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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
BLOOMINGTON AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

12:10 P.M. CDT

Good morning.

Betty and I are delighted to be in the great State of Illinois, in particular in Bloomington and McLean County. Thank you very, very much.

Let me introduce some good friends of yours, good friends of ours. First, your Senator Chuck Percy; then the next Governor of the great State of Illinois, Jim Thompson; and your good friend, an outstanding Congressman, Ed Madigan, and then George Lindberg, your State Comptroller -- reelect him.

And then Betty and I are delighted to have on this whole train trip, the old "Honest Abe" special, we have Les Arends, who served you so well.

Let me say a word or two. As I said, Betty and I are so delighted to be in Illinois. We have had a wonderful morning and now we start a great afternoon.

Betty and I celebrated our 28th anniversary last night up in Joliet, Illinois. We are here because we feel that in the last two years since I have been your President we have turned things around in this great country. We have restored trust, honesty to the White House. We have turned the economy around from the worst recession in 40 years to a real program of prosperity for the future in America.

We have achieved the peace, and we have the military capability and the diplomatic skill to keep the peace and, I remind you, as I think all Americans recognize, that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil tonight or today.

So, this record of trust, prosperity and peace, I lay along side the record of Jimmy Carter and his promises. And Jimmy Carter, it seems to me, as he goes from one part of the country to the other, says anything, anywhere, to get to be President of the United States.

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(OVER)

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. (Laughter) And when he comes to this great farm land of Illinois he tries to sound like just a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter) He wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. I think the American people deserve better than that.

The American people are concerned about taxes. President Ford believes the best tax reform is a tax reduction. President Ford recommended to the Congress that the Congress increase your personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. The middle income taxpayer has been shortchanged and we are going to change it.

Jimmy Carter--he wants to increase Federal taxes for all people from medium income on up. That means that 50 percent of the taxpayers of this country would get a tax increase under Jimmy Carter. Do you want that?

Jimmy Carter wants to spend more Federal money, your taxes that you have worked hard for, earned. Jimmy Carter embraces the Democratic platform which calls for 60-some new programs that would add \$100 billion minimum per year to expenditures by the Federal Government. Do you want that?

Jimmy Carter--he says he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Well, let's look at his record in Georgia. After four years in Georgia, he increased State employees by over 25 percent, he increased spending in the State of Georgia by over 50 percent, and he added \$200 million to their State indebtedness. With that kind of a record, can you imagine what he would do to your Federal Government?

All I can say is, if you like Jimmy Carter you like to pay taxes. I don't think you want Jimmy Carter as your next President of the United States.

You all recognize that we have the peace. We have a strong Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Jimmy Carter wants to cut the Federal budget for the Defense Department by \$15 billion. I don't think that is the way to keep America number one. I think that would weaken America in our efforts to maintain the peace.

Jimmy Carter wants to slash the programs that have kept the peace for us and will keep it in the future. With that kind of a reduction of spending for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and Marines. It reminds me of a statement once made by a great American President, Teddy Roosevelt, who said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Jimmy Carter, with that kind of a reduction for our military establishment, is speaking loudly and wants to carry a flyswatter. (Laughter)

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Jimmy Carter has said the United States is not respected any more. Heads of Government from all over the world believe that the United States is number one, the United States is the leader in the world. When Jimmy Carter says that the United States, your country and my country, is not respected, he is slandering America, and I don't like it.

So, Betty and I are delighted to be with all of you in this great part of the United States. We have worked hard. We think we have a record of performance.

We are here to ask for your help and to ask for your vote on November 2.

END (AT 12:20 P.M. CDT)