



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

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FROM: AL EISELE

FYI:

Attached are talking points on the presidential debates drafted by Jody; these are the definitive word on the debates and should not be deviated from; above all, there should be no sign of disagreeing with the decision not to debate unless the first debate is one-on-one with Reagan.

TALKING POINTS -- Debates

(Point #1 is our position - no variations should be used)

1. The Carter/Mondale campaign has taken a completely reasonable position.

President Carter has taken the unprecedented step of agreeing to debate two Republicans plus any other candidate or candidates who have even a mathematical chance to win, provided only that Governor Reagan agree to first meet him face to face.

2. It is obvious that Governor Reagan is hiding behind John Anderson to avoid meeting the President face to face.

3. Governor Reagan and his people and the League of Women Voters have absolutely refused to even discuss the scheduling of a one-on-one debate.

4. The President has accepted three invitations for one-on-one debates and has made clear that he will meet Governor Reagan at any time or place for a one-on-one debate. Governor Reagan has refused to accept all three.

5. The American people know that the next President will be either President Carter or Governor Reagan, and they deserve a chance to see them meet face to face.

6. We were convinced that if the President had accepted the invitation for a multi-candidate debate, given that Governor Reagan and the League of Women Voters have refused to discuss the scheduling of a one-on-one debate, any chance of such a one-on-one debate occurring would be precluded.

WFM

Prepared text.
9/9/1980

RESPONSE TO REAGAN

TODAY RONALD REAGAN SIMPLY REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO REPUBLICAN ECONOMICS -- TAX BREAKS FOR THE RICH; A MASSIVE, UNFAIR AND UNWORKABLE TAX CUT; AND A VAGUE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD REDUCE UNSPECIFIED REGULATION AND WASTE.

THIS SPEECH OFFERS NOTHING NEW. WHEN MR. REAGAN FIRST CALLED FOR HIS TRILLION DOLLAR CUT, GEORGE BUSH CALLED IT "ECONOMIC VODOO." BUSINESS WEEK SAID IT WOULD SET OFF THE WORST INFLATIONARY SPIRAL WE'D EVER SEEN. AND JUST LAST NIGHT, GERALD FORD SAID HE COULD NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO THE REAGAN TAX SCHEME.

WHAT SURPRISES ME MOST OF ALL IS THAT GOVERNOR REAGAN HAS CHOSEN THIS PARTICULAR TIME TO REVIVE HIS SCHEME. FOR IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE'VE HAD WELCOME EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS BRINGING DRAMATIC RESULTS. LAST MONTH THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS 0 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIRTEEN YEARS. THE INDEX OF LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS SHOWED THE LARGEST GAIN IN THE HISTORY OF THAT MEASURE. UNEMPLOYMENT FELL FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST. AND SO FAR WE'VE ADDED MORE JOBS TO THE WORKFORCE IN A SINGLE TERM THAN ANY ADMINISTRATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. LAST MONTH OUR OIL IMPORTS WERE 3 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY LESS THAN A YEAR AGO -- A DROP OF 37%. AND THAT STRIKES AT THE VERY HEART OF INFLATION.

SO I BELIEVE MR. REAGAN MUST BE READING FROM AN OLD SCRIPT. AND JUST AS DISTURBING, HE'S LEFT OUT THE DETAILS. HE'S FAILED TO ANSWER THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS THAT EVERY AMERICAN IS ASKING ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE.

✓ WHAT IS HIS ENERGY PLAN? HE HAS NONE. IT IS STAGGERING THAT A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1980 CAN GIVE WHAT IS BILLED AS A MAJOR SPEECH ABOUT THE ECONOMY -- AND NOT DEVOTE A SINGLE SENTENCE, OR CONTRIBUTE A SINGLE NEW IDEA, TO SOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS.

WHAT IS HIS PLAN TO MEET OUR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS? HE HAS NONE. WHAT IS HIS PLAN TO HELP DISTRESSED CITIES AND PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING? HE HAS NONE. WHAT IS HIS PLAN TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION? HE HAS NONE. WHAT IS HIS PLAN FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND WORKER TRAINING? HE HAS NONE.

