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**Collection:** Reagan, Ronald: 1980 Campaign Papers,  
1965-1980

**Series:** XV: Speech Files (Robert Garrick and Bill Gavin)

**Subseries:** A: Bob Garrick File

**Folder Title:** 10/15/1980, Akron / Canton OH

**Box:** 435

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*Last Updated: 10/10/2023*

# Reagan & Bush

Reagan Bush Committee

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

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY:

Wednesday, October 15, 1980

CONTACT:

Lyn Nofziger or  
Ken Towery  
703-685-3630

EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

AKRON, OHIO

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I'm pleased and honored to be here in America's industrial heartland again. Akron is the city that puts the tires on millions of wheels. It's the home of Firestone, of General, of Seiberling, and of B. F. Goodrich. At least I know enough not to be looking for the Goodrich Blimp.

But this isn't just America's rubber capital. It's America's football capital, too. Canton's the home of the National Football Hall of Fame.

Not long ago a reporter for the Wall Street Journal went back to Dixon to inquire about my earlier career. He went to the offices of the Dixon Telegraph and looked at old newspaper stories. He discovered that we were shut out in our season opener my senior year.

In the second game, we lost again, 25-0. The rest of the year, he discovered, the local newspaper neglected to report the outcomes of our games.

I know that doesn't happen around Canton or Massillon or Alliance or Akron because you consistently turn out some of the finest football teams in the Buckeye State.

- more -

One of the greatest challenges in this campaign has been keeping up with the shifting economic answers of the Carter administration. We may not be getting answers as to why eight million people are out of work--why we have had the highest peacetime inflation rates--or why we have seen interest rates at their highest since the Civil War--but we are getting plenty of diversions from the Carter administration's incredible smoke machine.

In the past few days alone, Mr. Carter has reeled off an amazing string of economic wishful thoughts that make one wonder if he even lives in the same country we do.

In Florida, he told retired people that he had "protected senior citizens from the ravages of inflation."

Then, he followed that with a radio speech on the economy in which he said the nation's economic outlook "has now brightened," and that his programs--the ones which have brought economic ruin to so many--would lead us to an "economic renaissance."

Right after telling us about the economic renaissance, he told a lady in New York, and I quote: "We've got it better now than a lot of people realize."

And just yesterday, he delivered what was billed as a major economic address in Washington.

Well, it's nice to see that Mr. Carter is at least beginning to talk about the economy again. With the kind of misery and suffering I've seen all over America, it is critical that we make this election campaign a referendum on the economic failures of the Carter years.

There are three interesting things in that speech. First, it is an extraordinary admission of the failures of Mr. Carter's leadership. From high inflation to high unemployment to high energy prices to low productivity, it seems that he has finally been forced to confront his own record.

Second, that speech is amazing for the way it totally distorted the proposals I have been making in this campaign. Without going through those points chapter and verse, let me just tell you that Mr. Carter has ranged anywhere from outright misrepresentation of my positions to just using poor arithmetic. You know, it's one thing when the Carter administration jimmies its own economic numbers to make its record look good, but when Mr. Carter starts jimmying my numbers, it's going too far.

Finally, there is an admission in that speech that the country must know about. Mr. Carter listed in there what he thought were the causes of inflation. Here is what he put as number one on the list, and I quote:

"The failure to raise adequate revenues at a time of greatly increased public spending."

Well, there it is in a nutshell. Mr. Carter blames inflation on the fact that he didn't tax the American people enough. He didn't say anything about the government spending too much, only that it didn't take in enough money.

We now know what Mr. Carter plans to do with four more years. Catch your breath, hold on to your hats, and grab your wallets because Jimmy Carter's analysis of the economy means that his answer is higher taxes. It's just that simple. If he thinks the cause of inflation is not enough taxes, then he'll set out to raise those taxes.

He has already imposed on American families the highest single tax increase in our nation's history.

Haven't we had enough of this economic nonsense? Mr. Carter is not going to give us an economic renaissance as he promised. He's going to continue to take us into the economic dark ages.

His new economic program which he announced in August of this year, but which he won't submit to Congress until next year, has a built-in tax increase that will take \$86 billion more out of your earnings than he did last year.

FROM: BOB GARRICK

OUT AT: 7:00 p.m.

Senator Paul Laxalt

October 14

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

Enclosed is the speech RR will give in Akron, OH, tomorrow, Oct. 15, at 5:00 p.m. Please return comments by 11:00 a.m. tomorrow, Oct. 15. Thank you.

✓ Richard Allen

Martin Anderson

Jim Brady

✓ Ed Gray

Others

✓ Ray Bell  
✓ Bob Gray  
Bill Morris

✓ Jerry Carmen  
✓ Gary Bauer

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But this isn't just America's rubber capital. It's America's football capital too. Canton's the home of the National Football Hall of Fame. Years ago I dreamed of being inducted into the Football Hall of Fame. I was a lineman at Dixon High School in Illinois. Pound for pound , they said I was pretty good. At 125 pounds, playing line, you'd have to be pretty good, or else you'd have to be on a pretty weak team.

