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Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

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

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL:

September 13, 1980

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

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 13, 1980

Looking at this audience and the distinguished guests here at the dais reminds me of what I have been telling the American people all across our nation.

Even though we who call ourselves Americans come from every part of the earth and every people, there is a community of values in this country. It transcends party lines. It transcends ethnic and religious and regional lines. It has at its center a belief in the values of family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom--those values are at the heart of the Italian and the American tradition. There are Republicans and Democrats and Independents who share those values and want to see them returned to government and to this nation.

The National Italian American Foundation is living proof of the community of values I have spoken of. There are Democrats and Republicans and Independents here tonight and throughout the

- MORE -

Italian American community. But what is important is not party labels but the values we share.

The range of talent and experience present at this gathering demonstrates that there is no position in the executive, legislative or judicial branch--including the Supreme Court--that Italian Americans should ever feel is closed to them.

The outstanding honorees at this dinner are evidence of this great reservoir of talent and dedication. Officials of this Foundation reflect that same high standard.

Chairman Jenò Palluci's great success as a businessman and civic leader are only surpassed by his continuing efforts on behalf of those in small business seeking the chance he once had. As President of this Foundation, John Volpe has served with the same kind of dedication he brought to the positions of Governor, Cabinet Secretary, and Ambassador to Italy, the first American of Italian ancestry ever to fill that high diplomatic post. And Frank Stella, your new president, has made contributions to growth and opportunity not only through our free enterprise system, but as a leader in civic affairs in Michigan.

Perhaps the key word to describe the feeling so evident tonight is "pride." Pride in accomplishment, pride in heritage and pride in country.

I know you will understand, then, when I say I also have pride in the record of my party in implementing the values we honor tonight.

The Republican Party is the only major party to have a permanent National Heritage Groups Council as advisers to party leaders and a fully staffed, permanent nationalities division in its national office.

Under President Ford there was an Ethnic Affairs Adviser in the White House. That position was left vacant in 1977, in 1978, and in 1979.

The Republican Party Platform for 1980, which I support, commits our party to full and active support of tuition tax credits for parents sending their children to parochial and private schools. We know that the future of our nation depends upon a strong educational system. Parochial and private schools are an integral part of that system.

Speaking of pride, I know it is customary on occasions like this for the speaker to praise the heritage of which Americans of Italian ancestry are justifiably proud.

I am glad to honor that custom tonight. The only problem I have is where to begin, because that heritage is so great. Culture? The world is indebted beyond measure for the art and the learning and music that have flowed in an endless stream from the Italian peninsula for over two thousand years. Values?

Traditionally, the world-famous Italian love of family, willingness to work and sense of community and neighborhood has enriched not only Italy and Europe but the United States of America. Commitment to peace and freedom? The cooperation between the people of Italy and the American people in the defense of freedom is part of the history of our times. And, of course, Americans of Italian heritage have defended our nation with courage and dedication in times of war.

But it is here--where most tributes to the Italian heritage end--that I want to begin.

This year the questions facing the thirty million Americans of Italian ancestry and millions of other Americans proud of their heritage is not simply who praises their values but who has the philosophy of government to put those values into effective action.

I think the 1980 Republican Platform stated it best when it spoke of the neglect of the values of Italian Americans and said they:

"...along with others too long neglected (must) have the opportunity to share the power, as well as the burdens of our society."

And those key words: "opportunity" and "power," are really what matters. The values have to be backed by action.

On Labor Day, I was in Jersey City. The unemployment rate is almost 12 percent there. In Youngstown, Ohio, it is almost 14 percent, 25 percent in Flint, Michigan. In these cities and many others all across America, the values we share are not being given the opportunity or the power to enhance our lives.

It is time to put America back to work; to make our cities and towns resound with the confident voices of men and women of all races, nationalities and faiths bringing home to their families a decent paycheck they can cash for honest money.

I know that within an audience as diverse as this, there are varying opinions about the present administration and its record and about my own programs for America. I am not going to expand on those differences tonight. The important thing is that we have a country where we can voice our disagreements and then work together to build a better nation.

That's what America is all about. That's why our ancestors came to this country. We have the blessing of liberty. We can offer our opinions without fear. We can, through political and social and economic action, try to make a difference, not only for our family and neighborhood but for our nation.

