

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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D. C. REPUBLICAN WOMEN
MAYFLOWER HOTEL
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SINCE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, THERE'S BEEN A TENDENCY FOR REPUBLICAN GATHERINGS TO RESEMBLE GROUP THERAPY SESSIONS. WE RECITE THE GLOOMY STATISTICS -- THAT WE LOST THE WHITE HOUSE, THAT WE HOLD ONLY TWELVE GOVERNORSHIPS, THAT OUR NUMBERS IN CONGRESS ARE HOPELESSLY LOW, THAT THE DEMOCRATS CONTROL ALL BUT FIVE STATE LEGISLATURES, THAT REPUBLICAN PARTY REGISTRATION IS AT ITS LOWEST LEVEL IN DECADES. OUR PARTY'S "RIGHT" TELLS THE "LEFT", IN SO MANY WORDS, TO FIND ANOTHER HOME. OTHERS PROCLAIM THAT A MOVE LEFTWARD IS OUR ONLY SALVATION. WE TELL EACH OTHER HOW BAD THINGS ARE, HOW THEY MAY GET WORSE.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, SOME COLUMNISTS, COMMENTATORS, AND OTHER POLITICAL GRAVE-DIGGERS HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF OUR GLOOM AND ARE CONFIDENTLY PREDICTING, FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS DEAD, OR AT BEST, IN THE FINAL STAGES OF A TERMINAL ILLNESS.

*Content: GOP
Carter Proposals*

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FRANKLY, I'M GROWING WEARY OF ALL THIS PESSIMISM. I, FOR ONE, DON'T THINK OUR PARTY IS DEAD, OR DYING. I VIEW THE "REPUBLICAN PROBLEM" -- AND IT IS A PROBLEM -- AS ONE OF IMAGE, NOT SUBSTANCE. I'M CONVINCED THAT THE PARTY OF LINCOLN IS STILL THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE, THAT OUR PHILOSOPHY OF LIMITED GOVERNMENT, REDUCED SPENDING, AND LOWER TAXES, BEST REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF MOST AMERICANS. WE JUST HAVE TO FIND A BETTER WAY OF GETTING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS TO THE PEOPLE.

TOO MANY OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS VIEW US AS A PARTY OF POLITICAL "AGAINSTERS", A PARTY THAT CARES FOR THE RICH AND NOT THE POOR, THE BUSINESSMAN AND NOT THE CONSUMER, THE INDUSTRIALIST AND NOT THE ENVIRONMENTALIST, THOSE WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES AND NOT THOSE WHO NEED HELP. OR, TO PUT IT IN MORE LOCAL TERMS, WE'RE PERCEIVED AS A PARTY THAT CARES FOR THE RELATIVELY WELL-TO-DO SUBURBS OF VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND AND NOT THE INNER CITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. YOU AND I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING MOST D.C. RESIDENTS, SEEM TO THINK SO.

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AS I'VE SAID OFTEN SINCE NOVEMBER, WE SEEM TO BE APPEALING RATHER EXCLUSIVELY TO WHITE AMERICANS, TO MOST OF THE BETTER EDUCATED PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY, AND TO HIGHER INCOME GROUPS. AND AS LONG AS WE ARE VIEWED IN EXCLUSIONARY TERMS, OUR ELECTORAL PROSPECTS ARE GOING TO BE BLEAK. I OFFER THIS OBSERVATION NOT TO SUGGEST THAT WE OUGHT TO CHANGE OUR PRINCIPLES. REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES CAN ATTRACT VOTERS OF ALL RACES, ALL AGE GROUPS, AND ALL INCOME LEVELS. WE MUST TAKE THIS MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE.

PUT SIMPLY, WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR IMAGE. WE MUST WELCOME WITH OPEN ARMS NEW PEOPLE AND NEW IDEAS. AND WE CAN'T DO THAT BY CLINGING TO SOME NARROW NOTION OF IDEOLOGICAL PURITY.

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ERASING THE NEGATIVE IMAGE OF REPUBLICANS IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY. AS THE LOYAL OPPOSITION, WE ARE NATURALLY CAST IN THE NEGATIVE ROLE OF OPPOSING ILL-CONCEIVED DEMOCRATIC PROPOSALS. BUT WE MUST DO MORE THAN THAT. AS THE PARTY OF OPPOSITION, WE SHARE WITH THE DEMOCRATS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING SOUND NATIONAL POLICIES. WE CAN AND MUST DEVISE REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVES WHICH DEMONSTRATE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT REPUBLICANS ALREADY KNOW: THAT WE DO STAND FOR SOMETHING, THAT WE DO HAVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE, AND THAT WE DO NOT ADVOCATE BURYING OUR HEADS IN THE SAND WHEN THERE IS A LEGITIMATE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION.

