

CARTER TELEPHONE COMMENTS TO W&L MOCK CONVENTION

I'd like first of all to express my deep appreciation for the confidence that the delegates to the convention have shown in me. The last time I spoke to this group was in 1972, when I was the keynote speaker at the Washington and Lee convention.

As all of you know, this has been a very long and an encouraging campaign process for me. I've never skipped a state; I've been in all of them. I've never avoided an opponent; I've faced them all. I have never evaded an issue; I've tried to face them frankly. And this expression of your confidence in me as ^{the} nominee of our party is a very gratifying experience indeed.

I've formed a close personal relationship throughout the last 16 or 17 months of campaigning with the voters of this nation. I've detected within our people a deep pride in our country, a realization of what it is -- and also a further realization of what it can be. We've got a strong nation. Economically, we have

never been weak. Our political system is the best on earth, Richard Nixon hasn't hurt it; Watergate hasn't hurt it; the Vietnam and Cambodia wars even did not hurt it. The CIA revelations did not hurt our system of government. It's still the greatest on earth, and our people, of course, are our greatest resource of all.

We've been hurt in recent years with the embarrassments in the apologies and shame that have resulted when our people have been separated from our government itself. And I hope the intimacy that has been built up between myself and the voters of this country in constant campaigning throughout this nation can be carried over into the White House if and when I am successful in November.

I'd like to ask all of you delegates now who have expressed your confidence in me so deeply and so clearly to participate fully in the other political campaigns of this year, and to join with me in making our nation what it ought to be, and making our government -- simply said -- as good as our people are. Thank you very much for your confidence; I'll try to live up to your expectations and never disappoint you.

(Q from Reed Morgan, Mock Convention co-chairman: Governor

Carter, do you take this Mock Convention to be a good sign for you?)

Yes, it certainly is. I'm surrounded now by, I'd say, 35 or 40 national news correspondents; all of the networks are here (huge cheers from students at W&L). We're now in Grand Island, Nebraska; this morning I was in Omaha, and I'm going from here to Lincoln. Last night I was in Michigan; yesterday I was in Maryland; the night before that I was in New Jersey. This has been the style of my campaign so far, and this development has been very encouraging to me indeed. I'm going to try to live up to your expectations of me -- and maybe exceed them by winning on the first ballot at the convention in New York, instead of on the second ballot.