

news from the republican national committee

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McGOVERN CAMPAIGN SINKS TO NEW DEPTHS, DOLE SAYS

PARAMUS, N.J. -- Now that George McGovern is losing, Sen. Bob Dole said last night, he "has replaced inspiration with vilification, his ideals...with innuendo and his principles with slander."

Speaking before a dinner gathering of Bergen County Republicans, the Republican National Chairman said in the closing days of the campaign voters perceive in McGovern "more petulance than principle, more hypocrisy than high mindedness."

The McGovern campaign which began with the candidate speaking of "'the power of life and faith to move mountains,'" Dole said, has degenerated to the point where McGovern now "slanders his opponent and his defecting supporters..." Dole said, "in the mind of George McGovern, apparently, this is what passes for leadership and moral suasion."

Referring to recent incidents of heckling of Administration spokesmen and members of the First Family, the Kansas Senator charged: "It is George McGovern's example that helps to fuel this outrageous activity."

Urging supporters of President Nixon to concentrate on getting out the vote in the last days of the campaign, Dole said a substantial Nixon victory will be a vote of confidence in policies that have brought the nation to the threshold of a generation of peace and will continue "the restoration of reasonable, responsible and responsive administration of the government here at home."

(A text of Senator Dole's remarks is attached.)

SENATOR BOB DOLE
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Now that this campaign is almost over, I would like to say -- welcome to the new majority. We have run a good campaign and I look forward to seeing its expected result on Tuesday -- a win for Richard Nixon, that is more than just a victory for a man or even a political party.

It is going to be a vote of confidence in the policies that have put us on the threshold of a full generation of peace in the world. And the restoration of reasonable, responsible and responsive administration of the government here at home.

CLEAR CHOICE -- EASY CHOICE

The point has been made over and over again since the conventions of this summer that the choice for President this year probably represents the clearest choice on programs and ideology that the American people have faced at any time in this century. It is also one of the easiest choices they have ever had to make. Some of the issues may be complex but the alternatives can be stated simply.

Would you rather have Richard Nixon as commander-in-chief of the strongest nation in the world or would you prefer to let George McGovern come in and engineer the dismantling of our military defenses.

Would you rather have Richard Nixon -- who negotiated the first SALT agreement -- to continue work on further agreements to limit nuclear arms or would you prefer George McGovern who seems to favor abrupt unilateral disarmament over a phased mutual reduction of strategic weaponry.

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Would you rather have Richard Nixon under whose leadership we have all but settled the Vietnam conflict on terms that keep American honor and South Vietnamese political stability intact or would you prefer George McGovern who has already promised that as President he would re-negotiate the agreement and turn it into a surrender.

That is a clear and easy choice; indeed to my way of thinking, it is more like no choice at all, for it is a choice between a proven leader in Richard Nixon and George McGovern who has taken almost two years to prove only that he has no leadership potential.

TO GET OUT THE VOTE -- BIGGEST CHALLENGE

But as we near election day, my greatest fear is not that people will make the wrong choice but that they may make no choice at all. Lulled into a false overconfidence by the polls, convinced perhaps that the President has it in the bag and doesn't need their vote, many supporters of Richard Nixon may think they can stay home on election day.

But believe me, nothing could be further from the truth. And in the short time between now and the seventh, there is nothing that is more important for us all to concentrate our efforts on than the challenge of getting out the vote.

For the last two straight elections, the percentage actually voting of those eligible to vote in this country has steadily declined. We can reverse that trend, if we work at it, and ensure that Richard Nixon not only wins this election, but that he wins re-election as a result of the greatest voter turn-out in American history.

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ON RECORD FOR PEACE

Our goal is to put this country on record -- and the world on notice -- that the forward looking policies of Richard Nixon to keep this country strong and to build peace on the foundation of that strength have the positive support of the American people. And that George McGovern's naive and ill-considered policies of planned weakness for America have been rejected.

We can put this country on record -- and its detractors on notice -- that the emphasis Richard Nixon places on the virtues of America and his desire to build on that goodness have the positive support of the people of this country. And that the hand-wringing, guilt-ridden system-has-failed-us view of America which George McGovern puts forth, has been resoundingly rejected.