ON ANY NUMBER OF ISSUES, OUR POSITIONS ARE SOUND, OUR PROGRAMS RESPONSIVE AND POLITICALLY APPEALING.

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OUR STAND ON TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING IS A GOOD CASE IN POINT. WE HAVE ALWAYS STOOD FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. REMEMBER IN THE SIXTIES WHEN, THROUGH THEIR "GUNS AND BUTTER" GREAT SOCIETY, THE DEMOCRATS WERE SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE INFLATION WHICH PLAGUES US TODAY. THEN, WE WERE ATTACKED AS INSENSITIVE WHEN WE DARED ASK: CAN WE AFFORD ALL THIS? HOW MUCH IS IT GOING TO COST? HOW MUCH MORE ARE WE ADDING TO THE FEDERAL DEFICIT? IS IT REALLY GOING TO ACCOMPLISH ITS GOALS?

IN THE LAST CAMPAIGN, PRESIDENT CARTER AND SOME DEMOCRATS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN CO-OPTING THIS ISSUE. BUT THE TRUE TEST OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, TO FIGHTING INFLATION, TO REDUCING THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT, HAS YET TO COME.

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ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, THE PRESIDENT HAS HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM. I JOIN WITH A NUMBER OF MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES IN WISHING HIM WELL. WE HAVE WORKED FOR GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION THE LAST EIGHT YEARS ONLY TO HAVE OUR EFFORT SCUTTLED BY CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS WHO HOLD THE KEY TO REORGANIZATION.

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED CONGRESS FOR BROAD AUTHORITY TO REORGANIZE THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY. PERHAPS THE AUTHORITY HE HAS REQUESTED IS TOO BROAD. IN THE END, THE TRUE TEST OF HIS ABILITY TO REORGANIZE WILL BE HIS CAPACITY TO WORK WITH AND GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS IN CONGRESS WHOSE BUREAUCRATIC FIEFDOMS HE WILL BE TEARING DOWN. BROAD AUTHORITY OR A MORE LIMITED AUTHORITY, IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE. THE QUESTION IS: ARE THE DEMOCRATS IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES REALLY READY TO BITE THE BULLET ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION? IS PRESIDENT CARTER GOING TO BE ABLE TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP ROLE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN BOTH CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A REORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT, THAT MUST, IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE, ABOLISH AND CONSOLIDATE PROGRAMS, AGENCIES, AND FEDERAL JOBS?

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I WOULD MAKE THREE SUGGESTIONS IN THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION. FIRST, IF WE'RE GOING TO REFORM AND REORGANIZE GOVERNMENT, LET'S DO IT FROM THE TOP DOWN. LET'S ANALYZE EACH AND EVERY NEED AND EACH AND EVERY PROGRAM WITH AN EYE TO EFFICIENCY AND COST SAVINGS. NOTHING CAN BE SACRED. NOTHING CAN ESCAPE THE CAREFUL SCRUTINY ALL PROGRAMS NEED AND DESERVE. I HAVE HEARD TOO MUCH TALK ABOUT RESHUFFLING BUREAUCRACY, RETITLING POSITIONS, AND ABOLISHING ADVISORY COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS.

THIS IS ALL FINE. BUT WE ALSO MUST TAKE A LOOK AT UNIFYING THE BIG MONEY PROGRAMS. THAT'S WHERE THE SAVINGS WILL OCCUR. IF FEDERAL JOBS WILL BE LOST, SO BE IT. OUR GOAL IS THE EFFICIENT EXPENDITURE OF TAX DOLLARS AND NOTHING ELSE.

SECONDLY, I FEEL IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WORK WITH CONGRESS IN THE REORGANIZATION EFFORT. FOR MEANINGFUL REORGANIZATIONS TO OCCUR, MANY LAWS WILL HAVE TO BE CHANGED. CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO COOPERATE. AND CONGRESS SHOULD BE MADE AN EARLY PARTNER IN THE REORGANIZATION EFFORT.

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THIRDLY, THE SAVINGS REALIZED THROUGH REORGANIZATION SHOULD BE PASSED ALONG TO THE TAXPAYER IN THE FORM OF FUTURE PERMANENT TAX CUTS. THIS WILL ENSURE BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM, SUPPORT THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO GET CONGRESS TO ACT. IN GEORGIA, PRESIDENT CARTER'S GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION BROUGHT ABOUT A SAVINGS IN THE SENSE THAT MORE MONEY WENT INTO GOVERNMENT SERVICES AT THE CONSTITUENT LEVEL AND LESS TO ADMINISTRATION AND OVERHEAD. THIS IS FINE, BUT I FEEL WE SHOULD MAKE THE FRUIT OF REORGANIZATION TANGIBLE BY ACTUALLY REDUCING THE COST OF GOVERNMENT AND RETURNING THESE SAVINGS DIRECTLY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE FORM OF LOWER TAXES.

