Iowa City Rally Speech

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IOWA CITY, IOWA

NOVEMBER 1, 1984

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE BACK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

THANK YOU, TOM, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION. I'VE
SERVED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH YOUR GREAT
CONGRESSMAN, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT HE HAS BEEN A LEADER
FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND A FIGHTER FOR AMERICAN JOBS.
AND I'M GOING TO BE PROUD TO SEE HIM IN THE SENATE WHEN
I PRESIDE OVER IT STARTING NEXT YEAR.

YOU KNOW, THE CONSTITUTION SAYS THAT EVERY STATE IS
ENTITLED TO TWO SENATORS. I SAY IT'S TIME IOWA HAD AT LEAST
ONE -- AND TOM HARKIN WILL BE A SENATOR IOWA CAN BE PROUD
OF. AND LET ME ADD, WHEN IT COMES TO CONFIRMING
JUDICIAL NOMINEES, I WANT TOM HARKIN AND I'M HUNT
WORKING WITH ME APPROVING THE NEXT SUPREME COURT, NOT ROGER STARR
OR ROSE HELLMAN.

THE POLLSTERS AND THE PUNDITS HAVE REALLY BEEN
GOING AT IT LATELY. AND AFTER ALL THEIR WORK THEY'VE FINALLY
FOUND OUT WHAT WE'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG -- THE HAWKEYES ARE
GOING TO THE ROSEBOWL.

BUT LET'S HELP THEM OUT WITH SOME OTHER QUESTIONS.
I'M GOING TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY HERE
TONIGHT.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN ON TUESDAY?

I'M ALSO DELIGHTED TO SEE JOE
JOHNSTON, WHO WILL GIVE THE PEOPLE OF
THIS DISTRICT THE KIND OF REPRESENTATION
THEY DESERVE.
ARE WE GOING TO SEND FRITZ MONDALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

YOU BET WE ARE.

THIS ELECTION IS NOT A DUEL BETWEEN PERSONALITIES. YOU CAN LIKE RONALD REAGAN, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO VOTE FOR HIM.

MR. REAGAN MAY BE CHARMING, FUNNY, AND PLEASANT. BUT THERE'S NOTHING CHARMING ABOUT THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA. THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT TOXIC WASTE THAT CAUSES CANCER. AND THERE'S NOTHING PLEASANT ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND MINORITIES.

WE NEED TO LOOK BEYOND THE PERSONALITIES TO SEE THE FOUR GREAT ISSUES FACING US IN THIS ELECTION.

FIRST, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT EDUCATION. AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT EDUCATION UNLOCKS THE DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY. WE KNOW THAT TO GET AHEAD, YOU HAVE TO GET AN EDUCATION.

BUT WHERE WE SEE A NEED TO INVEST IN THE PROMISE OF OUR YOUTH, RONALD REAGAN HAS CUT SCHOOL AID AND SLASHED PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.
RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO SEND A TEACHER INTO SPACE, BUT I SAY WE HAVE TO HELP OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

SECOND, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT PERSONAL FREEDOM. THE EXTREMISTS WHO CONTROL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WOULD IMPOSE A RELIGIOUS TEST ON FEDERAL JUDGES, AND PUT THE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR MOST PERSONAL CHOICES.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL KEEP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND OUT OF OUR HOMES, OUR CHURCHES, AND OUR SYNAGOGUES.

I WANT THE SUPREME COURT CHOSEN BY WALTER MONDALE, NOT JERRY FALWELL.

THIRD, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT. WE WON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF FUTURE WITHOUT THIS PLANET. WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR LAND, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR LIVES FREE FROM TOXIC WASTES. TOO MANY AMERICANS ALREADY MUST WORRY ABOUT THE AIR THEY BREATHE, THE WATER THEY DRINK, AND THE LAND THEY OWN.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON THEM. THEY LEFT TOXIC WASTE DUMPS UNCLEANED, AND FAILED TO HELP LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS REMOVE ASBESTOS FROM SOME 33,000 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
REMEMBER, THIS IS THE ADMINISTRATION THAT GAVE US JAMES WATT ONCE AND ANNE BURFORD TWICE.

THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT UNDER PRESIDENT MONDALE. HE WILL ENFORCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. HE WILL REBUILD THE EPA. HE WILL USE THE SUPERFUND TO CLEAN UP THE MOST DANGEROUS TOXIC DUMPS. AND HE'LL MAKE THE POLLUTERS PAY FOR THE CLEAN UP.

I SAY WE NEED AN ADMINISTRATION THAT TAKES POLLUTERS TO COURT, AND NOT TO LUNCH.

FOURTH, THERE'S NO GREATER AMERICAN PRINCIPLE THAN PEACE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT LIVING UP TO THAT MEANS ENDING THE ARMS RACE.

PRESIDENT REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HOOVER NOT TO MEET WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART. HE IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE NOT TO SIGN AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

I SAY WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL CALL ON THE SOVIET LEADER TO NEGOTIATE ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

WALTER MONDALE AND I ARE COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO NEGOTIATE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE NUCLEAR FREEZE.
LOWERING NUCLEAR STOCKPILES IS NECESSARY. BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH. WE MUST ALSO LOWER TENSIONS AROUND THE WORLD. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS DOING LITTLE TO EASE PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THEY ARE MILITARIZING A SITUATION WHICH SHOULD BE SETTLED BY PEACEFUL MEANS, AND THEY ARE AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT THAT IS PRIMARILY LOCAL. I SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. WE MUST STOP THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT WHEN WE PRESS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WE STRENGTHEN OUR OWN COUNTRY. I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT STOPS TOASTING DICTATORS AND STARTS FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY.

