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# News:

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
TO THE JUNIOR STATESMEN FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
DECEMBER 1, 1984

My warmest thanks, to the officers and trustees of the Junior Statesmen Foundation for the honor you pay me this evening. I can't tell you how very much I appreciate your Trustee Award, coming as it does from an organization that has my profound admiration. I am grateful for this honor and for the privilege of joining you in celebrating your 50th anniversary.

The work your Foundation does in preparing students for the responsibilities of citizenship reminds me of the truth of Benjamin Franklin's observation that: "The most important task we are undertaking as a nation is to solve the magnificent challenge of being a free people."

We have overcome these past few years the sense of pessimism about the future that tarnished the hopes and ideals of our young people in the '60's and '70's. We feel good about ourselves again. We are once more enjoying the challenge and the excitement of being a free people -- with pride in our land and confidence in our dreams. To your everlasting credit, those affiliated with the Junior Statesmen Foundation never lost sight of the American tradition during those difficult years or the importance of preparing our youth for effective public service. Many graduates of this program have brought able leadership and professional commitment to the public sector. And I have no doubt we will continue to benefit from the work of the Junior Statesmen Foundation as you expand your outreach in a second half-century of service.

Now I can't let the opportunity pass to tell you how persuasive an advocate you have in Ed Meese. If I weren't already convinced of your program's merits, Ed would surely persuade me. I had the pleasure of working closely with Ed during my days in the White House as Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and currently as a member of the President's Cabinet. I don't know of anyone who works harder, longer or with a greater enthusiasm than Ed. The President depends on him. He has the respect of all who work with him. And I am privileged to call him my close friend. It is indeed an honor to follow Ed as a recipient of your Trustee Award.



In meeting and talking with students participating in the Junior Statesmen program, I am always struck first by their intelligence and maturity. As one who spends a good deal of time in that 100-square mile arsenal of bureaucracy called Washington, D.C., it is encouraging to encounter such highly motivated young people dedicated to preserving and improving our democracy. It's especially heartening to meet people who know the difference between self-government and self-interest. And I don't mind telling you: it does wonders for my own motivation.

You will agree, I'm sure, that motivation is essential to effective public service. I recall receiving the Civitan Citizenship Award when I was a high school freshman in North Carolina. That was an exciting moment for me, and while it was not the single event that launched me on the career that followed, but it was clearly an inspiration in those early years of my life. Today, when people ask me why I choose to work in the public sector, I can only tell them that -- for me -- one of the great satisfactions in life is the opportunity to face challenging issues, to help shape policies that affect us as a nation, and most of all, to make a difference, a positive difference, in people's lives. And let me assure you, even in an institution as big as government, the individual does count. One vote can make a difference in an election; one voice an impact on public policy. One suggestion or idea can start the wheels of government turning or, conversely, one well-reasoned, well-documented argument can change the course of public action.

Service in the public arena today means confronting, face-to-face, some of the most challenging issues of our time. Whether you serve in the legislature in Sacramento, on a public commission in Washington or in the Executive or Legislative branch of our Federal Government, you are inevitably thrust into a swirling vortex of issues, analyses and decisions that can stretch you to the very limit of your being. Nothing, in my view, is more exhilarating.

Public service can also be demanding. For government will be most effective when it attracts conscientious, dedicated men and women, with a real sensitivity to human needs. That is true of much of life; only if honorable people step forward to serve will a society achieve its highest purposes. Only then will government truly be the servant, and not the master, of the people. Every student of public service is familiar with Edmund Burke's classic declaration: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Of course, if Burke were living today, I'm sure he would include women in his observation, because in the last eight years alone, the number of women in the public administration profession has increased by more than 60 percent.

These days, opportunities abound for Junior Stateswomen. There is nothing inherently masculine or feminine about determining foreign policy or managing Social Security or rebuilding the nation's airways -- all responsibilities, I might add, that President Reagan has entrusted to public officials who just happen to be named Jeane (Kirkpatrick), Margaret (Heckler) and Elizabeth (Dole). Yet let us never presume that government alone can provide the full range of social services required for all those in need, that government can supplant free enterprise as the engine of our economy, or that government can summon the enthusiasm and imagination that concerned citizens can bring to bear on a stubborn problem.

For much of our history, we relied on the voluntary efforts of business, churches, foundations and other private organizations to supply jobs, income, health care, food



and housing to those most in need. When the problems grew too large for the private sector to address - during the depression of 50 years ago, for example - government stepped in. Yet, we Americans have never needed government to instill in us compassion for our neighbors. For over two centuries, we have drawn much of our strength from our moral commitment to one another.

In no other land does the volunteer spirit thrive so broadly or express itself more generously. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the sponsors of this foundation and the Junior Statesmen program. You are investing in two of our country's greatest strengths -- its young citizens and its structure of government, and your faith in both adds immensely to our total strength as a nation. When I look around this room, I am confident beyond any doubt that we are today what we always have been -- a caring family ready to give and willing to share.

Today we are engaged in rediscovering a national sense of community, restoring free enterprise and scaling the heights of private ingenuity. Early in his first term, President Reagan announced his strong commitment to a program of private sector initiatives -- a partnership with free enterprise to find alternative ways of helping those in genuine need, not in lieu of Federal efforts, but in addition to them. The first order of business was to restore our economy to good health. That has been accomplished far faster than even the most optimistic believed possible. Now we are again generating the millions of individual miracles that happen when men and women are given the chance to chart their own lives, harness their own ambitions, create their own futures and strengthen their own families. To enjoy, in the words of Franklin, "the magnificent challenge of being free."