The voters' choice this year is a simple one to make.

Throughout this campaign, I have been talking about programs -- those the President has proposed and implemented and those George McGovern has proposed and then modified and then changed and then abandoned and replaced.

There is another consideration to keep in mind as well. Perhaps it is the overriding consideration in this as in any election. Admittedly, it is sometimes harder to deal with than programs and position papers. But it is no less, and in the final analysis certainly, a great deal more important than all of that.

I am talking about the capacity for leadership in each of the respective candidates. We know from the last four years, what Richard Nixon can do. And we know also, how he goes about doing it.

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We know that he carries himself with dignity, whether he is with the American people or abroad. We know that when he addresses the nation -- be it his own or the Soviet Union as he did in that unforgettable televised address to the Soviet people, that he speaks in measured tones, that he exhibits respect for the intelligence and for the decency of those to whom he speaks. And we know that he always carries himself in such a way as to earn in return, the respect that is due the President of the United States.

In four years, Richard Nixon has established many great goals for the nation. But as a personal goal, it is evident, he has determined to restore dignity to the office of the Presidency and the high regard it rightly merits from the American people and the people of the world.

A HANDSHAKE AT PEKING

One has only to remember a few glimpses out of the last four years to recognize this. The greeting at the airport in Peking, where one prolonged and historic handshake, set the world in motion toward a process of reduction of international tensions, toward greater communication between great powers, toward peace. Similarly there was his visit to Moscow. Many pundits and commentators thought the Moscow summit was doomed after the President made the hard decision to mine the harbors of North Vietnam. Some even predicted World War III was imminent. But the summit took place and at its completion, the world learned of agreement, at long last, between the world's two great nuclear powers to begin an end to the arms race and make a start toward a more peaceful world without the threat of nuclear war.

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President Nixon is at all times conscious of his great responsibility as the leader of this greatest nation in the world. Not just as the leader of the strongest military power -- but as leader of the nation that in modern times has the strongest power to inspire other nations and has maintained its strong commitment to its founding ideal -- the dignity of all men.

AWARENESS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Everywhere he goes, President Nixon goes with an awareness of his responsibility as our representative and as the representative of our ideals.

It is no great insult to a man to say that he is not Presidential timber. Not every man has what it takes, not every man has the fortitude or the imagination or the intelligence, or the vision, to be President of the United States.

In his almost two years of campaigning, George McGovern has demonstrated that he is wanting in several respects as a presidential candidate.

On the level of programs and proposals, he has not infrequently been unable to make up his mind precisely which proposal he is behind. He has had three welfare reform schemes -- all of them too radical for the American people. He has taken most sides of the issue on school busing to achieve racial balance. He has been for legalization of marijuana though now he would like us to forget that. He has favored general unconditional amnesty for draft dodgers though now he has sought to confuse even that issue.

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Some positions he has changed over the course of weeks and months, while others he has changed over the course of an afternoon -- like the time he denied knowledge of Pierre Salinger's trip to Paris to talk with the North Vietnamese at noon, and then at three o'clock the same day he issued a formal statement claiming Salinger had gone under McGovern's personal instruction.

But it is less on the level of program and policy than on the level of personal potential for leadership that I think George McGovern has lost the sympathy of the American people.

'MORE PETULANCE THAN PRINCIPLE'

They perceive in him, this man who has put himself on a pedestal of piety, more petulance than principle, more hypocrisy than high mindedness.

In the last three months they have seen George McGovern's candidacy degenerate from initial radicalism, to inconsistency motivated by the desire to gain votes. And then from inconsistency into desperation which led to the final decomposition of his new politics into the old and discredited politics of smear, slander and slur.

As George McGovern saw his initial support slipping away, the nation began to see his loudly proclaimed, lofty ideals slipping away as well.

Gradually, the level of George McGovern's campaign began to descend to the level of the put-down, the tone of his rhetoric descended to the vernacular of the street. Where once he spoke of "the power of life and faith to move mountains" now he slanders his opponent and his defecting supporters, but most of all by his tactics, he smears himself.

