

WALTER F. MONDALE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

October 4, 1982

The Honorable George Bush  
Vice President of the United  
States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Vice President Bush:

I am told that during a recent visit to Waterloo, Iowa, you said that Democrats, and I in particular, criticized Mr. Reagan's policies but offered no alternatives of our own. And you challenged me to say what I would do to get the economy moving again.

For the past several months I have traveled all around the country, listening to people and offering specific ideas for restoring common sense to our national economic policies.

I have said that we must begin the task by rejecting Reaganomics-- someone once called it "Voodoo Economics"-- by putting a cap on the third year tax cut for wealthy taxpayers; by slowing the rate of the increase in defense spending; by legislating hospital cost containment, and by requiring a more forthcoming monetary policy. All of this will start our economy growing again.

*And more are needed to start our economy growing again*

I have described these and other measures in many speeches. Only yesterday I did so again, in Waterloo, Iowa. And I would like to continue this discussion in a formal debate with you. I, therefore, ask you if you will agree to meet me in debate sometime before the elections. I recommend that the debate take place in Iowa, which is suffering so greatly from the policies of your Administration.

You are asking us all to stay with Reaganomics no matter what. I am urging Americans to change our course, to restore common sense, and to end this deep recession before it becomes worse.

I look forward to receiving your early reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Walter F. Mondale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" being more prominent and the last name "Mondale" following in a similar style.

Walter F. Mondale

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WALTER F. MONDALE'S OFFICE

For release at 10:30 a.m., EDT, Sunday, October 3

October, 1982

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WATERLOO, Iowa, October 3--The following is the text of a statement made by Walter F. Mondale today:

"I understand that George Bush came to Waterloo a few days ago to single me out for a challenge.

"He said Walter Mondale and the Democrats give the people nothing but criticism of the President. And he challenged me to tell you what I'd do---what we can do---in order to get our economy moving again.

"I've traveled the country for months to listen to people and to offer specific ideas to bring common sense back into the American economy. So here are just a few of the things we can do differently:

"We can give our farmers a break by negotiating a solid long-term grain agreement with the Soviets.

"We can build a strong defense and a strong economy by slowing down the runaway rate of increase in our defense spending.

"We can ensure tax relief for the people who deserve it by putting a cap on the third year of the tax cut.

"We can invest in our future: in education, in training, in good transportation, in research and development.

"We can get tough and get smart in international economic competition. Just last month, our trade deficit was the largest in American history.

"So there's a lot we can do to get the economy moving again and we can start to do it right away.

*against the merits of*  
"Now, I'd like to offer a challenge to Mr. Bush: a challenge to debate the merits of Reaganomics ~~versus~~ our Democratic alternatives. I'm willing to debate him anywhere in this country at any time before November 2.

(more)

two

"The issues in this debate should be clear. Mr. Bush and Mr. Reagan are asking us all to stay the course and hold our breath and wait it out with Reaganomics. I'm urging Americans to join with us now in working to change our course, through common sense, before this recession turns into something far worse.

"Unemployment is spreading. It brings misery to the millions of people who are already out of work. It brings fear to the millions more who know they could soon lose their jobs.

"I hope Mr. Bush will stand up and tell us why Americans should believe his words instead of the evidence of their own lives. I hope to show people that things don't have to be this way. We can turn things around. And we can start to do it now."

*For FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT:*

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OFFICE OF WALTER F. MONDALE

Washington, D.C.

FOR RELEASE AT 10:30 a.m. EDT, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

October, 1982

(EXPLANATORY NOTE: In Waterloo, Iowa last week, Vice President George Bush said the American people are "patient in knowing that the President needs time to make the new policies he has initiated work."

According to the Waterloo Courier Mr. Bush noted that Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale would be in Waterloo Sunday, October 3rd and Bush remarked, "pin him down on what he would do differently.")

WATERLOO, Iowa, October 3--The following is the text of a statement made by Walter F. Mondale today:

"I understand that Vice President Bush came to Waterloo last week and singled me out for a challenge. He said that Walter Mondale and other Democrats had given the people nothing but criticism of the President, and he challenged me to tell you what I would do to get our economy moving again.

"I have traveled across this country for the last several months to listen to people and to offer specific ideas for bringing common sense back to the American economy.

"Let me tell you specifically what we can do:

- We can start by rejecting Reaganomics, which someone once called "voodoo economics." We can do it by lowering interest rates, by shrinking these massive deficits and by allowing a real recovery to begin.
- We can get tough and get smart in international economic competition. Just last month our trade deficit was the largest in American history. Farm exports have dropped for the first time in thirteen years.
- We can give farmers a break by negotiating a solid long-term grain agreement and by greatly strengthening our domestic farm programs.
- We can build a strong defense and a strong economy by slowing the runaway rate of increase in our defense spending and by ratifying SALT II.
- We can invest in our future: in education, in training, and student loans, in basic science and research and development.

MORE

- We can propose and ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to end economic discrimination against women.
- We can increase tax relief for the people who deserve it by putting a cap on the third year of the tax cut for the wealthy, and we can protect the sanctity of the Social Security system.

"So, there is a lot we can do to get the economy moving again, and we can do it right away.

"Now, I would like to offer a challenge to Mr. Bush -- a challenge to debate the merits of Reaganomics against the merits of our specific Democratic alternatives.

"In 1980, Mr. Bush refused to debate with me. I again suggest that we debate -- anytime, anywhere before Election Day, November 2, 1982.

"The issue in this debate should be clear. The Reagan Administration is asking us to "stay the course" and hold our breath and hang on with Reaganomics. I am urging Americans to join with us now to change our course, through common sense, before this recession turns into something far worse.

"I hope Mr. Bush will accept my offer to stand up and tell us why the people of this country should believe the Administration's words rather than the stark evidence of economic difficulty that is in their daily lives. We can turn things around. We can start to do it now."

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