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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, October 7, 1980

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

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN
OXFORD MALL - LANGHORNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Yesterday, I said I was going to talk this week about the five missing issues--the five major American problems which Mr. Carter has refused to address in this campaign. It's easy to understand why Mr. Carter tries to hide his record of economic failures. It is because his administration has made a mockery of the economic hopes and dreams Americans hold for a better tomorrow.

Yesterday, I discussed how he has attempted to distort the record on inflation. Have you heard him boast about how well he's been able to control inflation? Of course you haven't. Inflation was 4.8 percent when he took office. This year it has averaged 12.2 percent and is headed higher.

Whenever he mentions inflation, all he can do is blame it on someone else. So far, he's blamed high inflation and high interest rates on the American worker, the American people in general, the Federal Reserve, and the OPEC nations. He's put the blame on everyone except right where it belongs--on the policies of his own administration. In fact, he's spent so much time blaming others for the problems his policies have caused that the symbol of his campaign is rapidly becoming a finger pointed in the other direction.

Mr. Carter won't even take the responsibility for his administration's own actions. Worse still, he tries to hide the record by distorting statistics. Yesterday, I described how this administration had jimmied the Producer Price Inflation numbers to make inflation look better than it really is.

Today, I want to talk about the decline in the American standard of living. This is the second missing issue in the Carter campaign.

Recently, I came across a campaign brochure from the Carter campaign. In it, the Carter/Mondale advertisers claim that--quote--"No one can match their record." Given 12 percent inflation, 7-1/2 percent unemployment, 14.1 percent

- more -

unemployment among Black Americans, 14 percent prime interest rate, and a doubling of fuel prices, for your sake, I certainly hope no American President ever matches this record.

But there was an even more amazing statement in that brochure. Mr. Carter says, and I quote, "Real income per person in our country has increased by almost 8 percent." In other words, Mr. Carter is trying to tell you that you're far better off now than when he was elected.

Look around you--at the price of food, the price of gasoline, the interest rate you have to pay to buy a house, the amount of taxes taken out of your paycheck. Look around, then ask yourself: are you really better off than you were in 1976? Is your life more secure? Is your family more stable? Is your future more promising? You don't need to see the statistics: you know the bitter truth. For every step you've tried to take forward these past four years, this administration's policies have pushed you two or three steps backward. Nowhere is this more true than with the American standard of living.

Mr. Carter should have spent more time looking up statistics on the standard of living. He would have found, on page 15 of the Department of Commerce's August Economic Indicators, that average weekly earnings, including all cost of living raises, now buy 8-1/2 percent less than they did when Mr. Carter took office. Another study shows that under this administration, a typical family's real income has reached a ten-year low.

Thus, in just four years, Mr. Carter's policies have done more to reduce the American standard of living than the policies of any president in recent memory. This is a hidden tragedy, because the dollar value of your paycheck is greater than it was a decade ago. But it is an economic tragedy nonetheless because those dollars will buy so much less.

Because of the one-two punch of inflation and taxes, after-tax income measured in 1970 dollars will be less than \$8,000 this year for the average family. In 1970, real income was more than \$400 greater.

I challenge Mr. Carter to defend his record of making Americans worse off economically than they were when he took office. And I challenge him to explain to Americans exactly how they could possibly expect a complete turn-about in performance if Mr. Carter is re-elected.

I don't expect him to answer the challenge, of course, because he continues to remain silent on the major economic issues confronting the American people. I suggest he is silent because he has no answers to the problems his policies have created.

By contrast, a Reagan/Bush administration will be able to reverse the decline in Americans' standard of living, and we will begin working to do this our first day in office. Last month, I offered a comprehensive economic program geared at reducing the growth in federal spending, in taxes, in regulation, and in the money supply, and restoring predictability and stability to economic policy. These are steps this administration has utterly refused to take, but they will form the foundation of the Reagan-Bush economic plan. And when we carry out these steps, we will be able to gradually reduce inflation and unemployment at the same time. That way, we can restore the dream to Americans of a continually improving standard of living.

Keep in mind, this dream is not so much for those who are already well-off as it is for those--the great majority of Americans who are less fortunate--for the poor, for minority Americans, and for the elderly. They have the most to gain when we establish economic policies which preserve the value of the dollars they earn. A truly compassionate government must be fully committed to this objective.

I am told that Mr. Carter is running television ads in the Philadelphia area about my record as Governor of California.

