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**Collection:** Reagan, Ronald: 1980 Campaign Files,  
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**Folder Title:** 09/16/1980, Corpus Christi Speech

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CORPUS CHRISTI REMARKS

- 1 -

I WANT TO THANK BILL CLEMENTS FOR THAT VERY GRACIOUS INTRODUCTION.

AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TO JOIN WITH US.

TODAY I HAVE VISITED SAN ANTONIO AND HARLINGEN. AND, NOW, AT CORPUS CHRISTI, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THE SPIRIT OF CONFIDENCE AND HOPE I HAVE SEEN TODAY, A SPIRIT THAT IS PRESENT HERE RIGHT NOW, CONVINCES ME THAT TEXAS IS GOING TO LEAD THE WAY TO VICTORY IN NOVEMBER.



TODAY IN TEXAS AND FOR MONTHS ALL ACROSS AMERICA, I  
HAVE BEEN BRINGING THE MESSAGE OF HOPE THAT I WANT TO SHARE  
WITH YOU.

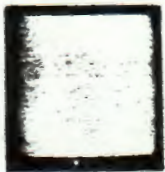
IT IS BASED ON THE VALUES OF FAMILY, WORK, NEIGHBORHOOD,  
PEACE AND FREEDOM THAT ARE AT THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN DREAM.

JIMMY CARTER WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT DREAM IS OVER,  
OR AT LEAST IN NEED OF CHANGE.

THIS ELECTION CONCERNS WHAT JIMMY CARTER HAS DONE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND WHAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO IF WE ARE GIVEN FOUR MORE YEARS OF DISASTER.

BECAUSE OF HIS FAILURES WE FACE AN UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION:

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY WE FACE THREE GRAVE CRISES AT THE SAME TIME, EACH ONE OF WHICH IS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING US: OUR ECONOMY IS DETERIORATING, OUR ENERGY NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET, AND OUR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS HAS BEEN WEAKENED TO THE POINT OF IMMEDIATE DANGER.



TEXANS ARE AWARE OF WHAT THIS MEANS. TEXANS HAVE LONG BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. TEXANS HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE. AND TEXANS HAVE BEEN LEADERS IN DEVELOPING OUR ENERGY RESOURCES.

TEXANS KNOW THAT THE THREE GRAVE CRISES WE FACE COMBINE TO THREATEN OUR NATION. WE CAN'T HAVE A STRONG ECONOMY UNLESS WE SOLVE OUR ENERGY PROBLEMS. WE CAN'T HAVE STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE UNLESS WE SOLVE OUR ENERGY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

JIMMY CARTER HAS NOT ONLY FORGOTTEN HIS PROMISES OF 1976. HE HAS FORGOTTEN THE VALUES THAT MAKE THIS NATION GREAT.



THE CARTER RECORD IS A LITANY OF DESPAIR, OF BROKEN PROMISES, OF SACRED TRUSTS ABANDONED AND FORGOTTEN.

EIGHT MILLION OUT OF WORK. INFLATION RUNNING AT 18 PERCENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980. THE HIGHEST INTEREST RATES SINCE THE CIVIL WAR -- REACHING AT TIMES CLOSE TO 20 PERCENT -- LATELY DOWN TO MORE THAN 11 PERCENT BUT NOW GOING UP AGAIN -- PRODUCTIVITY FALLING FOR SIX STRAIGHT QUARTERS AMONG THE MOST PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE IN HISTORY.

HE PROMISED HE WOULD NOT INCREASE TAXES FOR THE LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME PEOPLE -- THE WORKERS OF AMERICA. THEN HE IMPOSED ON AMERICAN FAMILIES THE LARGEST SINGLE TAX INCREASE IN HISTORY.



AND WHAT IS HIS ANSWER TO ALL THIS MISERY?

HE STAYS CLOSE TO THE ROSE GARDEN AND REFUSES TO ENGAGE IN THE KIND OF DEBATE DESIRED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO DEBATING MR. CARTER. I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO CONFRONTING HIM WITH HIS RECORD OF FAILURE. BUT IT LOOKS AS IF HE PREFERS THE ROSE GARDEN TO A DEBATE. WITH HIS RECORD OF FAILURE, YOU REALLY CAN'T BLAME HIM.



YOU USUALLY WON'T FIND ME QUOTING SENATOR TED KENNEDY --  
BUT IN THIS CASE, I'M WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

SENATOR KENNEDY HAS REMARKED THAT THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTIC  
OF JIMMY CARTER IS THAT HE IS ALWAYS BEING SURPRISED.

