

DRAFT-----DRAFT-----DRAFT-----DRAFT-----DRAFT-----

SENATOR PAUL LAXALT/NOMINATING SPEECH FOR GOVERNOR REAGAN, WED. AUGUST 18

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FELLOW DELEGATES, HERE TONIGHT WE ARE PARTICIPATING IN, WITH MILLIONS WITNESSING, THE MOST EXCITING, WORTHWHILE AND PRODUCTIVE POLITICAL CONVENTION IN MANY, MANY YEARS.

THIS REPUBLICAN CONVENTION COMPLETES A PROCESS WHEREBY OUR PARTY, IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, OFFERED VOTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY A CHOICE OF TWO CANDIDATES WHOSE HONEST AND SPIRITED DEBATE HAS RAISED ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE. AND EACH MAN CLARIFIED HIS POSITIONS ON THOSE ISSUES TO ENSURE THE ELECTORATE IT DID NOT CAST BALLOTS IN OUR PRIMARIES BASED SOLELY ON VAGUE PROMISES AND A GRIN.

DURING THIS CAMPAIGN IT BECAME CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT AMERICANS WANT A CHANGE. THEY ARE FED UP AND TERRIBLY FRUSTRATED WITH A BLOATED AND EXPENSIVE FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT WHICH REFUSES TO RESPOND TO THEIR WILL AND THEY'RE ALSO VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPOTTY PERFORMANCE OF THEIR LEADERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT.

HERE AT HOME, MY FRIENDS, THROUGHOUT THESE PAST FORTY YEARS, WE AMERICANS HAVE SLOWLY BEEN SURRENDERING OUR RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT TO THOSE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL FOR PROMISES OF A BETTER TOMORROW THAT ARE CONTINUALLY POSTPONED. THE PROCESS OF DETERIORATING CONTROL OVER THE INSTITUTIONS OF THIS DEMOCRACY HAS GIVEN HEALTHY LIFE TO A NEW GOVERNING CLASS, BUT LEFT OUR NATION WITH AN UNRESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT.

ASK YOURSELVES A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS TONIGHT. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOUR COMMUNITY LEADERS MET AND DECIDED TO BUILD A NEW SCHOOL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITHOUT BEING COMPELLED TO LOOK TO WASHINGTON FOR GUIDANCE, APPROVAL, A GRANT AND THEN HAD TO RELINQUISH CONTROL OF THE PROJECT TO FULFILL FEDERAL GUIDELINES? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOUR CITY OR TOWN WENT ABOUT RENOVATING AN OLDER SECTION WITHOUT BEING COMPELLED TO LOOK TO WASHINGTON FOR GUIDANCE, APPROVAL, A FEDERAL GRANT AND THEN EVENTUALLY HANDED OVER CONTROL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT?

WHAT WE HAVE ESSENTIALLY, THEN, IS A GOVERNMENT THAT IS OCCUPIED BY THOSE WHO PLACE THEIR TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS AND NOT PEOPLE.

AND YET, OVER TIME AND DESPITE FEDERAL INTERFERENCE, AMERICANS HAVE BUILT A FANTASTICALLY PRODUCTIVE AND INGENIOUS ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES A QUALITY OF LIFE UNHEARD OF ANYWHERE ELSE ON THIS GLOBE. NEVERTHELESS, THOSE WEDDED TO THE CONCEPT OF BIG GOVERNMENT REFUSE TO ENCOURAGE OR EVEN ALLOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE THE LEAD AND WORK WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS ON THE MANY PROJECTS OUR TAX DOLLARS NOW SUPPORT.

THE IMMENSE TALENTS WHICH LIE WITHIN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM HAVE NOT BEEN TAPPED EFFECTIVELY TO SERVE THIS COUNTRY FULLY. A FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY HAS BEEN ERECTED INSTEAD AND BLOCKS PROGRESS RATHER THAN FOSTERING IT. OUR MOST PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMS AND HOPES FOR A BETTER FUTURE EXIST IN THE GENIUS OF OUR PRIVATE SECTOR AND NOT WITH THE PUBLIC ALBATROSS EATING AWAY AT WEEKLY PAYCHECKS WITHOUT PRODUCING

RESULTS.