I haven't seen them, but I am told they bear the same resemblance to truth as Mr. Carter's record does to competency. I am told they may win an Emmy as "best imaginative fiction."

But in a way he may be doing me a favor. I can assure you that I'm not as afraid of my record as Mr. Carter is of his.

Let's look at our records.

One of the most important tasks of a leader is to choose qualified men and women who can help him do the job. I did this as Governor of California and will do it as President. Let Mr. Carter defend the quality of his appointments in the White House staff and the Executive Branch--if he can.

A leader must be able to work with the people.

As Governor of California, I created:

--a government efficiency task force that produced recommendations that saved the state more than \$200 million through improved management techniques.

--a special administration task force that produced the comprehensive Welfare and Medi-Cal reform programs that reduced the welfare rolls by 350,000 people and put 76,000 welfare recipients into real jobs.

--a drug abuse task force that provided the stimulus for a greatly expanded program against drug abuse.

--an educational reform task force that came up with a series of recommendations to improve the management of school districts and strengthen education.

Leadership demands effective action. Not just words, not just promises, but action that works for the people. In California, a state with a 5-3 edge in Democratic voter registration, I was re-elected by 500,000 votes. You don't get that kind of bi-partisan support without a proven record of effective action.

* * * * *

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 3:30 PM.
Sunday, 5 Oct.

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

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Others

Ray Bell

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Bill Morris

OXFORD MALL

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administration has failed, an area it refuses to talk about, and an area where it has tried to hide its failure with false statistics. That area is the decline in the American standard of living, and it is the Second Missing Issue in the Carter Campaign.

Recently, I came across a campaign brochure from the Carter campaign. In it, the Carter/Mondale advertisers claim that -- quote -- "No one can match their record." Given 12% inflation, 7-1/2% unemployment, 14.2% unemployment among black Americans, 14% prime interest rate, and a doubling of fuel prices, for your sake, I certainly hope no American President ever matches this record again.

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I hope you'll excuse me if I say with what I think is justifiable pride:

I provided leadership for the people of California. The record is there to examine, and I hope you get a chance to do so. And with your help I will provide the same kind of leadership for America.

Master.

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OUT AT:

3:30 PM.

Sunday, 5 Oct.

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~~✓~~ Ambassador Anne Armstrong
~~✓~~ Bill Casey
~~✓~~ Ed Meese
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TO: Jim Brady, Lynn Nofziger, Martin Anderson
 FROM: Bob Garrick OXFORD MALL
 goes 12 noon
Tues, 7 Oct

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OK to
 send
 Garrick
 5 Oct
 2:35pm

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done
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Yesterday, I said I was going to talk this week about the Five Missing Issues — the five major American problems which Mr. Carter has utterly refused to talk about in this campaign. And with good reason, from his perspective. Because his administration has made a mockery of the economic hopes and dreams Americans hold for a better tomorrow, Mr. Carter tries to hide his record of economic failures.

Yesterday, I discussed how he has attempted to distort the record on inflation. Have you heard him boast about how well he's been able to control inflation? Of course you haven't. Inflation was 4.8% when he took office. This year it has averaged 12.2% and is headed higher.

Whenever he mentions inflation, all he can do is blame it on someone else. So far, he's blamed high inflation and high interest rates on the American worker, the American people in general, the Federal Reserve, and the OPEC nations. He's put the blame on everyone except right where it belongs -- on the policies of his own administration. In fact, he's spent so much time blaming others for the problems his policies have caused that the symbol of his campaign is rapidly becoming a finger pointed in the other direction.

Mr. Carter won't even take the responsibility for his administration's own actions. Worse still, he tries to hide the record by distorting statistics. Yesterday, I described how this administration had jimmied the producer price inflation numbers to make inflation look better than it really is. Today, I want to talk about another area where this

administration has failed, an area it refuses to talk about, and an area where it has tried to hide its failure with false statistics. That area is the decline in the American standard of living, and it is the Second Missing Issue in the Carter Campaign.

Recently, I came across a campaign brochure from the Carter campaign. In it, the Carter/Mondale advertisers claim that — quote -- "No one can match their record." Given 12% inflation, 7-1/2% unemployment, 14.2% unemployment among black Americans, 14% prime interest rate, and a doubling of fuel prices, for your sake, I certainly hope no American President ever matches this record again.

