

① Bill Clinton →
② present remarks
w/ vote.

Transcript of ③
Nominating Speech

delivered by
Florida Governor Bob Graham
at the
Democratic National Convention
New York City
August 13, 1980

The people in this country who say there will be no real difference between the two candidates in November haven't been paying very close attention.

The American people are going to be presented with a crystal clear choice: the choice will be between a man of quiet wisdom and restraint and a man who would buy false respect with easy threats; between a man of proven leadership and a man whose accomplishments in government have yet to be scrutinized; between a man whose policies are based upon sound information and reflection and a man whose policies are based upon old newspaper clippings he carries around in his pocket.

The man I will nominate has undertaken one of the weightiest burdens of any leader in history: the world is entering the twilight of the petroleum era, communist aggression is no longer a dormant concern of yesteryear, there is not enough food or freedom or compassion on this planet to go around.

Within three months of taking office, he told us our long neglected energy dilemma was the greatest challenge our nation faced in the new era. He said it was the moral equivalent of war. Although very few people were willing to listen, or to help, he proposed hard measures: conservation, the development of alternative sources, a windfall profits tax.

When Soviet tanks thundered into Afghanistan, he exercised wisdom, restraint and courage. He imposed the grain embargo and the Olympic boycott and the blatant aggression was put before the spotlight of world opinion for all to see.

When interest rates and inflation began soaring, he told us we could not continue to live beyond our means, that we were in for a period of austerity. He proposed a balanced budget for the government and less reliance on credit for the people.

Those decisions took courage to initiate. Those decisions will take time to bear complete results. But even now, we're beginning to see the early effects of this quiet, determined courage.

Those who said Americans were too soft to conserve energy were *wrong*. We have cut our reliance on foreign oil by a million-and-a-half barrels a day. Those who said an Olympic boycott and a grain embargo would have no affect on the Soviets were *wrong*. The world now understands we are willing to use powerful, non-military sanctions to punish aggression.

Those who said the recession would be interminable were *wrong*. We're beginning to see the economy turn around.

Yes, the American people will have a crystal clear choice in November.

The man I will nominate practiced the politics of reality in a complex world where there are no easy answers. Ronald Reagan proposes to practice the politics of nostalgia in a make-believe world whose problems are those of a small town in the 1920s.

Ronald Reagan says the solutions are simple. Ronald Reagan is confused. The *descriptions* of problems are simple, not the solutions.

Our energy dilemma is easy to frame in words: the blood and bones of long-dead dinosaurs and the remains of giant ferns which have fermented under the earth's surface for millions of years have begun to disappear. Their residue fueled the industrial revolution. But when the end of the petroleum age loomed on the horizon, we were unprepared.

Ronald Reagan's "simple" solution for this basic geological reality is to allow oil companies to grow rich beyond even their wildest dreams. His "simple" solution is to abolish the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit and waste millions of barrels of oil every year.

My friends, that's not simple, that's simpleminded.

No one disputes that this country has economic problems, many of them brought about by the increased cost of energy. But most of the industrial countries of the world are undergoing similar problems, some of them far worse than ours.

Our president could have whispered sweet lies to us but he had the courage to tell us there were no easy answers.

Ronald Reagan's "simple" solution is something ironically called the "Laffer Curve". And if you want to know what the Laffer Curve is, well, it's the economic equivalent of a rabbit in a hat.

The theory says that if the government charges less for its services, it will somehow end up collecting more to pay for those services. Out of another hat comes a balanced budget. And out of still another hat comes an increase in defense spending.

My friends, that's not simple, that's simpleminded.

Our president told us the Soviet threat is real, that our armed forces had fallen into disrepair. He has reversed a decade-long decline in defense spending. He has met the Soviet challenge with firmness and restraint.

Ronald Reagan says the solution is simple: that every challenge should be met with a sabre-rattling confrontation.

My friends, that's not simple, that's simpleminded.

It's also simpleminded to think you can have equality for women without the Equal Rights Amendment. And it's simpleminded to think you can gain the confidence of Blacks and Hispanics without inviting them to your convention.

The thing that makes democracy work is that the people of this country are too smart to buy candy-coated answers for cast iron problems.

The thing that makes the Democratic Party work is that we know when it's time to stop our squabbling and get behind our candidate.

The other thing that makes this party work is that we've never left anyone out. We are the party that labor came to, that Blacks came to, that Hispanics and women and teachers, and everyone else who felt their voices were not being heard. The Democratic Party became your party.

We are going to need all of you to meet this challenge in November. We're going to need Ted Kennedy, we're going to need Jerry Brown. We're going to need all the wise warriors of this great party. We're going to need them because we've got a fight on our hands and we must win that fight.

We frankly do not know what kind of issues we will face in the next four years. Neither did our counterparts in Detroit. The world changes too fast to be captured in a crystal ball. We cannot foresee the future. We can foresee the right man to meet the future.

Will we be satisfied with a man of nostalgia and wishful thinking? Or do we want a man of substance and reality?

Will we be satisfied with a man of fear and suspicion? Or do we want a man of hope and compassion?

Will we be satisfied with a man of celluloid bravado? Or do we want a man of genuine courage?

We all know the answer: the American people will deliver that answer in November.

I am proud to stand before you tonight to nominate a man of reality, of compassion, of courage.

I am proud to nominate Jimmy Carter for the presidency of the United States.