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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 ²⁵24, 1980

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

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Grand Junction is more than the great city of the Western slope. It is, in many ways, one of the best hopes of America's energy future. For it is from here in the West where much of our energy supplies for the next decades will come.

You are well aware of the tremendous resource potential of Western lands. The reserves of coal and natural gas hold great hope for future development. But even more important to this area are the huge reserves of oil shale. The Department of Energy estimates that our high grade oil shale could yield 418 billion barrels of oil. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of the Interior estimate that our total oil shale resources exceed the equivalent of 1.8 trillion barrels of oil.

Let me put that in perspective. If only 10 percent of these reserves were recoverable--a conservative estimate--we would have 27 years worth of oil in shale alone, at current rates of oil consumption. If as much as 35 percent were recoverable, we would have nearly a century's worth of oil.

- more -

These facts disprove the administration's repeated claims that we are running out of energy. We have an abundance of potential and proven energy resources in the ground and off-shore--oil, natural gas, coal and oil shale--if this administration will only allow Americans to find and produce them.

In the last two weeks, I have discussed some of the steps we can take to promote the discovery and production of oil, coal, and natural gas. Tonight, I want to suggest what we can do to encourage the development of oil shale.

Any shale oil policy must address the question of environmental protection. Unfortunately, some of the current shale production techniques pose potential hazards to the environment. These difficulties must be resolved before we undertake any full-scale shale production effort. Overcoming these environmental problems will have a high priority in my administration's shale oil research and development program. We must encourage the production of shale, but we cannot ravage the West.

The idea of production at all costs was what concerned me most about the President's proposed energy mobilization board. Fortunately, the Congress refused to approve it.

The administration's belief that an unelected federal board should be able to override duly approved environmental laws is characteristic of its lack of understanding of the problems of the West. In a Reagan administration, we will strike a fair and

reasonable balance between environmental protection and our energy needs.

It's important to remember that while oil shale is a fuel of the future, it is not really a "new" energy source. Shale oil served as a fuel as early as the 1850s, its production actually preceding that of crude oil and involving dozens of firms. But when crude oil was discovered in Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1859, energy firms found the liquid oil far cheaper to produce-- and the interest in shale oil declined.

The cost factor remains one of the greatest barriers to shale oil production. And that is why we need to direct federal efforts in the shale field toward spurring the research and development necessary for making shale production more cost-effective, through the application of new techniques and processes. At the same time I oppose the administration's plan for subsidizing the production of shale oil. Federal subsidies for projects do not reduce the real cost of energy produced--in fact, they could actually drain capital away from efforts to improve cost-efficiency. If shale costs more to produce than conventional oil and gas, then we would suffer a net energy loss; if it does not cost more, then there is no need to subsidize it.

Only when shale becomes truly cost-competitive as it will be as we bring new techniques on line will it be able to make a real contribution to our nation's energy supplies. I will seek to encourage less expensive production of shale oil through an

effective research and development program. The current large number of private shale projects convinces me that shale will be widely developed and marketed in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, we need to promptly deregulate oil and natural gas prices. As long as government policies continue to hold the price of alternative fuels below their competitive level, shale development will be inhibited.

This administration's leasing policy is another barrier to full utilization of our oil shale potential. The administration has locked up millions of acres of land in the West, often preventing even searching for the land's energy potential. I am convinced we can adopt a sensible leasing policy, one which will protect our environment but which will also permit the widest use of our energy resources.

Let me close by assuring you that if I am elected, you will have a friend in the White House. We will call a truce to this administration's "war on the West." As Governor of California for eight years, I grew to understand the special difficulties Western residents face. I will work with your fine leaders, such as Senator Bill Armstrong, to develop water and land policies which take into account the conditions particular to this region of the United States. I learned long ago something this administration apparently still doesn't know--that Westerners themselves do a far better job of allocating their precious water resources and

developing their lands than does a federal government thousands of miles away in Washington, D.C.

We can implement these policies by relying on a sense of balance, a sense of direction, and a central vision. These are some of the qualities I hope to bring to the Presidency. But I need your help and your cooperation if we are to succeed. The time to start building that future of balance and cooperation is now. Let's turn the sagebrush rebellion into a sagebrush solution.

Together we can do it!

* * * * *

Sent to Springfield from MASTER #2
to Brady
23 Sept 9:20
pm
rmg

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 3:00 PM / 1500

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

Attached are RR remarks to be delivered at a Grand Junction, CO airport rally on 6:15 p.m. MDT Wed. 24 Sept. - please return your input by 9a.m. Wed. 24 Sept.
Thank you.

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

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

FIRST DRAFT-WFG

9/23/80 12:00 noon

GRAND JUNCTION RALLY REMARKS

AMERICA'S FUTURE

In visiting Grand Junction, we are doing something more than visiting the great city of the western slope. In a larger sense we are visiting the American future, for it is here that much of our nation's future policies will be shaped. Energy is the cutting edge of the American future and Grand Junction and Colorado will play a major role in determining what that future will be.

And that is what this campaign is all about: Are we going to have a future that reflects the great spirit of Grand Junction and the West, a spirit of exploration and confidence and self-reliance? Or are we going to have a future built on the gloomy pessimism caused by the current Carter inflation, which is robbing not only the paychecks and savings but the very hopes and dreams of all Americans?

The spirit of the West is not simply confined to some regional or geographic location. It exists anywhere free people work together for their families, their communities, and their country. It exists all over this country. That spirit cannot be

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broken, even by three and a half years of ineptness, incompetence, and inflation from Jimmy Carter.

