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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
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May I begin by saying how pleased I am to be back in Iowa -- America's breadbasket -- home of the Iowa Hawkeyes, the Number One College Football Team in the Nation --and just about the best place I know to get away from the headlines, hype and hysteria of Washington, D.C.!

No one can visit this state without experiencing for himself some of that hospitality made famous by Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man." "You really ought to give Iowa a try," sang the good citizens of River City to Professor Harold Hill. And he did. And soon, he found himself unable to leave this magnificent landscape of corn and cattle, of Grant Wood paintings and Wells Fargo Wagons. The barbershop quartets may be scarcer now, but Iowans remain just as generous, just as warmhearted. And I'm glad to be back.

I think of a man who was born in Iowa and went on to serve his country and all mankind as the Great Engineer, and the even greater humanitarian. For many years, Herbert Hoover's name was linked with hardship instead of hope. Today, we remember Iowa's most famous native son as a healer of hurts and a feeder of children. We recall his enduring Quaker faith and his abiding prairie virtues. We think of a lonely orphan boy, who rose through his own initiative to become one of the most influential figures of the twentieth century.

Hoover spelled out some principles which are timely in their value and universal in their application. "A nation is strong or weak," he said. "It thrives or perishes upon what it believes to be true. If our youth is rightly instructed in the faith of our fathers; in the traditions of our country; in the dignity of each individual man, then our power will be stronger than any weapon of destruction that man can devise."

As Republicans, we might do well to re-examine what it is we believe, what we hold onto in this fast spinning world, what we assert every time we plow a furrow or say a prayer or cast a ballot or listen to those seventy-six trombones which forever echo above the rooftops of River City. Tonight, we might well acknowledge that we live in a time of constant change. Times of change are times of challenge. But they are also times of profound opportunity for those with the vision to see and the dedication to apply. Opportunity is what our party is all about: the opportunity to live as you choose, free from the dictates of government, and yet bound up with the conscience of a caring community.

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The opportunity to test oneself on the running track of life, knowing that competition is the key that unlocks every closed door, levels every artificial barrier, overcomes every obstacle and surmounts every difficulty. It is a confident people who believe in their own ability to compete. It is a self-assured people who extend a helping hand to others. It is a prosperous people who give generously of their bounty. Such are the people of Iowa, never more so than in times of stress.

In "The Music Man," Professor Hill made a big splash with the people of River City by persuading them that they had trouble. Well, there are still troubles in Iowa. These days, Iowa's troubles go to the heart of her existence and the soul of her prosperity.

From the soil of Iowa come the grain and cattle, the hogs and soybeans which feed a hungry world. Thanks to a rare breed of men and women, spiritually equipped to love the land from which many derive your living, this country can make good on her ancient promise to fill empty stomachs half a world away. Thanks to the miracles of modern science and agriculture, Iowa is one of this nation's top exporters of farm commodities.

And yet not even that remarkable accomplishment is enough to sustain the three quarters of this state's population which depends for its own livelihood on the good health of American agriculture.

I know that land values have dropped almost 50 percent in Iowa in the last four years --30 percent in 1984 alone. I know that commodity prices are low -- below the loan rate. I know that every farmer's problem is the problem of the local machinery dealer, the tire salesman, the hardware store owner.

There once was a time when the farmer might have tried to get by on faith, hope and parity. But times have changed. Nations evolve. What worked for our fathers and mothers might no longer work for us, let alone for our children. Today, there are people in pain, because they fear the loss of all they have known and loved. There is no reason to deny that fact. Neither is there any reason to get partisan about it. There is no Republican or Democratic way to plant a crop, sow a seed, raise cattle or slaughter hogs. No party has a monopoly on compassion, nor a patent pending on wisdom. But our party, if it believes in anything, believes in the dignity of individual men, women and children. That dignity is upheld whenever national leaders arise to meet their responsibilities, and raise the spirits of the people around them.

Stop and think for a moment. Five years ago, our entire country was in both economic shambles and psychological doldrums. Double digit inflation, interest rates the highest since the Civil War, and the economy sputtering. Lowest annual rate of growth of any major industrial power. All that is changing across the country.

Republicans have cut inflation by two-thirds. We have held the inflation rate at or below four percent for three consecutive years. We have cut interest rates by more than half. Since 1981, over 7 million more people are working. In September, a record 107.5 million Americans held jobs.

What's needed is self-evident. No one has been more eloquent in making the case for some budgetary common sense than Chuck Grassley. Every Iowan can be proud to have such a man representing this state in Washington. Indeed, it seems to me as if Chuck was onto something early -- that if you tell the truth to the American people, that if you level with them, ask some sacrifice now in order to sustain prosperity for their children and their children's children -- then their will, their drive, their determination, cannot be held back.

And I want to applaud the Republican leadership of the Senate in making a tough decision on the Balanced Budget Deficit Control Act of 1985, better known as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings proposal. This can help deflate the deficit, thus delivering the best possible break for farmers: lower interest rates and reduced dollar strength -- a real boost for exports.

For all parts of our economy, our best hope lies in sustainable economic growth, expanded markets overseas, a fair trade policy which will tolerate no special favors and no government barriers. Free trade is a two way street, not a one-way alley. President Reagan recently appointed me to his Strike Force on Trade. We are uncovering unfair trade practices used against the United States and we are developing strategies to counter and eliminate them. We're identifying barriers to American exports, as well as unfair export subsidies. We're going to be tough. In transportation services, we continually threaten sanctions until they stop their discrimination against our carriers. As the President said, "We will not stand by and watch American businesses fail because of unfair trading practices abroad. We will not stand by and watch American workers lose their jobs because other nations do not play by the rules."