So today we face new challenges -- to make the most of the economic tools provided, to create new jobs while combating the old evils of poverty, neglect and urban desolation, to make the lives of our people better, brighter and safer.

The challenges on my own public service agenda, I believe, serve those purposes. In transportation, that includes presiding over the sunset of the Civil Aeronautics Board -- the first major government agency to go out of business in modern times. Now that deregulation permits airlines to determine where they will fly and the fares they charge, we no longer need this Federal agency. And my Department will take on the remaining necessary functions such as handling international airline agreements and consumer protection. (Now you know who to call when an airline loses your luggage!) Public service for me means transferring the Alaska Railroad to the state, Conrail (the government-owned freight railroad) to the private sector and putting Washington's National and Dulles airports into local hands. We want to get the Federal government out of the business of running railroads and operating commercial airports.

Public service for me means deregulation of the transportation industries, returning competition to the airline, trucking, railroad and bus industries. Because of deregulation, air travelers have saved \$10 billion since 1978. Our railroads are in better financial and physical condition than they have been in years. Truckers and shippers are negotiating rates rather than having them set in Washington. And intercity bus operators are giving riders the benefit of competitive fares.

Public service for me means setting more realistic user fees, so that those who benefit from our highways, airways and waterways pay a fair share of the costs. Seventy-one percent of my Department's budget consists of user fees. Public service



means new and improved roads and bridges; making travel safer by cracking down on drunk drivers, urging safety belt usage laws, conducting meticulous, regular inspections of the nation's entire aviation system and all modes of transportation.

What we do or fail to do will determine to a large extent the challenges today's Junior Statesmen will face tomorrow. That's why this Foundation's work is so important -- to assure that our democracy remains in the hands of public-spirited citizens and responsible public servants, committed to those ideals that will make America ever greater.

We have many reasons today to be proud - of our country, our achievements, our people. Our young people today, I find, are more knowledgeable about world and national affairs than when I was in college. Their interests reach far beyond the campus. They are concerned about our country and its future. They want to make a difference. We are, in fact, indebted to our youth, who represented America so impressively at the summer Olympics, and who continue to encourage all of us with their zest for life and optimism for the future.

We need those qualities, as well as the people who embody them - throughout our society, but particularly in public service. And so I hope that many of those you sponsor as Junior Statesmen will choose careers in government. They may not get rich, but they will enrich the lives of millions. Their rewards will not be material, but the satisfactions of service -- of making a real difference a positive difference in the lives of their neighbors, and the life of their nation.

Let me leave you with one final thought. My experience in public service has proven to me that we must strive throughout government to be more sensitive and more responsive -- to remember that we serve the people. And let us also try a littler harder, both for ourselves and our children's sake, to maintain a balanced perspective on life in the United States. We sometimes, I fear, take it for granted, but when you stand back for a moment you see that ours is one of the most wondrous creations in the history of man. We in America have enjoyed more freedom, acquired more wealth and shared more treasure than any other people on the face of the earth.

Sometimes those from other lands see us more clearly than we see ourselves, and -- sometimes -- when we realize how others are treated by their governments, we develop new respect for our own.

Attached to the faded citizenship papers of an immigrant to this country, found when he died, was a well-worn yellow card containing these words:

"Every right bestowed upon you by your free country begets a corresponding duty.  
We are promised the pursuit of happiness. We are not promised happiness.  
We are promised equality of opportunity. We are not promised riches.  
We are promised freedom to speak and to write. We are not promised wisdom.  
We are promised liberty. We are not promised peace."

Yes, there are challenges in being a free people. I was reminded of just how precious our freedom is when Bob and I were in Russia two years ago for the U.S. -



U.S.S.R Trade Conference. During the course of our travels, we talked with some Soviet citizens, members of the Pentecostal faith, who had been living in the basement of the American Embassy for five years. These people, members of the same family in Siberia -- the Vashchenkos -- had taken refuge there after repeatedly being denied requests to leave the country for religious reasons. They were afraid to leave the embassy, to return home or even to walk the streets of their own city. And yet there was no fear in their souls. They were, I found, a people of great faith who had been trying for more than 20 years to emigrate to a land where they could freely practice their religious beliefs.

Gratefully, they have since safely left the Soviet Union, having at last gained exit visas. But I thought as I went to the airport that gray Moscow day to return home, that we often fail to appreciate the freedom we enjoy here in America. When we drove up to the airplane on the runway at the Moscow Airport, with the "United States of America" emblazoned on its side, I just thanked God for our country and her ideals, and her faith which has sustained both for over two hundred stormy years.

I often think of that experience at this time of year. For just a few days ago we celebrated our great national holiday - Thanksgiving. It brings to mind the pilgrims who crossed an unfriendly ocean in a tiny vessel our Coast Guard probably wouldn't even let out of the harbor today. They withstood weather, fought the wilderness and coaxed a few ears of corn out of that rocky Massachusetts earth. And they considered themselves so fortunate, that in their song of Thanksgiving they repeated over and over: "Sing Praises to His Name, He Forgets Not His Own."

Ours is a great country. We are fortunate. And you help keep America rich in the values that count by motivating, training and inspiring new generations of leaders dedicated to the principles of good government. As a public servant, I salute you. As a fellow American, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless you all.

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