

of my willingness to speak clearly and independently on the issues. But, I feel the issues must be addressed specifically. The times are simply too difficult, too dangerous for candidates not to make clear where they stand or how they intend to approach our problems.

Let me give you three examples of how I stand on the issues:

Energy

Now is the time to consider a higher gasoline tax. A 50-cent-a-gallon "energy conservation tax" on all motor fuels could reduce our gasoline consumption by 5-10%, saving up to three-quarters of a million barrels of fuel per day for more critical uses like home-heating oil and reducing our dependence on foreign supplies.

Safeguards for the needy, elderly and business use of motor fuel would have to accompany any hike in the gasoline tax. These could include:

- (1) Using the proceeds of the tax to reduce Social Security payroll taxes and increase Social Security benefits; and,
- (2) Allowing tax credits for those businesses unfairly penalized.

Of course, there would be some gas-consuming Americans who would "suffer" from such a tax. Consider, however, the alternatives: longer gas lines, uncertain fuel supplies, less heating oil, higher prices, ever-rising payroll taxes, more pollution, more traffic congestion and greater dependence on foreign oil.

As a counter to the dominance of the OPEC nations, I propose establishing an Agency for International Energy Development to promote energy exploration and development in Third World non-OPEC nations through low-interest loans or technical assistance.

To further break the stranglehold of OPEC, I urge consideration of a counter-cartel on the part of the major oil-importing nations that would emphasize energy conservation to reduce the demand for oil and implement a joint marketing strategy to give non-OPEC oil preferred access to our markets. This could be accomplished by tariff penalties, a central purchasing authority or agreed upon price ceilings so that downward pressure could be exerted on OPEC oil prices.

Abortion

The high incidence of unwanted pregnancies saddens me. My wife, Keke, and I have five children of our own and relish the rewards and satisfactions of a close family life.

But there are circumstances when it should be possible to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. And, the choice to do so is a matter to be decided by a woman in conjunction with her God and her physician.

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