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Subseries: B: Bill Gavin File

**Folder Title:** Drafts and Back-up Documents – 09/04/1980, Jacksonville FL

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Last Updated: 10/13/2023

Jacksonville Insert: Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Government

For a few moments, I'd like to discuss with you one aspect of the mess in Washington that has a direct bearing on you, in business and in family life, as residents of a state that knows the meaning of dynamic economic growth and as citizens who love our country.

I refer to the scandal of waste, fraud and abuse of tax dollars in Washington.

When I hear Jimmy Carter say that we can't cut taxes, we can't balance the budget, we can't afford the kind of defense we absolutely must have--I think of what happens to billions of our tax dollars every day in Washington.

They <u>disappear</u>. Billions of them just vanish in waste, fraud and abuse. Jimmy Carter has recently been talking about an invisible airplane. I think he should be talking about the billions of invisible tax dollars that are lost each year. For all the good they're doing us, they might as well be invisible.

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The picture was not entirely bleak, however, because the Department of Interior showed it took very seriously the problem of year-end spending sprees. The department hired a consultant--

on the last working day of the fiscal year--to find out why the department was spending so much money at the end of the year.

That's like the town drunk paying somebody to find out where all those bottles came from!

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the <u>Atlanta Constitution</u> that the "whole government is just a great big horrible bureaucratic mess in Washington."

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I'm proud to note that the Institute called the program I initiated to stop sky-rocketing welfare costs in California "a major policy success." The report noted that welfare costs stopped escalating while benefits to the needy were actually increased.

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But in the final analysis, it involves something beyond tax dollars. It goes to the very heart of our governmental system.

If we allow this kind of thing to go unchecked, if we say it is in the very nature of government to lose that much money every year, we are making a statement of despair. We are saying that government is so far away and cares it little that even the most flagrant abuse of our tax dollars can go unchecked.

I cannot accept this philosophy of despair. And I know that my faith in what the American people can do is shared by the people of Jacksonville, by the people of Florida.

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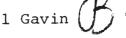
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September 2 1980 4:45 p.m.

To:Bob Garrick

From:Bill Gavin



Re: The Jacksonville "Fraud" Insert

I have just received a call from Tad Roth of the Republican Study Commitee. He says they are going to release an up-dated version of the fraud, waste and abuse paper on Thursday, September 4, the same day RR is giving his Jacksonville speech.

He said that at the very top of page 4 of our insert we can change the figures to coincide with their new information. He says the first sentence should now read this way:

"Estimates of waste in GAO reports from January 1979 to July of 1980 came to an astonishing \$34 billion--and that's only from studies of relatively few federal programs."

When you get a chance you might get this out to the tour.

Draft#1(WG) Sept. 2 1980

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# Reagan & Bush

#### Reagan Bush Committee

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

#### **NEWS RELEASE**

EMBARGOED UNTIL:

Delivery on: September 4, 1980 12:00 Noon CONTACT:
Lyn Nofziger
or
Joe Holmes
703-685-3630

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN COMBINED BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 4, 1980

All across this land I have found a longing among our people for hope. A longing for belief in ourselves and the vision that gave birth to this nation; for the values of family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom that are at the heart of the American dream.

Jimmy Carter would have us believe that dream is over or at least in need of change.

This election concerns what has already been done to the American people and what would continue if we are given four more years of disaster.

Because of the failures of this Administration we face an unprecedented situation:

For the first time in the history of our country we face three grave crises at the same time, each one of which is capable of destroying us: our economy is deteriorating, our energy needs are not being met and our military preparedness has been weakened to the point of immediate danger.

.- The Carter record is a litany of despair, of broken promises, of sacred trusts abandoned and forgotten.

in the first quarter of 1980. Black unemployment at about 14 percent, higher than any single year since the government began keeping separate statistics. Four straight major deficits run up by Carter and his friends in Congress. The highest interest rates since the Civil War--reaching at times close to 20 percent--productivity falling for six straight quarters among the most productive people in history.

We were promised there would not be an increase in taxes for the low and middle income people--the workers of America. We have had imposed on American families the largest single tax increase in history.

His answer to all of this misery?

He tries to tell us that we are "only" in a recession, not a depression, as if definitions--words--relieve our suffering.

