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SPEECH BY ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
to the
FLORIDA BLUE KEY HOMECOMING

October 18, 1985
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. DOLE: Thank you so very much for that warm
3 welcome. Bill, thank you for your kind words and welcome
4 introduction.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, what a joy it is to be
6 with you in Gainesville this evening. I am deeply
7 honored to speak at such a distinguished gathering, and I
8 take great pride in being the first woman ever to address
9 the Blue Key here in Florida. For the life of me, I
10 don't know why other women have turned you down for so
11 many years. Let me just say how glad I was to accept.
12 Dan (INAUDIBLE) and all the other students who have put
13 together such a beautiful evening, I just want to tell
14 you I am so impressed with the student body here at the
15 University, and especially with the leaders of Blue Key,
16 who I know are the leaders of tomorrow for our country.

17 (INAUDIBLE) , not only do you have fine leaders
18 in the field, here in Florida, but you also have a great
19 (INAUDIBLE) team in Washington. Senator Paula Hawkins is
20 a champion for those in our society who have been
21 forgotten by others. Lawton Chiles and Paula Hawkins are
22 great supporters of our Coast Guard and our efforts to
23 stop the flow of illicit drug traffic in the United
24 States. Congressmen McCollum, MacKay, Bilirakis, and
25 Pepper really carry the ball for Florida on issues

1 ranging from budgetary matters to concerns of senior
2 citizens and making sure that your transportation systems
3 run smoothly. And let me just say a special hello to my
4 friend Claude Pepper. We have worked together for many
5 years and I am delighted that he is here tonight.

6 I have (INAUDIBLE) with all of these folks on
7 many occasions in the interests of Floridians, and I am
8 delighted to be with Lieutenant Governor Raymond
9 Dixon (phonetic) tonight, standing in for Governor
10 Brandon, who is in Japan. And it is a pleasure to me to
11 be with President Marshall Pizor (phonetic), who is very
12 proud, I'm sure, that the University has recently joined
13 the Association of American Universities.

14 I was concerned, though, ladies and gentlemen,
15 when I read the list of politicians who have preceeded me
16 as keynote speakers, such fine gentlemen as Gary Hart
17 and Walter Mondale. It dawned on me that after speaking
18 at your dinner, their political fortunes seemed to take a
19 turn for the worse. In view of that history, I have
20 suggested to your program committee that Ted Kennedy be
21 invited next year.

22 (Laughter -- applause)

23 Just the other day, I was watching from the
24 Senate gallery when Fritz Mondale said, "Gentlemen, let
25 me tax your memories," and Ted Kennedy jumped to his feet

1 and shouted, (INAUDIBLE -- INAUDIBLE).

2 (Laughter -- applause)

3 What a joy it is, ladies and gentlemen, what a
4 joy to address a bipartisan audience. Now, I must admit,
5 I was a Democrat when I was younger and similar to
6 President Reagan. I was ten years old before they told
7 me there was another party. Of course, when the
8 President was ten, there was no other party.

9 (Laughter -- applause)_

10 And speaking of the Chief Executive, I want you
11 to know, my relationship with the White House couldn't be
12 better. When I have an idea, I take it right to the
13 top. And if Nancy likes it, she gives it to the
14 President.

15 (Laughter -- applause)

16 And by the way, when I was at the Department of
17 Transportation, I knew all about (INAUDIBLE). After all,
18 I've been driving around with one for years. (INAUDIBLE
19 -- INAUDIBLE). But I do hope that (INAUDIBLE) will be
20 here -- or (INAUDIBLE).

21 (Applause -- laughter)

22 You know I have to apologize quickly to my good
23 friend (INAUDIBLE). It was just announced that he would
24 not be here tonight, so therefore I can speak.

25 You know, the spirit of homecoming is like

1 (INAUDIBLE -- INAUDIBLE). I was talking to a friend
2 recently who had been looking forward with great
3 anticipation to his fortieth high school reunion. Yet to
4 my amazement, when he returned he was very disappointed.
5 He was so crestfallen that I asked him what had
6 happened. "Everyone was so bald and fat," he said, "they
7 didn't even recognize me."