That's the blessing we have to work to defend.

The workers of Poland--who share the values we honor tonight--recently inspired the world when they risked their very lives in order to regain but a part of that blessing.

We take that blessing for granted. We shouldn't. It was handed down to us by those who came here and made sacrifices so that we might enjoy comforts and opportunities they never knew.

And that is why tonight, instead of closing with a quotation from some famous Italian or American of Italian ancestry, I'm going to ask you to think of someone not known to history, known perhaps only within the tiny circle of family and neighbors and friends.

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John Volpe tells me that his mother and father came to this country in 1904. They came across the Atlantic in steerage. It took them six weeks. When they landed at Ellis Island all they had was a battered old suitcase.

No, they had something more--they and millions of Italian immigrants had incredible courage and faith. They had a dream. That's what it takes to leave your own land, to journey among strangers, to leave all that binds your heart and soul to home and try to build a new life. But they did it because they cared. Not just about themselves, but about their children. They started with nothing in material goods. But they were able to give their

children love, faith in themselves, faith in this country, confidence that it is a place of opportunity.

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We know what they have done for us and for this country. We know their sacrifices. We know their hidden glory.

Their spirit cannot be allowed to be forgotten. And as President of the United States I will make certain that the values that made them endure and work and build will be at the heart of all that is done in the White House and throughout government.

With your support and the help of God, I would like to do that. Two hundred years ago, Americans believed it was in their power, as one of them put it, "to begin the world over again." Each generation, each family that has helped to build our nation since then, has shared this confidence.

We are no exception. We do indeed have it in our power to begin the world again. Let's start by making America great again.

Thank you.

* * * * *

master

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: _____

Wed. 10 Sept. 1980

- ✓ Senator Paul Laxalt
- ✓ Ambassador Anne Armstrong
- ✓ Bill Casey
- ✓ Ed Meese
- ✓ Jim Baker
- ✓ Bill Brock
- ✓ Dean Burch
(For Ambassador Bush)
- ✓ Peter Dailey
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INFORMATION

For your review and input
herewith, 2nd draft on Italian-
American speech to be given
Sat. 13 Sept. 13th. Deadline
for additional and final in-
put - 9:00 AM Friday, 12 Sept.
Thank you.

-
- ✓ Richard Allen
 - ✓ Martin Anderson
 - Jim Brady
 - ✓ Ed Gray

Others

○ = on tour - Deaver, Nofziger, Brady

September 10, 1980

Memo to: All Those on List to See Drafts

From: Bill Gavin. *B.*

Re: Second Draft of Italian-American Remarks

It should be noted that these remarks, as now drafted, contain no reference to the Congressmen who will be present. At this time that list has not been given to me. Thus, the fact that no Congressman is mentioned in this draft does not mean we have forgotten them but that we will not be able to decide just how they will be mentioned until we have some idea of the list.

A second point: this draft eliminates all but one direct reference to Jimmy Carter. I checked with our nationalities group and the consensus is that the Governor can make a successful appearance without making overly partisan remarks about Carter. Thus, this draft emphasizes the "values", while putting in some new material about unemployment. The two cities mentioned (Jersey City and Youngstown) have considerable Italian-American populations.

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To: Brady/Nofziger/Meese
From: Bob Garrick

DEX completed: 11:21 AM
9/13
(Dave Fisher-Receiver)

September 13, 1980

To: Bob Garrick

From : Bill Gavin

Re: One Final One-Liner for the Italian American Dinner

The presence of Vice President Mondale reminds us that history will record 1980 as year when two men sought the highest office in the land. These men differed in fundamental principles, in philosophy and in a vision of the future.

I refer of course to President Carter...and Senator Kennedy.

TO: Ed Meese/Notziger/Brady for your action
From: Bob Garrick

Dex completed: 11:15 AM
9/13

(Dave Fisher - receiver)

September 13, 1980

To: Bob Garrick
From: Bill Gavin
Re: Appearance of VP Walter Mondale at Italian-American Dinner

I am told by reliable sources that Frtiz Mondale will be present at the dinner, probably even as the Governor speaks.