AND SPEAKING OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT THE PROPOSED PAY RAISE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND HIGH EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS. I AM AGAINST THE CURRENT PROPOSAL, NOT BECAUSE NO ONE DESERVES A RAISE BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME WHO DO NOT. BEFORE WE OFFER BLANKET INCREASES, I FEEL A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE FEDERAL PAY STRUCTURE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

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AS IT NOW STANDS, THE PROPOSED PAY RAISES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 20. THE SENATE FAILED IN ITS EFFORT TO VOTE DOWN THE PAY INCREASE. THE HOUSE HAS THE ISSUE BOTTLED UP IN COMMITTEE SO THAT IT CAN'T COME TO THE FLOOR BEFORE THE LINCOLN DAY RECESS. SO IT APPEARS THE RAISE WILL GO INTO EFFECT UNLESS A DRASTIC ACTION IS TAKEN.

AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL. BUT I JUST DON'T SEE HOW WE ARE GOING TO BE CREDIBLE ARGUING AGAINST THE PRICE INCREASES BY THE STEEL COMPANIES, AND THE WAGE DEMANDS OF ORGANIZED LABOR IF WE HAVE JUST APPROVED A 29% PAY INCREASE FOR OURSELVES.

LAST DECEMBER, I URGED PRESIDENT FORD NOT TO INCLUDE THE SALARY INCREASE IN HIS BUDGET RECOMMENDATION. I AM TODAY URGING PRESIDENT CARTER TO RESCIND THAT BUDGET REQUEST OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, WORK WITH THE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS TO DEFEAT IT. A NEW RECOMMENDATION COULD THEN BE SUBMITTED IN A LATER BUDGET RECOMMENDATION WHICH REFLECTS THE SALARY ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED IN SOME POSITIONS, AND ALSO THE NEED FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

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GOVERNMENT REFORM AND TAX REDUCTION -- THESE ARE STRONG
REPUBLICAN ISSUES. ON OTHER ISSUES LIKE TAX REFORM, ENERGY CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NATIONAL DEFENSE, WE HAVE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES
TO EXPRESS OUR REPUBLICAN PHILOSOPHY IN CONCRETE LEGISLATION TERMS IN
THE DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS AHEAD, IN WAYS THAT WILL BE POLITICALLY
ATTRACTIVE.

THE FUTURE OF OUR PARTY CAN BE BRIGHT. BUT IT WON'T BE
UNLESS WE LET THE PEOPLE KNOW WHERE WE STAND, WHY WE STAND THERE, AND
CONVINCE THEM THAT WE HAVE THEIR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART. WE MUST
RECOGNIZE THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO COME BEATING ON OUR DOOR,
BEGGING TO BE REPUBLICANS. WE HAVE TO GO OUT AND GET THEM. I THINK
WE SHOULD FOCUS HEAVILY ON RECRUITMENT. WE NEED THE WOMEN, THE YOUNG,
THE BLACKS, THE HISPANICS, THE ETHNICS, AND THE INDIANS. WE NEED
WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

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THESE GROUPS MAY NOT BE EASY TO REACH. BUT HOW BETTER TO TEST THE VITALITY OF OUR REPUBLICAN BELIEFS THAN BY PERSUADING THESE GROUPS, FACE TO FACE, AS INDIVIDUALS, THAT WHAT WE STAND FOR BEST SERVES THEIR INTEREST. HOW BETTER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE STAND FOR THE INTEREST OF ALL AMERICANS BY REACHING OUT ACROSS THE WHOLE BROAD SPECTRUM OF OUR POPULATION FOR NEW MEMBERS AND NEW CANDIDATES.

BUT STRONG CANDIDATES AND REPUBLICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE NOT ENOUGH. THEY ARE NOT THE KEY TO MAKING OUR PARTY STRONG. ANYONE WHO HAS EVER RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE KNOWS THAT THE BATTLE IS WON OR LOST IN THE TRENCHES -- WITH THE HOUSEWIVES, FARMERS, BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN, AND LABORERS, WORKING TOGETHER. IT'S THE GRASS ROOTS EFFORT THAT IT TAKES TO WIN. AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE JUST SUCH AN EFFORT TO RESTORE THE GOP.

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WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TO MAKE OUR COMEBACK. IF WE WORK HARD,
ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY, TALK IN A POSITIVE MANNER, AND IF WE BEGIN NOW.
INDEED, IF WE DON'T BEGIN NOW, WE MAY NOT HAVE A COMEBACK.

SO, WE HAVE SACRIFICES TO MAKE. WE HAVE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES.
WE HAVE HARD WORK TO DO.

AND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, WHEN WE HONOR THE FOUNDER OF OUR
PARTY, IS A GOOD TIME TO START.

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- Military Veterans -
Bully - Mil. Code
= Hunted Section =