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*Last Updated: 10/06/2023*

# Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

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

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY:

Tuesday, October 14, 1980

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

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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As you know, a number of false and misleading accusations have been made in this campaign. During the next three weeks I intend to set the record straight. One of the accusations has been that I am somehow opposed to full and equal opportunities for women in America. I regret even having to address this issue for fear that discussing it might lend even a scintilla of credence to such a charge.

But I cannot permit this campaign to go forward while some people apparently believe that I would in any way restrict the freedom and rights of women. Nothing could be further from the truth. My entire life--public and private--has been devoted to the dignity of all people. I could never personally tolerate any kind of discrimination.

As Governor of California, I signed legislation:

- Prohibiting discrimination on account of sex in employment, real property transactions, or in the provision of accommodations and services by businesses.
- Establishing the right of a married woman to obtain credit in her own name.
- Revising community property to give the wife equal rights with regard to the management and control of community property.
- Extending state unemployment disability insurance benefits to pregnant employees.
- Increasing the penalties for rape, and for the use of firearms in a rape.
- Providing for the development and improvement of child care centers.

- more -

Paid for by Reagan Bush Committee. United States Senator Paul Laxalt, Chairman. Bay Buchanan, Treasurer.

All in all, we passed 14 statutes eliminating from the body of state law practices that discriminate against women.

As President, I will follow my convictions. Intelligent, committed, qualified and responsible women will be placed in important jobs in my administration.

I oppose tokenism, and I oppose setting false quotas. My responsibility will be to make our government work better and to solve the critical problems facing America.

To achieve those ends, we need the best people possible at the highest levels of government regardless of sex, race or religion.

I am also acutely aware, however, that within the guidelines of excellence, appointments can carry enormous symbolic significance. This permits us to guide by example--to show how deep our commitment is and to give meaning to what we profess.

One way I intend to live up to that commitment is to appoint a woman in the Supreme Court.

I am announcing today that one of the first Supreme Court vacancies in my administration will be filled by the most qualified woman I can possibly find, one who meets the high standards I will demand for all court appointments. It is time for a woman to sit among our highest jurists. I will also seek out women to appoint to other federal courts in an effort to bring about a better balance on the federal bench.

There will be no name announced nor will I submit names to be considered until I have conducted a comprehensive search and have received the recommendations of an advisory committee of eminent legal and judicial experts. The procedures they will be asked to follow are the same procedures I intend to establish for all judicial appointments.

I am confident that this woman, whomever she may be, and all of my other women appointees will contribute to the goals that I seek for America. But no matter who holds those jobs, the ends we seek to achieve will be the same: a country at peace; an economy with strength; a maximum of freedom; and the renewal of a community of values.

Caloremont

reportedly

DRAFT (TD)

POMONA AND ~~FOUNTAIN VALLEY~~ Oct. 12

sent to tour

RR PM 10OCT

It's wonderful to be home again in California and I want to take this opportunity to report to you on our travels of the last few weeks.

It won't surprise you to know that everywhere Nancy and I have gone we have found Americans unhappy about the current leadership in Washington. Americans are disenchanted with the candidate who promised us four years ago a government we could love and trust and gave us instead an administration famous for its abuses of the incumbency, famous for the "meaness issue," famous for the Stealth bomber and -- when they recently "jimmied" the producer price index to portray economic conditions that didn't exist -- famous for "Stealth economics."

Americans are unhappy and concerned about this administration -- an administration that has told us that a great national malaise is upon us -- that seems to be saying our energy as a nation is spent, our days of greatness at an end.

Americans are concerned by an administration that seems to say we must cut our expectations, we must conserve and withdraw, that we must tell our children . . . not to dream as we once dreamed.

I believe that Americans are dissatisfied with an Administration that has let government grow too large, too bureaucratic, too wasteful, too unresponsive, too uncaring about ordinary people and their ordinary problems.

I believe that Americans feel burdened, stifled, and sometimes even oppressed by the growth and size of government under this administration.

But if Americans are dissatisfied and frustrated by what has been going on in Washington, let me assure you that they are also hopeful -- hopeful that in this campaign they will see a standard -- not of pastel shades -- but of bold colors. They are hopeful that they will hear in this campaign a rallying cry -- a rallying cry that will summon them to a new vision of America.

Our vision must be a vision of a better America; a vision of a society with compassion for the lonely, the desperate and the forgotten; a vision of government that works for people not against them.

I believe that Americans -- who have always known that bureaucracy is the enemy of excellence and statism the foe of compassion -- want a new era of reform ~~in government~~ *and a time of national renewal.*

I believe Americans want an era of reform that will reorder the relationship between citizen and government; that will make government responsive again to people, that will revitalize the values of family, work and neighborhood, that will reinvigorate the private, charitable and independent institutions that have always been the source of our strength as a nation and our progress as a people.

I believe we can cut federal spending by battling waste and fraud in government -- a problem that is now an unrelenting national scandal. I say we can enact a realistic program of tax cuts that will stimulate our economic growth and give all our citizens a larger piece of the economic pie. I believe we can

restore the health and vitality of our local and state governments. I believe we can relieve business and labor of burdensome, unnecessary federal regulations while maintaining high environmental and occupational safety standards. I believe we can fight corruption in public life and in government agencies while we work to bring into government men of ~~high~~ competence, caliber and high integrity.

I believe we can care for the poor and downtrodden while we set loose once again the energies and ingenuity of the American people.

To put it briefly: I believe we can get government off our backs, out of our pockets and up to the standards of decency and excellence envisioned by our founding fathers.

There is no more pernicious idea loose in public life today than the notion that government must get bigger and more bureaucratic to become responsive and compassionate.

In California, we learned the opposite was true and together we set out to change the conventional wisdom. At a time when welfare costs went skyrocketing and brought other state and local governments to the brink of bankruptcy, we instituted a series of reforms that got the welfare cheaters off the rolls but substantially increased benefits to the truly needy. I am proud to say that the Urban Institute, a non-partisan, scholarly foundation in Washington, recently called our welfare program a "major policy success."

This is the kind of government that can be responsive to the

American people -- the kind of government that they are entitled to.

Let us pledge today that we will continue the work begun here in California, that we will begin a new age of reform in America, an era of national renewal. Let us pledge today that we will reclaim the American dream and give government back to the people.

Dated  
10/10  
11:42 AM  
JD

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