Suggested one-liner :

"I am pleased to see Vice President Mondale is with us tonight. I know he is concerned about the future as we all are. I want to assure him that the future is bright and that he should not worry because after next January things will brighten considerably."

or

"We are honored by the presence of the Vice President. While I am not = vain enough to think he came this early only to hear me, I want you to know his presence is inspiring to me and I hope what I have to say is inspiring to him."

McLaughry's version:

I am honored by the presence of Vice President Mondale here tonight. I know how much he wants to continue in that important post. But I must say to him, much as it hurts me - I already have a running mate, but I really do appreciate your interest.

Master

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 3:55 PM
Friday, 12 Sept.

- ✓ Senator Paul Laxalt
- ✓ Ambassador Anne Armstrong
- ✓ Bill Casey
- ✓ Ed Meese
- ✓ Jim Baker
- ✓ Bill Brock
- ✓ Dean Burch
(For Ambassador Bush)
- ✓ Peter Dailey
- Mike Deaver
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- Lyn Nofziger
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- ✓ Congressman Tom Evans

INFORMATION

Herewith, the completed text of the Gov. Reagan speech to be give Sat. 13 Sept. p.m. for the Italian-American group.

To all those who participated, your input was appreciated..

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- ✓ Richard Allen
 - ✓ Martin Anderson
 - ✓ Jim Brady
 - ✓ Ed Gray

Others

- ✓ Ray Bell / 3rd Floor Headquarters

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I know you will understand, then, when I say I also have pride in the record of my party in implementing the values we honor tonight.

The Republican Party is the only major party to have a permanent National Heritage Groups Council as advisers to party leaders and a fully-staffed, permanent nationalities division in its national office.

Under President Ford there was an Ethnic Affairs Adviser in the White House. That position was left vacant in 1977, in 1978, and in 1979.

The Republican Party Platform for 1980, which I support, commits our party to full and active support of tuition tax credits for parents sending their children to parochial and private schools. We know that the future of our nation depends upon a strong educational system. Parochial and private schools are an integral part of that system.

Speaking of pride, I know it is customary on occasions like this for the speaker to praise the heritage of which Americans of Italian ancestry are justifiably proud.

I am glad to honor that custom tonight. The only problem I have is where to begin, because that heritage is so great. Culture? The world is indebted beyond measure for the art and the learning and music that have flowed in an endless stream from the Italian peninsula for over two thousand years. Values? Traditionally, the world-famous Italian love of family, willingness to work and sense of community and neighborhood has enriched not only Italy and Europe but the United States of America. Commitment to peace and freedom? The cooperation between the people of Italy and the American people in the defense of freedom is part of the history of our times. And, of course, Americans of Italian heritage have defended our nation with courage and dedication in times of war.

But it is here--where most tributes to the Italian heritage end--that I want to begin.

This year the questions facing the thirty million Americans of Italian ancestry and millions of other Americans proud of their heritage is not simply who praises their values but who has the philosophy of government to put those values into effective action.

I think the 1980 Republican Platform stated it best when it spoke of the neglect of the values of Italian-Americans and said they:

"...along with others too long neglected (must) have the opportunity to share the power, as well as the burdens of our society."

And those key words: "opportunity" and "power," are really what matters. The values have to be backed by action.

On Labor Day, I was in Jersey City. The unemployment rate is almost 12 percent there. In Youngstown it is almost 14 percent. In these cities and many others all across America, the values we share are not being given the opportunity or the power to enhance our lives.

It is time to put America back to work; to make our cities and towns resound with the confident voices of men and women of

all races, nationalities and faiths bringing home to their families a decent paycheck they can cash for honest money.

I know that within an audience as diverse as this, there are varying opinions about Mr. Carter and his record and about my own programs for America. I am not going to expand on those differences tonight. The important thing is that we have a country where we can voice our disagreements and then work together to build a better nation.

That's what America is all about. That's why our ancestors came to this country. We have the blessing of liberty. We can offer our opinions without fear. We can, through political and social and economic action, try to make a difference, not only for our family and neighborhood but for our nation.

That's the blessing we have to work to defend.

The workers of Poland recently inspired the world when they risked their very lives in order to regain but a part of that blessing.

We take that blessing for granted. We shouldn't. It was handed down to us by those who came here and made sacrifices so that we might enjoy comforts and opportunities they never knew.

