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Cleveland Rally Speech, Brooklyn Community Center

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BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CENTER -- CLEVELAND, OHIO

NOVEMBER 5, 1984

THANK YOU, MARY ROSE, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION. YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN BACK TO OHIO AGAIN AND AGAIN SINCE WE BEGAN THIS CAMPAIGN THREE MONTHS AGO, AND ONE OF THE REASONS I KEEP COMING BACK IS MY COLLEAGUE / MARY ROSE OAKAR. / IN MARY ROSE, THE PEOPLE OF BROOKLYN -- AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF OHIO / HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE WHO FIGHTS FOR YOUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY. /

IT'S ALSO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOUR GREAT GOVERNOR, DICK CELESTE, HERE THIS MORNING. / AND I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO MAYOR COYNE OF BROOKLYN, WHO IS GOING TO SWING CUYAHOGA (KAI-A-HO-GA) COUNTY INTO THE DEMOCRATIC COLUMN TOMORROW WITH THE SAME SKILL THAT HE USES TO BUILD THIS GREAT CITY.

NOW I KNOW IT'S STILL A LITTLE EARLY IN THE MORNING -- BUT YOU LOOK LIKE A PRETTY ALERT GROUP TO ME. AND THOUGH THE REAL POLLS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS CHANCE TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN OHIO TOMORROW?

ARE WE GOING TO SEND WALTER 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 CUTTING CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS. THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT TOXIC WASTE THAT CAUSES CANCER. AND THERE'S NOTHING PLEASANT ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND MINORITIES.

TOMORROW, WHEN YOU VOTE, LOOK BEYOND THE PERSONALITIES. AND WHEN YOU STEP INTO THE BOOTH, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL MEAN TO YOUR GENERATION, TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND TO YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

I FEEL A SPECIAL KINSHIP WITH ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS AUDITORIUM THIS MORNING BECAUSE, LIKE MANY OF YOU, ~~MY PARENTS~~ ^{father} CAME TO THIS COUNTRY FROM ANOTHER LAND.

~~MY FATHER~~ ^{He} CAME TO AMERICA THINKING THE STREETS WOULD BE PAVED WITH GOLD. HE FOUND NOT GOLD, BUT GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES. WHEN HE DIED, MY MOTHER WENT TO WORK IN NEW YORK'S GARMENT DISTRICT SO THAT I COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE OPPORTUNITIES AND TRY TO GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD. MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME THAT THERE IS NO GREATER GOOD, NO FINER REWARD, THAN TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

THEY ALSO TAUGHT ME TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN, TO OBEY THE LAW, TO WORK HARD, TO GET ALONG WITH OUR NEIGHBORS, AND TO LOVE OUR COUNTRY. FAMILIES TEACH THE BEDROCK VALUES.

SO WHEN GOVERNMENT TOUCHES FAMILY LIFE -- AND IT DOES EVERY DAY AND EVERY HOUR -- WE NEED TO MAKE SURE IT SUPPORTS, NOT WEAKENS AMERICAN FAMILIES.

HUBERT HUMPHREY, WHO STOOD IN THIS ROOM SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, TOLD US THAT THE MOST CRITICAL TEST OF ANY SOCIETY IS HOW IT TREATS THOSE PEOPLE IN THE DAWN AND SUNSET OF LIFE. AND IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, RONALD REAGAN HAS FAILED THAT TEST AGAIN AND AGAIN.

RONALD REAGAN TALKS ABOUT FAMILY, BUT ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

WHEN YOU SLASH CHILD NUTRITION, DAY CARE FUNDS AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, THAT DOESN'T HELP FAMILIES. IT HURTS THEIR ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

WHEN YOU GUT THE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM, THAT DOESN'T HELP FAMILIES. IT DEPRIVES MANY FAMILIES OF THE ONLY WAY THEY HAVE TO SEE THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS GO TO COLLEGE AND GET AHEAD IN LIFE.

RONALD REAGAN'S IDEA OF HELPING EDUCATION IS TO SEND A

TEACHER INTO SPACE, BUT I SAY WE HAVE TO HELP OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

WHEN YOU TRY TO ^{gut} ~~REPEAL~~ THE CHILD ABUSE ACT, THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT HELPING FAMILIES. THAT'S PERMITTING THE CRUELEST, MOST SHAMEFUL ANTI-FAMILY ACT OF ALL -- VIOLENCE TOWARD CHILDREN.

