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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 21, 1980

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

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

HERRIN, ILLINOIS

I want to thank you for this opportunity to visit Herrin today--to walk the streets of a lovely town so much like my hometown--to meet your Mayor and your City Council.

Two weeks from this day, the American people are going to participate in the greatest democratic process in the world. Millions of citizens freely and openly in the privacy of the polling booth will decide our future--not only for the people of Herrin--but for the people of America--and yes, the entire world.

For nearly four years, the hopes of the American people have fallen victim to the failures of leadership of Jimmy Carter. A string of broken promises, misguided policies, and inability to provide real hope for tens of millions of Americans.

Two weeks from today we can choose whether or not to continue having four more years of this.

In the Council meeting, Mr. Mayor, you talked about interest rates and the devastating effect they have had on your ability to raise money. Cities like this--and yes, states like Illinois--depend on bonds for their schools, parks and improvements of all kinds. But with 14 percent interest rates and higher, who can afford to go into bonds?

- MORE -

The small businesses and the kinds of stores I visited here today have a special place in our country. What do they do when they want to expand their businesses only to find that interest rates are at 14, 15 and 16 percent? Small businesses in America provide more than half of the employment, and are responsible for creating most of the new jobs in the market.

And what of young families--the age of my own children--what do they do when mortgages of 13 and 14 percent make the cost of buying a home prohibitive?

And all of this is caused, not by some mysterious causes beyond our control, but by the federal government--and what government has caused, government can cure. But I don't believe that it makes sense to say that those who caused the mess to begin with are therefore the best ones able to clean it up.

I recently visited a town two times the size of Herrin, where coal mines were closed because of the same obstacles that you face here in using Illinois coal. Again, why has Mr. Carter failed to give us answers?

Coal mines have closed down in southern Illinois, yet you have imported 16 million tons of foreign coal to burn. You are faced with the absurd situation that while you have so much coal right under your feet, you must export your jobs somewhere else. Your miners are thrown out of work, yet we continue our dependence on OPEC oil. Mr. Carter ignores the urgency of your situation.

Four years ago, Mr. Carter asked the American people to trust him.

He said that he would lower unemployment to four percent, and that he would never use unemployment as a weapon against inflation. And now, in just a few months, two million people have been thrown out of work.

He promised he would reduce the inflation to four percent, but instead he brought us the highest peacetime inflation rates in our history.

He promised that he would reduce the "big horrible bureaucratic mess in Washington." But all he did was make the mess bigger. He has increased federal spending by 58 percent; given us two giant new bureaucracies; and increased the number of employees and agencies.

Your taxes have doubled, your income has dropped, your savings have been eroded, your jobs have been eliminated, your houses are more expensive. And he has the gall to come to you--as he did a few days ago--and tell you that things are getting better.

Yesterday, in Youngstown, Ohio, Mr. Carter showed the depth of his indifference when asked by some average citizens about his disastrous economic policies. He answered by saying that people shouldn't dwell on the "inconveniences and transient problems" of the present. Then, one woman indicated that the merchants of Youngstown seemed to have lost faith in the country's economic system as Christmas approaches. And again, his answer was: "We're well on the way to recovery. I think we'll have a good Christmas."

It's not going to be a good Christmas for the thousands of steelworkers who were tossed into unemployment lines by the Carter economic policies.

It's not going to be cheerful for carpenters, bricklayers and electricians who were idled when Mr. Carter crippled the home-building industry.

And what kind of Christmas will it be for so many Americans who find the price of nearly everything flying out of sight?

Well, this election is about changing the course of our lives. You have the opportunity to grab hold of your destinies and reject the failures of the past. No one can take your vote away and no one can force you to swallow one more term of disaster.

Mr. Mayor, I find so many people searching for a change--yearning for hope--looking for something that will lift up their lives. Mr. Carter's answers--that we should be patient and not worry about what he insultingly refers to as "inconveniences"--have fallen far short.

So, if you will, please let me give you my answers:

--When the old leadership gives us double-digit inflation and throws millions of people out of work--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

--When interest rates are so high that most Americans can no longer afford to buy a new home--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

--When the tax burden on the American public doubles and the government keeps growing and taking more of your hard-earned money--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

--When American prestige abroad has fallen to an all-time low, even among our old allies and friends--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

--When the defense capabilities of the United States have been so weakened that we are no longer the most powerful nation in the world--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

--When the President of the United States cannot even negotiate a real arms reduction treaty that will be approved by

the Senate controlled by his own party--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

--And, my friends, when Americans are no longer proud of a president who promises much but delivers so little--then I say it's time for new leadership in America.

Now it's up to you.

Only you will give us the change we need.

Only you can put peace and prosperity within our reach again.

