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Subseries: A: Bob Garrick File

Folder Title: 10/18/1980, St. Louis MO

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Last Updated: 10/10/2023

TO: Jim Brady, Marty Anderson, Lyn Nofziger, Dolan Draft
Mike Deaver

FROM: Bob Garrick

Send
14 Oct
Garrick
3:10 pm

ST. LOUIS - OCTOBER 18, 1980

Nancy and I are thrilled to be here in St. Louis -- thrilled because this city is the symbol of the energy and vigor that led to America's expansion as a nation.

I want you to know that we have seen this energy and vitality reflected in the faces of thousands on the campaign trail across America -- just as we have seen it reflected in the faces of all of you here today.

Now some say -- and you know who they are -- that our days of greatness as a nation are over. They say a great national malaise is upon us, they say our energy is spent, they say we must conserve and withdraw -- that we must tell our children not to dream as we once dreamed.

I say to those who are pessimistic about America's future -- let them come here to St. Louis -- let them come to the place where brave men and women -- many of them German, French, Italian and Irish immigrants -- stopped to make a home and prosper while others continued across the plains -- through the Rocky Mountains -- to open a continent and settle a nation.

For millions -- St. Louis was not just a gateway to the West -- St. Louis was a gateway to prosperity, to hope and to a vision of a different future.

I believe that in this campaign, in this election we can again find a gateway to a different future for America.

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I can think of no more fitting place than St. Louis to talk about our opportunity to reclaim the American dream, to embark on an era of national renewal and a new age of reform in America.

I see a future in which government stops being insensitive to ordinary people and their ordinary problems, a future in which government turns away from being distant, wasteful and bureaucratic. I see a future in which our national leaders stop refusing to take responsibility for the mistakes caused by unwise and haphazard domestic and foreign policies.

I believe that together we can build a society that sets loose again the ingenuity and energies of the American people -- while it has compassion for the lonely, the desperate and the forgotten.

I say we can reduce the cost of government by cutting away the national scandal of billions lost to government waste and fraud every year. We can reduce the burden of government on the average citizen through a series of carefully planned tax cuts that will stimulate economic growth -- growth that will offer a larger share of our economic pie to all our citizens.

We can relieve business and labor of unnecessary and senseless federal regulations while we maintain high standards for the quality of our environment and the safety of our working places.

We can fight wrongdoing and corruption in public life while we work to bring into government men and women of compassion, competence and caliber.

We can keep the peace -- not by belicose threats -- but by quiet effective diplomacy and firm, straightforward leadership.

Let us work together for an era that will reorder the relationship between citizen and government, that will make government responsive again to people, that will revitalize the values of family, work, neighborhood and that will reinvigorate the private and independent social institutions that have always been the real source of our progress as a people.