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file box # 21
debate

THIRD DEBATE

Place and Date:

Williamsburg, Virginia
October 22, 1976

Moderator: Barbara Walters, ABC

Questioners:

Robert C. Maynard, Washington Post

Joseph Kraft, Syndicated Columnist

Jack Nelson, Los Angeles Times



Points made by President Ford:

QUALITY OF LIFE

"If you look at the projections, it shows that we we will reduce unemployment, that we will continue to win the battle against inflation and at the same time give the kind of quality of life that I believe is possible in America -- a job, a home for all those that will work and save for it, safety in the streets, health care that is affordable. These things can be done if we have the right vision and the right restraints."

ENVIRONMENT

"Let's talk about what the Ford Administration has done in the field of environment.

"I have increased as President by over 60 percent the funding for water treatment plants in the United States.

"I have recommended and the Congress approved a substantial increased land and water conservation program.

"The next ten years we should double the National Parks, the wild wilderness areas, the scenic river areas. And then, of course, the final thing is that I have signed and approved of more scenic river, more wilderness area since I've been President than any other President in the history of the United States."

FOREIGN POLICY OPTIONS

"I firmly believe that it is unwise for a President to signal in advance what options he might exercise if any international problems arose."



URBAN POLICY

"The Ford Administration does have a very comprehensive program to help our major metro areas. I have called for, and the Congress finally went along with, a general revenue sharing program.

"In addition, we in the Federal Government made available to cities about \$3,300,000,000 dollars in what we call community development.

"In addition, as a result of my pressure on the Congress we got a major mass transit program over a four-year period -- \$11,800,000,000.

"We have a good housing program that will result in cutting the down-payments by 50 percent and having mortgage payments lower at the beginning of a mortgage period. We are expanding our homestead housing program."

GUN CONTROL

"The record of gun control does not show that the registration of a gun, a handgun, or the registration of the gun owner has in any way whatsoever decreased the crime rate or the use of that gun in the committing of a crime. What we have to do, and this is the crux of the matter, is to make it very, very difficult for a person who uses a gun in the commission of a crime to stay out of jail."





CARTER

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THIRD DEBATE

Points made by Mr. Carter:

YUGOSLAVIA

"I have maintained from the beginning of my campaign that I would never go to war or become militarily involved in the internal affairs of another country unless our own security were directly threatened, and I don't believe that our security would be directly threatened if the Soviet Union went into Yugoslavia."

(Carter's comments on Yugoslavia are naive.)

The time-honored practice of American diplomacy is that the President of the United States never tips his hand in advance to our adversaries. To do otherwise -- to tell the Russians precisely what we will do -- would only invite them to take actions which can jeopardize the peace of the world.

This was the point that President Ford made in rebuttal last night as he said it was unwise to signal in advance what the United States will do or not do in the face of an international crisis.

By his statement, Mr. Carter is explicitly telling the Soviet Union that it can have a completely free hand in Yugoslavia.)

UNEMPLOYMENT

"Mr. Ford's own environment agency has projected an unemployment rate of ten percent by 1978 if he's President."

(This statement is simply false. The Environmental Protection Agency has made no such estimate.)

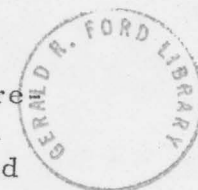
GEORGIA TAXES

"When I was Governor of Georgia for four years, we never increased sales taxes or income tax or property tax. As a matter of fact, we gave a \$50 million refund to the property taxpayers of Georgia."

(Carter, in fact, proposed a \$128 million tax increase package, including addition of some new items to the sales tax. Most of this package was turned down by the legislature. Carter supported a tax rebate in 1973. But in 1974, he vetoed legislation calling for exactly the same rebate on the ground that its primary beneficiaries were public utilities and large property owners.)

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

"We have a very wide range of a group of advisers who prepared me for the debates, and who teach me about international economics, health, education, welfare. I'd say several hundred of them."



(Carter may be a fast learner. But his hundreds of new advisors are no substitute for actual experience with the complex and diverse problems with which a President must deal.)

HANDGUN REGISTRATION

"The only purpose I see in registering handguns is to prohibit the ownership of those guns by those who have committed a crime or who have been proven to be mentally incompetent to own a gun."

(Carter here adds a new dimension to his wavering position on gun control. The Atlanta Constitution reported on March 7, 1976, that the former Governor favors "registration of handguns, a ban on the sale of cheap pistols, reasonable licensing procedures, a waiting period before purchase and prohibition of ownership for anyone convicted of a crime using a gun and the mentally incompetent.")

In the October, 1976, issue of Reader's Digest, Carter says, "I favor registration but not confiscation of handguns.")

EDUCATION

"We have now for instance only seven percent of the total cost of education being financed by the Federal Government. When the Nixon-Ford administration started, this was 10 percent. That's a 30 percent reduction."

(This comparison is totally false. The Federal contribution to education has varied little since it went up to 7.9 percent in 1965. For the coming fiscal year, it will be slightly more than 8 percent.)

REVENUE SHARING

"I figure on all the revenue sharing money being used for local government."

(By excluding the States from revenue sharing, Carter would contribute directly to a reduction in State services or an increase in State taxes, and would hamper the States in their efforts to coordinate metropolitan regional problems -- a point that Carter himself made in explaining why he would give aid intended for New York City to the State instead of directly to the city last fall.)

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

"This administration has been in office now for more than two years and has still to take any strong action to stop the spread of nuclear waste around the world, particularly plutonium."

(During the past two years, the Ford Administration has vigorously pursued nuclear non-proliferation through multi-lateral cooperation with other nations. In 1974, President Ford proposed strengthening and standarizing non-proliferation measures at the United Nations General Assembly.

At our initiative, the first meeting of major nuclear suppliers was convened in London in April, 1975.

As a result of these meetings, we have significantly raised international standards governing nuclear exports, which are now being applied.)