Let it show on the record that when the American people cried out for economic help, Jimmy Carter took refuge behind a dictionary. Well if it's a definition he wants, I'll give him one. A recession is when your neighbor loses his job. A depression is when you lose yours. Recovery is when Jimmy Carter loses his.

I have talked with unemployed workers all across this country. I have heard their views on what Jimmy Carter has done to:them and their families.

They aren't interested in semantic quibbles. They are out of work and they know who put them out of work. And they know the difference between a recession and a depression.

Let Mr. Carter go to their homes, look their children in the eye and argue with them that it is 'only' a recession that put dad or mom out of work.

Let him go to the unemployment lines and lecture those workers who have been betrayed on what is the proper definition for their widespread economic misery.

Human tragedy, human misery, the crushing of the human spirit. They do not need defining--they need action.

And it is action, in the form of jobs, lower taxes, and an expanded economy that—as President—I intend to provide.

Call this human tragedy whatever you want. Whatever it is, it is Jimmy Carter's. He caused it. He tolerates it. And  $\underline{\text{he}}$  is going to answer to the American people for it.

In 1976 he said he would never use unemployment as an economic tool to fight inflation. This year in his economic message he called for an increase in unemployment—to fight inflation.

In 1976 he said he would bring unemployment and inflation both down to 3 percent.

Unemployment is now around 8 percent, inflation is  $12\ 1/2$ . They were 6 percent to 4.8 when he started.

In 1976, he ran as a candidate on the slogan: "I'll never lie to you."

After hearing that line about twenty times I was reminded of Ralph Waldo Emerson's line: "The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons."

More than three years after he became President, he finally came up with what he calls a new economic program. It is his fifth new economic program. He talks as if someone else has been in charge these past three and one-half years. With two months to go until the election he rides to the rescue with a crazy-quilt of obvious election-year promises which he'll ask Congress for--next year. After three years of neglect, the misery of unemployment, inflation, high taxes, dwindling earning power and inability to save--after all this, American workers have now been discovered by this Administration.

Well it won't work. It is cynical. It is political. And it is too late. The damage is done and every American family knows who did it.

Under the Carter Administration, America's foreign and defense policies have been politicized as never before.

The Secretary of State openly describes himself as a "political" secretary, not at all reluctant to do the Carter campaign's bidding. It's as though he is standing in line to

volunteer. It represents a shocking break with the tradition of that high office, and it is unworthy of the standards set by his predecessors, such as Secretaries Stettinius, Marshall, Acheson, Dulles, Rusk, Rogers, Kissinger and Vance, to name a few.

In a separate and disturbing incident, Mr. Carter's Secretary of Defense has breached one of this nation's most closely held military secrets in a transparent effort to divert attention from the Administration's dismal defense record.

Mr. Carter must take full responsibility for playing a dangerous political game with America's national security—a game which ignores and undercuts our long-held tradition of a bi-partisan national security policy. He clearly wants to be reelected so badly that he is willing to hide his real record by fabricating a fictitious one for his campaign.

In trying to create the illusion of actually having "a defense policy," by making public what the Administration calls its new "targeting strategy," confusion has been the principal result. The Secretary of State did not approve the strategy, was not consulted on it, and apparently didn't even know anything about it.

Later, Mr. Carter's Defense Secretary outlined the strategy in what was called a major speech, linking it to a new Presidential directive. He emphasized that it wasn't anything new at all--just a restatement of existing strategy.

The State Department doesn't agree. It doesn't know what to believe.

Secretary Muskie is still confused. White House officials : say it really isn't any of the Secretary of State's business anyway.

When Defense Secretary Brown outlined the so-called strategy, he admitted at the same time that the force upon which the strategy depends—our ICBM force—cannot survive an attack.

Equally alarming is the way in which the Carter

Administration has sought to hide the fact that it does not have
the forces necessary to meet the so-called "targeting strategy" or
meet the many longstanding requirements to protect our security.

Jimmy Carter tells us that "we have strengthened every single element of our strategic deterrent" and that "American strength remains not only unsurpassed for the present, but equal to all our needs of the future."

Yet, repeated testimony by the most senior defense officials of this Administration directly refute that.

