Democratic Officers Convention (2)

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

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MONTH/YEAR of Records*: November-1981
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(1) Subject*: Federal Issues
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SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS' CONVENTION
November 7, 1981

(Offer appropriate thank-you's and courtesies)

YOU KNOW, IT WAS JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT REPUBLICANS
WERE SAYING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS HAD IT. WELL, AS I LOOK OUT
AT THE NUMBERS AND ENTHUSIASM HERE TONIGHT, I SAY, LET THEM COME
TO MONTANA! LET THEM COME TO BUTTE. WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN.

IN FACT, IF JOHN GLENN, GARY HART, TED KENNEDY AND WALTER MONDALE
HAD KNOWN THIS MANY HARD-WORKING DEMOCRATS WOULD BE HERE, THEY
WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN CALLING SALLY JORDAN FOR INVITATIONS.

THIS LARGE GATHERING TONIGHT WILL HOPEFULLY SEND A
STRONG SIGNAL TO THE NEW RADICAL RIGHT. WE ALL KNOW THAT NCPAC
IS AFTER JOHN MELCHER. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF THAT? TERRY
DOLAN AND HIS CRONIES SHOULD BE CALLED NIT-PICK, NOT NCPAC. BETTER
YET, LET'S CALL THEM WHAT THEY REALLY ARE -- NUTPACK. AND SPEAKING
OF PACKS OR PACKING, I HOPE DOLAN WILL FOLLOW HERB WILLIAMS AND
PACK UP AND LEAVE!

AT NOON TODAY, CHET BLAYLOCK ASKED, "HOW MANY OF YOU ARE
BETTER OFF TODAY THAN YOU WERE A YEAR AGO?" IT'S A GOOD QUESTION
WITH AN OBVIOUS ANSWER.
THIS TIME LAST YEAR RONALD REAGAN CHIDED PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT OUR NATION'S MISERY INDEX. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MISERY INDEX TODAY IS NEARLY TEN PERCENT HIGHER THAN IT WAS IN 1980. IN FACT, IF WE ADD THE INTEREST RATES TO THE INFLATION, WE SIMPLY ADD INSULT TO INJURY, AND THAT IS NO CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

WE DEMOCRATS ARE LOOKING BETTER ALL THE TIME, COMPARED TO THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLE OF REAGANOMICS, WE COMPAIR WELL. BUT THAT'S NOT MUCH TO BE COMPARED TO.

ALTHOUGH SOME SAY THE JURY IS STILL OUT ON REAGANOMICS -- MOSTLY REPUBLICANS SAY THAT -- I HOPE THEY DON'T WAIT TOO LONG BEFORE THE COURTHOUSE COLLAPSES. MAYBE IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A FINAL JUDGMENT ON REAGANOMICS. HOWEVER, MY PRELIMINARY CALL IS THAT IT IS A "BUSTED PLAY."

WHY? BECAUSE REAGANOMICS IS BASED ON SIMPLE ANSWERS TO COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, SOME SAID REAGAN HAD PUT TOGETHER A "MODEL BUDGET TEAM." WELL, AFTER TEN MONTHS IN OFFICE, I FEEL THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF THE WORD MODEL APPLIES TO THE TEAM. THAT IS, A SMALL IMITATION OF THE REAL THING. (PAUSE)

THIS ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES NOT IN PEOPLE, BUT IN SLOGANS -- WHICH BELIEVES NOT IN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT, GOOD SLOGANS LEADING TO THE GOVERNMENT, NOR FAIR GOVERNMENT, REAGANOMICS HAS SIMPLY GIVEN US WRONG ANSWERS TO WRONG QUESTIONS -- IN FACT REAGANOMICS IS SIMPLY WRONG.
WRONG? -- WELL, FOR ONE THING, THE NUMBERS SIMPLY DON'T ADD UP. REAGAN WANTS TO:

1. Cut taxes
2. Cut programs
3. Spend $1.5 trillion dollars in defense over the next 5 years.

AND, BALANCE THE BUDGET! THE ARITHMETIC IS NOT THERE.


