

The original documents are located in Box 34, folder “Carter - Telegrams to GRF and Responses” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

SUBJECT TEXT OF TELEGRAM FROM CARTER TO THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20553

YOU HAVE MADE ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS ABOUT MY POSITION ON SEVERAL
IMPORANT ISSUES.

1. I DO NOT ADVOCATE INCREASING INCOME TAXES ON LOW OR MIDDLE INCOME
FAMILIES

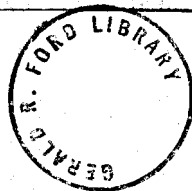
2. I DO NOT ADVOCATE ELIMATING THE EXISTING HOMEOWNER INCOME TAX
CREDITS

3. I DO NOT ADVOCATE NEW SPENDING PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD COST ANYTHING
NEAR 100 BILLION DOLLARS. MY PLEDGE IS TO HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET BY
1980 AND TO PHASE IN NEW PROGRAMS ONLY AS FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE
THROUGH EXPANDING ECONOMY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT.

4. I DO NOT ADVOCATE A 15 BILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION IN THE DEFENSE
BUDGET. MY PROJECTED SAVINGS FROM EFFICIENCY AND ELIMINATION OF
WASTE IS FROM 5 BILLION DOLLARS TO 7 BILLION DOLLARS

I AM SURE THAT AFTER THESE CORRECTIONS, YOU, AS A MAN OF INTEGRITY,
WILL REFRAIN FROM MAKING THESE MISLEADING AND ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

JIMMY CARTER



2
3
4
5
6



The White House
Washington

1976 OCT 16 PM 5 35

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHD913 517P EDT OCT 16 76 WAG091(1614)(2-024944E290)PD 10/16/76 18

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

5097473103 TDMT SPOKANE WA 118 10-16 0414P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20510

THIS IS A COPY OF A TELEGRAM SENT TO JIMMY CARTER

YOUR TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT FORD THIS MORNING LEAVES ME DUMBFOUNDED.

I WAS HOPEFUL THAT LAST NIGHT SENATOR MONDALE WOULD LET US KNOW WHERE THE CARTER-MONDALE TICKESTANDS BUT HE HAD NO MORE SPECIFICS THAN YOU HAVE HAD. WHERE DO YOU STAND ON TAXING THE MEDIAN INCOME, ON GUN CONTROL, ON DEFENSE BUDGET. WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT HIRING THEM. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HEP THE PEOPLE IN EASTERN EUROPE DO YOU REALLY SUBSCRIBE TO SENATOR MONDALES VIEWPOINTS. LETS GET SPECIFIC. AS GOVERNOR OF

2
3
4
5
6

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

GEORGIA YOUR RECORD IS UNCLEAR AND SO FAR YOUR CAMPAIGN PROMISES ARE
EVEN MORE UNCLEAR.

A J PARDINI SOUTH 109 WALL ST SPOKANE WA 99201
NNNN



2
3
4
5
6



The White House
Washington

WHB022(1618)(2-025122E290)PD 10/16/76 1618

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

1976 OCT 16 PM 5 50

9132344998 TDBN TOPEKA KS 65 10-16 0418P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

THIS IS A COPY OF MESSAGE TO JIMMY CARTER PLAINS GEORGIA

IT IS YOU MR CARTER THAT IS MAKING ERRONEOUS AND MISLEADING
STATEMENTS. IT IS YOU MR CARTER THAT HAS NOT CLARIFIED YOURSELF ON
THE ISSUES. IN THE STATE OF KANSAS YOU HAVE WAFFLED ON MANY ISSUES
IMPORTANT TO US GUN CONTROL DEFENSE SPENDING ELIMINATION OF INCOME
TAX DEDUCTIONS ON INTEREST PAID ON HOME MORTGAGE PAYMENTS AND THE
RIGHT TO WORK



WILLIAM FALSTAD CO CHAIRMAN FORD DOLE COMMITTEE KANSAS

NNNN

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

2
3
4
5
6



The White House

1076 OCT 16 PM 5 34

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHD911 445P EDT OCT 16 76 WAC087(1501)(2-022335E290)PD 10/16/76 10

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

4017280556 TDMT PAWTUCKET RI 104 10-16 0301P EST

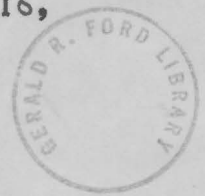
PMS WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON DC