WHAT IS HIS PLAN TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY IN TROUBLED INDUSTRIES? HE HAD ONE -- AN EXTRAVAGANTLY EXPENSIVE CORPORATE GIVE-AWAY CALLED "10-5-3." NOW HE'S BACKED AWAY FROM IT -- AND INSTEAD HE'S COME UP WITH A MODERNIZATION PROGRAM THAT DOES FAR LESS THAN THE REFUNDABLE INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT WE PROPOSE TO HELP DISTRESSED INDUSTRIES -- LIKE AUTOS AND STEEL -- AND SMALL BUSINESS.

✓ WHAT IS HIS PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET? HE SAYS HE HAS A PLAN TO CUT \$92 BILLION FROM THE FEDERAL BUDGET BY 1985 -- AND YET, IN THIS LONG-AWAITED "MAJOR" ECONOMIC SPEECH, MR. REAGAN FAILS TO SPECIFY A SINGLE ONE OF HIS \$92 BILLION IN CUTS.

NOT ONLY THAT, HE PROMISES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A SURPLUS.

I THINK THIS IS A BLATANT ATTEMPT TO FOOL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

✓ AND WHEN IT COMES FROM A MAN WHO, WHEN HE WAS GOVERNOR, BOOSTED STATE SPENDING BY THE FASTEST RATE CALIFORNIA HAD EVER KNOWN, I DON'T THINK IT WILL WORK.

CARTER PROGRAM

THE FACT IS, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ANSWERED THOSE SAME BASIC QUESTIONS.

MR. REAGAN PROPOSES A TASK FORCE TO STUDY BUDGET CUTS. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY CUT IN HALF THE ^{rate of} GROWTH IN FEDERAL SPENDING COMPARED WITH OUR REPUBLICAN PREDECESSORS.

MR. REAGAN PROPOSES A TASK FORCE TO DEREGULATE INDUSTRIES. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DEREGULATED THE AIRLINES, TRUCKING, BANKING, AND WE'RE MOVING TO DEREGULATE COMMUNICATIONS AND RAILROADS.

MR. REAGAN PROPOSES A FREEZE ON FEDERAL HIRING. THIS ADMINISTRATION ALREADY HAS IMPOSED EXACTLY SUCH A FREEZE.

AND BEYOND THIS, WE'VE BUILT AN ECONOMIC PLAN ON A SOLID BASE. TODAY WE HAVE AN ENERGY PROGRAM THAT'S WORKING -- BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER. WE HAVE A PROGRAM TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY -- WITH A LIBERALIZED DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE, AND A REFUNDABLE INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT. WE HAVE A PROGRAM TO ENHANCE OUR

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -- WITH SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, AID
✓ TO IMPROVE OUR HIGHWAYS, PORTS, RAILROADS, AND MASS TRANSIT
SYSTEMS; AND \$3 BILLION TO MODERNIZE OUR INDUSTRIES.

Carterpillar

AND WE'RE PROPOSING A PLAN TO MEET THE HUMAN NEEDS OF PEOPLE
MOST HURT BY THIS RECESSION:

-- \$1 BILLION IN TARGETED TAX CREDITS TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT
IN DISTRESSED AREAS.

✓ -- \$1 BILLION IN INCREASED REVENUE SHARING AND COUNTERCYCLICAL
FUNDING TO HELP CITY BUDGETS.

-- \$300 MILLION IN NEW JOB RETRAINING PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE
GET INTO GROWTH INDUSTRY JOBS.

✓ THE FACT IS, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS PUT IN PLACE POLICIES
THAT ARE SOBER, WORKABLE, AND FAIR. AND BEFORE THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE TAKE A GAMBLE WITH MR. REAGAN'S SCHEME, THEY'LL WANT TO
KNOW WHY IT'S BETTER, HOW IT WORKS, AND IF IT'S FAIR.
AND I THINK THEY'LL AGREE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLAN IS A SURE
AND SOLID WAY TO BUILD OUR FUTURE.

Caterpillar



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