

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President  
(Detroit, Michigan)

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TV TAPING OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT WWJ-TV, CHANNEL 4 (NBC)  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

AT 6:15 P.M. EDT

QUESTION: Vice President Nelson Rockefeller is in Detroit for a fund-raiser tonight, and he is here with us for a few minutes. I just informed him we have some exclusive film that has never been shown on television anywhere of him at the Republican Convention.

I know you have an idea of what you did that night, and it started off as a big controversy. Let's take a look at the scene. You are shaking hands with a few people. There is the sign.

Now, that is the Vice President of the United States taking a sign.

Since that time you have exchanged gestures with some college students. What we would like to know is, is this the real Nelson Rockefeller, now that you are retiring as Vice President? Is this the real Nelson Rockefeller?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I love people and I like a little excitement and some fun. And I must say, I am responsive. This situation at the convention, I am fascinated to see that picture. I had never seen it. I said he came to the aisle. He was standing up in front of us. We were a Ford delegation and they were a Reagan delegation.

I told the chairman, "You can't bring amateurs to your delegation and think you can get away with provocative actions without getting some reaction." They were quite upset. I took it, folded it up and sat on it. There was a big fellow in their delegation that weighed about 350 pounds. I said I would give it back to him if he would sit on it. And that kept it. So we were safe.

QUESTION: Let's get to right now. You have been saying that some of the things that Jimmy Carter has been saying as solutions to this Nation's problems are unrealistic. What specifically do you think is unrealistic? There haven't been a lot of specifics in this campaign.

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THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, but he has given a lot of specifics but he has changed them from one place to another. For instance, he said he was going to cut taxes on the poor and raise them on the rich. Then he got asked what the median level was, and they asked him about the median tax. Well, he hadn't heard about the median tax, which turned out, as a reporter pointed out, to be \$11,000 before deductions, \$15,000 after. Therefore, was he going to raise taxes on everybody over \$14,000, which is the middle income group?

Then he said no, and then he ended up saying he was going to study this, after he got in the Presidency, for a year and then he would be able to understand the tax code, which he said was President Ford's. Of course, it was written by the Democratic Congress.

Now, yesterday I understand he said he was going to cut taxes for everybody by 35 percent. Well, there is no way of getting that kind of money, particularly when he is not going to close what he calls loopholes that relate to charity, exemptions on this for your mortgage interest payments. So it would have to come out of inflation.

Now, that is one. Another area that to me, having spent seven years working for General Eisenhower, when he was President, on government reorganization, Carter said he is going to take 1800 agencies, departments and agencies, and cut them down to 300. What he doesn't realize is every one of these has a congressional committee or subcommittee related to it that has jurisdiction over it. The chairman of that committee gets more staff, more salary. The subcommittee chairman does, too. There is a staff related to it. There are people over there. And to take and undo that, it just has no relation to the realities of the way the national scene and the international scene operate. That is my concern.

QUESTION: You may be able to cut down the number of agencies from one number to another, but do you cut down the number of people working for the Federal Government? That is where --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: He admitted that himself. He said he didn't think it was. He said in Georgia, which he was right about, that his reorganization resulted in more people -- actually more people -- working. No, I don't think he said that, but the facts point to it. There are more people working and the taxes have gone up.

QUESTION: In these situations we never have enough time. But in one word could you tell me your opinion of the debates?

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THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I think television is the most powerful medium that has ever been invented. It is like the village green on television, so 90 million people had a chance to see the two candidates face to face. And the American people, through television, regardless of what they say, form their opinions of the individuals as people. Therefore, I think they are very valuable.

QUESTION: Has television been kind to both of them?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think television has been fair to both of them. I'm not sure what "kind" means.

QUESTION: Thank you very much.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It has been a pleasure to be with you. Thank you for showing me that film.

QUESTION: If he sues you, we have it in our files.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It was the guy from Utah who grabbed the phone.

QUESTION: Thank you.

END

(AT 6:21 P.M. EDT)