AND WHEN YOU TRY TO CUT SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, THAT DOESN'T HELP FAMILIES. ONE OF RONALD REAGAN'S CHIEF ADVISORS HAS CALLED SOCIAL SECURITY JUST "ANOTHER TAX AND BENEFIT PROGRAM." DEMOCRATS HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN BETTER. SOCIAL SECURITY IS A BOND BETWEEN GENERATIONS, A ~~CONTRACT~~ ^{CONTRACT} WHICH MUST NOT BE BROKEN, A CONTRACT WHICH FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL FOLLOW TO THE LETTER.

RONALD REAGAN ISN'T QUITE SURE WHERE HE STANDS ON SOCIAL SECURITY. ASK HIM WHERE HE WOULD CUT THE BUDGET AND HE SAYS: LOOK AT WHAT I WANTED TO CUT BUT THE CONGRESS STOPPED. ^{Over the last 4 years} AND THE FACT IS: ONE OF THE FIRST PROGRAMS RONALD REAGAN WENT AFTER WAS SOCIAL SECURITY. CONGRESS STOPPED MAJOR ATTACKS. BUT THIS PRESIDENT STILL CUT LUMP-SUM DEATH BENEFITS, ELIMINATED EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS, DELAYED BENEFITS FOR NEW RECIPIENTS, AND ROUNDED PAYMENTS ~~DOWN~~ ^{up} TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR, EVEN AS HE ROUNDED THE NUMBER OF NEW JOBS ^{created} DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION UP TO THE NEAREST MILLION.

I SAY, LET'S NOT ROLL THE DICE WITH THE LIVES OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. LET'S HAVE RONALD REAGAN COLLECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

BACK IN CALIFORNIA, RATHER THAN CUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY IN WASHINGTON.

TO BUILD OUR FAMILIES AND OUR FUTURE, WE MUST ALSO WORK TOGETHER TO PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK AGAIN. LAST FRIDAY, MR. REAGAN GAVE THE PEOPLE OF CLEVELAND A SNEAK PREVIEW OF HIS SECOND TERM. HE SAID: "YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET."

AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED JUST A FEW HOURS AFTER AIR FORCE ONE TOOK OFF, LEAVING A TRAIL OF HOLLOW PROMISES? ANOTHER FOUR HUNDRED OHIO STEELWORKERS LOST THEIR JOBS -- PERMANENTLY.

IF THAT'S WHAT FOUR MORE YEARS WILL BRING, I, FOR ONE, DON'T WANT TO SEE THE SEQUEL. WHEN YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS LOSE THEIR JOBS, IT'S TIME FOR THIS PRESIDENT TO LOSE HIS.

AND I HAVE NEWS FOR HIM: DIVIDING THIS NATION INTO "HAVES" AND "HAVE-NOTS" WON'T STRENGTHEN THIS COUNTRY.

I WAS IN SILICON VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA TWO WEEKS AGO, SPEAKING TO THE EMPLOYEES OF A COMPUTER COMPANY. AND I TOLD THEM WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO ALL OF YOU: WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING A MORE COMPETITIVE ECONOMY, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

AS THE WORKERS OF OHIO KNOW, WHEN ONE SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMY COLLAPSES, IT TAKES OTHER SEGMENTS DOWN WITH IT. WHEN ONE INDUSTRY IS IN TROUBLE, ALL INDUSTRIES ARE THREATENED. LET

OTHERS TRY TO DIVIDE AMERICA REGION AGAINST REGION. IN MY BOOK IT'S NOT A COMPLETE RECOVERY UNTIL WORKERS EVERYWHERE HAVE RECOVERED THEIR JOBS.

RONALD ^aREGAN SAYS AMERICA IS BACK AND STANDING TALL.

BUT ALMOST 80,000 MEN AND WOMEN IN AND AROUND CLEVELAND WANT TO WORK AND CAN'T FIND JOBS. I SAY AMERICA IS NOT BACK AND STANDING TALL UNTIL THE STEELWORKERS OF OHIO, THE AUTOWORKERS OF MICHIGAN, AND THE FARMERS OF OUR NATION ARE ALSO STANDING TALL.

WE CANNOT LEAVE ANY INDUSTRY OR REGION BEHIND, AND WE MUST NOT PREVENT ANY PERSON FROM SUCCEEDING. 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 WANT A COUNTRY THAT JUDGES PEOPLE NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

AND WE 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.

HELPING OUR FAMILIES ALSO MEANS LEVELLING WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THE TAXES THEY HAVE TO PAY. FOR THREE MONTHS, WE

HVAE TOLD YOU THAT RONALD ^eRAGAN HAS A SECRET PLAN TO RAISE TAXES.
TIME AND AGAIN, SINCE THIS CAMPAIGN BEGAN, HE DENIED IT.

