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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

REAGAN PRESS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 20, 1975

A FEW MONTHS AGO, WHEN MY
OPPONENT CAME TO WASHINGTON TO ANNOUNCE HIS
CANDIDACY, SOME OF YOU HERE IN TEXAS MAY
NOT HAVE HAD THE BENEFIT OF LISTENING TO HIS
FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE.

A REPORTER ASKED HIM HOW MUCH HE
WOULD RECOMMEND FOR A DEFENSE BUDGET FOR
THE UNITED STATES.

LET ME READ HIS ANSWER DIRECTLY
TO YOU BECAUSE IT SHEDS A GREAT DEAL OF
LIGHT ON HIS CAMPAIGN:

" I DIDN'T SAY WHAT I WANTED TO SPEND, " HE REPLIED. "●●●YOU HAVE ME IN A POSITION IN WHICH THE ANSWER IS VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE I THINK ONLY WHEN YOU ARE IN THAT POSITION OF COMMAND DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE INFORMATION THAT IS NECESSARY FOR MAKING THAT DECISION AND OBVIOUSLY I'M NOT IN THAT POSITION AND DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION AT THIS MOMENT.●"

LATER ON, A REPORTER PRESSED
THE DEFENSE QUESTION AGAIN.

AND THE CORE OF HIS ANSWER WAS THIS:

IN THE AREA OF DEFENSE, "ONE HAS ALWAYS TO
FACE THAT FACT THAT THERE ARE FACTS NOT KNOWN
TO YOU AND WHICH CANNOT BE KNOWN TO YOU BECAUSE
OF CLASSIFICATION. AND THIS ALWAYS
MUST BE KEPT IN MIND AS A RESERVATION ABOUT
ANY OPINION THAT YOU MIGHT RENDER."

MY FRIENDS, I WOULD SUGGEST TO
YOU HERE TODAY THAT ANY CANDIDATE WHO BEGINS
HIS CAMPAIGN BY SAYING HE DOESN'T KNOW
ENOUGH ABOUT NATIONAL DEFENSE TO TALK ABOUT
IT AND THEN, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE,
SUDDENLY TRIES TO MAKE IT THE CENTRAL ISSUE
CAN HARDLY EXPECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO
TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY.