

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

September 16, 1993

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE WHITE HOUSE NAFTA CEREMONY ON TUESDAY, WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON THREW HIS FULL SUPPORT BEHIND PASSING THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. HE WAS IN NEW ORLEANS YESTERDAY SPEAKING ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF NAFTA. I HOPE THAT EVERY DAY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FINAL VOTE ON NAFTA, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL HEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TRADE AGREEMENT.

THE ESSENCE OF THIS TRADE AGREEMENT IS JOBS FOR THE UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT. THEY ARE LOOKING AT THE FACTS AND MAKING THEIR OWN JUDGMENT. I HAVE RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF REQUESTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY FOR THE DOCUMENT PUT OUT BY AMBASSADOR MICKEY KANTOR, OUR U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, RESPONDING TO SOME OF THE WILD CHARGES ABOUT NAFTA. THE WORD IS GETTING OUT THAT THIS TRADE AGREEMENT IS A WIN-WIN DEAL FOR THE U.S. AND MEXICO.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND, AS PRESIDENT FORD REMINDED US AT TUESDAY'S CEREMONY, THAT THIS NATION HAS ALREADY BEEN DOWN THE ROAD OF ERECTING A PROTECTIVE RING AT THE BORDER, KEEPING FOREIGN PRODUCTS OUT, AND IN THE PROCESS DENYING OURSELVES ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS. THIS ILL-ADVISED POLICY

CONTRIBUTED MIGHTILY TO THE LENGTH AND DEPTH OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION. WE REVERSED THAT POLICY AFTER WORLD WAR TWO, AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY OF TODAY IS A DIRECT PRODUCT OF THAT POST-WAR COMMITMENT TO OPEN MARKETS, LOWER TARIFFS AND DISMANTLE TRADE BARRIERS.

NOW WE ARE AT ANOTHER CROSSROADS. WE CAN ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF GREATER TRADE, PROSPERITY, AND OPEN MARKETS, OR WE CAN RESERVE FOR OURSELVES THE MEAGER CERTAINTY OF STAGNATION.

NAFTA IS A GOOD DEAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES LIKE MANY OF YOU. FOR A LONG TIME, MEXICO HAS HAD RULES REQUIRING A COMPANY TO LOCATE IN MEXICO IF IT WANTED TO SELL THERE. FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, OF COURSE, THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THOSE RULES WILL DISAPPEAR UNDER NAFTA. WHEN TRADE BARRIERS COME DOWN UNDER NAFTA, SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN WILL FIND THEY CAN EXPORT TO MEXICO, AND THEY WILL FIND A MEXICAN MARKET HUNGRY FOR U.S.-MADE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. MORE EXPORTS TO MEXICO MEANS MORE JOBS AND GROWTH HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.