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Reagan & Bush

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NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL:

9:00 P.M. EDT

Tuesday, September 30, 1980

CONTACT: Lyn Nofziger or
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703-685-3630

EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

CLOSED CIRCUIT DINNER - NEW YORK CITY

Thank you, Nancy, for those warm words. They are especially reassuring since you've spent the entire evening sitting next to Frank Sinatra. Seriously, Frank, thank you for being a part of this grand evening. It isn't every candidate who has a king in his corner. And Dean, you've been great, as always. Tomorrow morning you're going to be very pleased when they tell you what you did the night before.

Mr. President, I send thanks and affection to you and Betty for all you are doing. I think all these people should know that you have been almost constantly on tour campaigning for Republican candidates for the House and Senate and for George and myself. We owe you a debt of gratitude. As for those jokes about your golf—let me turn one around. When you were in the White House, Americans, even on a golf course, weren't afraid to hold their heads up high.

This has been a great evening and I'm sure I speak for all present when I say a heartfelt thank you to all who made it so great. That goes especially for the Republican Boys Choir—if Norm Crosby will forgive me, they hit the "highest pinnacle of musical aggravation." To those who might think it inappropriate to have an evening like this when our nation is in such dire straits and great peril, let me say, song and laughter should not be taken as an indication that we lack concern.

In the midst of a great war, Winston Churchill once said of Americans, that we "seemed to be the only people who could laugh and fight at the same

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time." Abe Lincoln said, "With the fearful strain on me night and day, if I didn't laugh, I should die."

I'm sure we all know that Lincoln's laughter was not caused by the problems he faced but rather in spite of them.

And it is with us. We know that our economy is floundering on the reef of the longest sustained, high peacetime inflation in our history. An Annapolis graduate may be on the bridge but the Ship of State is taking on water and apparently is without rudder or compass.

The inflation brought on by the administration in Washington is such that you can work all your life, retire and then find you can't afford all the things you had when you were poor. Retirement can truly be called "The Golden Years"—the price goes up \$10 a day. Inflation has robbed more people of more wealth than all the robberies in history. In an effort to get control of inflation, the Captain of our Ship of State has resorted to a policy of deliberate unemployment. Eight million out of work. This is a betrayal of the working men and women of this country and their families.

To those still with jobs, trying to keep up with inflation is a losing game because of the crushing tax burden. And there is a built-in increase that will take more than 80 billion additional dollars next year and in five years will be taking more than \$500 billion out of our pockets unless the present administration is turned out of office.

Our government—(not George the III)—has truly "sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance." Regulations by the tens of thousands reach into every business from the corner store to the largest industrial complex, strangling commerce, reducing productivity and binding the most productive industrial machine ever known to man as the Lilliputians bound Gulliver with a myriad of threads.

The chief executive officer of one of our automobile companies said, "I never invent anymore. All I do is make modifications to comply with the law."

Our energy situation is worsened, not helped, by government intervention. And our foreign policy is in shambles. Ambassadors have been assassinated, citizens are held hostage and the Caribbean becomes a lake controlled by Castro. The President couldn't persuade the Russians to leave Cuba so he's getting the Cubans to leave.

National security, the primary responsibility of government, is the greatest failure of this administration. For three decades or more after World War II, we were the strongest nation in the world and let it be recognized we never once used that strength aggressively or for conquest. Today we are not only inferior in quantity and, to a large extent, quality of equipment but the men and women in our armed forces are reduced to "moonlighting" or subsisting with the aid of food stamps.

So why have we spent the evening with song and laughter? Perhaps the words of a man, Dr. Joseph Warren, who gave his life at Bunker Hill, words spoken on the eve of our struggle for freedom, can explain it. "Our country," he said, "is in danger but not to be despaired of. On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions on which rest the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourself."

We have heard a voice in these last four years saying on more than one occasion, "Trust me." I say, let us trust ourselves.

You and I were young in a land in which we could look backward with pride and forward with hope. We wish to restore and preserve that land for our young and for all those in the world who yearn to breathe free.

We can rekindle the spirit of America--indeed that spirit is crying out to be unleashed.

We can free our productive ability from the snarl of government restraints.

We can stop government from eating out our substance with oppressive and exorbitant taxes made necessary by extravagance, fraud and waste.

We can defend the ramparts of freedom and win back the trust of friends and allies around the world. And we can create jobs for all Americans to give them the dignity of providing for their families and controlling their own destiny.

We can do these things because God intended this land to be free; because we are free to dream, to plan and to make our dreams come true.

Let it be said of our day and our generation: that we did act worthy of ourselves; that we did build, protect and pass on to a new generation a shining city upon a hill.

New revision of Prelude dinner speech is attached. These changes came from RR via Peter Dailey's L.A. office.

Re: Farm Speech

Bill Gavin took a copy of the second draft home with him in case people want to call with comments. Tour is just looking it over now -- it was misplaced in L.A.

Paterson, NJ and Wilkes-Barre speeches went out with a due time for comments as 5:00 p.m. today.

Not much has trickled in to Bill.

5:30 PM, 9/29/80

Remarks for Ronald Regan, Prelude to Victory Dinner, September 30

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"America, America, God shed his ^ggrace on Thee" . . . It is a prayer set to song. And who can hear it without a prickling of the skin? Who can hear it without the chilling awareness that the words of that prayer recount a history terrible in its beauty, and a destiny awful in the obligation it lays upon us.

