General Information

Source: NBC Today Show  Resource Type: Video News Report
Creator: Jane Pauley  Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Event Date: 07/07/1992  Copyright Date: 1992
Air/Publish Date: 07/07/1992  Clip Length 00:02:54

Description

A montage of Presidential candidates' nomination acceptance speeches from JFK, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Carter and Bush, with analysis of why these speeches so often sound so much alike.

Keywords


Citation

MLA
"Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speeches." Jane Pauley, correspondent. NBC Today Show.
Transcript
Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speeches
JANE PAULEY, anchor:

One week from tonight, the Democrats' convention will be under way. It will be interesting to see if the nominees' acceptance speeches can generate excitement in this cranky and cynical election year. Especially since the speeches tend to have a ring of familiarity to them.

President JOHN F. KENNEDY: Fellow Democrats.
President RICHARD M. NIXON: My fellow Americans.
President GERALD FORD: Delegates and alternates to this Republican Convention.
President RONALD REAGAN: I accept your nomination.
President JIMMY CARTER: I accept it in the words of John F. Kennedy...
President KENNEDY: Without reservation and with only one obligation.
President GEORGE H. W. BUSH: To stand on the issues, and I mean to win.

PAULEY: They pay tribute to our diversity.

Pres. REAGAN: Only in the United States is there such a rich mixture of races, creeds, and nationalities.
Pres. CARTER: The elderly and the poor, people of every race and every background and every walk of life.
Pres. BUSH: The Knights of Columbus, the Grange, Haddasa, the disabled American veterans, the Order of Aheppa, the Business and Professional Women of America, the Union Hall, the Bible Study Group, Lulac, Holy Name.

PAULEY: They tend to run against government.

Pres. CARTER: It's time for the people to run the government and not the other way around.
Pres. NIXON: It is time to have power go back from Washington to the states and to the cities of this country.
Pres. REAGAN: Indeed, it is time our government should go on a diet.

PAULEY: And it wouldn't be politics if they didn't talk about taxes.
Pres. FORD: I am against the big tax spender and for the little taxpayer.
Pres. CARTER: All my life I've heard promises about tax reform, but it never quite happens.
Pres. REAGAN: A phased reduction of tax rates would go a long way towards easing the heavy burden on the American people.
Pres. BUSH: And I'm the one who will not raise taxes.
PAULEY: And finally, the wakeup call. It's always nighttime in America.
Pres. NIXON: My fellow Americans, the long dark night for America is about to end.
Pres. CARTER: If we succumb to a dream world, then we'll wake up to a nightmare.
Pres. FORD: My fellow Americans, I said our long national nightmare is over.
PAULEY: Well, then the whole show may seem like a bad dream this year--the bad mood we're all in, you know. And the speeches could well sound like the same old, same old.
But, on the other hand, that's kind of the point, that every four years, someone stands up and recites the values, broadly put, that we all hold dear. It's almost what binds us together.
STONE PHILLIPS, co-host:
And if the substance doesn't separate them, certainly the style does. I mean, they are a veritable melting pot of deliveries, aren't they--to look at them?
PAULEY: Well, the question is, will you stir the people or tranquilize them? That remains to be seen.