But there was an even more amazing statement on page two of the brochure. Mr. Carter says, and I quote, "Real income per person in our country has increased by almost 8%." In other words, Mr. Carter is trying to tell you that you're far better off now than when he was elected.

Look around you — at the price of food, the price of gasoline, the interest rate you have to pay to buy a house, the amount of taxes taken out of your paycheck. Look around, then ask yourself: are you really better off than you were in 1976? You don't need to see the statistics; you know the bitter truth. For every step you've tried to take forward these past four years, this administration's policies have pushed you two or three steps backward. Nowhere is this more true than with the American standard of living.

I've always heard that there are two kinds of statistics — the kind you look up, and the kind you make up. Mr. Carter should have spent more time looking up statistics on the standard of living. He would have found, on page 15 of the August Economic Indicators, that average weekly

earnings, including all cost of living raises, now buy 8-1/2% less than they did when Mr. Carter took office. The Tax Foundation just released a study which shows that under this administration, a typical family's real income has reached a ten-year low.

Thus, in just four years, Mr. Carter's policies have done more to reduce the American standard of living than the policies of any President in recent memory. This is a hidden tragedy, because the dollar value of your paycheck is greater than it was a decade ago. But it is an economic tragedy nonetheless, because those dollars will buy so much less.

Because of the one-two punch of inflation and taxes, after-tax income measured in 1970 dollars will be less than \$8,000 this year for the average family, according to the Tax Foundation. In 1970, real income was more than \$400 greater.

I challenge Mr. Carter to defend his record of making Americans worse off economically than they were when he took office. And I challenge him to explain to Americans exactly why they can expect a complete turnabout in performance if Mr. Carter is re-elected.

I don't expect him to answer the challenge, of course, because he continues to remain silent on the major economic issues confronting the American people. I suggest he is silent because he has no answers to the problems his policies have created.

By contrast, a Reagan/Bush administration will be able to reverse the decline in Americans' standard of living, and we will begin working to do this our first day in office. Last month, I offered a comprehensive economic program geared at reducing the growth in federal spending, in taxes, in regulation, and in the money supply, and restoring predictability and stability to economic policy. These are steps this

administration has utterly refused to take, but they will form the foundation of the Reagan economic plan. And when we carry out these steps, we will be able to gradually reduce inflation and unemployment at the same time. That way, we can restore the dream to Americans of a continually improving standard of living.

Keep in mind, this dream is not so much for those who are already well-off as it is for those among us who are less fortunate — for the poor, for minority Americans, and for the elderly. They have the most to gain when we establish economic policies which preserve the value of the dollars they earn. A truly compassionate government must be fully committed to this objective.

I am told that Mr. Carter is running television ads in the Philadelphia area, about my record as Governor of California.

I haven't seen them, but I am told they bear the same resemblance to truth as Mr. Carter's record does to competency. I am told they may win an Emmy as "Best Imaginative Fiction."

But in a way he may be doing me a favor. I want my record as governor to be known. I'm not as afraid of my record as Mr. Carter is of his.

Let's look at our records.

One of the most important tasks of a leader is to choose qualified men and women who can help him do the job. I did this as Governor of California and will do it as President. Can Mr. Carter boast of the quality of his appointments? He is curiously silent about them. Let him defend his appointments in the White House staff and the Executive Branch — if he can.

A leader must be able to work with the people.

As Governor of California, I created:

- a government efficiency task force that produced recommendations that saved the state more than \$200 million through improved management techniques.
- a special Administration Task Force that produced the comprehensive Welfare and Medi-Cal reform programs.
- a Drug Abuse Task Force that provided the stimulus for a greatly expanded program against drug abuse.
- an Educational Reform Task Force that came up with a series of recommendations to improve the management of school districts and strengthen education.

Leadership demands effective action. Not just words, not just promises but action that works for the people. In California, a state with a 5-3 edge in Democratic voter registration, I was re-elected by 100,000 votes. You don't get that kind of bi-partisan support without a proven record of effective action.

Executive leadership demands the ability to work with the legislature. There is bi-partisan agreement that my record of accomplishment in this field matches that of any governor in the history of California. It is of interest to note that the record of cooperation came about while working with a legislature controlled by the other party for ^{most of} the eight years of my stewardship.

I hope you'll excuse me if I say with what I think is justifiable pride:

I provided leadership for the people of California. The record is there to examine, and I hope you get a chance to do so. And with your help I will provide the same kind of leadership for America.