

The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/16/76 - Remarks During Whistlestop Tour in Illinois” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ...

COMING DOWN HERE FROM SPRINGFIELD TO CARLINVILLE

ON THE TRAIN REMINDED ME OF WATCHING MR. CARTER'S

CAMPAIGN ... EVERY FEW MINUTES YOU SEE ANOTHER SWITCH.

ACTUALLY, I HEAR THAT MR. CARTER IS PLANNING

ANOTHER WHISTLESTOP TOUR ... THIS TIME HE'S GOING TO PUT

ENGINES ON BOTH ENDS OF THE TRAIN, SO HE CAN CHANGE

DIRECTIONS QUICKER.

SPRINGFIELD

-1-

TWO OF MY CHILDREN, JACK AND SUSAN, WERE
CAMPAIGNING HERE IN SPRINGFIELD RECENTLY ... THEY
SURE LIKED YOU. I HOPE YOU LIKED THEM.

IN 1852, ABRAHAM LINCOLN ADDRESSED A CLUB HERE
IN SPRINGFIELD TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE
"SHIRKS AND QUIRKS" OF HIS OPPONENT. I COME
HERE TO DO THE SAME.

LET ME GIVE YOU JUST ONE EXAMPLE:

MR. CARTER SAID, "DURING THIS CURRENT YEAR WE ARE SHIPPING TO SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT 7.5 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ARMS."

THE TRUTH IS THAT THIS YEAR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ARMS SHIPPED TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS 8.4 MILLION DOLLARS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT'S MORE THAN 99 AND 44 ONE-HUNDREDTHS PERCENT WRONG. THAT KIND OF DISTORTION OF THE FACTS JUST WON'T FLOAT.

ALTON

-1-

ABE LINCOLN DEBATED HIS POLITICAL OPPONENT STEPHEN DOUGLAS

HERE IN ALTON IN THEIR FINAL ROUND. THEY TALKED ABOUT

IMPORTANT ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE. THAT'S EXACTLY

WHAT I INTEND TO DO IN OUR FINAL DEBATE IN WILLIAMSBURG,

VIRGINIA NEXT WEEK. I HOPE YOU'LL BE WATCHING AND LISTENING.

LET ME GIVE YOU JUST ONE EXAMPLE:

MR. CARTER CLAIMED, "WE ARE NOT RESPECTED
ANYMORE."

I WONDER WHO HE'S TALKING TO. IT ISN'T
PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE OF IRELAND. HE SAID, ". . . THE
TIES THAT WERE FORGED BETWEEN US . . . ARE TODAY STRONGER
AND FIRMER THAN EVER."

HE ISN'T TALKING TO PRESIDENT GISCARD d'ESTAING OF FRANCE WHO SAID, "I DO NOT THINK THERE HAS EVER BEEN A TIME WHEN CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN MORE FREQUENT, CONSULTATION MORE SUSTAINED AND COOPERATION MORE GOODWILLED."

HE CERTAINLY ISN'T TALKING TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WHO SAID, "AT NO TIME
DURING THE PAST THIRTY YEARS HAVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR
COUNTRIES BEEN CLOSER AND COOPERATION . . . MORE TRUSTFUL
AND DIRECT THAN TODAY."

BLOOMINGTON

-1-

ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAME TO BLOOMINGTON FOR THE FIRST STATE CONVENTION TO ORGANIZE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS.

ON THAT OCCASION, HE OFFERED SOME SOUND ADVICE. HE SAID, "WE MUST NOT PROMISE WHAT WE OUGHT NOT LEST WE BE CALLED ON TO PERFORM WHAT WE CANNOT."

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TOOK THAT ADVICE. BUT OVER 100 YEARS LATER, THE DEMOCRATS ARE STILL IGNORING IT.

LET ME GIVE YOU JUST ONE EXAMPLE:

MR. CARTER SAID, "IRAN IS GOING TO GET 80 F-14's BEFORE WE EVEN MEET OUR OWN AIR FORCE ORDER FOR F-14's."

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE F-14 IS A NAVY PLANE -- NOT AN AIR FORCE PLANE. BUT MORE IMPORTANT, OUR NAVY RECEIVED 221 F-14's BEFORE A SINGLE PLANE WAS SHIPPED TO IRAN, AND OUR NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO GET EVERY F-14 IT NEEDS IN THE FUTURE.

