

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
JOLIET AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

9:11 A.M. CDT

George, Senator Chuck Percy, your next Governor, Jim Thompson, other distinguished Members of the House and some wonderful guests who are going to be traveling with us through the heartland of Illinois:

Let me say Betty and I are deeply grateful for the warm welcome we had last night and the wonderful welcome here today.

Our anniversary was a success because of all of you. Thank you.

As George said, Abraham Lincoln was here in Joliet a few years ago. I think it is significant that Abraham Lincoln, when he was in Joliet, made his famous speech that a house divided against itself cannot succeed.

Jimmy Carter wants to divide America. President Ford wants to heal America, and that is where we are going.

Betty and I are here and starting this wonderful trip through Illinois because we want your help and we want your vote.

We have restored trust to the White House. We have turned the economy around, and we have peace. Not a single young American is fighting or dying on foreign soil today, and that is progress and we want your help.

MORE

(OVER)

As I listen and I read about Jimmy Carter, I can't help but come to the conclusion -- and I think you will, too -- that Jimmy Carter will say anything anywhere to be President of the United States.

When he is in California he sounds like Cesar Chavez. When he is in Chicago he sounds like Mayor Daley. When he is in New York he sounds like Ralph Nader. When he is in Washington, D. C., he sounds like my good friend George Meany. He wanders, he wavers, he waffles, and he wiggles. He isn't the man you want for President of the United States.

Let's talk very quickly about three subjects. Taxes -- President Ford believes that the best tax reform is tax reduction, and Jerry Ford recommended we are going to get eventually an increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is a real meaningful, important tax reduction, and that is what we stand for.

What does Jimmy Carter want to do with your taxes? Jimmy Carter says he will increase taxes for all people with a median income and on up, which means that anybody who is earning \$14,000 a year or more is going to have his taxes increased under Jimmy Carter. Do you want that?

Jimmy Carter says he is going to increase Federal spending. He has embraced the Democratic budget and the Democratic platform, which will call for tax increases or spending increases of \$100 billion a year.

Then he says he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. What did he do in Georgia? He was Governor for four years. He increased the number of State employees by over 25 percent. He increased spending by over 50 percent. He increased the bonded indebtedness of Georgia by over \$200 million. Could you trust him to reorganize our Federal Government?

But let's talk about defense. Jimmy Carter, on two occasions, said he would cut the defense budget by \$15 billion. And then he had the gall to tell the American people, 90 million of them, last week that he never said it. Can you trust him? Jimmy Carter says he is going to cut defense spending, and then he says America can't be weak any more. He can't have it both ways.

There was a great, great President a few years ago named Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Jimmy Carter wants to speak loudly and carry a flyswatter. (Laughter)

Jimmy Carter has said America is not respected any more. I said that was slandering the United States and 215 million Americans. What is the truth?

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Let me very quickly just quote from some of the distinguished leaders around the world and what they say about the United States. The Prime Minister of Ireland said, "It isn't" -- he said, "The ties that were forged between us are today stronger and firmer than ever."

President Giscard of France said, and I quote, "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."

And then the Chancellor of the Government of West Germany said, "At no time during the past 30 years have relations between our countries been closer and cooperation more trustful and direct than today."

Jimmy Carter doesn't know what he is talking about. I don't think you should let him tear down the respect and the admiration that people around the world have for this great country. We are respected, and when he says that we are not respected he is slandering the United States of America.

Well, Betty and I are delighted to be here. We thank you for the warm reception. We need your help. We want your votes. We are going to carry Illinois and win November 2.

Thank you very much. Have a good day. We love you. We will be back. And in the meantime, make darn sure you reelect George O'Brien, Jim Thompson, Sam Young, and all of the good Republicans in the State of Illinois.

Thank you.

END (AT 9:19 A.M. CDT)