I ALSO WANT A PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO ENDING HUNGER AND PREVENTING STARVATION. RIGHT NOW, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING EACH DAY IN ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE TRAGIC PICTURES AND FELT BAD, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION IS UP AND OUR STOREHOUSES ARE PACKED WITH GRAIN. THAT IS NOT ONLY WASTEFUL, IT IS INDECENT.
NOW, THIS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES A PLAN FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF. BUT THE PROBLEM ISN'T NEW, AND THEY CUT BACK ON FOOD FOR PEACE BY NEARLY 700 MILLION DOLLARS. THEY DIDN'T ACT WHEN EVERYONE SAW THE PROBLEM DEVELOP, AND NOW WE ARE FACED WITH A TRAGEDY.

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SENDS OTHER COUNTRIES FEWER TOOLS FOR WAR, AND MORE FOOD FOR PEACE. THOSE ARE THE FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES. BUT TO BUILD OUR FUTURE, WE MUST DO IT TOGETHER. DIVIDING US INTO "HAVE"S AND "HAVE-NOTS" WON'T STRENGTHEN THIS COUNTRY.

EVERY TIME WE LOWER A BARRIER, OUR NATION IS STRONGER. EVERY TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TALENTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY EXCLUDED, OUR NATION IS RICHER.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL BUILD AN AMERICA THAT JUDGES PEOPLE NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

WE ALSO WANT A COUNTRY THAT KEEPS FAITH WITH WOMEN. WHEN I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR MY SECOND TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT, I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

LET ME STOP AND SAY SOMETHING TO THOSE WHO CHALLENGE ME ABOUT ABORTION. I RESPECT YOUR CONVICTIONS, BUT I JUST WISH FOR ONCE THAT THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE PRO-LIFE WOULD CARE AS MUCH FOR CHILDREN AFTER THEY'RE BORN.
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THESE PRINCIPLES. BUT RECENTLY IT SEEMS LIKE WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW CONVERT. RONALD REAGAN HAS BEEN RIDING HARRY TRUMAN'S TRAIN. A FEW WEEKS AGO HE TOOK PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S PULLMAN CAR OUT OF A MUSEUM TO TRY AND RECREATE THAT PRESIDENT'S FAMOUS WHISTLE-STOP TOUR OF 1948.

THAT TRAIN STUNT DIDN'T FOOL ANYONE. BUT THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT BETTER SYMBOL COULD RONALD REAGAN GIVE US OF HIS ADMINISTRATION: THERE HE WAS, FACING BACKWARDS, WITHOUT A CLUE ABOUT WHO WAS AT THE CONTROLS, OR IN WHAT DIRECTION HE WAS GOING.

WHAT YOU DIDN'T HEAR FROM REAGAN IS WHAT HARRY TRUMAN HAD TO SAY — AND I QUOTE: ANY FARMER WHO VOTES REPUBLICAN SHOULD HAVE HIS HEAD EXAMINED. — I AGREE.

THE FACT IS, RONALD REAGAN HAS GIVEN FARMERS THE WORST FOUR YEARS SINCE THE DEPRESSION. NET FARM INCOME HAS DROPPED BY HALF. FARM EXPORTS HAVE COLLAPSED. FORECLOSURES HAVE TRIPLED, AND 300,000 FARM RELATED JOBS HAVE BEEN LOST.

IN RESPONSE TO THAT SUFFERING, RONALD REAGAN SAYS, LET PROSPERITY "TRICKLE DOWN." WELL, EVEN SOMEONE FROM QUEENS KNOWS THAT CROPS GROW FROM THE GROUND UP.
MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS COUNTRY. MAKE NO MISTAKE: AS DEMOCRATS, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THAT FIGHT.

IF PEOPLE VOTE FOR RONALD REAGAN THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY'RE VOTING TO EXTEND THE ARMS RACE INTO SPACE, AND THEY'RE VOTING TO RETREAT FROM HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT IF YOU WANT TO STOP THE ARMS RACE, PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, INCREASE STUDENT AID, AND SUPPORT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT -- THEN VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE.

THESE GOALS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ARE THE THINGS WE CARE ABOUT AS A NATION. WE CARE ABOUT PEACE, WE CARE ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ONE THING OUR OPPONENTS JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT WE CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER.
WE ALSO CARE ABOUT HAVING THE COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE. WALTER MONDALE PROVED THAT HE HAD THAT COURAGE WHEN HE ASKED ME TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE. BY THAT ONE ACTION HE DID MORE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN A SINGLE DAY THAN RONALD REAGAN HAS DONE IN FOUR LONG YEARS.

THINK OF WHAT THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WOULD BE LIKE IF RONALD REAGAN WERE RE-ELECTED. THEN, THINK OF WHAT OUR FUTURE COULD BE LIKE WITH WALTER MONDALE AS PRESIDENT.

WE'RE NOW IN THE HOME STRETCH OF THIS CAMPAIGN. WE'RE NOT ONLY GOING TO WIN, WE ARE GOING TO PROVE THAT AMERICANS ARE NOT A SELFISH PEOPLE.

WE ARE GOING TO SHOW THAT THE ARMS RACE CAN AND MUST BE STOPPED.

WE ARE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AMERICANS BELIEVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

WE ARE GOING TO PROVE FOR WOMEN, FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED, FOR ALL THOSE COUNTED OUT BEFORE THEIR TALENTS WERE ADDED UP, THAT IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN DO ANYTHING.
AND WE'RE GOING TO PROVE ONE MORE THING: THE POLLS ARE WRONG. SOME PEOPLE SAY THIS ELECTION CANNOT BE WON.

I SAY IT CAN BE. I SAY IT MUST BE. AND I SAY WITH YOUR HELP, IT WILL BE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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