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Sen. 14 Sept 1980
to RR
1635
(4:30)

REMARKS FOR CAPITOL STEPS

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY ON WHAT I REGARD AS A SIGNIFICANT AND HISTORIC OCCASION. WE HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY, THE VICE PRESIDENCY, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO JOINTLY DECLARE OUR UNITY OF PURPOSE AND OUR COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SOLVE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS CONFRONTING OUR NATION.

FOR THE PAST NEARLY FOUR YEARS OUR NATION HAS SUFFERED UNDER A PRESIDENCY THAT HAS FAILED TO LEAD AND UNDER A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP THAT HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE ISSUES CONFRONTING OUR GOVERNMENT.

FOUR YEARS AGO, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SWEEP INTO POWER, WITH A GLITTERING ARRAY OF PROMISES TO CONQUER INFLATION, BALANCE THE BUDGET, AND KEEP AMERICA STRONG AND RESPECTED.

AT THAT TIME THEY CERTAINLY HAD IT WITHIN THEIR POWER TO DELIVER ON THOSE PROMISES. ON ONE END OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE WAS A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT. ON THE OTHER END WAS A CONGRESS WITH A DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY AND DEMOCRATS LEADING BOTH OF ITS HOUSES.

YET TODAY, THE PROMISES OF FOUR YEARS AGO LIE SHATTERED;
THE DREAMS ARE BETRAYED. INFLATION IS RAMPAGING; THE FEAR
OF UNEMPLOYMENT STALKS THE LAND; AND THE CONTINUED SUFFERING
OF OUR HOSTAGES IN IRAN FOR NEARLY A YEAR BEARS STARK TESTIMONY
TO THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN PRESTIGE.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOW ENTITLED TO ASK: WHAT WENT
WRONG? WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE GLITTERING PROMISES?

THERE ARE MANY ANSWERS, BUT ONE STANDS FORTH WITH STUNNING
CLARITY. THE FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP!

THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ARE CREATING A BUREAUCRACY IN CONGRESS ITSELF. SPECIAL INTERESTS HAVE FLOURISHED. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE HAS BECOME NOT A BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, BUT A MOAT - - DIVIDING THE UNRESPONSIVE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM A PRESIDENT WHO IS OFTEN LONELY, ISOLATED AND UNABLE TO FULFILL THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS OFFICE.

THE RESULT HAS BEEN LEGISLATIVE CHAOS. NEVER BEFORE IN HISTORY HAVE SO MANY PROPOSALS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE BEEN IGNORED AND DEFEATED IN THE CONGRESS. NEVER BEFORE HAS A PRESIDENT BEEN MORE REMOTE FROM MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY. TOGETHER, THEY HOLD POWER BUT ARE UNABLE TO USE THAT POWER TO SOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS; THEY HOLD OFFICE BUT FAIL TO GOVERN.

WE GATHER ON THESE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL BECAUSE WE WANT TO BRING AN END TO DIVIDED, INEFFECTUAL LEADERSHIP. WE WANT TO TURN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE INTO A TWO-WAY STREET AGAIN.

BY OUR PRESENCE - - AND BY OUR PLEDGES - - WE ARE TRYING TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: A VOTE FOR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES THIS FALL IS A VOTE FOR A NEW BEGINNING. IT IS A VOTE FOR CHANGE.

TOWARD THAT END, WE ARE TODAY PROPOSING A SOLEMN COVENANT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

EACH OF US HERE PLEDGES THAT IF ELECTED, WE WILL BEGIN WORKING THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION AS A SOLID, UNIFIED TEAM. AND WE PLEDGE THAT WITHIN A YEAR FROM TODAY - - BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1981 - - WE WILL ACHIEVE FIVE MAJOR GOALS FOR AMERICA:

FIRST, SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN THE AMOUNT THAT CONGRESS SPENDS ON ITSELF SO THAT IT CAN SERVE AS A MODEL FOR THE REST OF WASHINGTON;

SECOND, CUTS IN NON-DEFENSE SPENDING THAT DAMPEN THE FIRES OF INFLATION WHILE PROTECTING THOSE IN NEED.

