

REMARKS BY ROBERT MORGAN
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GASTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC RALLY
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
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GREETINGS TO ...

A PLEASURE TO BE BACK AMONG FRIENDS IN GASTON COUNTY ONCE AGAIN. UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY WORK AT LOCAL LEVEL. HONORED TO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE TODAY.

A. IN WASHINGTON, WITNESSING THE PLAYING OF AN OLD POLITICAL TRICK. ADMINISTRATION ACCUSES CONGRESS OF FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS, ON THE ISSUES OF ENERGY AND THE ECONOMY.

B. OUGHT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE RECORD AND SEE WHO THE REAL FOOT-DRAGGERS ARE. IMPORTANT ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMIC LEGISLATION PASSED BY CONGRESS FACES ONE VETO AFTER ANOTHER.

C. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS THE VETO CHAMPION. THE NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS SAW TWENTY-SEVEN VETOES, AND THE PRESENT CONGRESS HAS HAD NINE VETOES OF ENERGY AND ANTI-RECESSION BILLS.

D. APPEARS TO BE A STRATEGY OF VETOING AT WILL, THEN ACCUSING THE CONGRESS OF DOING NOTHING. THE FACT IS, THE CONGRESS HAS ACTED POSITIVELY AND THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE NATION'S PRESSING NEEDS.

E. THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD OF NEGATIVISM IS CLEAR:

1. VETOED AN EMERGENCY INCREASE IN LOANS AND PRICE SUPPORTS FOR FARMERS.
2. VETOED AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO CREATE PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS FOR PEOPLE OTHERWISE FORCED TO JOIN THE "WELFARE ARMY" DURING THE WORST OF THE RECESSION.
3. VETOED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO HELP THE DEPRESSED HOUSING INDUSTRY AND THE MIDDLE-INCOME HOME BUYER FORCED OUT OF THE MARKET.
4. VETOED THE STRIP MINING BILL, WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE SURE OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES WERE NOT MISUSED IN A MAD SCRAMBLE TO MINE COAL, NOW THAT OIL IS GETTING SCARCE.

5. VETOED TWO PIECES OF LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FROM ARBITRARILY HIKING TAXES AND PRICES ON OIL WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.

6. VETOED THE 1976 EDUCATIONAL APPROPRIATION, INCLUDING SUPPORT TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND AID TO COLLEGE STUDENTS SQUEEZED OUT OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

E. MIGHT BE LED TO BELIEVE SOME UNAUTHORIZED PERSON AT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD GOTTEN HOLD OF THE VETO STAMP, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION. PRIORITIES ALL TOO CLEAR.

1. ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO CUT FUNDING FOR TRAINING LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL BECAUSE IT WOULD BE "INFLATIONARY."

2. VETOED A HEALTH BILL DESIGNED TO ATTACK A BROAD RANGE OF FATAL AND WASTING DISEASES, AND TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO WORK WITH OLD FOLKS IN NURSING HOMES.

3. BUT THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT THINK IT TOO INFLATIONARY TO ALLOW PRICES ON AMERICAN OIL TO RUN UP TO LEVELS SET BY THE ARABS — A LEVEL WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE USED TO CALL ARBITRARY AND OUTRAGEOUS. DECONTROL OF "OLD" OIL WILL BE SO INFLATIONARY EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF MOBIL OIL IS OPPOSED TO IT.

4. NOR WAS IT TOO INFLATIONARY TO RAISE TAXES ON THE IMPORTED OIL WE KNOW WE HAVE TO BUY, WHICH IS ALREADY COSTING US A KING'S RANSOM.

6. THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS "LET 'ER RIP" WHEN IT COMES TO BIG INFLATIONARY ENERGY PRICES AND "NOT SO FAST" WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING THE COMMON MAN MAKE ENDS MEET.

H. CONGRESS HAS BEEN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE. BUT IT TAKES THE SLOWER, CONSTITUTIONAL ROUTE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS — CANNOT ACT BY EXECUTIVE FIAT.

