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Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY:

September 24, 1980

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

EL PASO, TEXAS

There's another problem which concerns West Texans especially--and it's an area in which I share your concern--the continuation of natural gas price controls. Mr. Carter's natural gas policy has been so complex and confusing that one wonders if his administration really wants to increase its production.

You all remember that solemn written pledge to the oil and gas states in October of 1976 to decontrol natural gas. A letter to the Governors of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana said that he would "work with Congress...to deregulate new natural gas." He wrote that "the decontrol of producers' prices for new natural gas would provide an incentive for new exploration and would help our nation's oil and gas operations attract needed capital." I could not have said it better myself.

With this pledge--which came just about two weeks before the election--Candidate Carter was able to win the electoral votes of Texas and Louisiana. Then, once elected, that promise as well as dozens of others went unfulfilled as did the energy needs of Texas and of all the rest of the nation.

I don't need to recount the sorry record of events leading up to the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. You, the residents of El Paso, know all too well the threat to veto any bill that provided for the full deregulation of natural gas. The President called it a "\$70 billion rip-off."

And you know that the Act eventually signed was not a decontrol measure, but an extension of natural gas price controls.

- more -

Even the Department of Energy admits that the Act "brought almost all gas production, rather than only gas produced for the interstate market, under price controls." Even a decade from now, fully one-fifth of natural gas will remain under federal price standards.

The fact that a solemn promise to the Governors of three states was broken is not surprising, but still is reason enough for the residents of Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma to be angry.

But the issue goes beyond regional interests. From the very beginning, the President has made the energy crisis a key issue in his administration. Yet at a time when he was warning of severe energy shortages in the future, he did little or nothing to increase our own energy production. His rhetoric itself demonstrated that he understood the beneficial effects that would have resulted from decontrol--and true, there was opposition to deregulation in both Houses of Congress. But did the President exercise the leadership necessary to sway the Congress toward meaningful natural gas decontrol? He did not. Did he even remain neutral while congressional backers of decontrol rallied support? He did not. He actually fought against full control, and vigorously so.

That is the energy policy of the present administration and the results are clear: natural gas production has increased barely 1 percent per year on average under the administration's program of continued natural gas price controls.

And at least partly because of the lack of alternative energy sources, our daily oil imports in the first half of this year were greater than they were for 1976. Given the threat to our energy supplies now posed by the fighting between Iraq and Iran, one can only ask the question: why, after three and a half years, are we now more dependent on foreign oil than when Mr. Carter took office? The answer is that this administration has consistently discouraged the discovery and production of domestic energy, and perhaps no more so than in the area of natural gas.

A Reagan administration will be committed to producing as much energy as we can here at home. And that requires one essential step--the prompt phase-out of all price controls on natural gas.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, September 24, 1980

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

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN EL PASO, TEXAS

The situation involving Iran and Iraq is both serious and unfortunate, not only because the American hostages are endangered, but also because it could spread into a generalized war and because it threatens world oil supplies.

What is happening in Iraq and Iran is the consequence of policies this administration has followed during the last three and one-half years. A vacillating foreign policy and a weakened defense capability are largely to blame.

It is up to President Carter now to decide what role the United States must play. I will make no further comments at this time.

* * * * *

Master *Tues 23 Sept*
9:15 pm
Sent to Springfield, Mo. #1

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 4:00/1600
Tuesday, 23 Sept.

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Verne Orr
- ✓ Bill Timmons
- ✓ Dick Wirthlin
- ✓ Congressman Tom Evans

INFORMATION

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Remains by RR for Wed. 2:45
p.m. 24 Sept. El Paso, TX.
Please respond in the shortest
time possible. Thank you.

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

-
- Others
- ✓ Ray Bell
 - ✓ Bob Gray
 - ✓ Bill Morris

I'm delighted to have a chance to visit this busy factory, which has given El Paso the reputation of slacks capital of America.

This plant exemplifies a lot about the kind of hard work and enterprise that has made this country the most productive country with the most productive people in the history of the human race.

You know, bustling plants like this aren't just accidents. Someone has to have an idea, a vision, an inspiration. He has to make plans. He has to attract investment capital. He has to find a way to market your products. He has to find intelligent, hard working employees. He has to put all these things together - and if he has guessed right about the demand, if the product you produce finds acceptance in the marketplace, then orders roll in -- the plant hires more workers -- buys new machines -- generates sales, payrolls, profits.