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He has compared the President of the United States to Hitler on repeated occasions. He has equated the United States Government to the regime of Hitler and the Third Reich. He has compared the Republican party to the Ku Klux Klan. He has libeled young people who support the President saying they are too confused to know which end is up and that they ought to have their heads examined.

In the mind of George McGovern, apparently, this is what passes for leadership and moral suasion. It has fueled among some of his adherents a revival of the shock troop tactics of the thirties when speakers were shouted down and heckled and harassed.

These McGovernites have disrupted speaking appearances of the Vice President and have even stooped to harassment of Republican women repeatedly. In Boston, on October 31st, an unruly and violent mob of McGovern supporters rioted outside a hall where the First Lady was appearing, trashed the area, and some who got inside attempted to shout Mrs. Nixon down. On the same day, across the country in Sacramento, Mrs. Anne Armstrong, our Republican National Co-Chairman, accompanied by several wives of administration officials was harassed, insulted and shouted down as she made a campaign stop with the Governor of California and other officials.

It is George McGovern's example that helps to fuel this outrageous activity. It is George McGovern's example, and his outright condemnation of such tactics that could help bring it to an end. But so far, McGovern has remained silent. He has said not one word to try to bring his own supporters under control. Not one word of even mild disapproval of these rudenesses and disruptions has come from George McGovern.

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That is a far cry from his earlier call to his new politic power of life and faith to move mountains. But he spoke of that at his convention. Things were looking up then. It was easy to be inspirational. Now that he is losing, he has replaced inspiration with vilification, his ideals he has replaced with innuendo and his principles with slander.

He has been campaigning as Mr. Morality, as good old clean living high-minded George McGovern from the plains. But the American people have seen through his self-righteous, ersatz saintliness. And they have had enough of his moralizing.

It is no insult to be unqualified for the Presidency -- but it's no great honor either. The least a man who finds himself in McGovern's position could do, however, if he is committed to his own view, is seek to offer it to the American people, present it in a high-minded way and stimulate a discussion of the issues.

But not George McGovern.

Finding himself far behind in the polls -- and according to one at least, still losing ground -- he has begun throwing the mud around. His charges against the Republican party and the Nixon administration, that they have sabotaged his campaign, are not only absurd and transparent attempts to cover up the incompetence of his own campaign organization but they are practically all he has talked about lately.

UNDERMINE CHANCE FOR PEACE

He and his running-mate still talk about peace from time to time, the issue George McGovern exploited to the hilt in service to his own ambition, but when they discuss it, their talk serves only to undermine confidence in the peace agreement Richard Nixon has brought almost to finality.

They talk about sabotage and special interest and set themselves up as the personifications of virtue. But it won't wash with the American people. George McGovern's new politics campaign has boiled down to this and to this alone -- narrow ideological elitism, with a heaping helping of ambition.

VOW OF DISUNITY

Who else in modern history, for instance, has ever campaigned on a pledge to unite the country and at the same time vowed not to support the winner when he is defeated. Every candidate in memory pledges unity and support of the winner if he loses -- except George McGovern.

Those who do not support him, he accuses of being divisive but what more divisive attitude is there than this. George McGovern believes in himself, but in little else, or so it would seem. Certainly he shows no faith in the people of this country or in its capacity to get along very well without him and his sanctimonious sermons on morality.

Well, we have gotten along without George McGovern in the past. And we shall do so for the next four years, which I believe can be four of the best years in the long and proud history of America.

And on that point, let me end where I began -- with an urgent plea that we devote the next three days getting ourselves and our friends and neighbors ready for election day. That we do what we can to convince all around us that voting this year is not something we can take for granted. It is a precious right. And now more than ever, it is an urgent responsibility.

Let us make sure that when Richard Nixon wins next Tuesday, the victory he wins needs no qualifications. Let it be unmistakably the voice of the people -- all of the people of the United States that is heard on November 7th. He has earned their endorsement. He has earned their confidence. He has earned the second term he now seeks.

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