WELL, FRIDAY -- THE SAME DAY HE TOLD US THAT WE AIN'T SEEN
NOTHING YET -- WE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH IN A LEAK FROM THE TREASURY
DEPARTMENT. IT TURNS OUT THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO ELIMINATE YOUR
DEDUCTION FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. THAT INCLUDES INCOME TAXES
AND REAL ESTATE TAXES. AND THAT MEANS UNDER RONALD REAGAN'S PLAN
YOU'LL BE TAXED TWICE ON WHAT YOU EARN. JUST THINK WHAT THAT
WOULD MEAN FOR AVERAGE AMERICANS WHO WANT TO BUY A HOME.

WE ALSO LEARNED THAT RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO TAX ALL
UNEMPLOYMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS. NOW THAT'S
HITTING BELOW THE BELT. I SAY IT'S UNFAIR TO INCREASE THE BURDEN
ON THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY HURT OR JOBLESS.

EVEN NOW, THE PRESIDENT WON'T LEVEL WITH YOU. HE KEEPS
PEDDLING PHONY STATISTICS ABOUT OUR DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN. BUT
WHEN HE WAS ASKED ON FRIDAY ABOUT HIS TAX PLANS HE SAID: "I'M
NOT GOING TO COMMENT UNTIL I HAVE THE REPORT."

WHAT HE DIDN'T SAY IS THAT HE WON'T GET THAT REPORT UNTIL
AFTER THE ELECTION.

I SAY IT'S TIME TO STOP THE SURPRISES AND END THE
RUN-AROUND. IT'S TIME FOR THE TRUTH. AND IF PRESIDENT REAGAN
WON'T LEVEL WITH US, LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL.

~~HELPING OUR FAMILIES ALSO MEANS 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
HUNDREDS OF TOXIC WASTE DUMPS UNCLEANED. AND THEY 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.~~

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

AND FINALLY, THERE'S NO GREATER GIFT WE CAN GIVE OUR
FAMILIES THAN THE GIFT OF PEACE. / AND LIVING UP TO THAT GREAT
GOAL 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.

I SAY WE NEED A LEADER LIKE WALTER MONDALE.

FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS, YOU'VE HEARD A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT WALTER MONALE FROM THE REPUBLICANS.

NOW IT'S MY TURN. I'VE KNOWN WALTER MONDALE FOR SIX YEARS. BUT I'VE KNOWN ABOUT HIS RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR 20 YEARS. IT'S A RECORD ANYONE CAN BE PROUD OF, AND FEW CAN MATCH.

HE'S A GOOD MAN. HE'S A COURAGEOUS MAN. AND WHEN HE ASKED ME TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE, HE DID MORE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN ONE DAY THAN RONALD REAGAN HAS DONE IN FOUR LONG YEARS.

YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING BECAUSE YOU'VE SEEN WHERE HE'S BEEN. HE WROTE THE FAIR HOUSING ACT. HE WROTE THE LANDMARK CHILD CARE ACT OF THE EARLY 1970'S. HE'S FOUGHT FOR ~~ARM~~^{ARMS} CONTROL HIS WHOLE PUBLIC LIFE.

NAME A CAUSE THAT STRENGTHENS AMERICAN FAMILIES, AND WALTER MONDALE HAS LED THE FIGHT. I SAY IF WE WANT CARING AND STRONG LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA, THE TIME THAS COME TO STAND UP AND FIGHT -- AND VOTE -- FOR WALTER MONALE.

ON SATURDAY, GEORGE BUSH SAID (QUOTE) "I'D HATE TO BE ON A

TICKET WITH WALTER MONDALE THIS YEAR." WELL, GEORGE, LET ME PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE. WE WOULDN'T HAVE YOU.

YESTERDAY MORNING, A ^PREPORTER ASKED ME FOR MY RESPONSE. HE ASKED ME IF I COULD RUN ON A TICKET WITH RONALD REAGAN. LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I TOLD HIM: I COULDN'T BE A CHEERLEADER FOR THE COVET WAR IN NICARAGUA. I COULDN'T SING THE PRAISES OF STAR WARS OR THE ARMS RACE. AND I COULDN'T FOLLOW ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BURY THE ERA AND ROLL BACK DECADES OF PROGRESS TOWARD EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

I HAVE MY INTEGRITY. I HAVE MY PRINCIPLES. AND I'M PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT.

WE'RE NOT ~~ONLY~~ GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION, 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 ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED, FOR ALL THOSE COUNTED OUT BEFORE THEIR TALENTS WERE ADDED UP, FOR ALL THOSE WHO WANT NOTHING MORE THAN A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEIR CHILDREN, 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.

-- END --