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS SENT TO GOVERNOR CARTER ON OCTOBER 16,
1976:

GOVERNOR

ON BEHALF OF THE RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENT FORD CAMPAIGN MAY I THANK
YOU FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN SUGGESTION HOWEVER I SUGGEST YOU LOOK AT THE
RECORD; YOUR CONSTANTLY CHANGING POSITIONS DEPENDING ON AUDIENCE,
YOUR CLARIFICATIONS THAT ONLY CLOUD ISSUES, YOUR DELIBERATE
DISORTIONS, OR TOTAL NAIVETE DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES HAS
CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DOUBT AS TO EXACTLY WHERE YOU STAND. MIGHT I



2
3
4
5
6



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

ASK: WHAT IS YOUR LATEST POSITION ON THE TAX DEDUCTION FOR HOME
MORTGAGE INTEREST PAYMENTS? WHICH ONE OF YOUR STATEMENTS IS
OPERATIVE TODAY?

MAYOR VINCENT A CIANCI JR CHAIRMAN RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENT
FORD COMMITTEE 120 WASHINGTON ST PROVIDANCE RI
NNNN



FORM 0805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A

151808

2
3
4
5
6



1976 OCT 15 PM 3 56



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHA018(1445)(2-021708E290)PD 10/16/76 1445
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP
2124868000 TDMT NEW YORK NY 159 10-16 0245P EST
RMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
WHITE HOUSE DC
COPY OF MESSAGE SENT TO GOVERNOR CARTER PLAINS, GA.
CANDIDATE CARTER, IF THERE WAS AN OLYMPIC COMPETITION IN DISTORTING
ISSUES AND TAKING "FUZZY" POSITIONS YOU WOULD BE AMERICA'S INSTANT
GOLD METAL WINNER.

YOUR TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT FORD IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF TRYING TO HIDE
BEHIND DISTORTIONS.

YOU HAVE DEFINIATELY STATED YOU WOULD CUT THE MILITARY BUDGET WHICH
WOULD WEAKEN THIS NATIONS DEFENSE AND ALSO CAUSE GREATER
UNEMPLOYMENT, NOW YOU DENY IT.

2
3
4
5
6

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

YOU HAVE DEFINIATELY STATED YOU WOULD RAISE TAXES ON AMERICAN TAXPAYERS. NOW YOU DENY IT.

YOU DENIED HAVING A LIST OF THOSE GIVING YOU MONEY FOR YOUR 1970 CAMPAIGN FOR GEORGIA GOVERNOR. NOW YOU SAY THERE IS SUCH A LIST BUT YOU REFUSE TO DEVULGE IT.

I SUGGEST YOU START TELLING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HONESTLY WHERE YOU STAND ON ISSUES AND QUIT SHIFTING YOUR POSITION. THE VOTERS WANT AND NEED A PRESIDENT WHOSE PROVISIONS ARE BUILT ON THE BEDROCK OF HONESTY AND TRUTH, NOT ON THE QUICKSAND OF CARTER-STYLE RHETORIC





2
3
4
5
6

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

RICHARD M ROSENBAUM CHAIRMAN NEW YORK STATE FORD-DOLE COMMITTEE

NNNN



2
3
4
5
6



The White House
Washington

1
2 WHB023(1704)(2-026616E290)PD 10/16/76 1704

3
4 ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

5 6022638804 TDRN PHOENIX AZ 145 10-16 0504P EST

1976 OCT 16 PM 6 50

6
7 PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

8
9 WHITE HOUSE DC

10 THIS IS A COPY OF THE TELEGRAM SENT TO JIMMY CARTER

11
12
13 GOVERNOR CARTER, YOU DISPLAYED UNBELIEVABLE AUDACITY IN YOUR
14 TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT FORD. IT WAS YET ANOTHER DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO
15 MISLEAD THE VOTERS OF AMERICA. FACTS ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT YOU DID
16 ADVOCATE ELIMINATING THE EXISTING HOME OWNERS TAX CREDIT. WE SUGGEST
17 YOU CHECK YOUR STATEMENTS AS REPORTED IN THE BOSTON GLOBE OF
18 FEBRUARY 26 1976, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE FEBRUARY 29 1976 AND THE NEW
19 YORK TIMES MAGAZINE OF JUNE 6 1976. THE FACT IS YOU HAVE BEEN
20 CONSISTENTLY LOSING POINTS IN THE POLLS AND YOUR TELEGRAM TO THE
21 PRESIDENT SEEMS A DESPERATE ATTEMPT IN THE LAST WEEKS OF THE
22
23
24
25
26



