Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Reagan, Ronald: 1980 Campaign Files, 1965-80 Folder Title: 09/22/1980, Knoxville Speech (2 of 2) Box: 433

To see more digitized collections visit: <u>https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material</u>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: <u>https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories</u>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <u>https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-</u> <u>support/citation-guide</u>

National Archives Catalogue: <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/</u>

FROM:	BOB GARRICK
OUT AT:	11 am
	Sat. Sept. 20.1980

Senator Paul Laxalt VAmbassador Anne Armstrong Bill Casey Ed Meese Jim Baker Bill Brock Dean Burch (For Ambassador Bush) Peter Dailey Mike Deaver Lorew Lewis Lyn Nofziger Verne Orr Bill Timmons Dick Wirthlin VCongressman Tom Evans

₽.

VRichard Allen Martin Anderson VJim Brady VEd Gray

Others (/Ray Bell / 3rd Floor

INFORMATION

Herewith, the second draft of the Knoxville speech to be given by RR on Monday. 22 Sent. Please return with your comments by 10 A.M. Sunday, 21 Sept. Thank you.

Draft#2 (WFG) 9-19-80 1 - KNOXVILLE SPEECH, DRAFT

KNOXVILLE - DRAFT

It's good to be in Knoxville, a city that represents the growth and progress that have made the South and this nation great.

I know the eyes of the world will be on Knoxville in 1982 when Expo 82 opens. I want you to know I look forward to attending--in an official capacity.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has contributed greatly to Knoxville and this entire region. As President, I will make sure that the TVA tradition of progress and growth continues, and that TVA is responsive to the needs of all the people of this region.

And then of course there is another symbol of technological progress, your neighbor, Oak Ridge. All over the world that name is synonymous with the uses of nuclear energy for peace and freedom and economic growth.

But I don't have to remind you that this spirit of Knoxville, a spirit of progress and hope, has been overshadowed in the past three and a half years by the gloom and despair emanating from the White House.

Jimmy Carter can't do the job--so he wants us to expect less.

Jimmy Carter can't do the job--so he wants us to lower our expectations.

On May 22, 1978, Jimmy Carter came to Knoxville. He told you then: "Inflation is our number one problem."

Today, Jimmy Carter is our nation's number one problem.

Mr. Carter's high inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high unemployment are all symptoms of his lack of leadership, his lack of vision.

In those same remarks in 1978, he mentioned "economic prosperity" and "full employment."

Let Jimmy Carter go to the 48 counties in Tennessee in which unemployment is over 10 percent and tell their people about prosperity.

Let Jimmy Carter go to the 9 counties in Tennessee in which unemployment is over 14 percent, and tell the jobless about full employment.

Let Jimmy Carter come to Tennessee, where the unemployment rate in July was 8.5 percent, above the national average, and tell you you've never had it so good.

But you know and I know he doesn't dare come to Tennessee and defend his record. He knows that the people of Knoxville and of Tennessee remember his promises of 1976 and his record since then.

Jimmy Carter has turned his back on the South.

Well, don't feel lonely about that. You're not the only one he's turned his back on. When I challenged him to the kind of

debate the majority of the American people want, he turned his back on me.

That's not the kind of spirit the people of Tennessee want in a leader. People from Tennessee and the South do not run from a fight.

He's a jogger. But when it comes to running away from his record he's broken every existing sprinting record.

In recent years economists have come up with a measurement called the Misery Index. This index is found by combining the rate of inflation with the rate of unemployment. The higher the total, the worse off we are.

In 1976, candidate Jimmy Carter made much of the Misery Index. He said it was the worst in fifty years.

In 1976 the Mixery Index was 12.5 percent. Today, after three and a half years of Carter failures, the Misery Index is 20.3 percent. By the very standard Jimmy Carter used to define failure, he has failed.

But the Carter economic failure is so great that we need a more specific index by which to measure the damage he has done.

Let's call it the Family Suffering Index, which deals with basic needs: work, food, shelter, and fuel. This index combines the annual average rate of mortgage interest, the rate of price increases in food and gasoline and the unemployment rate. Again, the higher the figure, the more the average family suffers. This index gives us some idea of how families suffer in the areas of basic human needs, the everyday concerns, the necessities of life.

In 1976, the Family Suffering Index was 24.2.

During the last twelve months for which figures are available mortgage interest rates have averaged 12 percent; food prices have increased 7.5 percent; gasoline prices have increased 50.9 percent; and unemployment has averaged 6.6 percent.