For example, Mr. Carter's own Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has acknowledged that we would have been better off had we followed the Ford Administration's balanced five-year defense plan.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Air Command says this country does not have the forces necessary to support the Administration's new "strategy" and has told Congress that whereas

we had a three-to-one advantage in relative force measures in 1976, today "no U.S. edge exists in any of these same measures."

.- The Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations have complained that our Navy is inadequate to fulfill its basic defense requirements.

The Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff have warned that cuts by the Administration mean that the Army will not be combat-ready.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is what Carter's defense policy comes down to.

It is a shocking commentary on the state of disarray which today governs the defense policies of the Carter Administration. The President's attempts to obscure that fact by suddenly portraying himself as a champion of strong defense cannot change the sobering fact that we are in a precarious military situation that shocks those on the inside and on the outside, worries our allies and pleases our adversaries.

Our national security programs have been--and continue to be--systematically compromised by Mr. Carter. He has repeatedly opposed Congressional attempts to increase defense spending. His argument: increases in defense spending would lead to less, not more defense, and they could not be spent usefully anyway.

Now, I ask you, how does that square with the facts: our vulnerable strategic forces, a reduced Navy, an Army which is not

combat-ready, planes that won't fly because they lack spare parts, and servicemen that are woefully underpaid.

: But the most blatant example of the Carter Administration's efforts to obscure the truth has occurred in just the past two weeks.

It is the story of the Carter Administration's willingness to actually compromise our long-term national security for a two day headline.

A week ago today, in sworn testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on Research and Development, the editor of the Armed Forces Journal, Benjamin F. Schemmer, revealed how the Carter Administration deliberately breached one of the most closely held military secrets in the Pentagon.

Mr. Schemmer told how the Defense Department called him in and gave him for publication purposes details of a super-secret project--plans for the development of technology called "Stealth," which is said to enable our aircraft to evade radar detection.

The implication of the material he was given was that the technology of the project would make the plane "invisible" and that the deployment of this technology will change the military balance.

Then, just four days after Mr. Schemmer was briefed by Carter's Under Secretary William Perry on the program and encouraged to publish an article, the Secretary of Defense, Harold Brown, called a press conference to tell the American people that

because of "leaks" to the press it was no longer "appropriate or credible" to keep the program a secret.

It is no wonder that the editor of the Armed Forces Journal described the Defense Department's action as "irresponsible." Mr. Schemmer said the information was leaked for what he clearly recognized as "political purposes."

What the Defense Department deliberately leaked, in order for Secretary Brown to justify calling his press conference four days later, was some of the most tightly classified, most highly secret weapons information since the Manhattan Project.

I understand the Stealth project was so secret that some of the civilians working on it had to agree to allow the government to tap their phones.

Military officials who have served this nation in the very highest capacities tell me they cannot recall such a serious breach of national security secrets.

The law provides severe penalties for anyone violating military weapons secrets of this magnitude.

In this case, because the breach of secrecy was blessed and sanctioned by the Carter Administration itself--clearly for the sole political purpose of aiding Mr. Carter's troubled campaign--there will be no such penalty. But, the fact remains, it has dealt the nation a grievous blow.

Since the "Stealth" aircraft would not have been ready for use until the 1990's, the Carter Administration's action has now

given the Kremlin a 10-year headstart on developing ways to counter this type of ultra-sophisticated weapons system. The KGB is no doubt gleefully celebrating this unearned triumph.

This kind of blatant politicization of the Department of

Defense has left a dark blot on the proud traditions of the

Pentagon and the dedicated military leaders who serve our national defense interests.

But, worst of all, the Administration's decision to disclose and then exploit, for political purposes, this super-secret technology in an effort to blur its dismal defense record, is a cynical misuse of power and a clear abuse of the public trust.

We have seen example after example of the politicization of the nation's foreign policy and defense.

Now, Mr. Carter's Secretary of Defense, Mr. Brown, has demonstrated that he knows how to play the game, too. He has not only shown us that he is willing to team up with the political operatives of the Carter campaign, but that he will drag others at the Pentagon into the campaign with him.

