT.

I THINK WE'RE LEARNING THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WIN MORAL VICTORIES IF WE CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN POLITICAL DEFEATS. CONSISTENT WITH OUR REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND LIBERTY, WE'RE MAKING OUR PARTY MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS, THE DESIRES, AND CONCERNS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE KNOW THAT IF WE REALLY WANT THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT LINCOLN ENVISIONED, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO NEW VOTERS, TO NEW GROUPS OF AMERICANS, TO THE VAST NUMBERS OF OUR POPULATION WHO HAVE LOOKED UPON US AS A PARTY THAT CARES FOR THOSE WHO CAN HELP THEMSELVES AND NOT THOSE WHO NEED HELP.

THE REPUBLICAN HERITAGE

WE'RE OVERCOMING THAT NEGATIVE, INACCURATE, YET WIDELY HELD IMAGE OF OUR PARTY BY PUTTING FORTH RESPONSIVE, HUMANE, AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE POLICIES. WE'RE GIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A REASON TO SUPPORT REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES AND REPUBLICAN POLICIES. AND IF WE CONTINUE TO DO THIS I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS

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WILL AGAIN REALIZE THAT THE PARTY OF LINCOLN IS STILL THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE, THAT JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T LOOK TO WASHINGTON FOR ALL THE ANSWERS, WE'RE NOT INSENSITIVE TO THE REAL WORLD PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT OUR CITIES, OUR STATES, OUR NATION.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF BIG PROMISES AND BIG GOVERNMENT. AND THEY'RE PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP BY THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE. THEY FEEL LET DOWN BY A PRESIDENT WHO HAS PROMISED SO MUCH AND DELIVERED SO LITTLE AND BY AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH SUFFERS FROM DELUSIONS OF ADEQUACY, BUT ISN'T REALLY PLEASING ANYBODY.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP ARE THERE. AND I THINK WE'RE RESPONDING.

WE'VE PROPOSED SIZEABLE INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS -- AND HAVE BEEN OPPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT. WE PROPOSED AN ENERGY PROGRAM WHICH RELIES ON THE FREE MARKET MECHANISM -- AND HAVE BEEN OPPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR BETTER INCOME PROTECTION FOR OUR FAMILY FARMERS -- AND ARE BEING OPPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT.

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TUITION ASSISTANCE

WE'RE PROPOSING FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR HARD-PRESSED PARENTS WHO WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION. FOR OVER TWO YEARS, REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING TO GET A TUITION TAX CREDIT ENACTED -- A SIMPLE, REALISTIC PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP FOR TAXPAYERS STRUGGLING WITH THE GROWING BURDENS OF HIGHER EDUCATION COSTS.

PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP HAVE FOUGHT US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY ON THIS PROPOSAL. NOW, WHEN THE PRESIDENT SEES THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THIS PLAN, HE HAS PROPOSED HIS OWN TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH IS VASTLY MORE COMPLEX, LESS GENEROUS, AND WILL REQUIRE HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS, OF BUREAUCRATS TO IMPLEMENT.

I THINK WE MUST DO MORE ON THIS FRONT. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT TIGHT FAMILY BUDGETS OFTEN FORCE PARENTS TO NEGLECT PROPER PLANNING FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN ORDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET. TUITION TAX CREDITS WILL PROVIDE ONLY A PORTION OF THE HELP NEEDED. THAT IS WHY I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO CREATE A SPECIAL EDUCATION SAVINGS BOND PROGRAM WHICH WILL PROVIDE AMERICAN FAMILIES WITH THE INCENTIVE AND OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE NOW FOR THE FUTURE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN. INTEREST ON THE EDUCATION SAVINGS BOND

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WOULD BE TAX-FREE WHEN USED TO PAY FOR THE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH ROOM, BOARD, AND TUITION AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING.

THE TUITION TAX CREDIT AND THE EDUCATION SAVINGS BOND PROGRAM ARE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF OUR REPUBLICAN CONCERN FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT DESPITE CHANGES IN ATTITUDES ABOUT THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION, REPUBLICANS BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO ATTEND COLLEGE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE MADE STRICTLY ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS.

REPUBLICAN INITIATIVE

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP ON TUITION ASSISTANCE, ON TAX REDUCTION, ON ENERGY POLICY IS TANGIBLE PROOF THAT WE RECOGNIZE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE POSITIVE, TO OFFER REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES, AND NOT TO BE CONTENT TO CRITICIZE ILL-CONCEIVED DEMOCRATIC POLICY. WE KNOW THAT WE MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, TO IDENTIFY NATIONAL NEEDS, TO RECOGNIZE WHERE A GOVERNMENTAL ROLE EXISTS IN MEETING THOSE NEEDS, AND TO PROPOSE SOUND, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THEM.

ON ANY NUMBER OF ISSUES -- TAX REFORM, HEALTH CARE, STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS, THE PANAMA CANAL, FARM POLICY -- WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

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TO OUR HERITAGE AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PROPOSE SOUND POLICIES -- POLICIES WHICH WILL ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND IN A MEANINGFUL WAY TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT OUR NATION. AS THE PARTY OUT OF POWER, WE MUST GO THE EXTRA MILE TO CONVINCING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE DO CARE, THAT REPUBLICAN SOLUTIONS ARE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE NATION.

OUR PARTY ORIGINS

AND WE MUST REMEMBER OUR ORIGINS, WE TALK ABOUT BEING THE PARTY OF FREEDOM -- DEFENDING THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, FREEING PEOPLE FROM GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS, GETTING THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF OUR PRIVATE LIVES. THESE ARE COMMENDABLE GOALS, BUT THEY ARE ABSTRACT GOALS. AND THIS PARTY WAS NOT FOUNDED ON ABSTRACTIONS. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY -- THE PARTY OF LINCOLN -- EXTENDED AND EXPANDED FREEDOM IN A VERY REAL, TANGIBLE WAY. TIME HAS PASSED. THE WORLD IS A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE. BUT OUR FOUNDING PURPOSE -- THE EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF LIBERTY -- REMAINS THE SAME. AND THAT IS THE BANNER WE CARRY AND THE PURPOSE WE HAVE TO ARTICULATE AS WE WORK TO ASSERT OUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AMERICA.

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