And that is why tonight, instead of closing with a quotation from some famous Italian or American of Italian ancestry, I'm going to ask you to think of someone not known to history, known perhaps only within the tiny circle of family and neighbors and friends.

6

It may have been your grandmother or grandfather. Or your father and mother. The world doesn't know them. But you do. You remember their courage, their sacrifices, their endurance, their faith.

John Volpe tells me that his mother and father came to this country in 1904. They came across the Atlantic in steerage. It took them six weeks. When they landed at Ellis Island all they had was a battered old suitcase.

No, they had something more--they and millions of Italian immigrants had incredible courage and faith. They had a dream. That's what it takes to leave your own land, to journey among strangers, to leave all that binds your heart and soul to home and try to build a new life. But they did it because they cared. Not just about themselves, but about their children. They started with nothing in material goods. But they were able to give their children love, faith in themselves, faith in this country, confidence that this country is a place of opportunity.

To those who say today that this country is no longer such a place, that the dream is over, that the vision of your parents and grandparents is finished, I say: talk to millions of Americans of Italian ancestry who know the dream is alive.

Those who came here--members of our own families--may not be known to history.

The world doesn't know them, but we do.

We know what they have done for us and for this country. We know their sacrifices. We know their hidden glory.

Their spirit cannot be allowed to be forgotten. And as President of the United States I will make certain that the values that made them endure and work and build will be at the heart of all that is done in the White House and throughout government. I can only do this with your help.

To you--and to them--I say: Thank you.

Master

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 4:10 PM
Monday, 8 Sept. 1980

- ✓ 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 ✓ *Kenn Lawrence*
- ✓ Verne Orr
- ✓ Bill Timmons
- ✓ Dick Wirthlin
- ✓ Congressman Tom Evans

INFORMATION

Herewith, a draft of
the Governor's Italian-
American speech to be
given Sat. 13 Sept.
Your input must be re-
ceived in my office
by 3:30 a.m. Tuesday,
9 Sept. Thank you.

-
- ✓ Richard Allen
 - ✓ Martin Anderson
 - ✓ Jim Brady
 - ✓ Ed Gray ✓

Others

September 8, 1980

To: Bob Garrick 
From Bill Gavin
Re: RR Remarks at Italian-American Dinner

This dinner will be held on Saturday, September 13, 1980.

I will make certain a copy gets to Gene Rossides, our "ethnic" man. Gene, in turn, will clear it through appropriate people in his group.

We can leave it up to Tom Evans if he wants Sil Conte and Senator Dominici to see this. The suggestion might be made (also any other Republican of Italian ancestry now in Congress. In any event, Evans and Laxalt should see this)

Suggested One-Liners for beginning of Italian-American Remarks

(I am told by those who have attended this dinner that the atmosphere is informal and friendly. This might be good place for RR to offer some self-deprecatory remarks to do two things:
(a) show that the "gaffe" incident can be laughed at and
(b) show that he can laugh at himself.) W.F.G.

It's a pleasure for me to be here, in this atmosphere of congeniality and warmth and affection, qualities not usually associated with an election campaign.

I know I can speak from my heart tonight (I notice all the reporters just picked up their pencils!)

But in the long run, that's the best way to speak: from the heart. Sometimes, however, you just wish you could have said some things slightly differently. Think of it: a few weeks ago I said the Vietnam war was noble and that I had doubts about evolution. If I had only said evolution is noble and I had doubts about the war, everyone would have been happy.

I know Mr. Carter will be visiting with you later tonight. I understand it is another of his non-political trips. In fact the only hint you will have of the high office he holds is that Air Force One will land in front of the hotel on Connecticut Avenue and he will be flown to the dais by helicopter.

Of course there is a disagreement as to what music should be played when Mr. Carter comes in.

His supporters want "Hail to the Chief." The rest of us want the entire score from the musical "Promises, Promises."

But, whatever happens later on, I am, as I said, honored and happy to be with you tonight.

1st Draft
Sept. 8, 1980

ITALIAN-AMERICAN REMARKS

Looking at this audience and the distinguished guests here at the dais reminds me of what I have been telling the American people all across our nation.

There is a community of values in this country. It transcends party lines. It transcends ethnic and religious and regional lines. It has at its center a belief in the values of family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom--those values at the heart of the Italian and the American tradition. There are Republicans and Democrats and Independents who share those values and want to see them returned to government.

