

**Why Not the Best? Info, 11/76**

Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: 1976 Campaign Transition File;  
Folder: Why Not the Best? Info, 11/76; Container 3

To See Complete Finding Aid:

[http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/Staff\\_Secretary.pdf](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/Staff_Secretary.pdf)

202-797-  
6292

*Greg -*  
*J*

TO JC

FROM MAXIE

NOVEMBER 19, 1976

AT BOB LIPSHUTZ'S SUGGESTION, JOHNNY GODWIN FROM BROADMAN CALLED ME TODAY. HE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION FOR THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF WHY NOT THE BEST?:

1) IN AUGUST HE SUGGESTED THAT AN UPDATE CHAPTER BE ADDED, BUT THERE WAS NEVER ANYONE AUTHORIZED TO WRITE IT. HE SUGGESTS THAT IT CAN BE DONE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- A) YOU WRITE IT YOURSELF (BUT IT MUST BE COMPLETED SOON IN ORDER TO GO TO THE PRINTERS)
- B) ROSALYNN WRITE IT
- C) YOU DESIGNATE SOMEONE TO WRITE IT (SUCH AS PAT)
- D) GODWIN WRITE IT (HE WOULD NEED TO INTERVIEW YOU IN ORDER TO DO THIS)

*done*

WHICH DO YOU PREFER?

2) THE INAUGURAL EDITION WILL BE A SPECIAL HARDBACK EDITION WITH A NEW COVER AND OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES, BUT HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE REALLY SPECIAL, LIMITED EDITION, NUMBERED COPIES FOR SELECT FRIENDS, RELATIVES, ETC. IF YES, HOW MANY?

*720*

3) HE ALSO NEEDS A SIGNATURE TO REPRODUCE FOR COVER; PAPER ATTACHED.

Epilogue

Nov 20, 1976

After ~~30~~<sup>thirty</sup> primaries, ~~twenty-two~~<sup>twenty-two</sup> months of campaigning, almost 500,000 miles of travel around our nation, a

Democratic

~~I wrote this book at the beginning of a long and sometimes difficult campaign.~~ ~~long campaign~~ ~~This tremendous effort~~

~~The election is~~ ~~now~~ over and I have been elected President of the United States. It has not been an easy ~~two years~~ campaign, but there has never been a time when I thought I would lose. The people of America have received me and my family well, with friendship and support. Tens of thousands of volunteers joined us ~~during this~~ and worked with us during ~~this~~ <sup>the primaries and the general election</sup> last two years. I have traveled ~~about~~ <sup>almost</sup> one-half million miles, entered ~~thirty~~ <sup>about twenty-two thousand</sup> primaries, and made ~~hundreds of~~ speeches, but ~~it~~ has never been an ordeal nor have we ever considered it to be a sacrifice. All of us have learned a lot about our country, and love and respect it more than ever.

~~Many~~ <sup>Several</sup> books have been written about me, and others ~~will~~ are now being published about our campaign. I do not intend to write such a book, ~~although~~ <sup>(at this time)</sup> ~~a book of my spee~~ <sup>except</sup> from my speeches will be published

A: I wrote <sup>this book</sup> "~~Why Not the Best~~" at the beginning of what I knew would be a long and sometimes difficult campaign for the Presidency. That campaign is over now and I have been successful. It has not been an easy two years but I never became discouraged because I never lost faith in either the political process or the people of this country.

soon.

Historic <sup>political</sup> events have occurred, but  
the basic themes which I expressed <sup>when</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>writing</sup>  
<sup>early chapters of</sup> this book two years ago have changed  
very little. My acceptance speech at  
the Democratic convention is a good  
summary of my feelings about our  
country and its future. It is an  
appropriate epilogue to Why Not the Best?

(Acceptance Speech)

Jimmy Carter  
November 20, 1976

## EPILOGUE

I WROTE THIS BOOK AT THE BEGINNING OF WHAT I KNEW WOULD BE A LONG AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY. THAT CAMPAIGN IS OVER NOW AND I HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. IT HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY TWO YEARS BUT I NEVER BECAME DISCOURAGED BECAUSE I NEVER LOST FAITH IN EITHER THE POLITICAL PROCESS OR THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA HAVE RECEIVED ME AND MY FAMILY WELL, WITH FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS JOINED AND WORKED WITH US DURING THE PRIMARIES AND THE GENERAL ELECTION. I HAVE TRAVELED ALMOST ONE-HALF MILLION MILES, ENTERED THIRTY PRIMARIES, AND MADE ABOUT TWO THOUSAND SPEECHES. BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN AN ORDEAL NOR HAVE WE EVER CONSIDERED IT TO BE A SACRIFICE. ALL OF US LEARNED A LOT ABOUT OUR COUNTRY, AND LOVE AND RESPECT IT MORE THAN EVER.

SEVERAL BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT ME, AND OTHERS ARE NOW BEING PUBLISHED ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN. I DO NOT INTEND TO WRITE SUCH A BOOK, ALTHOUGH EXCERPTS FROM MY SPEECHES WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON.

HISTORIC POLITICAL EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED, BUT THE BASIC THEMES WHICH I EXPRESSED IN EARLY CHAPTERS OF THIS BOOK HAVE CHANGED VERY LITTLE. MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IS A GOOD SUMMARY OF MY FEELINGS ABOUT OUR COUNTRY AND ITS FUTURE. IT IS AN APPROPRIATE EPILOGUE TO WHY NOT THE BEST?.

"MY NAME IS JIMMY CARTER . . . . (ACCEPTANCE SPEECH)."

NOVEMBER 20, 1976