IN 1853 THIS CITY BECAME THE VERY FIRST IN
THE UNITED STATES TO BE NAMED AFTER A MAN WHO LATER
BECAME OUR GREATEST PRESIDENT●

TODAY I AM PROUD AND HONORED TO BE AT THE
VERY PLACE WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIMSELF CHRISTENED
THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY●

LINCOLN

LET ME GIVE YOU JUST ONE EXAMPLE:

MR. CARTER ASKED, "CAN WE BECOME THE BREADBASKET
OF THE WORLD?"

THE TRUTH -- AS ALL OF YOU HERE KNOW -- IS THAT WE
ARE THE BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD -- BOTH IN TERMS OF SALES
AND OF FOOD AID TO THE WORLD'S HUNGRY PEOPLE.

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Lincoln, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
LINCOLN AMTRAK STATION
ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

1:29 P.M. CDT

Hi, everybody. It is great to be in Pontiac. I have just been corrected -- Bloomington and Lincoln. (Laughter)

Let me say on behalf of Betty that we have had a delightful day, starting with Joliet, and it is great to be here. It is just wonderful to see such a tremendous crowd. Ed Madigan, your outstanding Congressman, tells me there are more people here than in the community itself. Thank you very much.

Before saying a word or two, Betty and I reiterate our appreciation. Let me introduce some people who have joined us in this trip through the heartland of Illinois. First, I would like to introduce to you the next Governor of the State of Illinois, Jim Thompson. Let me add how grateful I am that Chuck Percy, your outstanding United States Senator, has been with us all day long. Thank you, Chuck.

It would be the best thing for the State of Illinois to have George Lindberg, your State Comptroller, for the next two years -- four years. Then it is so wonderful to have the opportunity of saying that my association with Ed Madigan, when I was in the House and his support for me while I have been President of the United States, I appreciate it. He is good for us, he is good for Illinois and he is great for the United States.

Let me take just a minute to let you in on some inside information. This morning I got a telegram from Governor Carter, who is attempting to clarify his position on a number of important issues. Specifically, there seems to be some confusion over exactly where Jimmy Carter does stand on a number of issues.

I sent him a telegram indicating that I am delighted to help him clarify his position on such important issues as income taxes, the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, Federal spending programs and the defense budget. The Governor denies that he is for increasing taxes on middle income families. I pointed out to him that in an interview with the Associated Press he specifically stated that he wanted to increase income taxes on those families whose income level is above the medium, which is approximately \$14,000 per year.

MORE

I am against increasing anybody's taxes. I think we should cut taxes for the American people. The Governor denied that he had advocated eliminating the deduction for home owners' interest payments. I pointed out to the Governor in my telegram that last February -- last February 1976 -- in a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters, he stated that he would advocate eliminating the tax deduction for interest paid on home mortgages. President Ford is against the elimination of that deduction for home owners on their mortgage payments.

Governor Carter denied that his new spending program would cost \$100 billion annually. I pointed out to him in my telegram that the spending programs proposed in the Democratic platform that Governor Carter helped to write would probably cost close to \$200 billion annually.

Specifically, such proposals as the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, the national health insurance proposal, the Perkins educational bill, a negative income tax, would cost approximately \$100 billion annually.

I firmly believe that we should keep a lid on Federal spending. The only way to hold down the cost of living is to hold down the cost of Government. I would much rather give tax cuts to the American people than to think up new ways to have the Federal Government spend your hard earned tax dollars.

Governor Carter, in the telegram to me, stated that he had not called for a \$15 billion reduction in the defense budget. I pointed out in my telegram to him that in March of 1975, in Savannah, Georgia and again in a press conference in Los Angeles, California, he called for a \$15 billion reduction in the defense budget.

I firmly believe that it is in our national interest. I strongly believe that in order to keep peace throughout the world, the United States must remain number one, and you can't stay number one with a \$15 billion reduction in the defense budget.

We cannot preserve our independence and provide help and assistance for freedom around the world, defend our own national interest, unless we are willing to have the finest military capability that the American people can buy, and under President Ford we are number one and under President Ford for the next four years we are going to stay number one.

I also suggested to Governor Carter that he might want to clarify his position on a number of other issues that are of interest to the American people. First, he really believes, as he said in an interview with Liberty Magazine, that church property should be taxed. Number two, does he agree with his own economic adviser that his economic programs would lead to additional inflation? Does he really believe that our nation is not strong enough? Does he really believe, as he stated in San Francisco, that America is no longer respected? I closed in my telegram to Governor Carter by saying that I eagerly await his response to these questions and I look forward to our next debate in Williamsburg.