THIRD, ACROSS-THE-BOARD TAX CUTS THAT WILL PUT THIS COUNTRY BACK ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY.

FOURTH, ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE MORE PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND MORE PERMANENT JOBS, ESPECIALLY IN OUR CENTRAL CITIES.

FIFTH AND FINALLY, A BOLSTERING OF OUR DEFENSE FORCES TO RESTORE OUR MARGIN OF SAFETY AND ASSURE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD.

THIS OCCASION MARKS THE FIRST TIME THAT LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES OF A PARTY HAVE COME TOGETHER TO PROPOSE A CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. BUT THE TIMES DEMAND A UNIQUE RESPONSE: FOR TOO LONG, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DISTANT AND UNCARING. NOW WE MUST RETURN GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE.

SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I CAN REMEMBER THE MANY TIMES IN CALIFORNIA WHEN I REACHED OUT TO MEMBERS OF THE OTHER PARTY IN ORDER TO PASS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION. I KNOW THAT ALL OF US HERE TODAY, AS A TEAM, WILL ALSO SEEK A CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER SIDE THROUGHOUT OUR TERMS.

WE UNDERTAKE THIS CAPITOL COMPACT TODAY KNOWING FULL WELL THAT THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1980s ARE ENORMOUS.

BUT WE KNOW EQUALLY WELL THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO SUCCEED:
WITH UNITY AND FIRMNESS OF PURPOSE.

THE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, OUT OF STEP WITH THEIR
OWN RANK AND FILE, HAVE REDUCED THEIR PARTY TO A MERE SHADOW OF
ITS FORMER GREATNESS, OFFERING NEITHER HOPE NOR VISION. ONCE
IT COULD GOVERN; BUT IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, IT HAS PROVED THAT
IT CAN GOVERN NO LONGER.

AS REPUBLICANS, WE STAND UNITED, WE STAND PREPARED; WE
STAND READY TO FORGE A NEW BEGINNING FOR AMERICA.

DRAFT STATEMENT FOR CAPITOL STEPS (9/15/80)

I am pleased to be here today on what I regard as a significant and historic occasion. We have brought together Republican candidates for the Presidency, the Vice Presidency, the Senate and the House of Representatives to jointly declare our unity of purpose and our commitment to work with the American people to solve the major problems confronting our nation.

For the past nearly four years our nation has suffered under a Presidency that has failed to lead and under a Democratic Congressional leadership that has failed to provide answers to the issues confronting our government.

Four years ago, the Carter Administration swept into power, with a glittering array of promises to conquer inflation, balance the budget, and keep America strong and respected.

At that time they certainly had it within their power to deliver on those promises. On one end of Pennsylvania Avenue was a Democratic President. On the other end was a Congress with a Democratic majority and Democrats leading both of its Houses.

Yet today, all Americans know that the promises of four years ago lie shattered; the dreams are betrayed. Inflation is rampaging; the fear of unemployment stalks the land; and the continued suffering of our hostages in Iran for nearly a year bears stark testimony to the decline of American prestige.

The American people are now entitled to ask: What went wrong? What happened to those glittering promises?

There are many answers, but one stands forth with stunning clarity. THE FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP!

The Democratic leadership are creating a bureaucracy in Congress itself. Special interests have flourished. Pennsylvania Avenue has become not a bridge between two branches of government, but a moat -- dividing the unresponsive congressional leadership from a President who is often lonely, isolated and unable to fulfill the primary responsibilities of his office.

The result has been legislative chaos. Never before in history have so many proposals from the White House been ignored and defeated in the Congress. Never before has a President been more remote from members of his own party. Together, they hold power but are unable to use that power to solve the nation's problems; they hold office but fail to govern.

We gather on these steps of the Capitol because we want to bring an end to divided, ineffectual leadership. We want to turn Pennsylvania Avenue into a two-way street again.