8 This, of course, is a big football weekend in
9 Gainesville. But I have a feeling that you didn't invite
10 me to speak as an expert on that subject tonight. After
11 all, I am the one who went to Duke University with Sonny
12 Jurgenson, quarterback of the Duke football team.
13 Fifteen years later, when I was living in Boston, I
14 happened to be down in Washington for a weekend and I met
15 up Sonny again, and as old friends do I asked him a few
16 questions. My first one was, "Sonny, what are you doing
17 now?" There was dead silence. He was quarterback for
18 the Washington Redskins. And believe me, as Secretary of
19 Transportation, I can't promise southwest Louisiana any
20 air safety at all when (INAUDIBLE) takes the field
21 tomorrow.

22 It's interesting to note that the year before
23 Ronald Reagan was elected, the Gators didn't win a single
24 football game. Since 1980, the University of Florida,
25 the Republican Party, and the United States have all been

1 winning. It may be -- (applause)

2 It may be a mere coincidence, but here is one
3 Republican who hopes the Gators never lose. In fact
4 (INAUDIBLE) has the longest unbeaten streak in the
5 nation. How 'bout them Gators.

6 (Applause)

7 I must confess that along with your warm
8 southern hospitality, I have been eager to take part in
9 this year's homecoming because it gives me a chance to
10 reflect. There is an old saying that a day away from
11 Washington is like a week in the country. And it is
12 great to be in Gator country.

13 As columnist James J. Kilpatrick wrote
14 recently, Washington is a great place for doing, acting,
15 achieving, moving and shaking. The city is constantly
16 meeting, voting, hearing, deciding, confirming, passing,
17 rejecting, sustaining, overriding, conniving,
18 quarrelling, plotting, confronting, and joining.
19 Washington, he concluded, is perfect for all of these
20 things, but it is not much of a place for thinking.

21 What better place to do a little thinking than
22 here? On a campus where it is known that so long as
23 books remain open, then minds can never be closed. For a
24 University exists to shelter and encourage the
25 questioners among us. This is no mere assembly line of

1 sheepskins and student loans. Here a perpetual war is
2 waged against ignorance and irrationality. Here higher
3 learning is the (INAUDIBLE) of (INAUDIBLE).

4 (INAUDIBLE) is founded on truth and a
5 conviction that ideas have power. The spirit of a
6 university, like the spirit of our country itself, is
7 hope. What the spirit of hope relies upon, is
8 opportunity and choice. And these are the cords that
9 President Reagan has touched. And, ladies and gentlemen,
10 this is a bipartisan audience, but our President is not
11 running for reelection, and I hope I can make some
12 comments tonight on what I believe history will report
13 about our President.

14 These are the chords, opportunity and choice,
15 that President Reagan has touched. They explain why the
16 nation's oldest president is in harmony with the nation's
17 youngest voters; why more than 60% of all young voters,
18 68% of first time voters, and more than 57% of women
19 voters responded to the President, and why an
20 overwhelming majority of Americans, regardless of age,
21 have reaffirmed his leadership. The people believe, and
22 rightly so, that the President is as deeply committed to
23 these values as they are, and they know by observation
24 that he has the courage to pursue them.

25 In Washington, pursuit of conviction can

1 sometimes be a perilous course. Our government wields
2 great power over individuals and businesses, and those
3 who are affected by government decisions have armies of
4 representatives to do their bidding. It takes courageous
5 dedication to a vision to maintain convictions in such a
6 city. That courage, I believe, is the special pledge of
7 Ronald Reagan.

8 When historians judge this president, I think
9 they will mark these two qualities: his dedication to
10 the spirit of opportunity and choice, and his courage to
11 pursue those policies against the opposition of assembled
12 special interests.

13 Nowhere can these principles be seen more
14 clearly than in his support of our free enterprise
15 system. "The American dream of human progress and
16 freedom and equality of opportunity through private
17 enterprise," the President said, "is still the most
18 revolutionary idea in the world to date. And he
19 correctly adds, "And it's also the most successful."

20 Economic freedom not only serves human needs,
21 economic freedom is a human need. You and I understand
22 that freedom of human action is a seamless fabric. A
23 person's freedom to choose and act in the marketplace is
24 as vital to his well-being as his social freedom, his
25 freedom of conscience.

1 The quest of America to return to basic
2 principles can be seen in the success of the marketplace
3 in these past three years. We have enjoyed, beginning in
4 1982, 34 consecutive months of economic growth. And in
5 the third quarter of this year, the latest economic
6 figures, out just yesterday, show a 3.3% annual rate of
7 growth for our GNP.

