

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 16, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Carlinville, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
CARLINVILLE AMTRAK STATION
ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

5:30 P.M. CDT

While we are waiting for the news media, I want to introduce some of the special guests that have been riding with Betty and me on the train all day long. Let me say it is great to be in Carlinville. It is wonderful to be in Illinois. We have had a great day, and I thank all of you very, very much.

I like that sign, "Carlinville Welcomes President Ford," and I like that sign there, "The Findley Trail-riders like President Ford."

It is wonderful to be here in the company with your great Senator, Chuck Percy. It is wonderful to be in the district so ably represented by Congressman Paul Findley. Send him back for your good, for Illinois' good and for the good of the United States.

We have had Jim Thompson with us. Jim Thompson will be a great Governor on November 2. Make darned sure you elect him as your next Governor of the State of Illinois.

Now let me make a comment or two. Betty and I have had a great day, starting with Joliet, coming here, ending in Alton. We are here in Illinois because Illinois is a very important State in this election November 2.

We want your help. With your help, we can carry Illinois. With Illinois we can win the election on November 2, and you will have Jerry Ford as your President for the first four years of our third century.

In the last two years, as your President, we have done three things that are good for America. We have restored trust that is necessary in the White House. The American people know that we are open, we are candid, we are straightforward. The American people know that they can trust the White House under President Ford.

Number two, in the last 18 months we have turned the economy around from the worst recession in the last four years so that we are now on the rise. I won't be satisfied until everybody who wants a job has a job. We will get it under our program for prosperity in America.

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Number three, I am proud of the fact that we are at peace and that not a single young American is fighting, dying anyplace on this earth today, and we are going to keep it that way under President Ford.

I am proud of the fact that I have a record of performance, and I ask you, as voters, to lay that record of performance alongside the promises made by Jimmy Carter. Jimmy Carter will tell anybody anything anywhere just to get to be President of the United States.

Let me illustrate. 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. Then, when Jimmy Carter comes down to this great farmland in the area of Carlinville, he tries to make you believe that he is just a little old peanut farmer from Georgia.

Jimmy Carter wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. I think the voters of Illinois will take my record of performance over Jimmy Carter's promises any day.

Let's take the issue of taxes. I believe the best tax reform is tax reduction. I submitted to the Congress a recommendation to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. The middle income taxpayers of this country have been shortchanged, and the Ford program will restore equity to those middle income taxpayers who have got short shrift.

Jimmy Carter, he said -- quoted by the Associated Press -- that he would increase the taxes for all people in the medium income tax bracket. Jimmy Carter is saying to the taxpayers of this country that he would raise the taxes of 50 percent of the American people.

Who do you want, a President who promises to give the middle income taxpayers a break or do you want Jimmy Carter, who is going to add to the tax burden of the middle income taxpayers? I think you will take Jerry Ford.

Anybody that likes Jimmy Carter likes taxes. Don't buy him. Let's talk about spending. In the two years that I have been President, I have tried to put the lid on Federal spending because when you have more and more Federal spending, it will mean more and more inflation.

Jimmy Carter has embraced the platform that he helped to write, which calls for 60 some new programs, and if those programs become law, it will add anywhere from \$100 billion a year to \$200 billion more in Federal spending. I think the American people want the Federal Government to spend less, not to spend more.

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Jimmy Carter has said that he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Let me tell you what Jimmy Carter did when he reorganized the government of Georgia. In the four years that Jimmy Carter was President -- I mean Governor of Georgia -- Jimmy Carter increased the number of State employees by more than 12 percent. In the four years that Jimmy Carter was Governor of Georgia, he increased the spending of the State of Georgia by more than 50 percent. And, as Governor of the State of Georgia, he increased the bonded indebtedness of that State by over \$200 million.

Now if you take that record and he became President, I don't think you would want him reorganizing the Federal Government. I believe you will vote for President Ford because he is making the Federal Government more responsible and more responsive, and he is going to keep the lid on Federal spending.

Then let me take a minute to talk about agriculture. I know in this area -- this is part of that great breadbasket of America. I know that you have produced corn and soybeans and wheat. I know that you are a great contributor to the bounty of America. If you look at the farm policy of this Administration against the promised farm policy of Jimmy Carter, I believe in expanded production, record exports, the use of the free market. I believe that under our policies we have expanded agriculture and we are going to continue to keep the farmers making the decisions and keep the Government out of your pocket and off your farm. That is what I think you want.

Now let me talk for just a minute about national security. We have a wonderful country. This country is strong internally and America is strong. We are number one.

Jimmy Carter, on two occasions, has said if he became President he would cut the defense budget by \$15 billion. Let me tell you what that will do. It sounds good. Of course, he doesn't know where he would do it, but it sounds good. If we were to cut the defense budget we would strip the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and Marines of the necessary weapons that they need to keep America number one.

America is at peace because America is strong. Jimmy Carter would undercut the strength of our military and make this country weak defensively. I think America wants a strong defense. America wants peace. You want Jerry Ford to be your President so we will stay number one in the next four years.

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Last week, Jimmy Carter said, "America is not respected any more." If you look around the world, if you talk to the leaders, whether they are in the free world or whether they are on the other side, they respect America. They know America is good. They know America is strong. And when Jimmy Carter says America is no longer respected, he is slandering America.

I am proud of America like you are, and let's keep America strong so we can continue to be proud of it and be respected around the world.

END (AT 5:43 P.M. CDT)