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Garment Center Rally Speech

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THANK YOU, CHICK, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.
I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY THE LAST THREE
MONTHS, AND IT'S BEEN A THRILL. BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU,
EVERY TIME I COME HOME I REMEMBER, I LOVE NEW YORK.

THE POLLSTERS AND PUNDITS HAVE BEEN MAKING THEIR
PREDICTIONS. BUT I'M GOING TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC,
OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT HERE TODAY.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN ON TUESDAY?

ARE WE GOING TO SEND FRITZ MONDALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE
AND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

YOU BET WE ARE.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY. YOUR PARENTS CAME HERE
FROM EVERY CONTINENT TO FIND THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH ONLY
AMERICA PROVIDES. BECAUSE THEY TOOK THAT CHANCE AND WORKED
HARD, WE ARE HERE TODAY. AND NOW, WITHIN A FEW BLOCKS OF
THIS CORNER, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE WORKING TO GAIN A
FOOTHOLD, TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THIS COUNTRY. AND THEY ARE OF EVERY RACE AND RELIGION, BOTH
MEN AND WOMEN.
THAT'S THE AMERICAN STORY, WRITTEN HERE ON THE STREETS OF THIS GREAT CITY, BY THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF IMMIGRANTS. IT'S A STORY THAT MAKES ME PROUD TO BE AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN FROM NEW YORK CITY.

BEING HERE TODAY MAKES ME THINK NOT ONLY OF HOW GREAT THIS COUNTRY IS, BUT ALSO OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME. WHEN I WAS GROWING UP AND MY MOTHER WORKED IN A GARMENT FACTORY, THINGS WERE DIFFERENT. MANY WOMEN HAD TO WORK FOR A LIVING BUT WERE BLOCKED FROM PROFESSIONAL CAREERS. TODAY, ALL THAT IS CHANGING. WOMEN ARE ENTERING THE WORK FORCE IN RECORD NUMBERS.

AND I KNOW ONE PARTICULAR WOMAN WHO PLANS TO ENTER A NEW JOB ON JANUARY 20, 1985.

BUT ALL OUR PROGRESS IS THREATENED BY THIS ADMINISTRATION. THE STAKES IN THIS ELECTION ARE HIGH. THIS CONTEST IS NOT A DUEL BETWEEN PERSONALITIES. YOU CAN LIKE RONALD REAGAN, JUST DON'T VOTE FOR HIM.

MR. REAGAN MAY BE CHARMING, FUNNY, AND PLEASANT. BUT THERE'S NOTHING CHARMING ABOUT THE COVERT WAR IN NIARAGUA. 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 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.

MY MOTHER DIDN'T HAVE THAT CHANCE. SHE WAS A CROCHET READER HERE IN NEW YORK CITY. WHEN I WAS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, I ASKED HER ONCE TO TEACH ME HOW TO PUT BEADS ON A DRESS. FOR TEN MINUTES I WORKED AT IT AND MANAGED TO GET TEN BEADS ON. SHE WATCHED ME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, THEN TOOK THE NEEDLE OUT OF MY HAND AND SAID, "YOU BETTER GO TO COLLEGE OR YOU'LL STARVE TO DEATH."

I DID GO TO COLLEGE AND I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE COMMITMENT OUR COUNTRY HAS MADE TO DECENT EDUCATION. BUT RONALD REAGAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. HE HAS CUT STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND SLASHED PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING. HIS IDEA OF READING MATERIAL IS THE COMIC STRIPS, AND HIS IDEA OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAM IS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO IS A READER, WHO RESPECTS LEARNING AND WHO WILL MAKE THIS THE BEST-EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'LL GET IN FRITZ MONDALE.
SECOND, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT PERSONAL FREEDOM. AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT FREEDOM TO CHOOSE IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. BUT 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 UNECLEANED, 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, WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT.

There's no greater American principle than peace with other countries, and 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.

Peace also requires this nation to stand for human rights.

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 will 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.

I also want an administration which can think of a better jobs program than military recruiters. Some people say the only way to bring back jobs is by bringing unions to their knees—even while they praise the union movement in Poland. We all support Solidarity in Poland. The difference we have with Mr. Reagan is we also support Solidarity and unions here at home.

Some people like to blame workers for our problems. At the height of the recession, Ronald Reagan told the unemployed to check the want ads. The problem was workers don't get all those foreign newspapers where their jobs are now being advertised.
RECENTLY, HE TOOK OUT HARRY TRUMAN'S PULLMAN CAR TO RECREATE TRUMAN'S FAMOUS WHISTLE-STOP TOUR OF 1948. THAT TRAIN STUNT DIDN'T FOOL ANYONE. WORKERS KNOW THAT THERE'S ONE PERSON IN THIS ELECTION WHO STANDS FOR TRUMAN'S IDEALS. AND IT'S NOT RONALD REAGAN. IT'S WALTER MONDALE.

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.

- MORE-
I want an administration that sends other countries fewer tools for war, and more food for peace.

Those are the basic principles. But to build our future, we must do it together. Dividing us into have-nots and haves 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.

When it comes to equal rights, Walter Mondale will be recorded in history not only as one of our greatest Presidents but also as a courageous man, who, when he asked me to be his running mate, did more in a single day than Ronald Reagan has done in four years.
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.

WE'RE GOING TO PROVE THAT AMERICANS ARE NOT A SELFISH PEOPLE. WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THAT THE ARMS RACE CAN AND MUST BE STOPPED. WE'RE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AMERICANS BELIEVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS. AND WE'RE GOING TO PROVE FOR WOMEN, FOR ALL THOSE 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 WITH YOUR HELP, I SAY IT WILL BE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.