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## Alabama Democratic Conference

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ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

AUGUST 25, 1984

THANK YOU FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.  
IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE WITH THE ALABAMA  
DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE TODAY, AND:

- YOUR OUTSTANDING PRESIDENT, JOE REED;
- SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN;
- MAYOR DICK ARRINGTON; *Rochelle*
- CHAIR OF THE STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, JIMMY  
KNIGHT;
- AND PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF WOMENS'  
CLUBS, ETHEL HALL.

IN THE COURSE OF ONE'S CAREER, A CANDIDATE FOR  
PUBLIC OFFICE IS GRATEFUL TO MANY PEOPLE. BUT MY  
GRATITUDE TO JOE REED IS SPECIAL, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK  
I'D BE <sup>Here</sup> ~~WHERE I AM~~ IF IT WEREN'T FOR JOE REED.

FRITZ MONDALE ASKED ME TO BE HIS RUNNING-MATE BUT  
JOE REED ASKED THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA TO VOTE FOR FRITZ  
MONDALE AND ON MARCH 13, ALABAMA VOTED, AND FRITZ WAS  
ON HIS WAY. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR ENDORSEMENT,  
YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR HELP -- AND NEITHER WILL FRITZ MONDALE.

BUT TOTALLY ASIDE FROM THAT, WHAT THE ADC HAS DONE GOES BEYOND THE NOMINATION OF ANY SINGLE PERSON. YOU HAVE CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY IN THIS STATE. / NOT LONG AGO, / THERE WERE NO BLACK MAYORS IN ALABAMA. / BUT TODAY THERE ARE 29, INCLUDING ONE OF THE BEST LEADERS IN AMERICA, THE SUPERB DICK ARRINGTON.

NOT LONG AGO, / THERE WERE VERY FEW BLACKS ALLOWED TO VOTE IN THIS STATE, / BUT TODAY THERE ARE 409,000 BLACK VOTERS.

NOT LONG AGO, / BLACKS WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, / AND THE LAWS SANCTIONED THAT DISGRACE. / BUT TODAY, BECAUSE OF THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTS LIKE JOHN KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSON / OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION IS OUTLAWED, AND ~~RACISM~~ <sup>BIGOTRY</sup> IS AT LAST BECOMING SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR. /

WE'RE NOT THERE YET -- NOT / BY A LONG SHOT. / ANY NATION / WHICH TOLERATES 50 PERCENT OF ITS MINORITY YOUTH TO BE UNEMPLOYED / IS FAR FROM THE PROMISED LAND. / AND ANY PRESIDENT WHO PRETENDS THAT BLACK AMERICANS ARE BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO / DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PRESIDENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

BUT JUST BECAUSE THINGS AREN'T PERFECT DOESN'T  
 MEAN WE'RE NOT MAKING PROGRESS. / WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. /  
 WE'RE LOWERING BARRIERS AND OPENING DOORS. / WE'RE FORGING  
 A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS AND CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES. / THAT  
 IS WHAT THE ADC HAS BEEN DOING, / AND IT'S WHAT MY CAMPAIGN  
 IS ALL ABOUT. /

IF THERE'S ONE THING ABOVE ALL ELSE THAT THE MONDALE-  
 FERRARO TICKET STANDS ~~FOR~~ / IT'S THE IDEA THAT IN AMERICA  
 EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE WHAT THEY WANT TO  
 BE, / TO GET AHEAD, / AND TO SHARE THE ABUNDANCE OF AMERICAN  
 LIFE. / WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION. / BUT EVEN  
 MORE IMPORTANT, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THE ARGUMENT: THAT  
 THIS COUNTRY BELONGS TO ~~US~~ ALL. of us.

THAT IS THE MESSAGE OF MY CANDIDACY, AND I HEAR  
 ITS ECHO EVERYWHERE I GO. / THERE'S AN ENTHUSIASM, AN  
 ENERGY IN THE AIR, A SPIRIT OF HOPE AND PROMISE.

THIS COUNTRY IS ON THE MOVE. / IT'S CHANGING POLITICALLY. /  
 PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER VOTED IN THEIR LIVES COME UP TO ME  
 AND TELL ME THAT THEY PLAN TO VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME  
 IN 1984.

IT'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICALLY. WOMEN ARE ENTERING THE WORKFORCE. IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS. AND I KNOW ONE PARTICULAR WOMAN WHO PLANS TO ENTER A NEW JOB ON JANUARY 20, 1985.

