

carte blanche to do and say what I think is necessary, I would probably go. But I want those people who had contacted me, and I'll be able to send them a copy of the transcription of what I am saying here, not to circulate petitions or do anything else to indicate that I ought to be a part of this operation. I did tell them something very frankly also, that the selection will be made by somebody in this Legislature and it is clear that I don't enjoy very much status among the people in this body. As a matter of fact, I am the Rodney Dangerfield of the Legislature. The only ones I seem to get respect from are those people at large who need help and can't get it from their representative that they sent down here to the Legislature. So I'm not going to go to that trip. I've got to say what I would never have the opportunity to say in a presidential election. If nominated, I will not run, if elected, I will not serve. But I wanted it to be crystal clear why it is that I'm not going. And, to be frank with you, I don't think anything is going to be achieved at all. Those people in Washington are very savvy. When David Stockman said, in the Atlantic Monthly, that the way to handle the farm community is to get all of the commodity groups fighting each other, fragment them and then they'll get nothing, and there was no outcry from Nebraska because Ronald Reagan was the President and his being President stopped the mouths of the republicans, the democrats, the urban and the rural senators and not a whisper came from this state as a result of what Stockman said the Reagan administration's policy would be. I didn't see Virginia Smith look like Phyllis Diller because she was so outraged that she couldn't restrain herself. I didn't hear great rumblings of outrage from Exon, from Bereuter, from any of the rest of them. Maybe they did say something in the polite way that things are said in Washington when you are making a statement that has to be made for consumption back home but which is not designed to deal with the issue. So I'm going to sit back here and watch and when the troop comes back from Washington, and it becomes the source of satirical comment because it didn't do anything, did not insist on anything, was not ready to kick down doors, if necessary, I'm going to say, I told you. Now that ought to be enough incentive for you to prove me wrong. The only way you can do it is to go back there and do something and come back with some scalps attached to your cowboy boots, or wherever you attach scalps.