You know that Jimmy Carter has turned his back on the problems of the West. You know that Jimmy Carter, isolated as he is in Washington, D.C., has, in effect, told every westerner that he knows better than you do how westerners should allocate and develop precious water resources. That's the kind of attitude that not only strikes at the heart of the western spirit of self-reliance--it strikes at the very concept of self-government, of people working together, cooperating, and building.

Jimmy Carter does not know the spirit of the West and he doesn't know the spirit of America.

Let me pause here and say this:

In recent weeks Mr. Carter has accused me of being against peace, he has accused me of racism. He said the other day that the choice in November is between war and peace and he made no secret of just who, in his opinion, is on the wrong side of that division.

Now I've been in politics long enough to have developed a sense of balance. I know that in that wonderful phrase of Finley Peter Dunne's Mr. Dooley: "Politics ain't beanbag." And I know that Mr. Carter is under tremendous pressure because bit by bit, inch by inch, his record is being uncovered despite the efforts of his vast array of public relations people. So I think we should understand he is saying things he will regret when the campaign

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is over. I know that he is making a last desperate throw of the dice in the form of slander in the hope he can regain the confidence of the American people.

But today I would like to say that isn't it about time Mr. Carter starts talking about the truth of his record and stops all this name-calling? This country wants a debate, not a name-calling contest. I am for a debate. I participated in a debate. Mr. Carter will not participate in the fair, open kind of debate the American people want. For the sake of this country, and for the sake of the high office he holds, I hope he stops this nonsense--because that is what it is, really, nonsense--and starts to debate the issues--even at long range.

A few weeks ago--sometimes it seems like months and months ago, given the fast pace of this campaign--I said in my acceptance speech that our nation faces three grave problems at the same time--energy, the economy, and national security. Each presents us with unique and dangerous challenges. But when you realize that for the first time in our nation's history we have to face all three problems at the same time, you know that this campaign is of extraordinary importance. What we decide in November, in presidential and congressional elections, is, in a profound sense, our nation's destiny.

I can think of no better place to make this point than in Grand Junction. Here, on the western slope, amid all of this natural beauty, a great part of the answer to our problems can be

found. The ability of our nation to obtain secure energy supplies has direct bearing on our economy and on our ability to defend ourselves.

So, in one sense, it is not simply issues of oil shale and energy that confront the citizens of Grand Junction and the West in general--it is a question of what kind of future we are going to have.

In a speech to students at Louisiana State University, I said that my vision of the future could be summed up in two words: a secure freedom for the United States. Both words are important. We need security--security for our nation in terms of that margin of safety in defense; security for American families in terms of what their dollars can buy; security for those on fixed incomes that are currently ravaged by inflation. But security must be inspired by the freedom the West is famous for.

So what I have to say about oil shale and energy should be understood in that context. Everything I do in this campaign, whether it concerns energy or the economy, is rooted in a belief in secure freedom for the people of the United States.

Let's see how the energy challenge of Grand Junction and the western slope fits into that context.

Though oil shale is a fuel of the future, many are not aware that it is also a fuel of the past. Production of shale oil actually preceded that of crude oil, involving dozens of firms as early as the 1850s.

However, we have now moved far beyond the 1850s, and the energy industry is busy developing new techniques to economically produce this important energy resource. Indeed, could there be better evidence than the activities of so many energy firms to demonstrate that after a century of unmet promises of shale oil abundance, shale oil is ready to help meet America's energy needs?

The potential for shale oil is enormous. The Department of Energy has identified some 418 billion barrels of high grade oil shale, and the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of the Interior estimate that our total oil shale resources exceed the equivalent of 1.8 trillion barrels of oil. If only 10 percent of that were recoverable--a conservative estimate--we would have 27 years worth of oil in shale oil alone.

By so helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil sources, the development of shale oil in Grand Junction will obviously enhance our energy security. But, as I suggested, it will also help strengthen our national security.

The Department of Defense has been involved in shale oil research and production since early this century, when it established the Naval Oil Shale Reserve near Rifle, Colorado. Over the past few years, it has tested shale oil as potential aviation and ground transportation fuels. Thus, shale oil may

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eventually help to meet vital defense needs in time of an emergency.

But the promise of shale oil must not lead us to ignore the costs of developing it. The people of Grand Junction, and of Colorado, will benefit from the economic development that will come, but they will also bear the primary burden of solving the problems of project site selections, the environment, water availability, and the social impact on their communities.

For this reason, the federal government must work closely with state and local governments, and the companies developing shale oil, to ensure that the interests of this community and state, and surrounding states, are adequately protected. They can rest assured that a Reagan administration will work to strike a careful balance of the energy, environmental, economic, and social interests.

We can meet our energy needs and our environmental needs only by working together. In recent years, the Carter administration has seen the West as ^a junior, silent partner in the American partnership, with Washington, D.C. dominating that partnership. The time has come for revival of the true American concept of partnership in which government does what it can and should do--but does not seek to dominate and in which the people and the states do what they can and should do, knowing the federal government's policies will be supportive and not a hindrance to progress.

7 - GRAND JUNCTION RALLY REMARKS - DRAFT

All of this requires a sense of balance, a sense of direction, some central vision. I believe my vision of America built upon secure freedom is one within which a new American partnership can be built.

Years from now, historians will look back and see Grand Junction as the center of development in the field of energy in the 1980s. The question we must ask--and answer--today and in November is: What is the vision that will guide that development?

I say that security--for families, for the economy, and for our nation--inspired by and built upon freedom is the best means of progress. I know it works because the West has made it work in the past and is making it work today.

I need your help and I need your cooperation if we are going to have the kind of future based on the spirit of the West.

The time is now--for Grand Junction, for Colorado, and for America.

* * * * *

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT:

3:00 PM / 1500

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

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Dick Wirthlin

Congressman Tom Evans

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7 - GRAND JUNCTION RALLY REMARKS - DRAFT

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