I. TAKES TIME TO DEAL WITH THE OBSTRUCTIONS CAUSED BY ALL THOSE VETOES.

1. CONGRESS HAD TO OVERRIDE VETOES OF THE HEALTH SERVICES BILL TWICE.

2. AN OVERRIDE OF THE VETOED EDUCATION APPROPRIATION IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK.

3. A NEW VERSION OF THE STRIP MINING BILL HAS PASSED THE SENATE.

4. PROVISIONS OF THE VETOED BILL ON OIL PRICING AND IMPORT TARIFFS HAVE GONE BACK TO A COMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE.

5. FINALLY, A SECOND BILL TO HELP THE HOUSING INDUSTRY AND MIDDLE-INCOME BUYER HAS BEEN PASSED AND ENACTED INTO LAW.

J. CONGRESS HAS HAD TO ACT ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES — INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPUTED NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE SEAT. THAT HAS BEEN SENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE TO DECIDE, WHICH IS WHERE THE MATTER BELONGS.

K. THE DEMOCRATIC PROGRAM FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS ALIVE AND WELL.

L. ALMOST ALL OF THE ENERGY MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE PARTY HAVE PASSED THE SENATE AT LEAST ONCE. THOSE WHICH HAVE PASSED FLOOR ACTION, HAVE GONE TO CONFERENCE WITH THE HOUSE, OR ARE ON THE SENATE CALENDAR:

1. LEASING COAL RESERVES ON PUBLIC LANDS, AND USING NAVAL OIL RESERVES.

2. LABELLING ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AS TO THEIR ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

3. REQUIRING A FIFTY PER CENT INCREASE IN AUTOMOBILE GAS MILEAGE BY 1980 AND 100 PER CENT BY 1985.

4. BUILDING STRATEGIC ENERGY RESERVES TO GIVE US SOMETHING TO GO ON IN CASE OF ANOTHER ARAB EMBARGO.

5. REQUIRING MANDATORY CONVERSION OF UTILITY PLANTS FROM OIL TO COAL, IN SOME CASES.

6. CREATING A NATIONAL ENERGY PRODUCTION BOARD, AND AN INDUSTRIAL ENERGY AND AN INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

7. ESTABLISHING A PRICING POLICY FOR OIL, NATURAL GAS AND UTILITIES.

8. CREATING TAX INCENTIVES AND PENALTIES TO FIT PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION NEEDS.

II. THE DEMOCRATIC PROGRAM IS FAR REACHING AND RESPONSIBLE. PROBLEM IS HUGE AND COMPLICATED, AND THE PROGRAM MUST BE COHERENT AND NOT ONE-SIDED. WILL HAVE TO:

1. STIMULATE PRODUCTION.

2. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM PELL-MELL EXPLOITATION, AND OUR REMAINING RESOURCES FROM WASTE.

3. AVOID ILL-TIMED AND UNNECESSARY PRICE INCREASES. ALLOWING ENERGY PRICES TO SKYROCKET WOULD PUT US BACK WHERE WE STARTED, WITH INFLATION AND ECONOMIC STAGNATION.

4. DEMOCRATIC PARTY MUST BE THE PARTY OF POSITIVE ACTION. LET THE OPPOSITION CONTINUE TO ACT NEGATIVELY AND THE PEOPLE WILL SEE WHO'S WORKING ON THE PROBLEM AND WHO'S PREVENTING PROGRESS.

5. DEMOCRATIC PARTY MUST BE THE PARTY OF UNITY. TAKE A LESSON FROM THE STATE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS IN, WITH THE CONSERVATIVE WING ABOUT TO SPLIT OFF AND FORM A THIRD PARTY.

6. MUST KEEP OUR PROGRAMS AND PHILOSOPHY BROAD ENOUGH TO BRING ABOUT A WORKABLE MAJORITY WHICH CAN GOVERN.

7. APPRECIATE ANYTHING PEOPLE CAN DO AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL TO COUNTER THE IMPRESSION THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CREATED THAT THIS IS A "DO-NOTHING" CONGRESS.