BUT REAGANOMICS IS ALSO WRONG BECAUSE IT IS A "CYNICAL AND MEAN-SPRITED PROGRAM." IT PROVIDES A MASSIVE TRANSFER OF WEALTH FROM MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS TO THE VERY RICH. JUST LOOK AT IT. THE REAGAN TAX CUTS GIVES TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL TAX DEDUCTION TO THE UPPER ONE-THIRD OF AMERICAN TAXPAYERS.

THE REAGAN BUDGET CUTS TAKE DOLLARS AWAY FROM EDUCATION, RURAL ELECTRIC LOANS, MDDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY — ALL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS AND THOSE THAT ARE VITAL TO A CIVILIZED SOCIETY.

REAGAN'S HIGH INTEREST RATES TAKE DOLLARS FROM THE AVERAGE AMERICAN TRYING TO BUY A HOUSE OR A CAR AND GIVE THESE DOLLARS TO THE WEALTHY WHO EARN EVERMORE BY LENDING THEM AT SUCH HIGH RATES.
I am reminded of Abraham Lincoln's phrase: "Of the people, by the people, and for the people." This administration has somehow twisted it around. Government will be of the rich, by the rich and for the rich. Government of the few, by the few and for the few.

And because Reagonomics is wrong, it is in trouble. What David Stockman forgot to figure into his calculator is the heart and soul of the American people. America is like a sleeping giant, now waking up and beginning to realize this administration's programs are not right and will not work.

(PAUSE)

That's the bad news, but for we Democrats, it is also the good news. And it's why tonight I feel we have cause for hope. For the opportunity is there for us to do what we do best---speak out for and stand up for the common man and woman. The working man and woman. It is a time for us to insure that their problems are heard and their dreams fulfilled.

For we Democrats are not a people of despair, but a people of hope. Ours is the party of FDR, of JFK. Ours is the party of the future.
CONCLUSION

JUST THIS WEEK I PICKED UP A COPY OF A NEW BOOK, *THE BATTLE FOR BUTTE* WHICH SPEAKS OF THE STRUGGLE TO SAVE BUTTE FROM THOSE WHO WOULD EXPLOIT IT. WELL TODAY, THE STAKES ARE NOT ONLY ARE WE BATTLING FOR BUTTE, BUT INDEED MUCH HIGHER. WE ARE BATTLING FOR MONTANA AND THE NATION. AS ALWAYS, ONLY COURAGEOUS, DEEPLY HUMAN EFFORT WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FUTURE OF DESPAIR, OR ONE OF PROMISE.

WELL TONIGHT, WE STAND FOR PROMISE, AND I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DREAM DREAMS, AND TOGETHER, WE TAKE THE RISKS TO MAKE THEM COME TRUE.
WE DEMOCRATS WILL NOT STAND BY UNTIL REAGANOMICS DRIVES THIS COUNTRY INTO AN ECONOMIC DITCH. WE WILL NOT TOLERATE PRIORITIES WHICH ALLOW A FREE DEDUCTIBLE LUNCH FOR CORPORATE EXECUTIVES AND A SQUIRT OF KETCHUP FOR SCHOOL KIDS.

AND SO WE DEMOCRATS ARE AT WORK NOW ON WAYS TO GET OUR ECONOMY BACK ON COURSE. BUT WE WON'T DO IT WITH SLOGANS. WE'LL DO IT WITH VISION, HEART AND HARD WORK. AND WE WILL DO IT MINDFUL OF THE WORDS OF ADALAI STEVENSON WHO SAID, "LET'S TALK SENSE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ... LET'S TELL THEM THE TRUTH. THERE ARE NO GAINS WITHOUT PAIN. WE ARE ON THE EVE OF GREAT DECISIONS, NOT EASY DECISIONS."

As in the past, so too in the future, our future will be much the same as our past. Ours is the party of hope, optimism, and a steady belief in human beings and the future. In fact, nearly every major problem which has touched this country has been solved by democrats.

-- in the 1960's, we worked to provide social justice.

-- in the 1970's, we forged policies to preserve our energy independence.

-- and now we stand on the threshold of the 80's and let me assure you, the future is ours.

That people like you all across this land are working on solutions.

Democrats at this table are hard at work. John has taken the lead on high interest rates. Pat has pushed hard on job programs.

I look at you and I know the fire still burns.