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THE COST OF CARTER

Both the election returns and the polls this year show that the voters want less government and lower taxes, that they are dis illusioned with the liberal dogma that Washington, D.c., can solve all social problems, and that they understand the close connection between Federal deficits and inflation.

Neither the writers of the Democratic Party Platform nor can diJate Jimmy Carter appear to have gotten the message. Their social pro s will aggravate not alleviate the oppressive burden of bureaucracy and taxes. They add up to what has been called the "Southern Fried Great Society."

A decade ago, President Lyndon Johnson made a valiant effort to keep his budget below $100 billion. He was afraid of the political repercussions if the cost of his Great Society programs burst throuih that magic ceiling. If Carter carries out the promises in the Democratic Platforf, he will have trouble keeping the b dget under a sky-high ceiling of $500 billion.

The Kennedy-Corman National Health Insurance Bill is estimated to cost 73 to 79 billion dollars in the first year and require 275,000 to 350,000 additional government employees. The Humphrey Hawkins Full Employment Bill will cost 9 to 28 billion dollars in the first year and require 200,000 to 600,000 additional government employees. The federalization of welfare will cost 23 to 29 billion dollars during the first year and equire 10,000 to 20,000 additional government employees.

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t adds up to an additional Federal deficit during the first ye 1· Carter's administration of 105 to 136 billion dollars And 455,000 to 990,000 additional government employees -- all on top of our current deficit and runaway bureaucracy. By the immutable law of government spending, all the programs are bound to cost more in later years than the original estimates.

Such acceleration in Federal spending and bureaucracy would be completely consistent with Jimmy Carter's record as Governor of Georgia. Since some people have perceived both Carter and Ronald Reagan as anti-Washington candidates, it is interesting to compare their fiscal mi<'\. penrnnnel rccoras as chi e.;· administrators in their own s tntes.

Both men were Governors during the four years from 1970 to 1974. During ttat period of inflation, the national average for spending by all state governments inflated 55 1ccnt. The inflotiou figure for California under Governor Ronald Reagan was eleven points below t,hat, or ft percent, while t.hE iaflr,tion :figure for Georgia nncler Governor Jimmy Carter was 66 percent -- eleven points higher than the national average end 22 points higher thau Califo1nia.

Now let's compare the figures on the rise in state gover1Ment amployees eur1ng the snac pertod 1970-74. The national average of state government eml)l oyees showeri a rise of 211 pir.n-cent. Calif'or·r.\it• u:mJcr l overno1· Reagan was ten poi.nts below that, or 14 percm1t. Ccori:::.,i..: u:nc.er Governor C.::-ffte:c was 35 pere mt -- el IJVf.m points higher thou the national average and 21 points higher than California.

It is tine that the voters take a long, close look at the politicians who promise now and make us all pay later. The voters '":io,, 1,1 figu:re out. t1Hi cost of rrny ne"r '>7H!11.ft:nr; ;_:,,ropo9al, and +,1v?·r!. il&k whether it is worth the price.

The next question is, is the politician himself worth what he will cost us in additional taxes?

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