

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
POLK COUNTY LOCAL PICNIC  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
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What a joy to be with you this evening in the hub of the Golden Circle. I want to commend Sally Novetzke for the tremendous job she is doing as State Party Chairman. Our party is alive and well here in Polk County, thanks to the outstanding leadership of Darlene Blake and Kasey Kiplinger -- and all of you who give so untiringly to the political process.

The fact we now have such fine leaders in government 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 is 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 gratitude of 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...As we move along in yet another election year, I'm delighted to be able to thank you personally.

From the soil of Iowa come grain and soybeans, the hogs and cattle which feed a hungry world. 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. And we've just learned that farm imports exceeded farm exports for the first time in recorded history, moving from a monthly trade surplus of \$180 million in April to a deficit of \$349 million in May. This appears to be an aberration as we switch gears to a new farm bill. I know that land values have dropped 59 percent in Iowa in the last five years -- 21 percent during last year alone. I know that commodity prices are low -- sometimes below loan rates.

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 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 corner on wisdom. But our party, if it believes in anything, believes in the dignity of individual men, women and children. For all parts of our economy, our best hope lies in sustainable economic growth, expanded markets overseas, fair trade policy which will tolerate no special favors and no government barriers.

Bob Dole sent a letter to the President yesterday suggesting six ways that agricultural exports could be pursued more aggressively. He has requested a meeting with the President to review these ideas in the near future. But five and half years ago when Ronald Reagan became President, our entire 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.

I remember a recent Cabinet meeting where I laid out a particular political position...

-- 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 cut taxes across the board so all Americans could keep more of what they earned -- it was the right thing to do... We Republicans did it!

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

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

Right here in Iowa, over the past three years, I have allocated in excess of \$800 million for highway and bridge construction. This has meant jobs in the construction industry.

And I'm very sensitive to the importance of transportation to the farm economy. Farmers have always fought for regulatory freedom in the trucking industry and that's one of the battles I'm waging today. I've asked Congress for total economic deregulation of the trucking industry -- and that means lower prices for shippers and more services.

We've done a lot. Much remains. We have the opportunity to get the government out of functions that belong in the private sector. The idea of "privitization" -- an awkward word at best -- was first used by Margaret Thatcher in Great Britain. The time has come to use this splendid concept in America.



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. And the Senate this past week made enormous progress in reaching this goal.

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 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 themselves pretty darn uncomfortable.

Which brings me to the 1986 election. 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 could become Chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee. You can do a great service to our party and our nation by working very hard to ensure that Chuck Grassley remains in the Senate. (And, I may add, you'll do a great service to our majority leader.)

And, you know, it's in our power to gain a Republican majority in both Houses of Congress in the not-too-distant future. It's incredible that of all the votes cast for contested House seats in the 1984 Congressional races, Republican House candidates won nearly half a million more votes than their counterparts. But these Republicans won 31 fewer contested seats than the Democrats. This inequity clearly resulted from unfair partisan gerrymandering in the creation of Congressional districts following the 1980 Census. Here in the fourth district, you can help change this depressing situation by electing Bob Lockard to Congress this fall.

We Republicans are indeed embarked on a long-range effort to increase our strength in state legislatures and governors' mansions in 1986, 1988, 1990 and beyond.



Pull out all the stops for the entire statewide ticket this November -- Chuck Grassley, Terry Branstad, Joan Lipsky for Lieutenant Governor, Polk County's own Dawn Roberts; Jim Davis for Attorney General and Jack Nystrom for State Treasurer; Thatcher Johnson, Secretary of Agriculture and Dick Johnson for State Auditor.

And here in Polk County, there's a golden opportunity to gain control over the county courthouse this year -- Maryann Roberts for first district county supervisor; Mike Carley for second district county supervisor; Ted Ohmart for fifth district county supervisor, Jim Major for Treasure, and Keith Woodard for Recorder.

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 tourist 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, most definitely our hard hit farmers.

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 and it would be given." 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, complete the task. Our party and our people deserve it, history demands it, and our children will reward it.