

TALKING POINTS

TEENAGE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 16, 1986

THE CHALLENGE TO LEAD

- BY ANY STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT, IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BE A REPUBLICAN, AND WE HAVE A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO ROUND OUT THE 1980'S AS A REPUBLICAN DECADE. NOT SIMPLY BY OFFERING ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATES -- BUT BY OFFERING UP A VISION TO MATCH. AS REPUBLICANS, WE HAVE ALWAYS STOOD FOR BUDGETS THAT WERE LEAN AND TAXES THAT WERE LOW. WE HAVE ALWAYS RALLIED ROUND A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE - NOT JUST AS MEASURED BY OUR WEAPONS OF WAR, BUT ALSO IN BUSTLING FACTORIES AND HEALTHY FARMS, AND ALL ACROSS THE ECONOMIC FRONTLINES ON WHICH A NATION'S ULTIMATE SECURITY MUST DEPEND. TODAY, WE STAND CLOSER THAN EVER TO BEING AMERICA'S MAJORITY PARTY - NOT JUST BECAUSE AN IMMENSELY POPULAR PRESIDENT PERSONIFIES THE STRENGTHS WE LIKE TO THINK OF AS UNIQUELY OUR OWN - BUT ALSO BECAUSE MOST AMERICANS HAVE COME TO IDENTIFY WITH THESE POSITIONS AS WE HAVE ARTICULATED THEM AND WRITTEN THEM INTO LAW.

- OVER THESE PAST FIVE YEARS, THANKS TO A GREAT MANY LEADERS, WE'VE TAMED INFLATION WHILE UNLEASHING ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE WORLD IS A LESS DANGEROUS PLACE TODAY THAN IN 1980, THE DESPERATE TACTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS NOTWITHSTANDING. WHY? BECAUSE THE BALANCE OF POWER HAS TILTED BACK TOWARD AN EQUILIBRIUM. AFTER A WORRISOME TIME OF DRIFT AND DISARRAY, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ONLY REBUILT HER DEFENSES - SHE HAS REGAINED HER SENSE OF CONFIDENCE. SHE HAS STOPPED APOLOGIZING, AND STARTED ASSERTING HER VITAL INTERESTS. SHE HAS RAISED HER GLOBAL PROFILE - AND SHE WILL NEVER AGAIN LOWER HER FLAGS IN THE FACE OF STREET MOBS OR TINHORN TYRANTS.

THE REAGAN LEGACY

- A STRONG SENSE OF NATIONAL PURPOSE IS ONE LEGACY OF THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY. THERE IS ANOTHER, HOWEVER, ONE OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM. AND THAT IS A REPUBLICAN PARTY ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THE VALUES AND IDEALS IT SHARES WITH WORKING MEN AND WOMEN. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO TELL PEOPLE YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE. YOU HAVE

TO SHOW THEM. YOU HAVE TO SEARCH OUT THE THREADS THAT BIND YOU TOGETHER, AND SET ASIDE THE DIFFERENCES THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE INSPIRE A COLLECTION OF WARRING FACTIONS, AS DIVIDED AS THE DEMOCRATS AND AS UNABLE TO SEND A COHERENT MESSAGE TO INSPIRE HOPE OR KINDLE ACTION. AND THAT'S NOT ALL. WHILE STANDING UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN, YOU HAVE TO REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT ENTIRELY AGREE.

- o OUT OF POWER, IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO FORGET THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S SELF-RIGHTEOUS. IN THE PROCESS, YOU CAN INADVERTENTLY TURN OFF MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU ATTRACT INTO YOUR RANKS. IN POWER, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PERFORM, NOT POSTURE - TO PUT OUR PRINCIPLES TO WORK, AND MILLIONS OF CITIZENS TOO.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE DONE SINCE 1981. NOW WE CAN TAKE THE NEXT STEP WITH LOW-RATE TAX REFORM THAT ESTABLISHES A "LEVEL PLAYING FIELD" FOR ALL KINDS OF BUSINESSES, AND ELIMINATING TAX CONSIDERATIONS AS A PRIME FACTOR IN MAKING DECISIONS AS TO SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT. AND WE MUST FOLLOW THROUGH ON OUR PROMISE TO MEET THE GRAMM-RUDMAN TARGETS WITH REAL SPENDING REDUCTIONS.

HEADLINES AND HISTORY

- o IT'S OUR MESSAGE OF SURGING HOPE AND BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITY THAT CAN SOLIDIFY OUR HOLD ON THE SENATE THIS YEAR. OUR PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT, WITH SOME STRONG INCUMBENTS AND A GOOD SHOT AT PICKING UP SEATS. WE CAN REALIZE ALL THOSE PROSPECTS BY ATTENDING TO UNFINISHED BUSINESS: BY TACKLING THE DEFICIT, SLICING INTEREST RATES, EASING THE DOLLAR, REFORMING THE TAX CODE, BOOSTING FARM EXPORTS, RESTORING OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE, AND EXTENDING THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE OF RECENT YEARS TO THE MAIN STREETS OF RURAL AMERICA.

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