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National Women's Day Speech

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
AMGANSETT, LONG ISLAND
AUGUST 25, 1984

THANK YOU, JUDITH, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.

I FIRST MET JUDITH HOPE WHEN SHE ORGANIZED A WORKSHOP TO TEACH WOMEN HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE. ONLY EIGHT PEOPLE SHOWED UP FOR THAT DAY SIX YEARS AGO. TODAY IF ANYONE DOUBTS THE INTEREST OF WOMEN IN POLITICS, LET THEM COME TO THE EAST HAMPTON WOMEN'S ALLIANCE.

IF ANYONE TODAY STILL DOESN'T TAKE WOMEN SERIOUSLY, LET THEM WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 6TH AND WE'LL SHOW THEM JUST HOW SERIOUS YOU AND I ARE. AND IF ANYONE SAYS IT'S TOO EARLY FOR A WOMAN VICE PRESIDENT, I SAY TO THEM IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO GIVE WOMEN THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY.

SIXTY-FOUR YEARS AGO, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE VOTE. IN 1984 WOMEN WILL ELECT THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SIXTY FOUR YEARS AGO, WOMEN COULDN'T HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE. IN 1984 WE'LL ELECT ONE OF US TO THE NATION'S SECOND HIGHEST OFFICE.

THIS PROGRESS IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR WOMEN: IT'S GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY. EVERY TIME THIS NATION LOWERS ANOTHER BARRIER, OUR SOCIETY IS STRENGTHENED. EACH TIME WE TAP THE TALENTS OF ANOTHER EXCLUDED GROUP, OUR COUNTRY IS STRONGER. AND THE SAME IS TRUE TODAY.

WOMEN BRING TO POLITICS NOT NARROW, PAROCHIAL CONCERNS, BUT A PASSION FOR THE GREAT CAUSES OF OUR TIME, WHEN WE VOTE IN NOVEMBER, WE'RE GOING TO VOTE TO STOP THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND REDUCE THE AWFUL THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR.

WE'LL VOTE TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND DEFEND THE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS PLANET.

WE'LL VOTE TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK, TO REDUCE BUDGET DEFICITS, AND TO ACHIEVE AFFORDABLE INTEREST RATES.

WE'LL VOTE FOR EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN. LET'S STOP SPENDING SO MUCH ON THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND START INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE.

WE'LL VOTE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEX, OR AGE.

AND WITH OUR VOTES, WE'RE GOING TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE PRESIDENT, AND GERRY FERRARO VICE PRESIDENT.

THEN, AFTER ~~WE XXXXXX~~ WE'VE TAKEN OFFICE, I'LL BE PROUD TO SERVE WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WORKS FOR PAY EQUITY, NOT AGAINST IT.

I'LL WORK WITH ALL MY MIGHT TO HELP WORKING WOMEN, POOR WOMEN, AND ELDERLY WOMEN TO SEE THAT THEY HAVE THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED TO PAY THE RENT, BUY FOOD, AND KEEP WARM IN WINTER.

AND THEN, AT THE OUTSET OF MY SECOND TERM, WHEN I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE, I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

THESE ARE GOALS THAT UNITE AMERICAN WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND ~~XXX~~ POLITICAL PERSUASIONS. AND THAT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT. FOR FORTY YEARS, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ENDORSED THE ERA. IN 1920, BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS WORKED TO SECURE THE VOTE FOR WOMEN. JUSTICE IS A BIPARTISAN CAUSE. ALL OF US ARE FOR IT.

4.

BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN. IT WAS REAGAN ~~AND HIS FRIENDS~~
IN ~~THE MORAL MAJORITY~~ WHO REVERSED A GENERATION OF REPUBLICAN
SUPPORT FOR THE ERA. IN ~~ECONOMIXXX~~ ECONOMIC POLICY REAGAN
WANTS TO GO BACK TO THE GOLD STANDARD. AND IN POLITICAL
LIFE HE WANTS TO GO BACK TO THE DOUBLE STANDARD. BUT
WE WILL NOT LET HIM.

SO TO THOSE REPUBLICANS WHOSE CONSCIENCE, HAS BEEN EVICTED
BY THIS RIGHT-WING LANDLORD OF THEIR PARTY, I HOLD OUT
A WELCOME SIGN. TO ALL THOSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN WHO BELIEVE
IN THE ERA, WHO SUPPOORT PAY EQUITY, WHO ARE THRILLED WHEN
AMERICAN WOMEN ~~SXX~~ AS WELL AS MEN WIN GOLD MEDALS, WHO
WANT TO EDUCATE OUR YOUNG GIRLS AS WELL AS OUR YOUNG BOYS
-- I SAY YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN GERRY FERRARO, YOU HAVE A
FRIEND IN FRITZ MONDALE. GIVE US YOUR VOTES THIS NOVEMBER.

5.

BACK IN JUNE, MY DAUGHTER LAURA CELEBRATED HER EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY. AND I GAVE HER TWO PRESENTS. ONE WAS A WALK-MAN. SHE LOVED IT. BUT THE OTHER GIFT, WHICH COST ME NOTHING, WAS FAR MORE VALUABLE, AND FAR MORE LONG-LASTING. IT WAS A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD.

I DID WHAT ANY FAIR, REASONABLE MOTHER WOULD DO. I TOLD LAURA SHE COULDN'T HAVE THE WALK MAN IF SHE DIDN'T SEND IN THE VOTER REGISTRYRATION CARD.

WELL, SHE DID, OF COURSE, THINKING IT WOULD ENTITLE HER TO VOTE FOR GERALDINE FERRARO FOR CONGRESS. LITTLE DID SHE ~~KNOW~~ WE ~~KNOW~~ THAT SHE WOULD BE CASTING HER VERY FIRST VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE FOR PRESIDENT AND GERRY FERRARO FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

TOMORROW, ~~W~~ WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, IS MY BIRTHDAY. AND I WANT YOU, ALL OF YOU, TO GIVE ME A PRESENT THAT WILL COST YOU NOTHING, BUT GAIN YOU A LOT.

I WANT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU WHO HAS NOT YET REGISTERED TO VOTE, TO DO IT, HERE, TODAY, BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

AND I WANT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU WHO IS REGISTERED TO PROMISE ME YOU WILL VOTE THIS ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER

6.

IF YOU DO THOSE TWO THINGS FOR ME, IT WILL BE MY HAPPIEST BIRTHDAY EVER.

IN 1906, ONLY A MONTH BEFORE HER DEATH, AFTER A LIFE-TIME DEVOTED TO WOMENS' ~~XX~~ RIGHTS, SUSAN B. ANTHONY ADDRESSED A WOMENS'S SUFFRAGE CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE. FAILURE, SAID, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, IS IMPOSSIBLE.

SHE WAS RIGHT. FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE TO CHANGE HISTORY. FOR THAT VALUABLE GIFT, I WANT TO THANK YOU. I WANT TO THANK ~~FRITZ~~ FRITZ MONDALE,. AND I WANT TO URGE YOU ~~TO GO OUT~~ ~~TO GO OUT~~ TO GO OUT, AND BEGIN A NEW FUTURE FOR OUR COUNTRY ON NOVEMBER 6.