AND THE SENATOR IS RIGHT.

JIMMY CARTER HAS BEEN SURPRISED TO DISCOVER HIS POLICIES  
HAVE LED TO INFLATION.



HE IS SURPRISED THAT FIGHTING INFLATION BY UNEMPLOYING MILLIONS IS UNPOPULAR. AND DESTRUCTIVE OF FAMILY VALUES.

HE IS SURPRISED BY THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN.

HE WAS SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT CANCELLING THE B-1 BOMBER, POSTPONING OR DELAYING THE MX MISSILE AND CRUISE MISSILE AND TRIDENT SUBMARINE PROGRAMS AND STOPPING PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON WOULD BE DESTRUCTIVE TO OUR MILITARY STRENGTH.

HE IS GOING TO GET ONE MORE BIG SURPRISE. ON NOVEMBER 4TH.



THIS COUNTRY NEEDS A NEW ADMINISTRATION, WITH A RENEWED  
DEDICATION TO THE DREAM OF AMERICA -- AN ADMINISTRATION THAT  
WILL GIVE THAT DREAM NEW LIFE AND MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

LET'S GET AMERICA BACK TO WORK AGAIN.

THE TIME IS NOW!



DEX COMPLETED : 8:50 PM

First Draft (WFG)

Sept. 14, 1980

9/14  
(Receiver:  
Dave)  
FISHER

Corpus Christi, Texas: Airport Rally

Remarks

(Basic Speech Material with Texas Slant)

I want to thank Bill Clements for that very gracious introduction.

And I want to thank you for coming here to join with us.

Today I have visited San Antonio and Harlingen. And, now, at Corpus Christi, I want to tell you that the spirit of confidence and hope I have seen today, a spirit that is present here right now, convinces me that Texas is going to lead the way to victory in November.

Today in Texas and for months all across America I have been bringing the message of hope that I want to share with you.

It is based on the values of family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom that are at the heart of the American dream.

Jimmy Carter would have us believe that dream is over, or at least in need of change.

This election concerns what Jimmy Carter has done to the American people and what he would continue to do if we are given four more years of disaster.

Because of his failures we face an unprecedented situation:

For the first time in the history of our country we face three grave crises at the same time, each one of which is capable of destroying us: Our economy is deteriorating, our energy needs are not being met, and our military preparedness has been weakened to the point of immediate danger.

Texans are aware of what this means. Texans have long been in the forefront of economic growth. Texans have always supported a strong national defense. And Texans have been leaders in developing our energy resources.

Texans know that the three grave crises we face combine to threaten our nation. We can't have a strong economy unless we solve our energy problems. We can't have strong national defense unless we solve our energy and economic problems.

Jimmy Carter has not only forgotten his promises of 1976. He has forgotten the values that make this nation great.

The Carter record is a litany of despair, of broken promises, of sacred trusts abandoned and forgotten.

Eight million out of work. Inflation running at 18 percent in the first quarter of 1980. The highest interest rates since the Civil War -- reaching at times close to 20 percent -- lately down to more than 11 percent but now going up again -- productivity falling for six straight quarters among the most productive people in history.

He promised he would not increase taxes for the low and middle income people -- the workers of America. Then he imposed on American families the largest single tax increase in history.

And what is his answer to all this misery?

He stays close to the Rose Garden and refuses to engage in the kind of debate desired by an overwhelming majority of the American people.

I have been looking forward to debating Mr. Carter. I have been looking forward to confronting him with his record of failure. But it looks as if he prefers the Rose Garden to a debate. With

his record of failure, you really can't blame him.

You usually won't find me quoting Senator Ted Kennedy -- but in this case I'm willing to make an exception.

Senator Kennedy has remarked that the chief characteristic of Jimmy Carter is that he is always being surprised.

And the Senator is right.

Jimmy Carter has been surprised to discover his policies have led to inflation.

He is surprised that fighting inflation by unemploying millions is unpopular. And destructive of family values.

He is surprised by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

He was surprised to discover that cancelling the B-1 bomber, postponing or delaying the MX missile and cruise missile and Trident submarine programs and stopping production of the neutron weapon would be destructive to our military strength.

He is going to get one more big surprise. On November 4th.

This country needs a new administration, with a renewed dedication to the dream of America -- an administration that will give that dream new life and make America great again!

Let's get America back to work again.

The time is now!

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