8 Converting policies in the programs, those
9 free market principles have been applied to the area of
10 deregulation. I have been exceedingly proud to play a
11 role in that effort. The most stunning success story for
12 transportation consumers has been airline deregulation.

13 Since 1978, air carriers have cut costs and
14 passed on savings to consumers amounting in the first
15 four years, to 10 billion dollars in reduced fares. Many
16 people who thought they would never have the means to fly
17 are in the air today. It has transformed an industry
18 long shielded by the government, to real price
19 competition and new competitors. In fact, air service to
20 Florida is up 72% since deregulation, and 200% here in
21 Gainesville. It suggests the continuing validity of at
22 least one economic theory that a little competition is a
23 good thing, and a lot is better still.

24 Henry Ford, no stranger to innovation, used to
25 compare American business to a chicken, which is never

1 healthier than when it has to scratch around a little
2 for what it gets.

3 The same free market principles that worked
4 such wonders in the air transport market, apply just as
5 validly to other forms of transportation. We continue to
6 remove restraints on the bus and the railroad industries,
7 and we have proposed a total deregulation of the trucking
8 industry. And let me just add that Florida is going to
9 make (INAUDIBLE) in deregulation. And indeed we point to
10 you continually, and we look to your experience. You
11 have indeed been a model for the rest of the nation.

12 Economic transformation is occurring in another
13 important sector of America as well. As a tidal wave of
14 qualified women are coming into the workforce in record
15 numbers, this dramatic change -- what I call the quiet
16 revolution -- offers new choices and new opportunities
17 for women throughout our country. It offers new
18 challenges, too, as women grapple with tough issues,
19 doing what once was considered men's work.

20 I recall very well a day in September of 1962
21 when I entered Harvard Law School. I was one of 25 women
22 in a class of 550, and today that Harvard Law School
23 class is almost 40%. And that has been happening all
24 across our society. I'll never forget that first day,
25 though. One of my male classmates walked up to me and he

1 challenged me that first day at Harvard. He demanded to
2 know what I was doing there. Those words remained
3 emblazoned on my memory. "Don't you realize, Elizabeth,"
4 he said in a tone that could only be described as one of
5 outrage, "Don't you realize that there are men who would
6 give their right arm to be in this law school, men who
7 would use their legal education?" The implication was,
8 of course, that I was taking the place of a man. And,
9 come to think of it, some may have thought the same thing
10 when I was appointed Secretary of Transportation.

11 What a (INAUDIBLE) when all American women are
12 working now. This is a significant shift from just 20
13 years ago when I went to law school. Today, 66% of women
14 who have children between the ages of 6 and 17 are in our
15 work force. That's amazing. This signifies a trend of
16 enormous implications for every home in America. Indeed,
17 ladies and gentlemen, we have been observing a quiet
18 revolution over the last 15 or 20 years.

19 Women in the 1980's comprise a diverse group of
20 varying interests. Some seek a career in business and
21 other professions. Some (INAUDIBLE). Others focus on
22 the home and the family. No hope is superior to
23 another. What is important is that everyone have the
24 right and the opportunity to choose the role that she
25 wishes.

1 The values of opportunity and choice also serve
2 us well in dealing with our most pressing economic
3 problems. Growing budget deficits born of bad spending
4 habits over many, many years. The need to restore the
5 competitiveness of our goods and services abroad. We
6 cannot shrink our way to prosperity by taxing the steam
7 out of our economy by triggering a wave of
8 protectionism. These are backward-looking strategies
9 that we will not pursue. We must expand opportunity and
10 choice by spending less and growing more. And we will
11 pursue these goals until everyone who wants a job has a
12 job, and every sector of our economy, including our hard
13 hit farmers, are participating in economic recovery and
14 expansion.

15 We are all painfully aware of the U.S. balance
16 of trade deficit. That increased to 123 billion dollars
17 in 1984, its highest level since World War II. And we
18 expect the trade deficit to be 150 billion dollars this
19 year. Ironically, this situation results in a large part
20 from our successful domestic economic recovery, which has
21 increased the demand for goods and services both foreign
22 and domestic.

23 In addition, foreign investments in the
24 U.S. economy, combined with high interest rates, has
25 created a very strong dollar. These factors unleash a

1 flood of imports to our shores, while inhibiting export
2 sales priced in U.S. dollars. You have heard the old
3 adage, "You can't win for losing."

