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Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

901 South Highland Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204 (703) 685-3400

MEMORANDUM

August 14, 1980

TO: Press Secretary

FROM: Paul Russo,
Congressional Relations

RE: Notes on the Democratic National Convention

Attached please find several documents relating to the Democratic National Convention and its platform.

Please feel free to use this material as you see fit.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 685-3690.

attachments

SUGGESTED STATEMENT - CARTER'S RECORD

That wasn't a political convention this week in New York -- it was a four day serial featuring weak, incompetent, divisive leadership.

An incumbent president caved into a single Senator on issue after issue -- it was Teddy's convention, not Jimmy's convention.

Mr. Carter went into the Democratic convention with 7.8% unemployment, with double digit inflation, with the largest tax bite in history and with a budget wildly out of balance.

Mr. Carter comes out of the convention with every single one of those problems intact.

And American people want to hold Mr. Carter accountable for that record. The American people want a referendum this November on the Carter record -- a referendum on all the broken promises of 1976.

Mr. Carter is now attempting to hide those broken promises behind a smokescreen of trivia, personal attacks and down-home demagoguery.

But the hard questions will not go away:

Why did Mr. Carter say in 1976 that he would keep unemployment at 4% and then plan a recession that drove unemployment to 7.8%?

Why did Mr. Carter say in 1976 that he would never use unemployment to stop inflation and enforce policies that drove millions out of work?

Why did Mr. Carter say in 1976 -- over and over again -- he would balance the budget and then produce the largest deficit in history -- \$77 billion in fiscal 1980 (includes off budget items)?

Why did Mr. Carter say in 1976 that he would keep inflation at 4% and then drive inflation to its present 14% level with wild overspending?

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Let me read you some of Mr. Carter's promises:

"We simply cannot check inflation by keeping people out of work," Mr. Carter said in the July 26, 1976 issue of Newsweek.

"I guarantee that I will not fight inflation with your jobs," Mr. Carter promised in the September 2, 1979 issue of the Washington Post.

But even Mr. Carter's own running mate, Vice-President Walter Mondale, admits Mr. Carter broke that promise and did use unemployment to fight inflation.

Let me quote to you from the Louisville Courier-Journal of 1980. "We think what we're doing now will be using unemployment for a while. We know that." Vice-President Mondale said, "But the shallower the recession, the less we will suffer on those terms."

Or another Carter promise:

"I would never increase taxes for the working people or our country and the older and middle-income groups...and you can depend on that if I am elected."

Mr. Carter broke that promise. Not only did he recommend the huge social security tax increase, but also proposed a total of 20 new taxes and became the biggest taxer in Presidential history.

The chaos in the economy is echoed in the dangerous decline in American's military strength under Mr. Carter.

It was Mr. Carter who cut \$38 billion out of Jerry Ford's defense programs while Harold Brown, one of the weakest Secretaries of Defense in history, uttered hardly a word of protest.

Here's what Senator Ernest Hollings -- a member of Mr. Carter's own party and an expert on military and budgetary matters -- said:

" And yet while the Soviet Union has been building its military might at an unprecedented rate, what have we done in response?

"We cancelled the B-1 bomber, pushed aside the neutron bomb, stretched out the cruise missile, delayed deployment of the Trident far into the future, shut down the production line for the Minutemen II missile and have stood aside while thousands of our best military personnel have been driven out of uniform by inadequate pay and benefits."

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These are more examples of gong show diplomacy and Mr. Carter's ramshackle, makeshift foreign policy.

Here's what a member of Mr. Carter's own party -- Senator Edward Kennedy said:

"Whether by incredible mismanagement or irresponsible action, the Carter Administration has managed to jeopardize the security of Israel, to damage the peace prospects in the Middle East, undermine relations with other friends and make American foreign policy the laughingstock of nations throughout the world." (Philadelphia Inquirer, March 6, 1980.)