IT'S CHANGING ECONOMICALLY. AND THE QUESTION IS, CAN WE, LIKE THE STATE OF ALABAMA, ADAPT TO CHANGE, EXPLOIT OUR STRENGTHS, AND FACE THE FUTURE / OR NOT. //

IF ANYONE THINKS THE REPUBLICANS CAN LEAD US TOWARD THE FUTURE, JUST LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAID IN DALLAS ALL LAST WEEK. IT WAS AS IF THE WHOLE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION WERE LOCKED IN A TIME MACHINE WHICH ONLY WENT BACKWARDS. / ALL THEY COULD TALK ABOUT WAS 1980. =

LET ME SAY THIS: I DON'T KNOW WHAT MAKES THEM THINK WE HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE FIRST SOUTHERN PRESIDENT THIS NATION HAS HAD IN ONE HUNDRED YEARS, WHO APPOINTED MORE BLACKS AND WOMEN AND HISPANICS TO THE FEDERAL BENCH THAN ALL PREVIOUS AMERICAN PRESIDENTS COMBINED. /

AMERICANS DON'T WANT TO DEBATE 1980. THEY WANT TO MOVE FORWARD TO 1990. / MOST OF ALL, IN MY OPINION, / THEY WANT TO ACT ON A FEW CRUCIAL GOALS. /

FIRST, JOBS. WHEN 200,000 PEOPLE ARE OUT OF WORK IN ALABAMA, IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR OUR PRESIDENT TO BRAG ABOUT THE RECOVERY. / IN MY BOOK, / THE ECONOMY HASN'T RECOVERED / UNTIL WORKERS HAVE RECOVERED THEIR JOBS. /

SECOND, THIS MUST BE THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE, AS THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND SAYS. / I BELIEVE WE MUST STOP INVESTING SO MUCH IN THE ARMS RACE / AND START INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE. /

THIRD, WE MUST CONTROL THESE RUNAWAY DEFICITS. / WITHOUT REDUCING DEFICITS, WE CAN'T GET INTEREST RATES DOWN. / AND WITHOUT LOWER INTEREST RATES, OUR EXPORTS SUFFER, FARMERS GO BROKE, INVESTMENT STOPS, AVERAGE FAMILIES CAN'T BUY, AND WORKERS GET LAID OFF. / RESTORING SENSIBLE BUDGET POLICIES / IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO TO RESTORE HEALTHY ECONOMIC GROWTH. /

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO REDUCE DEFICITS. ONE IS TO RESTRAIN SPENDING / AND THE OTHER IS TO BRING IN MORE REVENUES. / WALTER MONDALE IS COMMITTED TO BOTH, / AND RONALD REAGAN WON'T DO EITHER. /

I WOULD LIKE TO STAND HERE AND SAY THAT THE MONDALE-FERRARO ADMINISTRATION WILL INVEST IN ALL THE DECENT, NECESSARY CAUSES WHICH YOU AND I BELIEVE IN, BUT I CAN'T -- BECAUSE WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.

OF COURSE, FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL LAUNCH A NEW NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION. WE'LL PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY. WE'LL STOP THE MEAN BUDGET CUTS ~~IN MEDICARE~~.

I AM NOT SEEKING THE VICE PRESIDENCY SO THAT I CAN HELP PRESIDE OVER THE DESTRUCTION OF PROGRAMS THAT HELP THE VERY YOUNG, <sup>the disadvantaged</sup> AND THE OLD.

*just so I could help those people. I got into politics*

BUT

/ WE MUST RESTRAIN FEDERAL SPENDING UNTIL DEFICITS ARE UNDER CONTROL. AND WE MUST LEVY TAXES MORE FAIRLY. LAST YEAR, SOME 90,000 PROFITABLE CORPORATIONS PAID NOTHING IN TAXES. EVERYONE MAKING \$200,000 OR MORE GOT BACK ENOUGH TO BUY TWO LINCOLN CONTINENTALS FROM REAGAN'S TAX CUTS.

BUT IF YOU'RE A TEACHER OR STEEL WORKER IN ALABAMA, MAKING LESS THAN \$30,000, / YOU DIDN'T GET BACK ENOUGH TO BUY A HUBCAP. /

THAT'S NOT FAIR. / WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT AVERAGE AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES STOP PAYING MORE / SO THE RICH CAN PAY LESS.