We gather tonight chiefly to laugh and that is appropriate, for ^llaughter is a way of loving. It is, after all, love which inspires our commitment to the work in which we are engaged. There is the awareness of what we have been given at the hand of God; this land of plenty, of endless possibility, and dreams we can shape with our hands. There is the awareness of our own devotion to our land and our people and our heritage. And there is a love for our future — which is nothing so abstract as tomorrow, but is rather a matter of flesh and blood: our children.

You and I were young in a land in which we could look backward with pride and look forward with hope. It is such a land and such an opportunity that we wish to restore and preserve for our young. And not just for our young, but for every person in the world who looks to us as a beacon of freedom and a confirmation of the supremacy of the human spirit.

Our heritage is that of a people who go on their knees to none but God. It is not for this generation to endanger that heritage on the grounds that the world is a changed and difficult and complicated place from what it was when America was born.

It is not necessary to peer through the prism of partisan interest to see that this heritage is endangered today. It is endangered because we are perceived as a weakened nation. This is not principally a matter of our defense capability, though that is lethally inadequate. It is, instead, a matter of national will.

Whenever

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Whenever the will of the western democracies has been in doubt, world peace has been in danger. And, of course, our will is read largely in terms of our capacity to exert our will.

Now as a practical matter, what does that mean? Does it mean what some say, that when a nation is armed, it invites war, that the purpose of arms is war? No. That is the argument of people who are either ignorant of, or contemptuous of, our history.

Our arms have never been used for conquest. That is a truth worth dwelling on. Show me any other great power which was not, or else is not today, like Russia, an imperial power. We never sought to control others. Our defense capacity was always used for just that: defense.

But if that is so, upon what grounds do some claim that we are feared in the world? Is it an honest claim?

Well, it is and it isn't.

It is a claim undergirded by ignorance and gullibility. Those who find Pravda convincing may find the claim compelling. But what is the foundation of the fear? It is this: one of our Founding Fathers, I do not recall which, said; "The disease of liberty is catching." There are those in the world who fear their people will catch it. The United States of America has been a carrier from the days when Jefferson told the British Empire that "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time." If we do nothing else, we encourage others by our very existence to believe that man's natural destiny is to be free, and that freedom is an achievable and workable ideal. Small wonder that some fear us. Heaven help humanity on the day their fears are laid to rest.

Now today we have a President who advertises himself as a peacemaker. It is not an uncommon claim in this century.

Most of us remember ^{another} world leader who brought "peace" to his people.

He went to enormous lengths to ingratiate himself with the enemies of freedom in the world. When they practiced aggression, he calmed his people and said it was inconsequential. When the enemies of freedom invaded and enslaved others, he was anxious to be understanding.

He made policy choices without informing his own foreign office or foreign secretary.

He actively alienated his nation's allies, proceeding without consulting them, resisting their counsel, rejecting ^{their} ~~this~~ assistance.

He accused his political opponents of threatening the peace of the world and, indeed, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini happily joined with Neville Chamberlain in this accusation.

And at every point, Neville Chamberlain was anxious to tell his people that his way was the path of peace.

One is tempted to quote Churchill's observations on the subject, but I have in mind another quote, which I think is to the point. It is this: "This country, which criticizes itself, and is criticized around the world, has been the great means of defending first the world against the Nazi threat and then later against the communist threat, and if it weren't for us the communists would be dominant in the world today and because of us we're in a strong position. Now I think that's a pretty good record for a country with six per cent of the world's population which is very reluctant to take on those burdens. I think we ought to be rather pleased with ourselves." Those words, which I confess strike a sympathetic chord in me, were spoken on December 16, 1962 ^{to /} ~~in a conversation~~ with President John F. Kennedy.

We do bear the burden of freedom in the world. Those who wish to lay it down

ought to plainly say so, and follow with an explanation of what this would mean for us.

I propose that we bear it without any illusions as to the weight of the burden. I propose that we bear it not grudgingly, and apologetically, but with pride.

I speak from this island which is the heart of New York City. At the end of this island is another which is the heart of the meaning of America. Upon it stands a statue called Liberty, bearing a torch which lights the way both for those who have liberty, and for those who want it.

Through her eyes I see green meadows ringing the globe, quiet meadows hallowed by the blood and bones which lie beneath them; redeemed by the liberty we enjoy in this land. They are marked by neat rows of white crosses and Maagen Davids, and on each an American name . . . American names like Wojciehowski and O'Brien and Garcia and Cohen and Giordano and Kupchik . . . and Jones.

Each marker is a sign of faith in us and America. I intend to keep that faith.

We are gathered tonight literally from sea to shining sea, and between us the vast land whispers the mystery of all that transpired upon it down the years of our adventure in democracy. Across the eastern hills, down the long rivers, into the plains and over the mountains, we pushed our greatness.

It lies there now, breathing, quickening, prepared for new occasions. We need only to call it back. And so we shall. There are those who say to our people, "Trust me." I say to our people, trust yourselves, and America will be America again, at home and around the world, and we will be worthy of her again.

So yes, America, God keep you in His Grace, and guide our ways down all your days, until we see His Face. Amen.