Betty and I have loved the opportunity to be in Illinois. We are here because we want your help. We are here because we want to carry Illinois. We believe with the warm and friendly receptions that we have gotten in Illinois that we are going to carry Illinois, and we are going to win on November 2.

For the last two years since I have had the honor of being President of the United States, we have restored trust--we have restored trust in the White House--we have turned the economy around, and we are on the way to real prosperity in America. We have peace, and I am proud to say that not a single young American is fighting and dying on foreign soil today. That is a record of performance, and I ask you to match that against the promises of Jimmy Carter.

Jimmy Carter--when he goes to California, he tries to sound like Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter goes to Chicago, he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. (Laughter) When Jimmy Carter goes to New York, he tries to sound like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) When he comes to Illinois, he tries to sound just like a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter) Jimmy Carter wavers and wanders, he wiggles and waffles. (Laughter)

Let me say the issues that we face today are taxes. The best tax reform I know is tax reduction. As I said in that telegram, Jimmy Carter wants to increase taxes for all above the medium income, which means that 50 percent of the taxpayers of this country will have a tax increase.

The issue of spending is a very pertinent one because that is your hard-earned tax dollar. Jimmy Carter wants to increase spending. President Ford wants to keep a lid on Federal spending.

Jimmy Carter says he wants to reorganize the Federal Government. Well, let's look at how he did it in Georgia. In Georgia, after four years, he increased the number of State employees by 25 percent or more. He increased the spending of the State of Georgia by 50 percent or more. He increased the indebtedness of the State of Georgia by over \$200 million. With that kind of a record, do you want to trust him to reorganize your Federal Government?

If you like Jimmy Carter, you like more taxes. I don't think the American people want more taxes. They want reduced taxes, as they will get, as they have gotten, under President Ford.

Let me just conclude by saying that Betty and I love being here. We love our country, as all of you do.

MORE

When Jimmy Carter says that the United States, our country, is not respected any more, that is not true, because leaders of the free world, the people of the free world do respect the United States. And when Jimmy Carter says our country is not respected, he is slandering America. I don't like it and you don't like it, and he is not going to be President for the next four years.

I am going to come down and have the privilege and honor of shaking hands with as many of you as I possibly can. But while we are doing that, while I am trying to do that, we have some very honored and very prominent and special guests on board this train who have come from faraway places in our country to show their support for me. I am going to ask your outstanding United States Senator Chuck Percy to introduce them to you and then they will come and join me in extending the warm hand of friendship to all of you.

Thank you.

END (AT 1:44 P.M. CDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Springfield, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SPRINGFIELD AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

4:03 P.M. CDT

Let me introduce a few of my very, very good friends, and a special one. We celebrated our 28th anniversary last night in the great State of Illinois. I want you to know my bride, Betty Ford.

This is my third visit to Springfield in the time that I have been President. But before making a few observations and comments, let me introduce some people that you know that I know you want to support; first, my good friend, your Senator, Chuck Percy. And let me introduce to you -- I shouldn't have to -- but I want you to know that it is important for this district, for the State of Illinois, and for the United States that you reelect your Congressman Paul Findley. And can I give you some good, sound, friendly advice? I think you ought to elect an outstanding candidate who will be a great Governor -- Jim Thompson. And then I think it would be great if you also did the same thing for George Lindberg, as State Comptroller.

As I said at the outset, it is great to be in Springfield and in Illinois. We have had a wonderful day coming from Joliet. Betty and I are here because we want your help. We think we have a record of performance, a record that shows that we have restored confidence and trust in the White House.

We have turned the economy around from the worst recession in the last 40 years, and right today we are on the road and a path toward real prosperity, not only for 1977 but for the kind of prosperity that will be good for America for a long, long time. And I won't be satisfied until every American who wants to work has a job.

But also we have peace, and we have the military capability and the diplomatic skill to keep the peace, and I am very proud that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil today. That is a good record.

So, in the last two years-plus we have restored trust in the White House, we are on the road to real prosperity and we have peace. That is a record of performance. I lay that along side of the promises made by Jimmy Carter. It seems to me that Jimmy Carter will say anything anywhere to get to be President of the United States. When Jimmy Carter is in California he sounds like he is trying to be Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter is in Chicago he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. When he is in New York he sounds like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) But when Jimmy Carter comes down to Illinois, down State, Jimmy Carter tries to tell you he is just a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter)

Jimmy Carter -- he wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. (Laughter) I think you deserve a better candidate for the Presidency than Jimmy Carter, and Jerry Ford is the candidate that I want you to support on November 2.

