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# Reagan & Bush

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## NEWS RELEASE

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REMARKS BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

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One of the central issues of this campaign is whether or not Jimmy Carter has earned the continued loyalty of the people who voted for him in 1976. Did he fulfill his promises? Did he give us the competent government he said he would? Has he made America more proud? Has he brought us prosperity? Has he secured the future of our children?

You know the answer to those questions.

The conduct of the presidency under Mr. Carter has become a tragic comedy of errors. In place of competence, he has given us ineptitude. Instead of steadiness, we have gotten vacillation. While America looks for confidence, he gives us fear. His multitude of promises so richly pledged in 1976 have fallen by the wayside in the shambles of his administration.

He gave us five economic programs, and yet our economic mess has only worsened. Two million people were thrown out of work only this year.

He promised never to increase the taxes of working men and women, but by next year our taxes will be double what they were in 1976. He has imposed the two largest tax increases in American history.

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Let me remind you of one symbol of Jimmy Carter's inability to lead. Twenty-one months ago, he submitted the 1980 budget to the Congress. The very first line of his budget message read as follows: "This budget for fiscal year 1980 is lean and austere." To that end, Mr. Carter projected a \$29 billion deficit. At the signing ceremony that same day, Mr. Carter said: "Our most important role, economically speaking, this year, is to control inflation. And this budget meets that requirement."

Well, just yesterday, the government put out the actual figures for that budget deficit and they were double what Mr. Carter proposed. The budget deficit for 1980 is \$59 billion--and including off-budget items at \$14.2 billion, making the total deficit \$73.2 billion.

The American people received no lean and austere budget--they were simply treated to the same old story of federal budgets going out of control. And Mr. Carter didn't control inflation like he said he would--he gave us the highest inflation in 33 years, and he gave us the agony of paying for his mismanagement.

But let me tell you something else about these budget figures. They were originally scheduled to be released last Friday. But somehow, the government managed to delay the release long enough so that outlandish, inflation-causing deficit was made public after the debate between me and Jimmy Carter. I can only speculate as to whether or not this administration has still one more time jimmied the release of economic statistics for apparently political purposes.

When I see this totally inadequate record of Mr. Carter's, I must raise this question to the people of the United States: where

does Mr. Carter get the right to come to us and ask for loyalty and support when he has repeatedly violated every economic pledge he has ever made? The plain truth is that Mr. Carter long ago forfeited any right he had to ask voters--Democratic, Republican, or Independent--to swallow his ineffective economic medicine just one more time.

Jimmy Carter had his chance. Millions of Americans have been patient with his five economic programs. He's punished us long enough. You and I know that he's not going to change. Mr. Carter has not earned the loyalty of those who once stood by him. By every standard of measurement, his actions have not reciprocated the long suffering tolerance of the American people.

No one should feel under any obligation to reward his four years of total mismanagement with four more years to do the very same. Mr. Carter did not give us a government as good as the people. He only gave us a government as good as Jimmy Carter. And we know that that isn't good enough.

This election is our chance to get a change. It's our right to get the kind of government we want and to get the people into office that will put us back on track and put America back to work.

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