

news

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DOLE TESTIFIES TO BEGIN PLATFORM HEARINGS

MIAMI BEACH, FLA. -- In a statement prepared for delivery before the Resolutions Committee of the Republican National Convention today, Republican National Chairman Sen. Bob Dole said that if the Democrat candidate wants to run on the Democrat Platform which more than doubles federal spending, "he must also more than double federal revenue. And so he must also more than double the personal income tax rate."

Dole charged, "The Democrats have carefully chosen many responsible Nixon Administration programs of which the American people most strongly approve and inserted them in their platform."

Despite the parroting of Nixon policies, the basic differences between the two major parties are evident in the manner in which the Democrats "imposed a superstructure of sanity and responsiveness -- of Nixon programs -- to cover over their own radically inappropriate and disjointed set of proposals -- the Democrat Platform" which would increase federal spending more than \$300 billion, Dole said.

Though many of the Democrat Platform planks are Nixon proposals, Dole noted, "The Democrats will talk about them now as if they were their own -- in spite of the fact that the Democrat Congress has failed to pass -- or even consider -- most of these programs as put forward by the President."

The business of drafting platforms, he said, "despite the lesson of the Democrat Convention -- is serious business." They are taken seriously by those who draft them, the delegates who adopt them and the candidates who run on them, Dole said.

The members of the 1972 Republican Platform Committee, Dole said, "realize the importance of their responsibility, and know full well that the product of their labor will be a major input not only in the 1972 campaign, but as a general guide for policy decisions which the Administration will make over the next four years."

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE,
CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
BEFORE THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE OF THE
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

We sometimes hear the argument that there are not significant differences between the two major parties. Some have described the parties as "tweedle dee and tweedle dum." The charge is that they both basically say the same thing to people, and that they do not provide any meaningful alternatives on issues of public policy.

While I would be the first to admit that this country has never had the doctrine-based political parties that one finds in other parts of the world -- and I might add that it is just as well that we don't; nevertheless, I believe that there are some very basic differences between the two parties.

1972 -- THE CLEAREST CHOICE OF THE CENTURY

These differences are going to be especially clear in the 1972 election. As the President pointed out in a recent press conference, there are significant issues which divide the opposition and the Administration. The choice could well be the clearest this century. There are honest differences of opinion on foreign and domestic policy and the major defense issues.

The American people deserve a choice and we can insure that this choice will be provided in two ways. First, the candidate that the party offers for the Presidency, and second, the platform on which that candidate runs.

These will really be the essence of the campaign, the differences between our candidate and theirs and between our platform and theirs.

I would hasten to point out, however, that as between platforms some striking -- if not somewhat amusing -- similarities will emerge. As the respected economist, Alice Rivlin, wrote recently in the Washington Post, "And strangely ringing through it [Democrat Platform] all is the voice of Richard Nixon."

DEMOCRAT PLATFORM USURPS NIXON GOALS

The Democrat Platform tries to usurp numerous policy goals and concepts which have been initiated by the Nixon Administration. It supports revenue sharing, for example.

And it admits the need for welfare reform.

It favors the development of a constitutional means of assisting non-public schools.

It puts the Democrat Party on record in favor of study to find alternative means of raising revenues and thereby relieving the local property tax burden.

And it favors the reorganization and consolidation of categorical grant programs.

These are just a few examples of how the Democrats have carefully chosen many responsible Nixon Administration programs of which the American people most strongly approve and inserted them in their platform.

Always long on defining high-sounding goals and ideals, the Democrats have always been notoriously short in coming up with effective ways to achieve them and so, as if to prove my point, this year, they have simply appropriated much of Richard Nixon's program and called it their own.

UNDER SURFACE SIMILARITY -- STRONG DIFFERENCE REMAINS

At the outset of my remarks, I asserted that there was a large difference between the two parties and I recognize that now I seem to be undermining my own case by citing the similarities.

That contradiction, however, is more apparent than real. For it is precisely the way in which they did it that counts. It is the way in which they have added the sound programs of Richard Nixon to what otherwise would be just a compendium of something-for-everybody give-away schemes and other bankrupt Democrat notions of governmental policy that demonstrates one of the chief differences in the way the two parties approach the business of government.

Because the nation's mayors approve revenue sharing, for example, the Democrats added it to their platform.

DEMOCRAT PLATFORM BELIES RECORD OF DEMOCRAT CONGRESS

Because the ideas of property tax relief and of welfare reform and of grant consolidation are popular ideas, they were added to the Democrat Platform. They were added to the Platform -- and the Democrats will talk about them now, as if they were their own -- in spite of the fact that the Democrat Congress has failed to pass -- or even to consider -- most of these programs as put forward by the President.

DEMOCRATS COVER UP OWN PROGRAM

But in adding them the Democrats took nothing out. In adding them, they imposed a super-structure of sanity and responsiveness -- of Nixon programs -- to cover over their own radically inappropriate and disjointed set of proposals -- the Democrat Platform.

The net result of all of this is a Democrat Platform that proposes net spending increases of more than \$300 billion over and above existing federal spending levels. As to the problem of where this money will come from, the Democrat standard answer is "to take it out of defense and from big business and the rich."

No one has asked them yet, however, what they will do after they use up the \$32 billion that their candidate proposes as a defense budget cut and the \$19 billion that their candidate proposes as a corporate tax increase. That adds up to only almost 1/6 of the total additional monies that they propose -- in their Platform -- to spend.

Where would they get the rest?

You and I know where that money would have to come from. It would have to come from you -- and me -- and the rest of American wage earners -- who would find their taxes increased two or three fold, under a Democrat administration trying to adhere to that Platform.

(MORE)

An average American family of four making \$12,500 a year, under a Democrat administration, could look forward to a tax increase of something more than \$3,000 per year. For a family of four earning \$20,000 the increase would be in the neighborhood of \$7,000 a year. And in spite of their candidate's protestations to the contrary, under a Democrat administration, a family of four earning \$9,000 a year could expect a tax increase well over \$1,000. That is the simple mathematics of the matter. No matter what their candidate may say, if he wants to more than double federal spending, he must also more than double federal revenue.

And so he must also more than double the personal income tax rate.

ABOUT SERIOUS BUSINESS

The point I would like to make is that platforms -- and the drafting of platforms -- is serious business. The lesson of the Democrat Convention a month ago and the platform it produced may moot that point a little bit but nonetheless it remains a valid one. Platforms are important. They are taken seriously by those who draft them. They are taken seriously by the delegates who adopt them and they are taken seriously by the candidates who run on them.

I hope that the platforms of both parties are widely distributed and read, and I hope that the voters will use them in determining their choice for President.

I know that the members of the 1972 Republican Platform Committee realize the importance of their responsibility, and know full well that the product of their labor will be a major input not only in the 1972 campaign, but as a general guide for policy decisions which the Administration will make over the next four years.

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