I believe that the best tax reform is tax reduction, and Jerry Ford tried to get it for you with an increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That would be sound tax relief, tax reduction, for the middle income taxpayer who has been shortchanged by the Democratic Congress.

Jimmy Carter -- he wants to increase taxes for the individuals who will go from the median income on up. That means that under Jimmy Carter's platform, Jimmy Carter will increase the taxes of 50 percent of the Federal taxpayers in America.

Let me tell you, if you like Jimmy Carter, you like taxes. I think you prefer Jerry Ford, who wants to reduce your middle income taxes. A big issue, a major difference, between Jimmy Carter and myself -- I think we have to keep a lid on Federal spending. I think the Federal Government has to pull in its belt and stop spending your money as recklessly as we have.

Jimmy Carter embraces the Democratic platform, which calls for 60 new programs that will spend a minimum of \$100 billion more each year, and if you cost them all out, it will probably cost you \$200 billion more a year. I don't think the American people want that kind of spending, which means more inflation and more taxes.

But, Jimmy says, well, he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Jimmy Carter, when he was Governor of the State of Georgia, told the people of Georgia the same thing. What happened? Well, in four years he increased the number of State employees by over 25 percent, he increased the spending by over 50 percent and he added to the funded indebtedness of Georgia by \$200 million.

Well, with that kind of record in Georgia, I think it would be catastrophic if he tried to do the same thing with the Federal Government. I don't think you want that kind of reorganization. I think you want a Federal Government that is responsive and responsible to the American people, and under the Ford Administration we are going to give you that.

Now, Jimmy Carter on two occasions -- once in Savannah, Georgia and once in Los Angeles -- said that the Defense Department ought to be cut by \$15 billion. He denied it, but the facts are that is what he said. On the other hand, Jimmy Carter says America isn't strong enough. Now, you can't cut the defense budget by \$15 billion and keep the United States number one. We are number one under President Ford and we are going to keep you number one for the next four years under President Ford.

But, as we have traveled from Joliet down here to Springfield, we have gone through the heart of the agricultural area of this country. It has been a great privilege and honor for us to see so many people who produce the food and the fiber that makes America really run. Five percent of the people produce more than enough for us to eat and wear and, at the same time, produce enough for us to sell overseas.

Every one of us ought to be thankful that we are blessed with the farmers of America who through their hard work do that job for us, and I thank each and every one of them for making America strong with their efforts.

A few days ago many of you probably heard Jimmy Carter say that America is not respected anymore. That isn't true. The leaders of the world, whether they are the leaders of the free world or the leaders behind the Iron Curtain, respect the United States of America, and when Jimmy Carter says that America isn't respected, I think he is slandering our country, slandering the efforts, the beliefs, the convictions of 215 million Americans.

Jerry Ford has faith and trust and confidence in the American people in our great country. I am proud of America, and with me as President for the next four years we will keep America number one.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 4:14 P.M. CDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Carlinville, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
CARLINVILLE AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

5:30 P.M. CDT

While we are waiting for the news media, I want to introduce some of the special guests that have been riding with Betty and me on the train all day long. Let me say it is great to be in Carlinville. It is wonderful to be in Illinois. We have had a great day, and I thank all of you very, very much.

I like that sign, "Carlinville Welcomes President Ford," and I like that sign there, "The Findley Trail-riders like President Ford."

It is wonderful to be here in the company with your great Senator, Chuck Percy. It is wonderful to be in the district so ably represented by Congressman Paul Findley. Send him back for your good, for Illinois' good and for the good of the United States.

We have had Jim Thompson with us. Jim Thompson will be a great Governor on November 2. Make darned sure you elect him as your next Governor of the State of Illinois.

Now let me make a comment or two. Betty and I have had a great day, starting with Joliet, coming here, ending in Alton. We are here in Illinois because Illinois is a very important State in this election November 2.

We want your help. With your help, we can carry Illinois. With Illinois we can win the election on November 2, and you will have Jerry Ford as your President for the first four years of our third century.