By our presence -- and by our pledges -- we are trying to send a message to the American people: A vote for Republican candidates this fall is a vote for a new beginning. It is a vote for change.

Toward that end, we are today proposing a solemn covenant with the American people.

Each of us here pledges that if elected, we will begin working the day after the election as a solid, unified team.

And we pledge that within a year from today -- by September 15, 1981 -- we will achieve five major goals for America:

First, substantial cuts in the amount that Congress spends on itself so that it can serve as a model for the rest of Washington;

Second, cuts in non-defense spending that dampen the fires of inflation while protecting those in need.

Third, across-the-board tax cuts that will put this country back on the road to prosperity.

Fourth, all-out efforts to encourage more private investment and more permanent jobs, especially in our central cities.

Fifth and finally, a bolstering of our defense forces to restore our margin of safety and assure peace and stability in the world.

This occasion marks the first time that legislative and executive candidates of a party have come together to propose a contract with the American people. But the times demand a unique response: for too long, government has been distant and uncaring. Now we must return government to the people.

Speaking personally, I can remember the many times in California when I reached out to members of the other party in order to pass important legislation. I know that all of us here today, as a team, will also seek a close, cooperation with the other side throughout our terms.

We undertake this Capitol compact today knowing full well that the challenges of the 1980s are enormous.

But we know equally well there is only one way to succeed: with unity and firmness of purpose.

The leaders of the Democratic Party, who have reduced their party to a mere shadow of its former greatness, offer neither hope nor vision. Once it could govern; but in the past four years, it has proved that it can govern no longer.

As Republicans, we stand united, we stand prepared; we stand ready to forge a new beginning for America.

Bob -

Here is the
latest "Capital Hill"
remarks I can
find - from Paul
Russo.

Memorandum For: Bill Casey
Cliff White
From: Dave Gergen
Date: September 10, 1980
Subject: Capitol Steps Statement

Here's a redrafted version of the statement for Monday,
incorporating changes from the Hill.

Bill

cc: Paul Russo ✓

D. Gergen
9/10/80

DRAFT STATEMENT FOR CAPITOL STEPS (9/15/80)

bad - positive statement.

Four years ago, the Democratic Party swept into power upon a tide of glittering promises.

They would conquer inflation, they said. They would balance the budget. They would keep America strong and respected.

And surely, they had it within their power to deliver. On one end of Pennsylvania Avenue was a Democratic President; on the other was a massive Democratic majority in the Congress. Washington became and remains today a bastion of the Democratic Party.

Yet today, all Americans know that the promises of four years ago lie shattered; the dreams are betrayed.

Inflation is rampaging; the fear of unemployment stalks the land; and the suffering of our hostages in Iran bears stark testimony to the decline of American prestige.

The American people are now entitled to ask: what went wrong? What happened to those glittering promises?

There are many answers, but one stands forth with stunning clarity: the Democratic Party has wallowed in so much power and money here in Washington that they have lose sight of the public trust. Their leadership has created a swollen bureaucracy here in Congress; special interests have flourished; some have even fallen prey to corruption. And all the while, Pennsylvania Avenue has become not a bridge but a moat -- dividing a rambunctious, leaderless Congress

from a President who is often lonely and isolated.

The result has been legislative chaos. Never before in history have so many proposals from the White House been ignored or defeated in the Congress. Never before has a President been more remote from members of his own party. Together, they hold power but are powerless; they hold office but fail to govern.

We gather on these steps of the Capitol because we want to bring an end to divided, ineffectual leadership. We want to turn Pennsylvania Avenue into a two-way street again. *And make God work for the people.*
By our presence -- and by our pledges -- we are ~~trying~~ *sending* ~~to~~ send a message to the American people: a vote for Republican candidates this fall is a vote for a new beginning. It is a vote for change.

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Third, across-the-board tax cuts that will put this country back on the road to prosperity.

Fourth, all-out efforts to encourage more private investment and more permanent jobs, especially in our central cities.

Fifth and finally, a bolstering of our defense forces to restore our margin of safety and assure peace and stability in the world. *A credible foreign policy.*

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