FORM 0805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

CAMPAIGN TO CLOUD THE REAL ISSUE-PRESIDENT FORD'S RECORD AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS VERSUS YOUR PROMISES AND RHETORIC. WE WANT THE
PRESIDENT TO CONTINUE LEADING US FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. TO BE
SURE, PRESIDENT FORD IS THE MAN ARIZONA WILL SUPPORT NOVEMBER 2.

BURT KRUGLICK AND NONAVIE DYER, CO-CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT FORD
COMMITTEE/ARIZONA
NNNN



2
3
4
5
6



White House
Washington

WHA021(1536)(2-123653E290)FD 10/16/76 1536

1976 OCT 16 PM 5 47

ICS IPMTZZ CSP

9198215021 TDMT RALEIGH NC 79 10-16 0336P EST

RMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

JIMMY CARTER

FLAINS GA

I HAVE LEARNED OF THE TELEGRAM YOU SENT TO PRESIDENT FORD TODAY.
YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS IS VERY INTERESTING IN
LIGHT OF YOUR CONTINUED WAFLING AND FLIP FLOPPING ON THE ISSUES.
YOU WILL BE VISITING NORTH CAROLINA THIS WEEK. I HOPE THAT AT THAT
TIME YOU WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR UP WHAT YOU CONSIDER TO
BE ANY "ERRONEOUS" STATEMENTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE CONCERNING
YOUR STAND ON THE REPEAL OF OUR RIGHT TO WORK.



TED HEYDINGER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

FORM 0805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

47700

2
3
4
5
6



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

IN NORTH CAROLINA
NNNN





2
3
4
5
6

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHD924 923P EDT OCT 16 76 WAF114(1842)(2-029186E290)PD 10/16/76 12

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

2136702821 TDRN LOS ANGELES CA 165 10-16 0642P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20500

THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF A MESSAGE SENT TO JIMMY CARTER

FAR FROM MISREPRESENTING YOUR POSITIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA,
WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

YOU HAVE CONTINUALLY TAKEN 2 AND 3 SIDES ON EVERY ISSUE. A YEAR AGO
YOU SAID HERE IN LOS ANGELES THAT YOU WOULD CUT DEFENSE SPENDING 15
BILLION DOLLARS; NOW YOU ARE CLAIMING ONLY 5 BILLION DOLLARS.

YOU HAVE PROMISED TO CUT TAXES, YET YOU TOLD THE PRESS YOU WOULD
RAISE INCOME TAXES FOR ANYONE EARNING MORE THAN THE MEDIAN OR MEAN
INCOME-WHICH MEANS A TAX INCREASE FOR 40 PERCENT OF ALL CALIFORNIA
FAMILIES.

2
3
4
5
6

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

YOU HAVE CALLED THE BI BOMBER, WHICH WOULD BE PRODUCED HERE AND
EMPLOY THOUSANDS OF CALIFORNIANS, A WASTE OF TAX PAYERS DOLLARS. NOW
YOU HAVE REVERSED YOURSELF AND SAY WELL, MAYBE.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR STILL UNACCOUNTING OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY
THOUSAND DOLLARS IN STREET MONEY WHICH YOU DOLED OUT DURING THE
PRIMARY CAMPAIGN?
MAY I RESPECTFULLY HAVE AN ANSWER?

LEON PARMA
NNNN



Resulted

TEXT OF TELEGRAM TO CARTER
(Dave Gergen)

Dear Mr. Carter:

Your telegram today is astonishing. Apparently, you believe that the entire country is suffering from amnesia and cannot remember what you have publicly said on the major issues of this campaign. The American people are smarter than that.

The way in which I have represented your positions is accurate. I am asking a member of my staff to send to you a follow-up telegram laying out the record for all to see.

The trouble with your views, I would suggest, is not the way that I have correctly represented them, but the way that they would lead this country toward higher taxes, higher spending, more inflation and a dangerously weakened military structure.

GRF

