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Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY:

Tuesday, September 23, 1980

CONTACT: Lyn Nofziger or
Ken Towery
703-685-3630

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Last night in Fort Lauderdale, I spoke of the insecurity felt by Americans in every important aspect of their lives. This insecurity has been caused by the failure of Jimmy Carter to provide leadership.

Today, in Pensacola, whose citizens know so well the need for a strong national defense, I want to talk with you about our need to restore the margin of safety vital to ensure peace and to defend our values.

But before I do, let me say this:

I know that you suffer from the Carter economic policies as other Americans do. I know that those of you living on fixed incomes are victims of the Carter inflation. I know that in recent months lay-offs have hit this area.

Those issues directly affect your daily lives.

And because you have a special interest in and knowledge of national security, you know that Jimmy Carter's most serious failure has been in the area of national defense.

- more -

I know that many of you have served in our armed forces and are now retired. Many of you or members of your families are now serving our nation. So I'd like to talk to you for a few moments about some of the things that Jimmy Carter does not mention in his commercials or his news conferences.

I want to talk to you about the real defense policies of the Carter administration and how they would contrast with the convictions and policies of a Reagan administration.

Please note I make this contrast in terms of administration rather than parties because I do not believe this administration's defense policies are representative of the thinking of millions of rank and file Democratic party members. The Carter administration, dominated as it is by the McGovernite wing of the party, has broken sharply with the views and policies of Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and many contemporary leaders of the party.

Mr. Carter has recently adopted the rhetoric of strong defense. But his actions show that he lacks the vision and the will necessary to restore America's margin of safety and to preserve a genuine world peace.

The annual report of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has noted the adverse defense trends with alarm--but we don't need generals and admirals to tell us that our readiness is eroded.

Every sailor, every soldier, every marine, every airman knows the desperate condition of our state of readiness under the Carter administration.

Recent reports claim that six out of the ten Army continental U.S. divisions have dropped from "fully combat ready" to "not ready" status. The same reports say that 24 percent of our ships are less than fully ready because of skilled personnel shortages. The Army Chief of Staff says we have a "hollow army" with shortages in personnel, training, and equipment.

Basic ammunition supplies and fuel shortages make our ability to respond questionable at best and quite dangerous in any event.

There are members of service families present here today who know that the Carter attitude toward military personnel is even less responsible than his attitude toward military hardware.

--The typical enlisted family has a standard of living 17 percent below the minimum standard for Americans and 50 percent below a moderate standard;

--More than half a million military personnel, regardless of their skills, educational background or the length of the work week, are paid no more, and in many instances far less, than the minimum that would be paid for a 40-hour work week in the private sector;

--Faced with the challenge of finding suitable housing, the average enlisted person cannot qualify for a loan and, as a result, many military men must leave their families behind and undergo the hardship of separation, not for reasons of duty but because they cannot afford to house their families;

--As a result of low pay, thousands of servicemen must find a second job in order to make ends meet.

History will record that under Jimmy Carter our military personnel had first-class equipment taken out of their hands--and food stamps put in them.

I believe there is a way to reverse this shameful situation. If I have the opportunity--and that will depend on your help--I will implement a program of compensation and benefits for our valued military personnel comparable to what is available in the private sector. Our country must provide the defenders of freedom with a quality of life that is equivalent to the sacrifices they make on our behalf.

With your support, and working closely with Congress, the next administration can and will restore and maintain America's strength.

Restoring the margin of safety--and building American security--will mean a new vision of leadership.

Economic growth, through personal, across-the-board tax rate reductions, accelerated depreciation to increase investment, a balanced budget, and elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse of tax dollars will contribute to the margin of safety.

Working together we can make America great and secure again. Working together we will not only feel but be more secure.

* * * * *

Master

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: *6:00 PM*

Friday 19 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

INFORMATION

For your review and comments
Gov. Reagan's remarks to be
delivered at Pensacola airport
rally on Tuesday, 23 Sept.
Your response must be received
by 10 a.m. Sat. 20 Sept.
Thank you.

-
- ✓ Richard Allen *rec'd 9/20 10:50 AM*
 - ✓ Martin Anderson
 - ✓ Jim Brady
 - ✓ Ed Gray

-
- ✓ Others / Ray Bell 3rd Floor

1 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

FIRST DRAFT - WFG

9/19/80

PENSACOLA REMARKS: NATIONAL INSECURITY AND JIMMY CARTER

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But before I do, let me say this:

I know that you suffer from the Carter economic policies as other Americans do. I know that those of you living on fixed incomes are victims of the Carter inflation. I know that in recent months lay-offs have hit this area. I know that you suffer from the insecurity that comes from drug traffic and the crime it breeds.