It is one thing to be "political," inappropriate as it is for the Secretary of State. It is, however, both unacceptable and intolerable for a Secretary of Defense to play politics with America's national security by causing vital weapons secrets to be leaked in order to justify "official disclosure."

The development and initial funding for "Stealth" aircraft actually began during the Administration of President Ford. But,

it took Jimmy Carter's Administration to exploit the secrets of the project for purely political purposes.

Today, Secretary Brown was scheduled to testify before the House Committee on Armed Services about his role and that of the Administration in the Stealth breach of security.

The defense and the security of this nation is not a partisan issue. Mr. Brown owes Congress, the Committee, and the nation a full explanation of this whole sorry episode.

You usually won't find me quoting Senator Ted Kennedy--but in this case I'm willing to make an exception.

Senator Kennedy has remarked that the chief characteristic of Jimmy Carter is that he is always being surprised.

And the Senator is right.

He's <u>surprised</u> to discover his policies have led to inflation;

He's <u>surprised</u> that fighting inflation by unemploying millions is unpopular...and destructive of family values.

He was surprised by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

He was <u>surprised</u> to discover that cancelling the B-l bomber, postponing or delaying the MX missile and cruise missile and Trident submarine programs and stopping production of the neutron weapon would be destructive to our military strength.

I think he's due for one more surprise -- on November 4th.

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I refer to the scandal of waste, fraud and abuse of tax dollars in Washington.

When I hear Jimmy Carter say that we can't cut taxes, when I hear him say that hear him say that we can't afford the kind of defense we absolutey must have--I BULLIONS OF THEM JUST VANISH IN WASTE, FRAND AND ADUSE.

They disappear. Jimmy Carter has recently been talking about an invisible airplane. I think he should be talking about the grace of invisible tax dollars that are lost though waste, fraud and abuse. For all the good they're doing us, they might as well be invisible.

Last week I issued a challenge to Jimmy Carter to acknowledge to the American people the enormity of the problem of such abuse of the tax dollar we sned to Washington.

Evidently he didnt hear my challenge. No doubt he was too busy looking up the definition of "recession" in the dictionary.

So today I want to tell you about this problem since Jimmy Cater can't--or won't.

Reagan & Bush

#### Reagan Bush Committee

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#### NEWS RELEASE

FOR PM RELEASE Thursday, August 28, 1980

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN ON FRAUD AND WASTE IN GOVERNMENT

Today I am challenging Mr. Carter to acknowledge -- to the American people -- the enormity of the problem of waste and fraud in the federal government. And I ask Mr. Carter to give the American people a full accounting of his administration's failure to take elementary steps to cope with this national scandal.

The problem of waste and fraud not only marks another serious failure of the Carter Administration, and another broken promise from 1976, it is a problem that also is undermining the faith of the American people in our governmental process.

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Today I Am placing that issue: government waste and fraud -- anational scandal that grows worse as government grows larger -- on the national agenda.

Today I am challenging Mr. Carter to explain his laxity in combatting waste, fraud, scandal, and abuse in the federal government.

Mr. Carter must explain his enept handling of the GSA scandal, his failure to streamline the executive branch, his failure to introduce systematic management and auditing procedures for hundreds of federal programs.

Let us begin our discussion of this critical issue with the results of a congressional study issued a few months ago.

A Senate subcommittee documented the "use it or lose it" fixation of the federal bureaucracy and found government agencies wasting at least \$2 billion annually in year-end spending sprees.

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In the final months of fiscal 1979 the Department of Interior spent \$378,000 for office furniture while \$300,000 worth of unused furniture was costing \$200,000 in storage fees.

Conservation Corps camp was ordered to "obligate all funds" and the camp -- which had 300 enrollees -- bought 1,000 pairs of riding chaps, 4,000 pairs of gloves, 10,000 fence posts and 181 chain saws -- 10 of which were stolen after delivery. And just enough of the taxpayers' money was left over for a \$120,000 investment in lawn mowers and spare parts.

--In the final days of fiscal 1979, regional offices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development spent \$319,000 on unneeded office furniture and equipment; a military base scheduled for closing expended \$187,731 on unnecessary construction and -- at another Army base -- out of the 80 color TV's purchased in an admitted "year-end buy," 50 of these sets were still sitting -- a year later -- in their crates.

