

Contact: Jennifer Hillings
Tele.: (202) 366-4570

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
OHIO STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING
AKRON, OHIO
JULY 30, 1986

Thank you Michael for that very kind introduction. I want to congratulate you on the fine job you are doing as state Chair. I'm so pleased to see County Commission Virgil Brown, member of the St. Lawrence Seaway Advisory Board. Bob Dole has worked with many of you in the Republican vineyards through the years he served with Martha Moore when he was Republican National Chairman.

Ohio has a tradition of tremendous Republican leadership -- we all remember with great admiration and appreciation the superb job Ray Bliss did for our party here in Ohio and as National Chairman of the Republican National Committee. I'm so pleased that Ellen Bliss is with us tonight. Along with National Committeeman -- and soon to be, again governor -- Jim Rhodes and National Committeewoman Martha Moore, your leadership in the Ohio GOP has set an example for Republicans all across this country. Your service to our party and the nation represents a personal commitment which stands as a model for all of us.

And certainly here in Ohio, we have a formidable ticket to run with -- and win with -- in November. Jim Rhodes is a man of a real honor of integrity with the strong backbone to stand up to the tough issues, and experience, including 16 years as your Governor. Ohio needs Jim Rhodes' leadership now more than ever. He has the ideas, the skills to bring back to Ohio what this State needs most -- business and jobs for the citizens of this State. I urge you to pull out all the stops to ensure that the Ohio Statehouse returns to Republican control in November. To the hands of a most capable former inhabitant.

You can also be very proud of your outstanding Senate candidate -- Tom Kindness. In his six term in Congress, Tom has a proven record of fiscal responsibility. He's consistently voted to hold the line on government spending and reduce the tax burden on the American people. He has been a strong advocate of the Balanced Budget Amendment, which, incidentally, failed by one vote in the Senate this year. I can tell you how disappointed my husband was that vote came up short. If Tom Kindness had been your Senator, the Amendment would have passed. That's how important one vote is

in the Senate, and that's why Ohio needs a Senator who supports what President Reagan, you and I stand for. Tom will speak for Ohio in the Senate just as forcefully as he does today in the House.

Bob McEwen is with us tonight -- it's a pleasure working together as he's key member of the House Public Works and Transportation committee. Bob's a very effective voice for the 6th District. The fact that we now have such fine leaders is due in no small part to those who give to the political process their heart, as well as their material resources -- who share their time, their energy, their commitment. And we know that's what it takes to win elections.

I'm looking at just such a gathering tonight, and if I impart nothing else, I want to express the personal gratitude I feel, along with so many others in the Reagan Administration, for all you do to make what we do possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, you do it again and again, for your party and your country. And I'm delighted to be able to thank you personally as we move along in yet another election year.

America in 1986 is experiencing a different kind of miracle -- the rebirth of our economy and our national spirit. Five and a half years ago, when Ronald Reagan became president, our country was in both economic shambles and psychological doldrums. Double digit inflation, as you well know, interest rates the highest since the Civil War, and the lowest rate of growth in productivity of any major industrial nation. All that has changed.

Our party is a growing party because we've restored hope to the vocabulary of American life. Events are not beyond our control. Our energy supplies are not doomed to wither away. Our people are not without a future. For we were not meant to be victims of fate, but masters of destiny.

I won't forget a Cabinet meeting at which I spelled out the political costs of pursuing a line of policy. The President looked at me and thanked me for doing my job, trying to protect him insofar as I could. He said something that goes to the heart of our mission. "Elizabeth, forget what's the best thing to do politically. What do you think is the right thing to do?"

It wasn't easy to bring inflation under control in two years instead of ten -- it was the right thing to do...we Republicans did it!

It wasn't easy to create 10 million new jobs, almost half filled by working women -- it was the right thing to do...we Republicans did it!

It wasn't easy to cut taxes across the board so all Americans could keep more of what they earned -- it was the right thing to do...Republicans did it!

It wasn't easy to strike back at the terrorist regime of Muammar Kaddafi --it was the right thing to do...our Republican president did it!

We've done a lot. Much remains. For the sake of America, it's not whether our new direction should be carved in stone, but how. It's not whether we should reduce the federal deficit, but how.

We've charted a course: make taxes simpler so that all Americans know that they are paying their fair share; eliminate the complexities that confuse us; get rid of the preferences that enrage many of us; and most of all, achieve fairer taxes. The Senate has done a tremendous job in pushing meaningful tax reform through, and we anxiously await Congress' agreement on a final bill which will reach these goals.

In transportation, I'm attempting this year to get the federal government out of the railroad business, out of running airports, oil spill liability. Truck deregulation. Safety across all modes -- and all out war on drugs -- 60 percent -- \$100 billion. Drug free transportation.

We've got some big challenges ahead of us, some tough choices. With them comes the opportunity to put our stamp on history. Within our grasp are permanent solutions to problems that have plagued us for decades.