Therefore, the Family Suffering Index under Jimmy Carter is an incredible, unconscionable 77 percent, more than three times as great as when Mr. Carter took office.

Let Mr. Carter explain that figure. He was eager to condemn the Misery Index of 1976. Now let him tell every American family why their economic suffering has tripled in severity under his administration.

I know that people of East Tennessee are concerned about Carter's energy policies. I know that when they read the Democratic platform and see the words "we will retire nuclear plants in an orderly manner"--even when such words are qualified by vague references to the availability of alternate fuels--they are concerned and rightly so about the direction Jimmy Carter wants to take this country.

And the failure of the Carter Administration to implement policies which fully utilize coal reserves make the people of East Tennessee wonder if Mr. Carter really has an energy policy.

Mr. Carter promised to dramatically increase coal production, but then signed two major bills making it even more difficult to mine and use coal. After three years, Mr. Carter's Interior Department has given full approval to coal mining plans in only 3 of 24 coal states. As a result of these and other actions by the Carter Administration, 22,000 coal miners are out of work, and almost one-eighth of our coal capacity lies idle.

I have talked with John Duncan and Jim Quillen and Howard Baker and Lamar Alexander and I share their concern that Tennessee is being victimized by the failures of Carter's economic and energy policies.

There's plenty of coal throughout the nation--including the coal right here in Tennessee--to help fuel this country until the fuels of the future, like solar and fusion, are practical. But we have to be able to mine coal and we have to be able to use it. We must protect the environment, but we must have a balanced policy which recognizes our country's energy supplies as one of the keys to providing our people with more and better jobs.

The way we see ourselves, the vision we have of who we are and what we can do and where we want to go is all important.

Mr. Carter sees an America of lowered expectations, of growing tax burdens, of improvised, confused, unpredictable foreign policy and national defense policies that shift with the winds of the popularity polls. His message to the American people is: expect less, hope for less, and settle for less. The only

time the word "more" enters his vocabulary is when he's talking about taxes.

I do not and cannot agree with this vision of despair. It is a vision contrary to all that America has ever stood for. It is a vision based on a lack of faith in a free people.

But in everything he says and does, this attitude, this vision defines Mr. Carter's view of the future.

But I know that the message of hope I am bringing all across America is the message Americans believe in. Our attitude is the traditional American attitude of progress and optimism and faith based on what we know a free people can do.

Mr. Carter's record of failure reflects his attitude of defeatism and despair. It is not the attitudde the people of Tennessee or the people of America support.

The spirit of the Volunteer State is a spirit Mr. Carter doesn't understand. That spirit says the people of Tennessee and the people of America can <u>do</u> the job if they <u>have</u> a job. We need a new administration, and we need a new vision in the White House.

Mr. Carter says: No, we can't.

But I say: Yes, we can. And, working together we will. We will build a stronger, better America.

Let's put America back to work again.

The time is now!

FROM:	BOB GARRICK M
OUT AT:	3:30 PM
	Thursday, 18 Sept.

Senator Paul Laxalt

Ambassador Anne Armstrong

Bill Casey

Ed Meese

Jim Baker

Bill Brock

Dean Burch (For Ambassador Bush)

Peter Dailey

Mike Deaver

Drew Lewis

Lyn Nofziger

Verne Orr

Bill Timmons

Dick Wirthlin

Congressman Tom Evans

Richard Allen Martin Anderson Jim Brady Ed Gray

Others

INFORMATION FYI - enclosed are the remarks to be given by RR on Monday,22/9 in Knoxville. Please review and return with your comments by 3 P.M. Friday 19 Sept. Thank you.

KNOXVILLE - DRAFT

It's good to be in Knoxville, a city that represents the growth and progress that have made the South and this nation great.

I know the eyes of the world will be on Knoxville in 1982 when Expo 82 opens. I want you to know I look forward to attending--in an official capacity.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has contributed greatly to Knoxville and this entire region. As President, I will make sure that the TVA tradition of progress and growth continues, in the interest of all the people of this region.

And then of course there is another symbol of technological progress, your neighbor, Oak Ridge. All over the world that name is synonymous with the uses of nuclear energy for peace and freedom and economic growth.

But I don't have to remind you that this spirit of Knoxville, a spirit of progress and hope, has been overshadowed in the past three and a half years by the gloom and despair emanating from the White House.

Jimmy Carter can't do the job--so he wants us to expect less.

Jimmy Carter can't do the job--so he wants us to lower our expectations.