The picture was not entirely bleak, however, because the Department of Interior showed it took very seriously the problem of year-end spending sprees. The department hired a consultant --

on the last working day of the fiscal year -- to find out why the department was spending so much money at the end of the year. That's like town driving from the first out while all three littles are from!

Four months ago, the Chairman of the House Civil Service Subcommittee inserted statistics in the Congressional Record showing seven major federal departments spent more than 20 percent of their fiscal 1979 appropriations in the last two months of the year. HUD spent 47.2 percent, EPA spent 41.7 percent, Commerce spent 30.3 percent, HEW spent 22.9 percent...

The conclusion is obvious:

This is government without planning, without management, without direction, without competence. It is, in shirt, Cutte government.

It is also a government where waste and fraud prosper:

- --A May 31, 1979, Joint Economic Committee report cited a Justice Department estimate that deliberate fraud and abuse accounted for one to ten percent of the federal budget -- that's \$5 to \$50 billion. "That excludes waste," the report noted, "including it would give a much higher figure."
  - --The same report said that fraud, abuse and waste in HEW's programs alone ranged between \$6.3 billion and \$7.4 billion. Jimmy Carter's own Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare estimated a few years ago that at least \$7 billion was wasted every year by his department.

--Estimates of waste in GAO reports over an eight-month period came to an astonishing \$10 billion -- and that's only from studies of relatively few federal programs.

No one has to take the word of Republicans about the Carter Administration's failure to control waste-and fraud:

--The Joint Economic Committee noted that in the opinion of Comptroller General Elmer Staats, fraud, waste and abuse continue in the federal government because of a lack of adequate management systems, low priority given to fraud detection and the inadequacy of agency investigators.

--In his annual report, the Inspector General of HEW noted that he had relatively few investigators chasing after billions in fraud and noted -- after projected staff losses to the new Department of Education -- that it is "impossible to develop any meaningful anti-fraud program given this staff size."

--A November 13, 1979, GAO report noted that of its 262 cost-cutting recommendations in the health care field less than half had been implemented even though some were first proposed in 1974.

Now no one was more vocal in 1975 and 1976 in denouncing federal waste than candidate Carter. He told the Atlanta Constitution he might abolish 1,700 federal agencies; he said in the Washington Star, "we must abolish and consolidate hundreds of obsolete and unnecessary federal programs and agencies." He told the Atlanta Constitution that the "whole government is just a great big horrible bureaucratic mess in Washington."

He promised again and again that he would cut waste, increase efficiency, reorganize the executive branch and streamline government. After nearly four years we are still waiting for him to act.

By contrast, I'd like to call attention to a recent report by the non-profit Urban Institute which showed what a state government can do if it employs management experts to cut waste while at the same time carrying out the legitimate function of taking care of the truly needy. I'm proud to note that the Institute called the program I initiated to stop sky-rocketing welfare costs in California "a major policy success." The report noted that welfare costs stopped escalating while benefits to the needy were actually increased.

I have been talking about this problem in terms of the hard-earned tax dollars it involves.

But in the final analysis, it involves something beyond tax dollars. It goes to the very heart of our governmental system.

If we allow this kind of thing to go unchecked, if we say it is in the very nature of government to lose that much money every year, we are making a statement of despair. We are saying that government is so far away and cares as little that even the most flagrant abuse of our tax dollars can go unchecked.

I cannot accept this philosophy of despair. And I know that my faith in what the American people can do is shared by the people of Jacksonville, by the people of Florida.

Things dont have to be this way.

We can have a better America. We can have efficient governmet.

And that is really the key issue in this campaign.

When the last speech is and the last vote counted, the decision will be made between two visions of what America is and what it can be.

I say that we have a great future, a future of jobs and groth and a stong national defsne. It can be done. It must be done. If we give in the Carter philosophy of despair, we will have turnd our backs on

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those who came before us, whose sacrifices have given us this precious heritgare.

That is the decisions.

Do we waat ander four years like the last four

Or do we want to go forward in hope, in optimism, with has a vision that matter matter matter the one that Aguided our nation for over two hundred years?

With your help, we are going to see whith to it that this visiosn becomes reality once more .

Thnak you.

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