We can shrink the size of our federal government -- so as to expand the range of economic opportunities. We can press ahead with innovations all along the line, in government, in business, in agriculture alike -- and transportation will help to lead the way.

Right here in Iowa, over the past three years, I have allocated almost \$808 million for highway and bridge construction. This has meant jobs in the construction industry. The state has obligated all of its Interstate construction funds. Iowa is close to completing its Interstate system. Only a small portion of I-380, which is now under construction, remains unfinished.

I am very sensitive to the importance of transportation to the farm economy. I want your thoughts and concerns, and believe me, your Congressional team is as fine as they come. These gentlemen here tonight

keep me fully informed -- they present Iowa's needs most effectively. Farmers have always fought for regulatory freedom in the trucking industry and that is one of the battles I'm waging today. I have recently asked the Congress for total economic deregulation of the trucking industry. Economic deregulation today means more carriers competing, producing better prices and more services for shippers and therefore more bargains for consumers.

Ladies and gentlemen, the past five years have taught us there are new and better ways. We've learned that most events are not beyond our control. Our energy supplies are not doomed to wither away. Our people are not without a future and we must not be afraid to try. "The Republic is a dream," wrote the great prairie poet, Carl Sandburg. "Nothing happens unless first a dream." As a nation of dreamers, we were not meant to be victims of fate, but masters of destiny.

The Republican party is a growing party all across America because it favors growth and opportunity for all Americans. And Americans of all walks of life are finding a new home in the Republican party.

Last fall, the American people set the course for this country by overwhelmingly endorsing our party's message of hope and opportunity. That's right -- it was a message they voted for -- as well as the messenger. Our message was bold enough, believable enough to attract a solid majority of women, a sizeable number of older voters, and over 60 percent of the young. Recently, I had the privilege of meeting at the White House with about 200 former Democratic legislators who now have joined our party proving, in their case, that it's better to fight and switch!

In the 1984 Presidential election, the American people affirmed the direction in which this country is headed. They signaled a fundamental realignment of political loyalties which has brought us closer than at any time in the last half century to true, majority party status. The tide of affairs is indeed at flood stage. But let's not deceive ourselves. In politics as elsewhere, those who rest on their laurels soon find them pretty uncomfortable. The Republican Party opened a lot of doors last November. Now it's up to us to walk through them.

The door has opened especially wide for women. A "quiet revolution" has occurred over recent years in this country, with a tidal wave of qualified women entering the work force. Last year, the Democrats took the women's vote for granted, believing that the so-called "gender gap" and a woman on the ticket would cause women in droves to pull the Democratic lever. At our national convention, I predicted that a majority of women would reject their message of special interest promises and join us in our message of opportunity for all Americans. I had no crystal ball in Dallas, just faith that American women are thinking women, that it would be an insult to the intelligence of women everywhere to think they would vote based on gender. When the polls closed, a solid majority of women had voted Republican. I must admit, the Democrats were right -- there was a gender gap -- and they had it!

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a building in Washington, located at 13th and C Streets, and it's home to 2,000 federal workers who do nothing but let out Uncle Sam's belt. It costs us \$200 million each year just to operate the Bureau of Public Debt, to calculate interest and calculate principle, to compile daily reports to send to Congress and remind us all of the enormous hangover we're suffering after fifty years of spend now, pay later, government.

As I mentioned earlier, in recent weeks, the Senate has moved to attack the \$211.9 billion deficit at its roots, and to require significant, across the board, cuts. Some say that this plan will put poor old Uncle Sam in a straight jacket. I say the alternative is to put the average American farmer and worker in a noose. For if we fail to apply self discipline now, as part of an overall package which will eliminate the deficit by 1991, then we might just as well throw in the towel, cash in our chips, and throttle our economy. You know and I know that the best farm policy is the best trade policy is the best interest rate policy is the best fiscal policy... namely, to bring government spending under control, bring the inflated dollar down to earth, bring exports back to kilter and bring prosperity back to every Iowa farm.

It's hard work to make a living from the land. It's just as hard to make government live within its own means. If we have a single unifying goal in these last years of the twentieth century, if we as Republicans embrace any guiding creed, any larger vision, it is to instill in the governing process some of the discipline and sacrifice, the ingenuity and imagination which life on the farm requires. A country only moves forward when it's pushed. This evening, I ask you to join together to push America forward to realize all of which she is capable, all which God intended her to be.

I am reminded of the story of the Washington cab driver who took some tourists past the National Archives Building, where words carved over the door read, "What is Past is Prologue." A little girl asked what that meant. "That means," said the cabbie, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

Ladies and gentlemen, we ain't seen nothing yet! Together, we can redeem the promise we made to one another in 1980, to give America back to the American people, to restore her will, to raise her spirits, renew her sense of destiny and reach out to all those who have yet to share in her abundance.

From this point on, which will it be for us as a party? A time of uncertainty -- or a time to seize our window of opportunity -- to solidify our gains and move into the future with a solid majority?

The future of our party and our nation begins here and now. Sometimes it seems as if the challenges are insurmountable -- it's at times like that we should think of Isaiah. "Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not

be weary. They shall walk and not faint." Ours is not the time nor is this the place for men and women with faint hearts, feeble courage, weak commitment or selfish motives. Together, we can pursue our vision, and with the help of Almighty God, we can complete the task. Our people and our party deserve it, history demands it, and our children will reward it.

Thank you very much.

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