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Seattle Rally Speech

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SEATTLE RALLY SPEECH
AUGUST 16, 1984

HORACE GREELEY WAS RIGHT WHEN HE WROTE THOSE FAMOUS WORDS: "GO WEST, YOUNG WOMAN, GO WEST."

WELL MAYBE THOSE WEREN'T HIS EXACT WORDS. BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. WE'VE COME WEST EARLY ... WE'RE COMING HERE OFTEN ... AND WE'RE COMING HERE TO WIN.

I WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION: CAN MONDALE AND FERRARO CARRY THE STATE OF WASHINGTON? YOU BET WE CAN.

CAN WE BEAT RONALD REAGAN? YOU BET WE CAN.

CAN WE GIVE AMERICA THE LEADERSHIP THIS COUNTRY DESERVES AND THE WORLD EXPECTS? YOU BET WE CAN.

* * *

I'VE LOVED THIS TRIP THROUGH CALIFORNIA AND OREGON AND NOW THIS TREMENDOUS WELCOME IN SEATTLE.

EVERYWHERE I'VE GONE THIS WEEK I FEEL AN EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR.
THERE IS AN ENTHUSIASM, AN ENERGY, A SENSE OF HOPE THAT OLD BARRIERS ARE COMING DOWN AND NEW DOORS ARE OPENING UP.

AND THIS CAMPAIGN IS ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

IT'S ABOUT THE SENIOR CITIZENS I MET WITH IN SACRAMENTO WHO ARE AFRAID OF A SICKNESS THEY CAN'T AFFORD ... A MEDICAL BILL THEY CANNOT PAY.

IT'S ABOUT THE CRIME VICTIMS I MET WITH IN LOS ANGELES WHO ASK ONLY, THAT HAVING BEEN VICTIMS ONCE, THEY NOT BE VICTIMS AGAIN OF AN UNCARING SYSTEM.

IT'S ABOUT WORKING PEOPLE I MET WITH --- FROM THE SILICON VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA TO THE SHEET METAL WORKERS HERE IN SEATTLE --- WHO SEE DEFICITS PUSHING UP INTEREST RATES AND THREATENING THEIR JOBS.

AND THE MESSAGE I HEAR FROM ALL THESE AMERICANS IS THAT IT'S TIME TO CHANGE AMERICA'S DIRECTION -- TO STOP BORROWING FROM OUR FUTURE AND START BUILDING OUR FUTURE ... TO STOP LOOKING BACK AND START LOOKING AHEAD.
THE MESSAGE I HEAR IS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT NEW LEADERSHIP — THE LEADERSHIP OF FRITZ MONDALE AS PRESIDENT AND GERRY FERRARO AS VICE-PRESIDENT.

* * *

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OUT OF STEP WITH THE AMERICAN TRADITION.

EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT HAS BELIEVED IN HIS HEART IN SOCIAL SECURITY BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE TEDDY ROOSEVELT HAS PROTECTED AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT FOR TOMORROW INSTEAD OF EXPLOITING IT FOR TODAY, BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE JOHN KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSON HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE. BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE WOODROW WILSON — WHO ADVANCED THE IDEA OF FARM PARITY — HAS KNOWN THAT OUR NATION CAN'T PROSPER IF FARMERS DON'T PROSPER. BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.
EVERY PRESIDENT WHO WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAS CARED ABOUT THE AVERAGE FAMILIES OF THIS COUNTRY -- LIKE THE LOGGERS AND FISHERMEN AND MACHINISTS OF WASHINGTON -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

AND NO PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE HAS HAD A CAVALIER ATTITUDE ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR --- UNTIL RONALD REAGAN.

THEY MAY JOKE ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR IN THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE, OUR ADVERSARIES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND OUR PEOPLE HERE AT HOME ARE NOT LAUGHING.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T WANT BAD JOKES ABOUT WAR. THEY WANT SERIOUS PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T WANT A NEW ARMS RACE IN SPACE. THEY WANT TO END THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE HERE ON EARTH.

AND IF THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T STOP EXCHANGING INSULTS AND START EXCHANGING NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS, THEN IT'S TIME TO EXCHANGE THIS ADMINISTRATION FOR ONE THAT WILL.

*   *   *   *   *
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TROUBLED BY
SOMETHING ELSE IN 1984. THEY'RE TROUBLED BECAUSE
WE'RE CHEATING ON ANOTHER PART OF AMERICA'S LEGACY.
THE PRINCIPLE OF FAIRNESS.

WHEN AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS BUILT ON
THROWING PEOPLE OUT OF WORK FIRST AND THEN FINANCING
A RECOVERY WITH HUGE DEFICITS NEXT, IS THAT PLAYING FAIR?