4 It appears we can't win for winning. There
5 are, of course, no simple answers to these complex
6 problems. And the answers may not be the same from one
7 generation to the next. I remember once when a friend
8 returned to the college where she had studied and
9 returned to her old philosophy professor. She found to
10 her amazement that the professor was still asking the
11 same questions on his exams as he had asked ten years
12 earlier. "But," she said, "won't the students catch on
13 to this? Won't they know beforehand what's going to be
14 on the test?" "That's not really a problem," the
15 professor said, "It's true that I ask exactly the same
16 questions, but every year I change the answers."

17 Well, the U.S. government is working on a
18 number of fronts to provide the right answers to complex
19 questions on trade and fiscal policy. As the media
20 recounts daily, we are striving to reduce the federal
21 deficit as a means of relieving pressure on our capital
22 markets and the value of the dollar. We are working
23 constructively with developing countries to try to help
24 relieve their financial crises so they can once again
25 become full participants in the world's trading system.

1 Now, let me speak finally about committment to
2 the defense of our freedom abroad. Last week's daring
3 interception of the Achille Lauro hijackers sent a
4 clear message around the world that the United States
5 will not stand still while terrorists hold American
6 citizens hostage. We will use all means necessary to
7 combat terrorism and bring criminals to justice.

8 President Reagan is plain on this. We shall
9 never, never apologize for protecting American citizens,
10 and punishing those who committ crimes against us.

11 In my role as Transportation Secretary, I have
12 reviewed with the President the security of all of major
13 airports into which our air carriers fly. And I assure
14 you that we will continue to monitor the system closely.
15 We will make certain that every foreign airport is
16 maintaining the standards that we have in the United
17 States.

18 At DOT by the way, ladies and gentlemen, I have
19 discovered my own footnote in history. I discovered that
20 I am the first woman to head a branch of the armed
21 forces, as was mentioned earlier, and I am proud that the
22 Coast Guard is within my mandate.

23 The Coast Guard's continuous efforts to assist
24 those in trouble on our seas, and to interdict the flow
25 of illegal into our country, I believe brings pride to

1 all Americans. Earlier this week in nearby Jacksonville,
2 the Coast Guard intercepted a ship containing one of the
3 largest drug seizures in the Coast Guard's history, 80
4 tons of marijuana. This seizure brings the Coast Guard's
5 total to over one and a half million pounds of marijuana
6 seized so far this year. Last year the Coast Guard
7 prevented more than 1.5 billion dollars worth of illegal
8 drugs from entering American cities.

9 In our nation's battle against drugs, I believe
10 that this is a significant contribution, and we are so
11 grateful for the opportunity to help the State of Florida
12 in this very important endeavor.

13 Real solutions to problems such as these can
14 only be achieved by making tough choices. By insisting
15 that government live within its means, by confronting
16 terrorism abroad, by challenging each of us to restore
17 our compassion and renew our moral commitment to one
18 another, by holding up the beacon of opportunity and
19 choice, Ronald Reagan has motivated (INAUDIBLE) no
20 president since John F. Kennedy. The best mark of
21 leadership that this President has established will
22 require future political leaders not merely to piece
23 together a mosaic of political and special interests, but
24 to assemble a constellation of ideas that weave together
25 the aspirations of the people themselves.

1 The greatest among us have always looked to the
2 future unafraid. For we are a people accustomed to large
3 challenges. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We have
4 not trained all this way across the centuries, across the
5 oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies,
6 because we are made of sugar candy." This is especially
7 true of Floridians, who from the days of Ponce de Leon
8 and other explorers in search of the famous city of El
9 Dorado, have had a pioneering dream. Today, in a time
10 of rapid expansion, you seek new ways to marry economic
11 growth to environmental awareness, individual freedom to
12 social conscience.

13 Florida once was America's physical frontier.
14 Today I see Florida on the edge of America's political
15 frontier. Now, as in the days of old, frontiers are made
16 for the challenge they afford. If there are mountains
17 before us, then let us climb them. If there are desert
18 stretches ahead, then let us cross them. If the road is
19 steep and sometimes slippery, then how much more
20 preferable than the well worn paths of yesterday's
21 dogmas. Ours is neither the time, nor is this the place,
22 for men and women with faint hearts, feeble courage, weak
23 committment, or selfish motives. We will pursue our
24 tradition, and together we will complete it. Our country
25 deserves it, history demands it, and our children will

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reward it.

Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the speech was concluded.)