After four years of Jimmy Carter, the national defense is in jeopardy, American foreign policy is non-existent, the economy is in chaos and inflation, taxes and unemployment are overwhelming the American people.

This isn't just a record of failures -- it's a litany of disasters.

The only questions that remain are: Can we afford four more years of Mr. Carter?

Can we afford four more years of Democratic rule in Congress?

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. . . The Democrats must not be permitted to deprive the American people of their right to a vote on the Carter record The American people will resent a smokescreen of trivia and personal attacks.

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. . . On the critical issues of unemployment, double-digit inflation, the largest tax-bite in history and a budget wildly out of balance, Carter has broken every single pledge he made to the American people (See Fact Sheets 1, 2, 3, 4).

. . . Mr. Carter refuses to be held accountable for his performance as President

. . . But there is only one question before us: Did Mr. Carter keep the promises he made in 1976 to the American people?

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Brown, Muskie, Department of Health and Human Services Patricia Harris, and other cabinet officers like Shirley Hufstедler are out politicking instead of tending to the nation's business.

VI. INCOMPETENCE, INCOHERENCE

Carter policies at home and abroad are marked by incompetence and incoherence Carter about-faces on inflation, spending, tax cuts Iranian hostage situation Soviet gains in Africa, Afghanistan, The Caribbean . . . American Ambassadors held prisoner . . . Taiwanization of Israel . . . Carter's flip flops and gong show diplomacy all lead to strained relations with key allies like France and Germany Europe is shifting toward separate diplomatic initiatives with Moscow . . . Mideast talks breaking down

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Random Thoughts on Democrat Party Platform

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- Their platform lists program after program which they pledge to spend more money on, and if you read it, it virtually ignores the working middle-income taxpayers -- the ones who pay the bills!
- Notice the GOP platform is organized by topics such as Free Individuals, Families, Neighborhoods, Jobs, Peace, Freedom... The Democrats organized them by Government programs -- How telling!
- There is a clear difference in approach and tone: The GOP says things don't have to be this way and they put forward bold, new plans that involve individuals and freedom from government; The Democrats see the solution as if only we spend more federal dollars, our problems will go away -- They have written a "map of misery".

- Claim
Democrat's problems were inherited from the Republicans.

Carter inherited problems from the Ford Administration.

Truth

Four years in the White House, and over a quarter of a century of controlling Congress, the Democrats can't blame anyone but themselves for our country's problems.

Inflation was 4.8% in 1976. It is now three times that rate

Unemployment was 7.7% and falling. It is now 7.8% and climbing. One million more people are out of work than when President Ford left office. The Democrats are going to put more and more out of work before the year's end!

Claim

Platform claims the Democrats have reduced taxes, restrained government spending and steadily reduced budget deficits.

Platform claims the Democrat Party has put into place a "strong anti-inflation program"

Their platform states "the record of the past four years is a testament to what Democrats can do working together..."

The platform says "Government must set the example of fiscal responsibility for all our citizens who are helping in the fight against inflation..."

The platform commits the Democrats to tax reductions to "combat recession as soon as it appears..."

The Democrat platform specifically opposes a Constitutional Amendment to balance the Budget.

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This is a truly amazing claim! In the last 4 years, the Carter White House, and the Congress, and Democrats have increased spending by \$231 billion -- increased taxes by \$246 billion, and run up budget deficits totalling \$168 billion.

This administration has increased spending, taxes and budget deficits more than any other in our history!

They may be happy with reducing inflation from 18% they caused earlier this year to 12% today, but the American people aren't!

Can you imagine campaigning on "Four More Years"? Their economic record, and lost prestige throughout the world is a testament to their inability to govern.

Carter and the Democrats certain have not set any examples of fiscal responsibility. They are fighting inflation by throwing the economy into a recession

Wake up! The Recession is Here! Millions have lost their jobs this year and they are stalling on a tax cut!

