

Senator
FVE

Hon. Ronald Reagan
Chairman

Sen. Paul Laxalt
Chairman,
Steering Committee

April 21, 1978

Mr. Paul Laxalt
326 Russell Sn Off B1
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Laxalt,

This is a year of decision, perhaps the most important year of the century. This year we have one last chance to take our country back from the big government bureaucrats and the big brother Washington establishment.

Face it! If we don't make major changes this year in our Congress, our legislatures and our statehouses, there will be little chance two years from now ... in 1980 ... to oust even such a sadly inadequate President as Jimmy Carter. For remember, he will have spent four years of using our tax money to build a national political machine whose main interest is in acquiring political power.

This means we're not going to beat Jimmy Carter and elect a conservative President in 1980 unless we begin now.

And we're not going to do it at all without the help of thousands of dedicated people who are willing to give their time, their talent and their hard-earned dollars.

Our cause is going to need every penny we can afford because our opponents are not only powerful and unprincipled, but they also have the support of big labor and big business.

Because I'm sure you're one of our dedicated people, I want you to have a special card that identifies you as a CFTR supporter. I've enclosed an illustration of this card which strikingly symbolizes our cause. I want to send it to any person who contributes \$25 or more to CFTR.

To you and me, freedom is too important to exchange for either security or profit. It's so important it isn't for sale. Not for all of Jimmy Carter's promises. Nor for all big government's subsidies and grants. We demand:

- . Freedom to choose our own ways of life.

- . Freedom to spend our own hard-earned money the way we see fit.
- . Freedom to travel freely.
- . Freedom to choose a career or business or job without government interference.
- . Freedom to send our children to our neighborhood school.
- . Freedom to pray.
- . And freedom to keep and bear arms.

Aren't these freedoms what America is all about? Aren't they more important than all the social schemes for redistributing wealth, or holding back and penalizing those with the desire and ability to build themselves and our country?

If you, like I do, believe that these are important, then I want your help.

For no one man, or small group, can turn this country around. It will take all of us.

We made a successful beginning last year by winning three of four special congressional elections. Citizens for the Republic, the political action committee which I chair, contributed substantially to those races.

In addition, during 1977 I made over 50 appearances on behalf of our cause. CFTR's campaign experts met with and consulted with dozens of potential candidates. We've been even busier this year, opposing the canal treaties and aiding conservative candidates.

CFTR has held four major campaign seminars and workshops, involving nearly three thousand men and women. Two more are scheduled this summer. CFTR works constantly to advance our principles and elect our kind of candidates.

But we've not done these things alone. Nearly 40,000 concerned Americans have contributed to this effort.

I am confident that in this election year you will want to join them. We need a conservative Congress to prevent a liberal President from acting recklessly. In 1980, the President we elect will need our kind of Congress. But that won't happen without the support of each of us.

Don't believe those who say our situation is hopeless. That's not true. We can win if we work at it.

There are 30 to 70 congressional seats we can win with good candidates and wise use of campaign funds.

Remember, more and more people are getting fed up with Jimmy Carter and those in the Congress who support his efforts ...

- . to give away the Panama Canal,
- . to increase taxes on gasoline, energy, Social Security, automobiles,
- . to change voting laws to make it possible for liberal Democrats and big labor to stack and steal elections,
- . to weaken our defenses by dropping the B-1 bomber and cutting back our Navy, making special deals with the Soviet Union, and otherwise appeasing Communism, and
- . to spend us further and further into inflationary debt in an attempt to buy off special interest groups at the expense of the average working man and small businessman.

We can win some legislatures, too. A gain of only six members of the House and five members of the Senate could give conservatives control of the Illinois state legislature. The situation in some other states is almost as promising.

We can also pick off some governorships in states like California and Idaho if we all pitch in.

I view you and us at CFTR as being in partnership ... a partnership that is vital to our country and one that I urgently want. As partners we both have a role to play.

Our role is a professional one ...

- . to speak out strongly on the issues,
- . to find, and help elect, good conservative candidates,
- . to lead the fight against efforts by big, and bad, government to infringe upon our rights as free Americans,
- . to disseminate information that will help others participate effectively in that fight,

- . to give leadership and a rallying point to those who have helped our cause in the past and wish to help again.

Your job is to join in that fight in every way you know how, every way you have time for, every way you can afford.

Get involved in campaigns. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Let your elected officials know where you stand and demand that they let you know where they stand. You can give them the courage to vote with us ... your letters can prevent them from voting the wrong way.

And please fill in and return CFTR's "Aid to Candidates" Poll. If we are to succeed, we need to know what conservatives are thinking today, what's important to you.

One more thing!

The job we are doing at CFTR desperately needs your help and involvement. This year you can help best by contributing whatever you can afford -- \$25, \$50, \$100 -- to CFTR, using the enclosed postage-paid envelope and filling out the contributor card. It takes money to help candidates, to make our views known and our voices heard, to do all that must be done if we are to take our country back from the big government radicals and get it back into the hands of the people.

So please help ... today! Free people, working in partnership, can accomplish much ... this year and again in 1980.

You have my gratitude and appreciation.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

RONALD REAGAN

P.S. President Carter's bungling on the Panama Canal Treaties as well as his refusal to build the neutron bomber, the B-1 bomber and the cruise missile, make it even more imperative that we have a strong, defense-oriented Congress. Between us we can elect one.