The failure of the Carter Administration to carry out a war against illegal drugs is a national scandal and the people of Pensacola and Florida are suffering from it.

These issues directly affect your daily lives. ~~But~~ ^{AND} because you have ^{SPECIAL} interest in and knowledge of national security, you

2 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

know that Jimmy Carter's most dangerous failure has been in the area of national defense.

I know that many of you have served in our armed forces and are now retired. Many of you or members of your families are presently serving our nation. So I'd like to talk to you for a few moments about some of the things that Jimmy Carter does not mention in his commercials or his news conferences.

I want to talk to you about the real defense policies of the Carter Administration and how they would contrast with the convictions and policies of a Reagan Administration. Please note I make this contrast in terms of administration rather than parties because I do not believe this administration's defense policies are representative of the thinking of millions of rank and file democratic party members. The Carter Administration, dominated as it is by the McGovernite wing of the party, has broken sharply with the views and policies of Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and many contemporary leaders of the party.

In fact, Mr. Carter and his Defense Secretary disagree with the views of John F. Kennedy who said:

"There can only be one defense policy for the United States, and that is summed up in the word 'first.' I do not mean first, but. I do not mean first, when. I do not mean first, if. I mean first, period. Only then can we stop the next war before it starts. Only then can we prevent war by preparing for it.

3 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

Yes, Mr. Carter has recently adopted the rhetoric of strong defense. But his actions show that he lacks the vision and the will necessary to restore America's margin of safety.

Jimmy Carter, by his defense policy failures, has made the Eighties a Decade of Danger for the United States.

In their annual report to Congress last year, the Joint Chiefs of Staff warned that we are "another year closer to a potentially unstable and acutely dangerous imbalance."

That was last year. This year, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reported to Congress that, "There is no question that Soviet momentum has brought them from a position of clear inferiority to their present status of at least strategic equality, and the trends for the future are adverse." "We face an adversary," he said, "at least our equal in strategic nuclear power and possessing substantial advantages in theater nuclear and conventional forces."

He went on to say that momentum would give the Soviets an advantage over the United States in most indicators of strategic strength by the early 1980s and that this shift will continue during the decade ahead.

But we don't need generals and admirals to tell us that our readiness is endangered.

Every airman, every soldier, every marine, every sailor knows the desperate condition of our state of readiness under the Carter Administration.

4 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

Recent reports claim that 6 out of the 10 Army continental U.S. divisions have dropped from "fully combat ready" to "not ready" status. ~~from 227 to 179~~. The same reports say that 24 percent of our ships are less than fully ready because of skilled personnel shortages. The Army Chief of Staff says we have a "hollow army" with shortages in personnel, training, weapons, and equipment.

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--The typical enlisted family has a standard of living 17 percent below the minimum standard for Americans and 50 percent below a moderate standard;

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5 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

--As a result of low pay, thousands of servicemen must find a second job in order to make ends meet.

History will record that under Jimmy Carter our military personnel had weapons taken out of their hands--and food stamps put in them.

I believe there is a way to reverse this shameful and potentially dangerous situation. If I have the opportunity--and that will depend on your help--I will implement a program of compensation and benefits for our valued military personnel comparable to what is available in the private sector. Our country must provide the defenders of freedom with a quality of life tht is equivalent to the sacrifices they make on our behalf.

With your support, and working closely with Congress, the next Administration can and will restore and maintain America's strength. It will not be easy, nor will it be inexpensive. Neither, however, is the task insurmountable or beyond what we can readily afford.

Restoring the margin of safety--and building American security--will mean a new vision of leadership.

Economic growth, through personal, across-the-board tax rate reductions, accelerated depreciation to increase investment, a balanced budget, and elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse on tax dollars will contribute to the margin of safety.

Working together we can make America great and secure again. Working together we ~~can~~^{will} not only feel but be more secure.

6 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

Let's get America working again.

The Time is now!

1 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

SECOND DRAFT--WFG

9/21/80, 12 Noon

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The failure of the Carter Administration to carry out a war against illegal drugs is a national scandal and the people of Pensacola and Florida are suffering from it.

These issues directly affect your daily lives. And because you have a special interest in and knowledge of national security, you know that Jimmy Carter's most dangerous failure has been in the area of national defense.

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In fact, Mr. Carter and his Defense Secretary disagree with the views of John F. Kennedy who said:

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5 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

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6 - PENSACOLA SPEECH - DRAFT

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FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 6:00 PM
Friday 19 Sept.

Senator Paul Laxalt

Ambassador Anne Armstrong

Bill Casey

✓ Ed Meese

Jim Baker

Bill Brock

Dean Burch
(For Ambassador Bush)

Peter Dailey

Mike Deaver

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