THIS PARTY HAS ATTEMPTED TO SOUND THE ALARM AND REMIND AMERICANS AS THOMAS JEFFERSON DID TWO CENTURIES AGO THAT, "IT IS NOT BY THE CONSOLIDATION OR CONCENTRATION OF POWERS, BUT BY THEIR DISTRIBUTION THAT GOOD GOVERNMENT IS EFFECTED."

QUITE FRANKLY, AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MUSHROOMED, WE, THE PARTY OF INDIVIDUALISM, LIMITED GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL CONTROL, OBVIOUSLY FAILED MISERABLY IN OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE CLEAR THE DANGERS AND STERILITY OF CENTRALIZATION. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS SIMPLY NOT ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED THE IDEALS OF GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE WHICH INITIALLY AND WISELY ENTRUSTED THE DESTINY OF OUR COUNTRY TO THE GOVERNED AND NOT AN ELITE CLASS OF WOULD BE PHILOSOPHER-KINGS.

ON ANOTHER FRONT--WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELT SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY HAD A DEFINITE PATTERN WHICH REPRESENTED THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THIS DEMOCRACY?

WELL, IT IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT FOR THESE PAST FEW YEARS "COMPROMISE" HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR DIPLOMACY AND HAS REPLACED PRINCIPLE. AND WITH A FOREIGN POLICY WHICH WAVERS ALL OVER THE BALLPARK, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A LOSS OF IDENTITY WOULD FOLLOW--AND IT HAS. IN THE PROCESS WE ARE GRAVELY STRAINING THE TRUST OF ALLIES AND HEIGHTENING THE SUSPICION OF ADVERSARIES.

OUR CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGISTS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO LURE

US INTO A COCOON OF SECURITY AND ARE FASHIONING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WHICH EXCUSE THE WEAKENING OF AMERICA'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES BASED ON THE NAIVE ASSUMPTION THAT VOLUNTARY WEAKNESS PROVES WE'RE REALLY THE "GOOD GUYS" WHO DON'T COURT TROUBLE AND, THEREFORE, WON'T FIND IT THRUST UPON US.

THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO GO AND MUST NOT BE CONTINUED.

OUR PROBLEM AS A PARTY HAS BEEN ONE OF LEADERSHIP. THE GOP HAS A MESSAGE THAT IS VERY BASIC TO THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIFE BUT THAT MESSAGE LIES DORMANT.

IN 1976 THE VOTER DOESN'T HAVE TO ^{BE} EDUCATED OR CONVINCED. THE VOTER SIMPLY HAS TO BE REMINDED ABOUT THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION AS THEY EXIST AND THE WAY THESE SHOULD BE CHANGED.

I ASK YOU TONIGHT--AT A TIME WHEN BIG GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON CONSTANTLY STIFLES LOCAL INITIATIVE--WHAT BETTER MAN IS THERE TO REMIND AMERICANS THAT A GOVERNMENT INSULATED FROM THE PEOPLE BY A LAYER OF UNELECTED BUREAUCRATS CAN NEVER BE TRULY RESPONSIVE THEN A MAN WHO, AS GOVERNOR, RECOGNIZED THIS PROBLEM AND STABILIZED BUREAUCRATIC GROWTH WITHIN HIS OWN STATE?

AT A TIME WHEN HUGE UNCONTROLLED FEDERAL BUDGETS AND DEFICITS DANGEROUSLY THREATEN OUR FISCAL HEALTH--WHAT BETTER PERSON IS THERE THEN A MAN WHO INHERITED A \$200 MILLION BUDGET DEFICIT AS GOVERNOR AND LEFT OFFICE WITH A BUDGET SURPLUS?