On May 22, 1978, Jimmy Carter came to Knoxville. He told you then: "Inflation is our number one problem."

Today, Jimmy Carter is our nation's number one problem.

Mr. Carter's high inflation and high taxes and high interest rates and high unemployment are all symptoms of his lack of leadership, his lack of vision.

In those same remarks in 1978, he mentioned "economic prosperity" and "full employment."

Let Jimmy Carter go to the 48 counties in Tennessee in which unemployment is over 10 percent and tell their people about prosperity.

Let Jimmy Carter go to the 9 counties in Tennessee in which unemployment is over 14 percent, and tell the jobless about full employment.

Let Jimmy Carter come to Tennessee, where the unemployment rate in July was 8.5 percent, above the national average, and tell you you've never had it so good.

But you know and I know he doesn't dare come to Tennessee and defend his record. He knows that the people of Knoxville and of Tennessee remember his promises of 1976 and his record since then.

Jimmy Carter has turned his back on the South.

Well, don't feel lonely about that. You're not the only one he's turned his back on. When I challenged him to the kind of

debate the majority of the American people want, he turned his back on me.

That's not the kind of spirit the people of Tennessee want in a leader. People from Tennessee and the South do not run from a fight.

He's a jogger. But when it comes to running away from his record he's broken every existing sprinting record.

In recent years economists have come up with a measurement called the Misery Index. This index is found by combining the rate of inflation with the rate of unemployment. The higher the total, the worse off we are.

In 1976, candidate Jimmy Carter made much of the Misery Index. He said it was the worst in fifty years.

In 1976 the Mixery Index was 12.5 percent. Today, after three and a half years of Carter failures, the Misery Index is 20.3 percent.

But the Carter economic failure is so great that the Misery Index can give us only a partial idea of what his policies have done to American families. We need a more specific index by which to measure the damage he has done.

Let's call it the Family Suffering Index, which deals with basic needs: work, food, shelter, and fuel. This index takes the annual average rate of mortgage interest, the rate of price

increases in food and gasoline and the unemployment rate and comes up with a figure that gives us a more exact idea of how bad things are. Again, the higher the number the more the average family suffers.

In 1976, the Family Suffering Index was 24.2.

During the last twelve months for which figures are available mortgage interest rates have averaged 12 percent; food prices have increased 7.5 percent; gasoline prices have increased 50.9 percent; and unemployment has averaged 6.6 percent.

Therefore, the Family Suffering Index under Jimmy Carter is an incredible, unconscionable 77 percent, more than three times as great as when Mr. Carter took office.

And if Mr. Carter tries to excuse this inexcusable attack on American families by blaming it on OPEC, let me remind you that it was Jimmy Carter who told American families in 1976 that he would work with Congress to free us from OPEC.

He hasn't worked with Congress and Congress has shown no interest in working with him. He hasn't freed us from OPEC. Oil imports averaged more the first half of this year than for all of 1976 and now the hopes and aspirations of every American family are being crushed under an intolerable Family Suffering Index of 77 percent.

Let Mr. Carter explain that figure. He was eager to condemn the Misery Index of 1976. Now let him tell every American family

why their economic suffering has tripled in severity under his administration.

The way we see ourselves, the vision we have of who we are and what we can do and where we want to go is all important.

Mr. Carter sees an America of lowered expectations, of growing tax burdens, of improvised, confused, unpredictable foreign policy and national defense policies that shift with the winds of the popularity polls. His message to the American people is: expect less, hope for less, and settle for less. The only time the word "more" enters his vocabulary is when he's talking about taxes.

I do not and cannot agree with this vision of despair. It is a vision contrary to all that America has ever stood for. It is a vision based on a lack of faith in a free people.

But in everything he says and does, this attitude, this vision defines Mr. Carter's view of the future.

But I know that the message of hope I am bringing all across America is the message Americans believe in. Our attitude is the traditional American attitude of progress and optimism and faith based on what we know a free people can do.

Mr. Carter's record of failure reflects his attitude of defeatism and despair. It is not the attitudde the people of Tennessee or the people of America support.

The spirit of the Volunteer State is a spirit Mr. Carter doesn't understand. That spirit says the people of Tennessee and the people of America can <u>do</u> the job if they <u>have</u> a job. We need a new administration, and we need a new vision in the White House.

Mr. Carter says: No, we can't.

But I say: Yes, we can. And, working together we will. We will build a stronger, better America.

Let's put America back to work again.

The time is now!