Not long ago a reporter for the Wall Street Journal - I think it was their sports editor - went back to Dixon to inquire about my early career. He went to the offices of the Dixon Telegraph and looked at the old newspaper stories. He discovered that we were shut out in our season opener my senior year. In the second game our arch rivals Sterling shut us out again, 25 -0. The rest of the year, he discovered , the local newspaper neglected to report the outcomes of our games.

I know that doesn't happen around Canton or Massillon or Alliance or Akron because you consistently turn out the finest football teams in the BUckeye State - with the possible exception

of some other Ohio city I may have to visit in the next two weeks!

There's one place I am pretty sure I'll be visiting - on January 20. That's Washington, DC , and January 20 is Inauguration Day.

And when historians look back and ask how it was that the American people voted Jimmy Carter out of office - the first elected President to be voted out of office in half a century - they will find much to report.

For, to put it as gently as possible, the Carter Administration has been a failure, at home and abroad.

Look at the economy over the past four years. When Jimmy Carter ran against President Ford, he said that 6% inflation was "unacceptable". That's a term he uses when he is on the verge of accepting something.

Four years ago Jimmy Carter promised to cut interest rates and lower inflation and unemployment to 4%. The inflation rate was then 6%, the unemployment rate less than 8%, and the prime lending rate was less than 7%.

Now, four years later, where are we? Inflation has averaged around 12% this year, double the pace of 1976. The prime lending rate has soared as high as 19%, and is still, at this moment, twice the level of 1976. Unemployment is still at 7.6% of the labor force, almost twice the level Jimmy Carter found so "unacceptable" in 1976.

Those are staggering economic facts - and they describe a staggering administration that is about to stagger off into the sunset .

Remember the Misery Index? Jimmy Carter invented that phrase four years ago to attack President Ford. The index then was 12.5, as Jimmy Carter defined it. A terrible, terrible thing for the hapless citizens of America.

So now Jimmy Carter has had almost four years to correct the mistakes of the Ford Administration. Look at the results. He has "corrected" a Misery Index of 12.5 into a Misery Index of 20.3! Don't use my standard of failure - use his. And what do you get? The Carter Administration, by its own standard, is a pathetic failure.

But look behind the numbers and the campaign speeches. You'll see what Jimmy Carter's failure really means.

and women  
You'll see men/out of work - eight million of them.

You'll see families struggling to get by - families who could make it only with two people working, now with only one person bringing home a paycheck - maybe with neither spouse bringing home a paycheck.

But whoever does the shopping for that family knows one thing - high prices don't get laid off. They just get higher. Prices don't care if you're laid off at the rubber plant or the restaurant or the dry goods store - or whether you're as rich as Cyrus Eaton.

America can't afford four more years of Carter failure.

America needs a leader in the White House who can put men and women back to work all across this great country. It needs a man who can run on Jim Rhodes' platform - JOBS - and deliver on that platform the way Jim Rhodes has delivered here as Governor of Ohio. And I think I'm the man.



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Jeanne / 14 Oct. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

This has been sent to the tour  
and can be filed.

Garrick

T O: Jim Brady, Marty Anderson, Lyn Nofziger, Mike Deaver

FROM: Bob Garrick

*Lead -  
garrick  
14 oct  
6:35pm  
EDT*

RR AKRON INSERT 10/15

JMc 10/14 1700 #1

*sent per  
2095  
12/14*

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EVENT FACT SHEET

Date: 10/15/80

Location: Akron/Canton, Ohio

EVENT Airport Rally - 5:20 p.m.  
Fundraiser - 5:45 pm

*John McC  
From: Garrick*

REQUIRED:

Talking points	_____
Statement	_____
Brief Remarks	<u>x</u> - fundraiser
Rally Remarks	<u>x</u> - rally
Prepared Remarks	_____
Speech	_____
Other	_____

BACKGROUND:

Purpose:

Event/Setting: Firestone Hangar of the Akron/Canton airport.

Gov. Rhodes will introduce the Governor.

Audience/Size: This will probably be more of a Canton crowd than Akron. Although the airport is in Summit County, where Akron is located, the three cities to also mention are Canton, Massillon, and Alliance which are in Stark County

*Massillon*

About 3000 people are expected.

Other:

*Pro football  
East of living  
Jimmie's  
Employment*

*Rubber*

*family misery?*

Political Background: To be provided by Rick Messick x. 3675

Issues Background: To be provided by John Morgan x 3705

cc: R. Garrick, G. Newell, R. Walker.

General  
Grady  
Grubick  
Flies here