AND, IN TODAY'S POLITICAL CLIMATE WHICH FINDS THE ELECTORATE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN TURN THIS GOVERNMENT AROUND--WHAT BETTER MAN THEN ONE WHO CAN COMPARE RECORDS WITH THE NOMINEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND SAY, "HERE ARE THE FACTS. MY OPPONENT WHILE GOVERNOR RAISED SPENDING IN HIS MUCH SMALLER STATE FAR ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. HOWEVER, SPENDING IN CALIFORNIA DURING MY ADMINISTRATION--AT A COMPARABLE TIME--WAS KEPT WELL BELOW THIS AVERAGE. AND, THIS MAN, WHILE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GEORGIA, INCREASED THE SIZE OF HIS STATE BUREAUCRACY--AGAIN--WELL ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND I STABILIZED BUREAUCRATIC GROWTH AND KEPT IT VERY MUCH BELOW THE AVERAGE."

AND WHAT BETTER MAN THEN HE WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF A FOREIGN POLICY BUILT UPON A FOUNDATION OF COMPROMISE?
A MAN WHO HAS SAID MANY TIMES THAT PEACE CANNOT BE SECURED WHEN THE
WORLD'S GREATEST DEMOCRACY IS NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE--AND CAN CONVINCE
OTHERS--IT IS CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THAT PEACE AROUND THE GLOBE.

MY FRIENDS, WHAT BETTER MAN IS THERE THEN THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RONALD REAGAN?

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HAD A CANDIDATE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHO MATCHES HIS WORDS WITH A STERLING RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

I MUST ADMIT THAT ALL TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST OUR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTS, TRY AS THEY MAY TO AVOID IT, HAVE FALLEN VICTIMS OF A SPOILS SYSTEM IN WASHINGTON PRESIDED OVER BY AN IMMOVABLE, STUBBORN FEDERAL

ESTABLISHMENT AND A CONGRESS THAT WOULDN'T BE BUDGED FROM FIXED POSI-
TIONS DICTATED BY POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY.

I PROMISE YOU THAT RONALD REAGAN'S POLITICAL HISTORY INDICATES
HE WOULD MOVE AND SHAKE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL THOSE THICK WALLS OF THE
FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY CRACKED ALLOWING YOUR VOICES TO BE HEARD.

HE WILL ALLOW THE EXPERTISE, WHICH BUILT THIS COUNTRY INTO AN ECONOMIC SHOWPLACE, THE LATITUDE NECESSARY TO OFFER PROGRESSIVE ANSWERS WHERE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY FAILED THE PEOPLE.

AND GOVERNOR REAGAN'S RECORD AS AN INNOVATOR IN GOVERNMENT TELLS US HE CAN WORK WELL WITH A CONGRESS THAT IS IMAGINATIVE AND INTENT ON LEGISLATING AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE. BUT HE WON'T STAND BY AND WATCH A CONGRESS CONCERNED WITH MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT CONTINUED GROWTH AND POWER OF THE FEDERAL MACHINE WHILE FORGETTING THEIR DUTY TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

AN UNRESPONSIVE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS--LIKE THE GROUP SITTING IN WASHINGTON TODAY--WILL FIND THAT A PRESIDENT REAGAN CAN EFFECTIVELY APPEAL OVER THEIR HEADS TO YOU--THE PEOPLE WHO ELECT HIM. RONALD REAGAN DID THIS TIME AND TIME AGAIN SUCCESSFULLY IN CALIFORNIA WHERE A LEGISLATURE ATTEMPTED TO PUT THE BRAKES ON HIS FINE REFORM PROGRAMS. AND THE CITIZENS OF THAT STATE RESPONDED POSITIVELY BECAUSE THEIR NEEDS WERE BEING PROMOTED BY THEIR GOVERNOR AND BLOCKED BY NARROW POLITICAL INTERESTS.

THIS IS THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP WE DESPERATELY NEED TO REFORM GOVERNMENT HERE AT HOME AND REESTABLISH OUR CREDENTIALS ABROAD.

AS I SEE IT WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE THAN RONALD REAGAN. IT'S EITHER THE "OLD BUSINESS AS USUAL" OR THE INFUSION OF NEW LIFE WITH A CANDIDATE ON WHOM NO STRINGS EXIST WHICH TIE HIM TO THE WASHINGTON ESTABLISHMENT.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TONIGHT HAS THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER THIS NATION A NEW DIRECTION.

WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF A PRESIDENT REAGAN THIS IS A GUARANTEE
NOT A HOPE, OR HOLLOW PROMISE.