

Jesse Helms' Introduction of Ronald Reagan
After Reagan's Announcement to seek Presidential Nomination

Charlotte, North Carolina
Friday, November 21, 1975

Thank you very much for coming out this morning to welcome Governor Reagan. Isn't it great that, as of yesterday, we have a presidential candidate.

Your presence here today demonstrates Ronald Reagan's immense popularity in North Carolina. He has a strong base of support in our state as he begins his campaign for the Republican Presidential Nomination.

I am proud to be associated with Ronald Reagan in this campaign. I hope you will join me in commitment to exert maximum effort for a Reagan victory at the Republican National Convention and in the general election next November.

Let me reiterate briefly some of the reasons why I believe Ronald Reagan's future of the Republican Party and to the future of America.

I support Ronald Reagan for the Presidency because of my firm belief that dynamic conservative leadership is needed in the White House, if our Nation's basic liberties are to survive.

I am persuaded that the Republican Party can recover from the setbacks of 1974 and again become the majority party in this nation only if it has dynamic and forthright conservative leadership, unwavering and unmistakable.

Ronald Reagan is without question our party's most articulate and exciting conservative spokesman. He has the personal magnetism and the leadership ability to capture the imagination of the American people. He is a man of integrity. He offers to the American people a new thrust of leadership, and an assurance that he is not a part of Washington apparatus. He knows how to say "NO" to those who would lead America into bankruptcy. Ronald Reagan brings a solid record of achievement to his candidacy.

As Governor of California, Reagan proved that conservative principles can and do work in government. He inherited a state government deeply in debt with the largest welfare rolls in the nation a mushrooming state bureaucracy and constantly increasing tax burden.

In proposing conservative solutions to California's massive problems, he faced hostile, liberal legislature.

Nevertheless, Ronald Reagan stood his ground; he sought and received the support of the people of California: and he made his program work.

The day he took office as Governor, the state of California was going into the red by one million dollars a day!! The day he left office he turned over 500 million dollar surplus to his successor.

In the meantime, he sponsored three large tax rebates to the people. He instituted welfare reform which increased assistance to the truly needy, but took the chislers off the welfare rolls and reduced the overall cost of the program. Effective state services to the people increased during his eight years as Governor, but without an increase in the number of state employees.

Isn't this what we need in Washington!!

Ronald Reagan can win the 1976 Presidential Election. He is a proven winner. And his record as Governor of a state of 20 million people proves that he knows how to get things done.

A year or so ago, I spoke to a large gathering of conservatives in Washington. The title of my speech was "Let's Go Back to A Two-Party System." I said then, and I say candidly to you now, that the Republican Party's hope for survival and success lies in our giving the people of America an unmistakable alternative tot the empty promises and philosophical failures of the other party.

Most importantly, I think we must show the people that we want to participate in a spiritual rebirth all across this state, all across this nation.

For too many years, the leadership of this nation has attempted to make a god of government. It hasn't worked for the Democrats, and it won't work for us.

Ronald Reagan knows that. He will "talk sense" to the American people. HE will not pretend to have easy or instant solutions to our problems, because there aren't any easy or instant solutions.

But if America will stand for principle, and return to her fundamental principles of responsibility and integrity, America can resume her place of honor and moral leadership.

Ronald Reagan offers to lead this land in the direction. He is prepared to stand up for principles that deserve to survive.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Let's stand with him!