

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Beverly Hills, California)

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REMARKS OF RONALD REAGAN  
FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
AT THE  
GOP FUND-RAISING DINNERS  
OVER CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Bob, ladies and gentlemen:

In an election year 40 years ago an American of unquestioned patriotism, one-time Presidential candidate Al Smith, Mr. Democrat himself, went before a nationwide radio audience. Sadly, he told his fellow Americans that after a lifetime in the Democratic Party he could no longer follow the leadership of that party as it took this Nation down a path that led to socialism and the loss of freedom. His final words were, "I am going to take a walk."

Four years ago, the Democratic leadership took that party down a path that millions of patriotic Democrats couldn't follow and now the same leadership is charting the same course. Rank and file Democrats will take a walk once again. They will walk to our party, if you and I will make them see what the Republican Party offers is what they themselves want for America.

If I may paraphrase the first President, George Washington, "We have raised the standards around which the brave and the honest can rally." For the first time in my memory, our party has a platform fashioned at the grass-roots level by party members, which makes clear what the Republican Party represents.

Our opponents have a platform replete with promises fashioned by the party leadership and tailored to the specifications of their Presidential candidate. Indeed, Jimmy Carter was the principal architect.

On the cover of the Democratic platform, it proclaims, "This platform is a contract with the people." But those who become a partner in that contract are pledged to more and bigger Government, more spending and more inflation. In page after page it calls for the Federal solutions to all the problems besetting us -- federalization of welfare, compulsory socialized medicine and Federal regulation of the economy -- and that last probably spells out better than anything the fundamental difference between our parties and our two candidates.

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They endorsed the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which would give the Federal Government the power to set production and employment goals, allocate resources and labor, control marketing.

Their platform pledges to give Washington the full power to engage in national economic planning, deciding where we will work, what kind of work we will do, what we will be paid, what we will produce and what the price of the products will bring.

A man named Mussolini did that some years ago and they called it fascism. Their platform proposes over 60 new or expanded Federal spending programs and the expansion or creation of some 22 Washington agencies, offices and bureaus.

And then it implies there will be no added cost to Government. And if that is true, then Jimmy has made some kind of special deal with the tooth fairy.  
(Laughter)

Our platform calls for less Government spending and less inflation and a return of authority to levels of Government closer to the people in such fields as welfare and education, freedom in the marketplace for the worker, the farmer, the shopkeeper and particularly the energy industry to reduce our independence on foreign oil.

In the Democratic Convention, where their platform was born, we heard speaker after speaker last July deplore the unsolved problems of human misery with no acknowledgement of their 40-year record of failure to deal with those problems. They denounced inflation and unemployment as if someone else were to blame.

Our platform contains an answer to their hypocrisy. It says the platform above all rejects deficit spending by the Federal Government which erodes the purchasing power of the dollar. And then it goes on to explain that the number one destroyer of jobs is inflation and the number one cause of inflation is Government's expansion of the money supply and credit created out of thin air to pay for deficit spending.

Inflation is the direct responsibility of years of Democratic control of a spendthrift Congress. There hasn't even been a day in the last two decades where they could not have curbed the spending, ended inflation and in so doing reduced unemployment if they wanted to, or if they knew how, but this would have gone counter to their doctrinary liberalism which Jimmy Carter pleads publicly on television for all to see about the inequities and loopholes of the tax structure.

I wish he would answer one question: Which Republican Congress created the legislation that created that tax structure?

There has only been one Republican Congress in the last 40 years, and that was 22 years ago. The position of our two parties on the urgent problem of defending freedom in an increasingly hostile world is also spelled out in the platforms. Again, compare, for the difference is there for all to see. The Democratic platform speaks of an adequate defense and then asks for a \$5 to \$7 billion cut in the defense budget. That is a little like the young fellow who called his girl on the phone one night. He said, "Honey, I love you so much. I would climb the highest mountain, I would swim the deepest ocean to be at your side. I will be over Wednesday night if it doesn't rain."  
(Laughter)

The Republican platform states unequivocally our belief in military superiority as the best way to keep the peace, and it is specific in its promises to develop new weapons systems to achieve that superiority. It does more. It counters the dangerous wording of the Democratic platform, which would tempt aggressors, as North Korea was tempted by injudicious language a quarter of a century ago. We paid with the lives of 33,000 young Americans.

Our platform renews our allegiance to our allies and states that American troops will never again be committed to the purpose of our own defense or that of our allies unless we intend to achieve our stated purpose. In other words, no young Americans will be asked to fight and die for their country unless it be for a cause their country intends to win.

On November 2 Americans will go to the polls. Before November 2, you and I must bring to their attention the real choice that we have: Increased spending; increased inflation, with all that it means; increased control of our daily lives by a Government that has grown beyond the concept of the governed; or we can have the right to choose, to control our own destiny, our own lives; to raise our children as we think best; to have Government once again the servant, not the master.

We can do this by returning to Washington Gerald Ford and Bob Dole.

Thank you very much.

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