In November of 1984, the American people set the course for this country by overwhelmingly endorsing our party's message of hope and opportunity. The message was bold enough, believable enough to attract a solid majority of women, a significant number of minority voters and over 60 percent of the young.

In the 1984 election, the American people affirmed the direction in which this country is headed, and they signalled a fundamental realignment of political loyalties which has brought us closer than at any time in the last half century to true majority 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 themselves pretty uncomfortable. Ronald Reagan opened up a lot of doors in 1984. Now it's up to us to walk through them.

Which brings me to the 1986 election. For the Republican resurgence to continue, for economic expansion and deficit reduction to continue, it is absolutely crucial that Republicans maintain control of the U.S. Senate. If we fail, it will bring about profound changes in the Senate; changes that none of us want to see. I heard one Senator say recently on the Senate floor, "Gentlemen, let me tax your memories." Ted Kennedy leapt to his feet and said, "Why haven't I thought of that before?" If we lose control of the Senate, Ted Kennedy becomes Chairman of the Labor and Human Resources

Committee. Surely we must fight to ensure that such drastic changes don't occur. Once again, let me remind you that here in Ohio you can do a great service for the President and the party by pulling out all the stops to elect Tom Kindness. (And, may I add, a great service for our Senate Majority Leader.)

And let me suggest that it is in our power to gain a Republican majority in both Houses of Congress in the not-too-distant future. It's incredible that in the 1984 congressional races, Republican candidates for contested House seats won nearly half a million more votes than their Democrat counterparts. However, these Republicans won 31 fewer contested seats than the Democrats. In California alone, Democrats won 27 out of 45 seats -- 60 percent -- even though we Republicans actually received more votes statewide than the Democrats. This inequity clearly resulted from unfair partisan gerrymandering and the creation of Congressional districts following the 1980 census.

Here in Northeast Ohio, we have a number of targeted Congressional races this year. We have a golden opportunity to pick up a seat right here in the 14th District -- and in Lynn Slayby, we have a great candidate. And Lynn has earned a reputation as an outstanding prosecuting attorney, a law and order prosecutor -- tough, bright, highly competent. And nearby, Ralph Regula is running for reelection in the 16th District, Gary Suhadolnik is gearing up in the 19th District, Margaret Muhler is running in the 11th and Bill Neilson is going all out in the 13th District. Let's give these candidates the support they deserve and regain control of the Ohio House Delegation.

Retain control of the Senate elect more Republicans to the House; and we're embarked on a long-range effort to increase our strength in state legislatures and governors' mansions in 1986, 1988, 1990 and beyond. In 1984, in states like Texas and North Carolina, we showed how much could be achieved when a lot of people, of all ages and backgrounds, pooled their idealism and sacrificed their shoe leather to persuade their friends and neighbors that Republican ideas should not be restricted to the White House. Indeed, there isn't a single state in the Union that we can't win -- nor a single state the Democrats can take for granted.

In statewide races, in addition to Jim Rhodes and Tom Kindness, Robert Taft Jr., for Lieutenant Governor, Vincent Campanella for Secretary of State, Jeff Jacobs for Treasurer, Barry Levey for Attorney General and Ben Rose for Auditor deserve an all-out effort. What an outstanding statewide ticket!

In State Court races, Tom Moyer will make an excellent Chief Justice, Justice Robert Holmes has served the Court and the people of Ohio well and deserves another term, and Akron's own Judge Joyce George deserves full support for Associate Justice.

And here in the Akron area, let's also give our strong support to Tom Watkins, Roy Ray, Scott Oelslager and all Republican state legislative candidates to keep the majority in the State Senate and increase our ranks in the State House of Representatives.

During the past five years, our party has established a benchmark of leadership that will require those who follow not merely to piece together a mosaic of political and special interests, but to assemble a constellation of ideas that weave together the aspirations of the people themselves. And to get the job done, we must renew our moral commitment to that spirit of service and selflessness that "flows like a deep and mighty river through the history of our nation."

Recently, a Washington cab driver was taking some tourists past the National Archives Building, where words carved over the door read, "What is Past is Prologue." The little girl in the family asked her father what it meant. Before he could reply, the cabbie said, "Honey, that means you ain't seen nothing yet!"

Ladies and gentlemen, I suggest that we ain't seen nothing yet! Together, we can secure the promise we made back 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 this I think of President Reagan's comment about his early days as Governor of California. "Each morning began," he said, "with someone standing before my desk describing yet another disaster. The feeling of stress became unbearable. I had the urge to look over my shoulder for someone I could pass the problem to. One day it came to me that I was looking in the wrong direction. I looked up instead of back. I'm still looking up. I couldn't face one day in this office if I didn't know I could ask God's help." Let us never forget the source of our strength and our courage.

Ours is neither the time nor is this the place for men or women with faint hearts, feeble courage, weak commitment or selfish motives. We will pursue our vision, and complete the task. Our party deserves it, history demands it, and our children will reward it.

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