The GOP platform states a Republican President and a Republican Congress would restrain spending and balance the budget -- and if necessary seek to adopt a Constitutional Amendment to balance the budget

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The Democrat platform lists a whole series of spending programs and proudly crows how much they have increased spending the last 4 years.

The Democrats claim they reduced taxes in 1977 and 1978!

Remember the 1976 Democrat call to "Slash \$5 to \$7 billion in Military Spending!"

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The GOP platform specifically says a Republican President will work with Congress to enact tuition tax credits to help hard-pressed parents send their children to school.

Yes -- 75% for one program, 223% for another, 113% for yet another, 157% for another -- Real federal belt-tightening.

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The 1977 "tax cut" was the \$50 rebate fiasco and 1978 (Kennedy/Burgers) was enacted over the objections of the Carter White House.

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SUMMARY

This Democrat platform is quintessential Carter... "A Plan without ideas, Ideas without a plan..."

The Democrat document says we must accept less, share shortages and be prepared to passively accept the decline of America.

The Democrats say we face an "age of limits" - that we suffer from a national "malaise"...

We respond, the only "malaise" in this great nation is found in the bankrupt Democrat leadership and policies. The Republicans shout

hope, not despair, up, not down -- the restoration of the American dream...

Reagan and the Republicans want to make America great again and "together, move a new beginning..."

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SUGGESTED STATEMENT ON DEMOCRAT ECONOMIC PLANKS

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Jimmy Carter tries to blame many of today's economic ills on the Ford Administration. The record, no matter how Carter and his cronies try to twist it, does not support the claim. Inflation was 4.8% in 1976, today it is more than double that. Unemployment was 7.7% and going down when Gerald Ford left office, today unemployment is 7.8% and going up. Spending has increased by \$231 billion. Taxes have increased by \$246 billion. Deficits for Carter's term are at a record \$168 billion. Interest rates are up, housing starts are down and the confidence of the American people in their economy is at an all-time low. This is the record of Jimmy Carter's term in office.

In their platform, the Democrats give lip service to reducing spending, they hedge on a tax cut and they refuse to support a

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STATEMENT ON DEMOCRAT ECONOMIC PLANKS

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Constitutional amendment to balance the budget. The Democrats have an economic plan which offers no hope for the working men and women who need and deserve a sensible, responsible approach to end the recession the Democrats brought on.

The Republican platform presents a specific and workable plan to restore the prosperity Jimmy Carter has taken away. The Republican plan is for an immediate tax cut, a true reduction in federal spending and a balanced budget.

What is really at stake here is not just a bunch of statistics. Rather, what is really at stake is whether America's working men and women will be able to continue to provide for their families the quality of life they richly deserve. What is at stake is whether our country will continue to provide opportunities for success, or whether we will be permanently shackled to an economy which cruelly ends the dreams and hopes millions of hard working Americans who want nothing more than a chance to make it. What is at stake here is whether our Nation will continue to be the land of growth, opportunity and progress.

Never has the choice between the two parties been so clear. Never have the stakes been higher.

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SUGGESTED PRESS RELEASE ON DEMOCRAT ECONOMIC PLANKS

XXXXXX -- Calling it "the moral equivalent of 'Fantasy Island'", ///// sharply criticized the economic planks of the Democrat platform today. In a statement issued here, ///// cited the miserable record of Democrat leadership and discussed the weakness of the Democrat economic planks.

"After parliamentary hocus-pocus even Houdini would have admired, the Democrats have adopted an approach to the economy which reminds me of the misguided child who throws gasoline on a fire in the belief that any liquid will put it out. The Democrats have said 'full steam ahead' to a spend-a-thon which has already caused recession, inflation, unemployment and higher taxes. Once again, we see the middle income taxpayers being forced to perform a juggling act just to house, feed and clothe their families," ///// said.