WE'LL ALSO LEVEL WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. / NOT  
 LONG AGO, MR. REAGAN SAID HE WOULDN'T RAISE TAXES. / THEN  
 MR. BUSH SAID / THEY WOULD. / THEN / MR. REAGAN SAID THAT /  
 WHILE HE HAD NO PLANS TO RAISE TAXES, HE MIGHT. / AND  
 NOW THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SAYS / THEY WON'T. / *In fact, it*  
*promises 160 B more in tax relief for their rich friends.*

WHY ALL THE DANCING AROUND? / AMERICANS EXPECT  
 STRAIGHT TALK FROM THEIR LEADERS. / IF DEFICITS ARE  
 BAD FOR INTEREST RATES, 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. //

WITH YOUR HELP, / WE'LL CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THIS  
 COUNTRY -- NOT ONLY AT HOME, / BUT ALSO ABROAD. / WE  
 NEED A PRESIDENT WHO EXCHANGES PROPOSALS, / NOT INSULTS,  
 WITH THE SOVIET UNION; / WHO BELIEVES IN NEGOTIATION,  
 INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION; / AND WHO DOES EVERYTHING HE CAN  
 TO FREEZE THE ARMS *race* AND REDUCE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR. //

OF COURSE THE SOVIETS THREATEN US WITH THEIR MASSIVE  
 MILITARY BUILD-UP. OF COURSE, WE MUST RESPOND TO THEIR  
CHALLENGE → BUT INSTEAD OF BUILDING MORE AND MORE NUCLEAR  
 WEAPONS, WHEN WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE WORLD

~~xxx~~ SEVERAL TIMES OVER, WE SHOULD BE INVESTING MORE IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES, IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, IN EQUIPMENT FOR THE RESERVES AND NATIONAL GUARD, AND IN TRAINING. WE NEED TO STRESS READINESS, NOT REDUNDANCY IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

WE ALSO NEED A COMMANDER IN CHIEF WHO CAN MAKE THE TOUGH CHOICES IN MILITARY PROCUREMENT. THIS PRESIDENT NEVER ~~SAW~~ A WEAPON HE DIDN'T LIKE. RIGHT NOW, HE'S BUYING TWO BOMBERS WHEN WE ~~NEED~~ ONLY NEED ONE, AND THREE NEW STRATEGIC MISSILES WHEN WE ONLY NEED TWO. LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS POINT: AT A TIME WHEN WE HAVE DEFICITS OF TWO HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS, WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO CHOOSES CAREFULLY AND SPENDS WISELY.

YESTERDAY, MR. REAGAN WENT BEFORE THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND TOLD THEM ONLY WHAT HE THOUGHT THEY WANTED TO HEAR -- ~~xxx~~ NOT WHAT THEY NEEDED TO KNOW. MANY VETERANS ARE ELDERLY. THEY NEED SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEELS ON WHEELS TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE AND PAY THE RENT. <sup>money to</sup> THEY HAVE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WHOSE PROPER EDUCATION MATTERS AS MUCH AS ANYTHING UNDER THE SUN. <sup>That's who & what they were fighting for.</sup> THESE, TOO, ARE VETERANS' NEEDS. AND THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO MEET THEM IF WE CONTINUE TO WASTE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON REDUNDANT MILITARY SYSTEMS. BUT THIS PRESIDENT DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO TELL THAT TO THE VETERANS.

THIS PRESIDENT DIDN'T HAVE THE CANDOR TO TELL THEM HOW HE HAS BEEN WASTING OUR MONEY. ~~As someone mentioned~~ TODAY, THE PENTAGON IS PAYING ~~\$\$\$~~ <sup>USD</sup> \$1100 FOR PLASTIC STOOL CAPS THAT COST 22 CENTS,

As Senator Hefner method.

\$435 FOR CLAW HAMMERS THAT COST \$17, AND TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A SIMPLE NUT THAT COSTS 13 CENTS.

*Senator*

AT THIS RATE, IF RONALD REAGAN WENT UP TO THE CORNER HARDWARE STORE ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON, HE'D COME BACK WITH A TOOL BOX COSTING HALF A MILLION DOLLARS. AND ~~HE~~ THEN HE'D <sup>Go</sup> ~~COME~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ HOME AND BLAME HIS FISCAL PROBLEMS ON THE COST OF FOOD AND ~~HOUSING~~ HOUSING.

*As you & I know from our vantage point in Washington*

I HAVE NEWS FOR HIM: WHATEVER WE HAVE LOST TO THE FEW DISHONORABLE PEOPLE WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE MILLIONS RIPPED OFF BY DEFENSE CONTRACTORS IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY. I WANT THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE NATIONAL DEFENSE,



BA 12

MR. REAGAN PREACHES LOVE OF COUNTRY, AND I AGREE.  
BUT I SAY, LET'S LOVE OUR COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN, <sup>TOO</sup> LET'S  
HELP FARMERS, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE YOUNG, AND THE OLD.  
LET'S PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK. THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO  
HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG. /

THIS IS THE DIRECTION THAT <sup>/</sup>POINTS TO A STRONGER FUTURE.  
THE TIME TO BEGIN THAT JOURNEY IS NOT LATER. / IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO ENFORCE OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LAW IS NOW LATER.  
IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REDUCE DEFICITS IS NOT LATER. / IT'S NOW. /

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. / IT'S NOW. /

THE TIME TO STOP THE ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. / IT'S NOW. //

THE TIME TO PUT ALABAMA MEN AND WOMEN BACK TO WORK  
IS NOT LATER. IT IS NOW. /

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM RECEPTION TODAY. NOW LET'S  
GO OUT AND REGISTER NEW VOTERS AND WIN THIS ELECTION /  
NOT LATER, BUT NOW.