Only you can make the change happen.

I would like to have your support.

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Reagan & Bush

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

FROM: Bob Garrick

20 October 1980

TO: Jim Brady / quick and dirty/ This is all in the schedule sent to you yesterday, I'm told. Here's what you need .

Bank of Herrin / meets officers and directors of the bank/
Then to Sohn's Men's Clothing , meets owner Harvard Sohn and his son, Mr. Sohn's father will be there. He is 85 years old and comes to work every day.

Herrin Supply Co. general store -type, owner Edith Ellis, she is 84 years old.

Zwicks , clothing store, Leon Zwick is owner. He is also a director of the Bank of Herrin.

Baldwin Piano & Organ Center, owner Bill Barras, also president of the Herrin Merchants Association.

Margie's Clothing Store / owner Marjie Cal-ca-te-rra.

Then into City Hall.

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Forwarded to RR phone
10/20 2:40 pm
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October 20, 1980

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garrick
20 Oct 1600
EDT*

*Open
Jed'd 10/20, 5:45 PM
502-584-0722
Bell Hart*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Garrick

FROM: Chuck Tyson

This proposed speech has been submitted to us for approval. It is to be delivered by the Mayor of Herrin, Illinois. Please review as soon as possible.

TO: Mike Deaver, Lyn Nofziger, Jim Brady, Martin Anderson

FROM: Bob Garrick

We are not approve the Mayor's speech from here. I am passing this on to you for information and in the event the Governor wants to make some special response. Bob Garrick

The City Council consists of the Mayor and eight Aldermen. The Mayor and seven members will attend. The eighth is out of town on a hunting trip. Mayor Mario Ottolini will gavel the council into session and ask the clerk to call the roll. Mayor will then call on Councilman Isaacs (Catholic) for a short prayer. (This is normally done at all council sessions). The mayor will then deliver the following suggested remarks:

Governor Reagan, welcome to the city of Herrin. As you can tell from your short visit with the fine people of Herrin, this is a small city made up of small business, industries, farms, and ten-thousand hard working people.

As Mayor of Herrin, I ask you to look at the city's motto on the blue and gold emblem behind me. This city is about COAL, FARMS, BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES and is also 100% for the rights fo the Illinois working man.

Governor, we have heard alot in this campaign about coal. Coal is the life-blood of Southern Illinois economy. Coal is also the nation's energy lifeline. In recent months, Southern Illinois has seen many of its coal mines close down. Power plants here in Illinois last year imported sixteen million tons of foreign coal to burn here. Illinois coal has a higher B.T.U. than most other coal and can be scrubbed to satisfy EPA. Something needs to be done to allow Illinois coal to compete in the market place.

As I expressed to you earlier, Governor, Southern Illinois suffered a serious windstorm disaster earlier this summer. The damages suffered ran into the millions of dollars. The clean up costs of tree removal alone in Herrin and neighboring towns ran into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In spite of the fact that the Governor's office of the state of Illinois declared this part of Southern Illinois to be a disaster area, repeated requests to the Federal Government brought no financial assistance to aid us in cleaning highways and streets from the debris left by this storm. Something needs to be done to see that Federal disaster relief is available quickly to rural small towns such as ours when disaster strikes.

Governor, Congress has recently been tinkering with Federal Revenue Sharing, trying to cut cities such as ours from the benefits they have received under this program. As mayor of a small city, I feel that city governments are entitled to get back from Washington, for the benefit of local people, some of the tax dollars our citizens send to Washington every April. Something needs to be done to see to it that small cities such as ours will continue to share in the Federal Revenue Sharing Program.

Governor, as you know, from recent news reports, interest rates are now so high that funds for municipal bonds have dried up. Municipal bonds are frequently the only way, other than begging funds from Washington, that small cities can carry out needed public improvements. Something needs to be done to improve the financial situation to allow cities to obtain necessary bonding power.

Governor, as you may know, the Federal anti-recession program was recently cut, thereby taking away from cities and towns the opportunity to hire additional employees to combat the recession. Something needs to be done to revise this program.

Governor, if you will look again at the emblem behind me, you will note that the symbol of our city is the doughboy of World War I. Herrin residents have lost friends, relatives, and loved ones in World War I, World War II, Korea and VietNam. As mayor of a small city, we are removed from national and international affairs. We are still mindful, however, that what happens across the seas has a direct affect on the lives of our citizens. Something needs to be done that peace is preserved in our unstable world and that the freedoms which the doughboy and GIs have given their lives for are not lost in international negotiations.

We thank you for coming to Herrin and listening to our people and the problems of local government. We hope that if you are successful in your campaign, and become President of the United States, that you will address yourself to the problems of the small towns of America.

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