The National Italian-American Foundation is living proof of the community of values I have spoken of. There are Democrats and Republicans and Independents here tonight and throughout the Italian-American community. But what is important is not party labels but the values we share.

(Note: Peter Rodino, Dean of the Italian-American Delegation in Congress will probably be there; Senator DeConcini will also be there. Some reference to key figures, without naming every Congressman, should be made. Suggested approach:)

I see Peter Rodino, Dean of the Italian-American Congressional Delegation and Senator DeConcini, both Democrats. And I see Senator Pete Domenici and Congressman Silvio Conte and other Republicans. I want to say to you and to all the distinguished Congressmen here tonight that I look forward to working with you in January of 1981 and beyond!

The range of talent and experience present at this gathering demonstrates that there is no position in the executive, legislative or judicial branch--including the Supreme Court--that Italian-Americans should ever feel is closed to them.

Conclusive evidence of that talent and experience is John Volpe. As President of the Italian-American Foundation, John has served with the same kind of dedication and talent he brought to the positions of Governor, Cabinet Secretary and Ambassador to Italy. John was the second American of Italian ancestry ever to serve in the Cabinet. And he was the first American of Italian ancestry ever to become Ambassador to Italy. In John Volpe we have a symbol of all that is best in America.

My congratulations go to Frank Stella as he continues this fine tradition of leadership.

Perhaps the key word to describe the feeling so evident tonight is "pride." Pride in accomplishment, pride in heritage and pride in country.

I know you will understand, then, when I say I also have pride in the record of my party in implementing the values we honor tonight.

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The Republican Party Platform for 1980, which I support, commits our party to full and active support of tuition tax credits for parents sending their children to parochial and private schools. We know that the future of our nation depends upon the kind of moral, ethical and religious training we give our children, along with a solid grounding in the basics. Parochial and private schools have been supplying such an education for years.

Speaking of pride, I know it is customary on occasions like this for the speaker to praise the heritage of which Americans of Italian ancestry are justifiably proud.

I am glad to honor that custom tonight. The only problem I have is where to begin, because that heritage is so great. Culture? The world is indebted beyond measure for the art and the learning and music that have flowed in an endless stream from the

Italian peninsula for over two thousand years. Values? The world-famous Italian love of family, willingness to work and sense of community and neighborhood has enriched not only Italy and Europe but the United States of America. Commitment to peace and freedom? The cooperation between the people of Italy and the American people in the defense of freedom is part of the history of our times. And, of course, Americans of Italian heritage have defended our nation with courage and dedication in times of war.

But it is here--where most tributes to the Italian heritage end--that I want to begin.

This year the questions facing the thirty million Americans of Italian ancestry and millions of other Americans proud of their heritage is not simply who praises their values but who has the philosophy of government to put those values into effective action.

I think the 1980 Republican Platform stated it best when it spoke of the neglect of the values of Italian-Americans and other Americans:

"We must make them an integral part of government policy. The Republican Party will take positive steps to see to it that these Americans, along with others too long neglected, have the opportunity to share the power, as well as the burdens of our society."

And those key words: "opportunity," "power," and "government policy" are really what matters. The values have to be backed by action.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Consider the following words:

"I'm proud of the diversity of our nation....our country gives us room to expand our own lives....all groups in our great nation (should) have an equal chance to participate in American business...."

Those words are very inspiring. Who could disagree with their vision of economic growth and the promise of opportunity? But you know and I know that without effective Presidential leadership these words cannot be translated into reality.

Oh, yes...there is one more thing I should tell you. Those words I just read to you are not mine. They were first spoken at this dinner on September 16, 1976, by Candidate Jimmy Carter. At that time the inflation rate was below six percent and millions had jobs who don't have them now.

Has the promise of economic opportunity been fulfilled? Or have the events of the past four years shown the promises of 1976 to be rhetoric without reality?

Those are questions only you and your family can answer.

I know that within an audience as diverse as this, there are varying opinions about Mr. Carter and his record on inflation and employment and defense and about my own programs for America. I am not going to expand on those differences tonight. The important thing is that we have a country where we can voice our disagreements and then work together to build a better nation.

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