In the last two years, as your President, we have done three things that are good for America. We have restored trust that is necessary in the White House. The American people know that we are open, we are candid, we are straightforward. The American people know that they can trust the White House under President Ford.

Number two, in the last 18 months we have turned the economy around from the worst recession in the last four years so that we are now on the rise. I won't be satisfied until everybody who wants a job has a job. We will get it under our program for prosperity in America.

MORE

Number three, I am proud of the fact that we are at peace and that not a single young American is fighting, dying anyplace on this earth today, and we are going to keep it that way under President Ford.

I am proud of the fact that I have a record of performance, and I ask you, as voters, to lay that record of performance alongside the promises made by Jimmy Carter. Jimmy Carter will tell anybody anything anywhere just to get to be President of the United States.

Let me illustrate. When Jimmy Carter is in California, he tries to sound like Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter is in Chicago, he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. When Jimmy Carter is in New York, he tries to sound like Bella Abzug. Then, when Jimmy Carter comes down to this great farmland in the area of Carlinville, he tries to make you believe that he is just a little old peanut farmer from Georgia.

Jimmy Carter wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. I think the voters of Illinois will take my record of performance over Jimmy Carter's promises any day.

Let's take the issue of taxes. I believe the best tax reform is tax reduction. I submitted to the Congress a recommendation to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. The middle income taxpayers of this country have been shortchanged, and the Ford program will restore equity to those middle income taxpayers who have got short shrift.

Jimmy Carter, he said -- quoted by the Associated Press -- that he would increase the taxes for all people in the medium income tax bracket. Jimmy Carter is saying to the taxpayers of this country that he would raise the taxes of 50 percent of the American people.

Who do you want, a President who promises to give the middle income taxpayers a break or do you want Jimmy Carter, who is going to add to the tax burden of the middle income taxpayers? I think you will take Jerry Ford.

Anybody that likes Jimmy Carter likes taxes. Don't buy him. Let's talk about spending. In the two years that I have been President, I have tried to put the lid on Federal spending because when you have more and more Federal spending, it will mean more and more inflation.

Jimmy Carter has embraced the platform that he helped to write, which calls for 60 some new programs, and if those programs become law, it will add anywhere from \$100 billion a year to \$200 billion more in Federal spending. I think the American people want the Federal Government to spend less, not to spend more.

MORE

Jimmy Carter has said that he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Let me tell you what Jimmy Carter did when he reorganized the government of Georgia. In the four years that Jimmy Carter was President -- I mean Governor of Georgia -- Jimmy Carter increased the number of State employees by more than 12 percent. In the four years that Jimmy Carter was Governor of Georgia, he increased the spending of the State of Georgia by more than 50 percent. And, as Governor of the State of Georgia, he increased the bonded indebtedness of that State by over \$200 million.

Now if you take that record and he became President, I don't think you would want him reorganizing the Federal Government. I believe you will vote for President Ford because he is making the Federal Government more responsible and more responsive, and he is going to keep the lid on Federal spending.

Then let me take a minute to talk about agriculture. I know in this area -- this is part of that great breadbasket of America. I know that you have produced corn and soybeans and wheat. I know that you are a great contributor to the bounty of America. If you look at the farm policy of this Administration against the promised farm policy of Jimmy Carter, I believe in expanded production, record exports, the use of the free market. I believe that under our policies we have expanded agriculture and we are going to continue to keep the farmers making the decisions and keep the Government out of your pocket and off your farm. That is what I think you want.

Now let me talk for just a minute about national security. We have a wonderful country. This country is strong internally and America is strong. We are number one.

Jimmy Carter, on two occasions, has said if he became President he would cut the defense budget by \$15 billion. Let me tell you what that will do. It sounds good. Of course, he doesn't know where he would do it, but it sounds good. If we were to cut the defense budget we would strip the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and Marines of the necessary weapons that they need to keep America number one.

America is at peace because America is strong. Jimmy Carter would undercut the strength of our military and make this country weak defensively. I think America wants a strong defense. America wants peace. You want Jerry Ford to be your President so we will stay number one in the next four years.

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Last week, Jimmy Carter said, "America is not respected any more." If you look around the world, if you talk to the leaders, whether they are in the free world or whether they are on the other side, they respect America. They know America is good. They know America is strong. And when Jimmy Carter says America is no longer respected, he is slandering America.

I am proud of America like you are, and let's keep America strong so we can continue to be proud of it and be respected around the world.

END (AT 5:43 P.M. CDT)