///// added: "While the Democrat platform claims that Jimmy Carter inherited his economic problems from President Ford the truth is that inflation has more than doubled since Carter took office. Unemployment was declining when President Ford left office; today unemployment lines are longer than ever. Federal spending under the Democrats has increased by \$231 billion,

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with a record overall deficit of \$168 billion. Incredibly, though, the Democrats oppose a Constitutional amendment to balance the budget, a promise made and never kept by Jimmy Carter. The Democrats also hedge on a tax cut, pledging cuts 'as soon as the recession appears.' Evidently, reality is an unwelcome factor in Democrat platforms.

"The Republican platform offers specific and workable solutions to the economic problems the Democrats have created. These include a reduction in federal spending, a balanced budget and an immediate tax cut. Our economic recovery plan recognizes that the burden of the recession rests heaviest on the shoulders of the working men and women who want nothing more than to have their hard-earned paychecks be worth something. Our program is realistic and offers hope for those whose very existence is threatened by the Carter recession.

"The Democrat approach to the economy is the moral equivalent of 'Fantasy Island.' Their economic planks are made of balsa wood which will collapse upon close examination by the American people."

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Constitutional amendment to balance the budget. The Democrats have an economic plan which offers no hope for the working men and women who need and deserve a sensible, responsible approach to end the recession the Democrats brought on.

The Republican platform presents a specific and workable plan to restore the prosperity Jimmy Carter has taken away. The Republican plan is for an immediate tax cut, a true reduction in federal spending and a balanced budget.

What is really at stake here is not just a bunch of statistics. Rather, what is really at stake is whether America's working men and women will be able to continue to provide for their families the quality of life they richly deserve. What is at stake is whether our country will continue to provide opportunities for success, or whether we will be permanently shackled to an economy which cruelly ends the dreams and hopes millions of hard working Americans who want nothing more than a chance to make it. What is at stake here is whether our Nation will continue to be the land of growth, opportunity and progress.

Never has the choice between the two parties been so clear. Never have the stakes been higher.

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SUGGESTED PRESS RELEASE ON DEMOCRAT ECONOMIC PLANKS

XXXXXX -- Calling it "the moral equivalent of 'Fantasy Island'", ///// sharply criticized the economic planks of the Democrat platform today. In a statement issued here, ///// cited the miserable record of Democrat leadership and discussed the weakness of the Democrat economic planks.

"After parliamentary hocus-pocus even Houdini would have admired, the Democrats have adopted an approach to the economy which reminds me of the misguided child who throws gasoline on a fire in the belief that any liquid will put it out. The Democrats have said 'full steam ahead' to a spend-a-thon which has already caused recession, inflation, unemployment and higher taxes. Once again, we see the middle income taxpayers being forced to perform a juggling act just to house, feed and clothe their families," ///// said.

///// added: "While the Democrat platform claims that Jimmy Carter inherited his economic problems from President Ford the truth is that inflation has more than doubled since Carter took office. Unemployment was declining when President Ford left office; today unemployment lines are longer than ever. Federal spending under the Democrats has increased by \$231 billion,

-more-

with a record overall deficit of \$168 billion. Incredibly, though, the Democrats oppose a Constitutional amendment to balance the budget, a promise made and never kept by Jimmy Carter. The Democrats also hedge on a tax cut, pledging cuts 'as soon as the recession appears.' Evidently, reality is an unwelcome factor in Democrat platforms.

"The Republican platform offers specific and workable solutions to the economic problems the Democrats have created. These include a reduction in federal spending, a balanced budget and an immediate tax cut. Our economic recovery plan recognizes that the burden of the recession rests heaviest on the shoulders of the working men and women who want nothing more than to have their hard-earned paychecks be worth something. Our program is realistic and offers hope for those whose very existence is threatened by the Carter recession.

"The Democrat approach to the economy is the moral equivalent of 'Fantasy Island.' Their economic planks are made of balsa wood which will collapse upon close examination by the American people."