Those payrolls mean a better life for thousands of people. Every Farah employee taking home a paycheck is doing his or her part in creating real wealth for the American people. And every employee taking home a paycheck is moving toward economic security, providing for the family, helping the kids get a better start in life, contributing to the strength of the local community here in El Paso.

America needs more plants - more people hard at work - more newwealth being generated for our people. But we aren't seeing enough of that. Right here in El Paso, the July unemployment rate was 9.3% of the work force, about twice the Texas average. Nationally, eight million Americans are looking for work.

In a soundly managed economy, an economy managed by people who understand the principles of investment, initiative, and the creation of paychecks you can cash in honest money, most of those eight million unemployed Americans would be hard at work.

The reason they aren't at work can be summarized in two words:
Jimmy Carter.

Jimmy Carter likes to talk about "full employment" and "economic prosperity". But the policies his administration have inflicted upon the American people have worked in exactly the opposite direction. Instead of "full employment" we are suffering from high unemployment. Instead of economic prosperity, we are threatened with economic collapse.

Look at the results of four years of Carter economic policy.

Unemployment is hovering around the eight million figure. But look beyond the statistics. Every one of those eight million men and women is a human being suffering the intensely human anguish of wanting to work, and having no job. This is an American tragedy, a tragedy for which Jimmy Carter must be held to account.

The Carter economic policy has given us galloping inflation. Earlier this year it hit eighteen percent. Now think of it: at that rate, a dollar you set aside today will buy only 82 cents worth of goods a year from now. Over the summer the rate went down, but the August figures show it heading back up again. The food component of the consumer price index increased in August at a 31% annual rate. That means that the pound of hamburger you buy for \$1.79 today will cost you \$ 2.34 just a year from now.

The Carter economic policy has produced home mortgage interest rates as high as 16% this year. That's a staggering rate for a young couple to pay - but it's not the fault of the bank. IN an atmosphere of double digit inflation, they have no choice but to ask a high interest rate. The result of the Carter economic policy is that

housing production is down from 1.7 million units in 1979 to a projected 1.2 million units this year.

In 1976 Jimmy Carter came up with something called the Misery Index. He got that by adding the inflation rate to the unemployment rate. Jimmy Carter said President Ford was responsible for the worst Misery Index in fifty years. It was 12.5%. In 1980, after three and a half years of Carter economic failure, the Misery Index has hit 20.3%, and is hovering around the 16% mark today.

Jimmy Carter invented the Misery Index to measure failure. And how does he measure up to it? By his own standard, he is a complete failure.

But Jimmy Carter's failure is not just a personal failure - as if his peanut warehouse went broke. Jimmy Carter's failure in Washington means failure in El Paso and in every other community in this country. It means failure to find a job - failure to bring home a paycheck - failure to buy a new refrigerator or car - failure to become home owners - failure to set aside savings for retirement or for the education of your children.

Those are not failures of the people who want to work but can't find work. They are Jimmy Carter's failures, for which they are ^{unfairly} paying the price.

Well, I say that the unemployed workers of El Paso and America should not have to pay that price.

I say that we can have real economic opportunity again in this country. We can have more factories humming - more people cashing paychecks - more customers in our stores - more money in the bank.

And I have put forward a sound, practical program to make this happen.

We've got to get runaway federal deficit under control and restore a stable, sound monetary policy.

We've got to remove the barriers government has erected to the creation of job-producing enterprises, like this one. This means faster depreciation of new equipment , and rolling back the kind of government regulations and red tape that have little to do with safety or equal opportunity, but merely make work for a lot of government bureaucrats with nothing useful to do.

And we have to begin by cutting taxes. The federal government is now taking almost 21% of the gross national product of this country. In this fiscal year it will take in an additional \$86 billion from taxpayers like you. I want to see a lot of that money reinvested by millions of Americans, instead of confiscated by the government. And just about the first thing I'll do when I'm elected President is to ask Congress for immediate passage of a bill to cut personal and business taxes by 10% across the board in 1981- and again in 1982 - and again in 1983.

In that kind of climate, people will use their own money to invest and work and build and create jobs to put those eight million unemployed Americans back to work.

I need your help to make this happen. I need your votes on November 4. And if I am successful, then you and I, with God's help, can work together to make America great again.

FROM: BOB GARRICK

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4:00/1600
Tuesday, 23 Sept.

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