WHEN SIX MILLION MORE PEOPLE SLIDE INTO POVERTY SINCE THIS ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE BUT THEY CALL THE RECOVERY A SUCCESS, IS THAT PLAYING FAIR?

WHEN OUR GOVERNMENT TRIES TO SUPPORT SEGREGATED SCHOOLS WITH OUR TAX DOLLARS, BUT CUTS LOANS TO SEND OUR CHILDREN TO COLLEGE, IS THAT PLAYING FAIR?

WHEN SOCIAL SECURITY FOR OUR OLDER AMERICANS IS SEEN AS RIPE FOR PICKING, BUT NINETY SIX HUNDRED DOLLAR AIR FORCE WRENCHES COME AS A BIG SURPRISE, IS THAT FAIR?

WELL, I DON'T THINK SO EITHER.
I BELIEVE AMERICANS WANT THEIR GOVERNMENT TO PLAY
BY ONE SET OF RULES FOR EVERYBODY.

AMERICANS WANT PROSPERITY, BUT NOT JUST FOR
SOME. THEY WANT A PROSPERITY THAT IS SHARED BY ALL.

AMERICANS WANT THE STRONGEST DEFENSE IN THE
WORLD, BUT THEY ALSO KNOW THAT IT MUST BE BUILT ON THE
MOST COMPETITIVE ECONOMY IN THE WORLD.

AND AMERICANS WANT THEIR LEADERS TO STOP
TALKING GIBBERISH AND START TALKING SENSE ABOUT WHAT
NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BRING THESE RUNAWAY DEFICITS
UNDER CONTROL.

WE'VE HAD EVERYTHING BUT STRAIGHT TALK FROM
THIS ADMINISTRATION ABOUT HOW THEY'RE GOING TO BRING
THESE $200 BILLION DEFICITS UNDER CONTROL.

INSTEAD WHAT WE'VE HAD IS THE FIRST TWO
DEBATES OF THE 1984 CAMPAIGN.

FIRST, MR. REAGAN DEBATED MR. BUSH.
MR. REAGAN SAID THEY WOULDN'T RAISE TAXES. MR. BUSH
SAID THEY MAY.
IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE I'M PARTIAL TO VICE-PRESIDENTS, 

NOW IN THAT DEBATE, I BELIEVE MR. BUSH.

THEN MR. REAGAN DEBATED MR. REAGAN.
HE SAID THAT WHILE HE HAS NO PLANS TO RAISE TAXES, 
HE MIGHT ANYWAY.

NOW IN THAT DEBATE, I DON'T KNOW WHO 
TO BELIEVE.

WHY ALL THE DANCING AROUND? AMERICANS 
KNOW HOW TO ADD AND SUBTRACT. IF DEFICITS ARE BAD 
FOR INTEREST RATES AND TRADE, THEN LET'S REDUCE 
THEM. IF REDUCING DEFICITS TAKES MORE TAXES, THEN 
LET'S RAISE THEM. AND IF OUR LEADERS WON'T LEVEL 
WITH US, THEN LET'S REPLACE THEM.

AND BY THE WAY, WHEN THE REPUBLICANS GET 
DONE DEBATING THEMSELVES, I WANT THEM TO DEBATE 
US -- MONDALE AGAINST REAGAN AND FERRARO AGAINST 
BUSH.

LET'S DEBATE AMERICA'S FUTURE. AND I BELIEVE 
WASHINGTONIANS WANT THAT DEBATE TO BEGIN. FOR IF 
THERE IS A STATE IN THE UNION THAT LOOKS TO THE 
FUTURE, IT IS THIS STATE.
BECAUSE WASHINGTONIANS UNDERSTAND SOMETHING THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T: IT'S NOT RIGHT TO BETRAY THE LEGACY OF OUR PARENTS BY BREAKING THE PROMISE TO OUR CHILDREN.

IT'S NOT RIGHT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW IT'S NOT RIGHT. AND THAT'S WHY ON NOVEMBER 6TH THEY WILL REJECT THE POLICIES OF BUY NOW AND PAY LATER, OR ARM NOW AND NEGOTIATE LATER, OF RHETORIC FOR SCHOOLS NOW AND EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOOLS LATER, OR BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENTS NOW AND BALANCED BUDGETS LATER.

THE TIME TO BUILD IS NOT LATER. IT IS NOW.

THE TIME TO PUT ALL AMERICANS BACK TO WORK IS NOT LATER, IT IS NOW.

THE TIME FOR PAY EQUITY FOR WOMEN IS NOT LATER. IT IS NOW.

AND THE TIME TO STOP THE ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. IT IS NOW.
WILL YOU HELP US?

WILL YOU WORK HARD BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY?

* * * * * * *

I KNOW YOU WILL.

I LOVE YOU FOR COMING.

I LOVE YOUR ENTHUSIASM.

NOW LET'S GO ON TO WIN ON NOVEMBER 6TH.