IN 1984, THE QUESTION BEFORE THIS COUNTRY IS, CAN WE,  
AS THIS STATE HAS DONE, ADAPT TO CHANGE, EXPLOIT OUR STRENGTHS,  
AND FACE THE FUTURE?

IF ANYONE THINKS THE REPUBLICANS CAN LEAD US INTO THE FUTURE, JUST LISTEN TO  
WHAT THEY SAID IN DALLAS ALL LAST WEEK. IT WAS AS IF THE  
WHOLE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION WAS LOCKED IN A TIME MACHINE  
WHICH ONLY WENT BACKWARDS. ALL THEY COULD TALK ABOUT WAS  
1980.

AMERICANS DON'T WANT TO DEBATE 1980. THAT'S THE PAST.  
THEY WANT TO MOVE FORWARD TO 1990. AND THE FUTURE.

LAST WEEK, RONALD REAGAN TOLD THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION  
THAT THIS ELECTION REPRESENTS THE CLEARER CHOICE IN FIFTY  
YEARS. AND HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

IN 1984, WE WILL CHOOSE: DO WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO  
WILL TAKE RISKS FOR PEACE, OR ONE WHO WILL INCREASE THE RISKS  
OF WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND LEBANON. DO WE WANT A PRESIDENT  
WHO WILL EXCHANGE PROPOSALS FOR ARMS CONTROLS, OR ONE WHO WILL  
EXCHANGE ONLY INSULTS AND TAUNTS WITH THE SOVIETS?

IN 1984, WE WILL CHOOSE: DO WE WANT AMERICA TO BECOME A  
MORE FAIR SOCIETY, WITH GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL, OR ARE WE  
GOING TO CONTINUE HAVING A GOVERNMENT OF THE RICH, BY THE RICH,  
AND FOR THE RICH?

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED UNDER THE REAGAN  
ADMINISTRATION, IMAGINE THAT, IN 1980, YOU DIVIDED AMERICANS UP INTO  
FIVE GROUPS, BY INCOME LEVEL, AND THEN WATCHED TO SEE HOW EACH  
GROUP DID.



AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EQUAL RIGHTS ~~XXXXX~~ GUARANTEED UNDER  
THE CONSTITUTION -- and ronald REAGAN DOESN'T.

AND~~X~~BECAUSE FRITZ MONDALE is TOUGH ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH  
THE BUDGET DEFICIT -- AND RONALD REAGAN ISN'T.

WE SIMPLY MUST GET CONTROL OF ~~XXX~~ DEFICITS. WITHOUT  
REDUCING THE DEFICIT, WE CAN'T GET INTEREST RATES DOWN. AND  
WITHOUT LOWER INTEREST RATES, OUR EXPORTS SUFFER, FARMERS  
GO BROKE, INVESTMENT STOPS, AVERAGE FAMILIES CAN'T BUY HOMES,  
AND WORKERS GET LAID OFF.

THERE ARE ONLY ~~X~~ TWO WAYS TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT.  
OEN IS TO RESTRIAN SPENDING -- AND THE OTHERIS TOBRING IN  
MROE REVENUE.

WALTER MOANDLE IS COMMITTED TO BOTH, AND RONALD  
REAGAN WON'T DO ~~WE~~ITHER.

ON STAURDAY, RONALD REAGAN CAME UP WITH A NEW APPROACH  
TO THE DEFICIT ~~XXX~~ PROBLEM. SO FAR, HE HAS TRIED THINGS  
LIKE IGNORING IT, PRETENDING IT WASN'T THERE, HOPING IT WOULD  
GO AWAY, AND, MOST RECENTLY, THE FAMOUS "BLUE SMOKE AND  
MIRRORS" ANGLE.

WHAT HE DID ON SATUBDAY WAS TO DECLARE THAT DEMOCRATS  
~~BY XXXX XXXX XXX XXXXXX XSB ON XXXXXX, XXNE~~  
SHOULD "CLOSE THEIR MOUTHS" FOREVER ON THE ISSUE.  
~~XX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

I CAN'T SAY I REALLY BLAME THE PRESIDENT. NOTHING ELSE  
HE HAS TRIED HAS WORKED. IF I WERE ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ IN HIS POSITION,  
I'D TRY TO GET PEOPLE TO SHUT UP ABOUT THE DEFICIT TOO.