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## New York Rally Speech, Marymount Manhattan

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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN -- NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 5, 1984

TONIGHT WE COME TO THE END OF A JOURNEY WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN  
OUR NATION'S HISTORY. / TOMORROW THE NATION VOTES. / THIS IS THE  
CLEAREST CHOICE IN FIFTY YEARS. / AND I AM CONVINCED OF ONE THING: /  
WE ARE GOING TO WIN.

I HAVE COME BACK TO MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN FOR THE LAST STOP OF  
THIS CAMPAIGN / BECAUSE I WOULDN'T BE MY PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR VICE  
PRESIDENT / IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE EDUCATION I RECEIVED HERE. /

THIS IS WHERE I NOT ONLY GAINED KNOWLEDGE, BUT ALSO LEARNED  
HOW TO THINK IN NEW WAYS. / THIS IS WHERE TEACHERS LIKE SISTER  
COLLETTE SHOWED ME THAT IT IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE / BUT ALSO A DUTY /  
TO LIVE BY MORAL TEACHINGS EVERY DAY OF ONE'S LIFE.

AND LIKE EVERY COLLEGE STUDENT, / I LEARNED DURING THOSE DAYS /  
THREE DECADES AGO SOME LESSONS THAT BOOKS CANNOT TEACH: / LESSONS  
LIKE MAKING FRIENDS AND THEN CARING ABOUT THEM, / BEING A  
RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF MY COMMUNITY, AND THINKING OF OTHERS. /

BUT I WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD THAT EXPERIENCE IF IT HADN'T BEEN  
FOR TWO THINGS. FIRST, MY PARENTS, IN THE BEST TRADITION OF THIS  
COUNTRY, / BELIEVED THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE THEIR CHILDREN A BETTER  
CHANCE THAN THEY HAD OF ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM.

THEY KNEW THAT, WHATEVER IT MIGHT COST, EDUCATION UNLOCKED DOORS, GAVE US THE SKILLS TO COMPETE, AND WAS OUR KEY TO SUCCESS.

*after my father died*

THAT'S WHY MY MOTHER WENT TO WORK IN A GARMENT FACTORY AND WORKED FOR TWO DECADES SO THAT I WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO GO TO SCHOOL, EXPAND MY MIND, AND GET AHEAD IN LIFE.

BECAUSE OF HER SACRIFICE, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO ATTEND THIS COLLEGE. BECAUSE OF THAT DEDICATION, I AM WHAT I AM TODAY. AND TONIGHT, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO HER, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART: THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. I HOPE YOU ARE PROUD OF ME I WILL ALWAYS BE PROUD OF YOU.

BUT THE HARD WORK AND SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY WERE NOT ENOUGH BY THEMSELVES, TO SEND ME THROUGH COLLEGE. THE SECOND REASON I WAS ABLE TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL WAS BECAUSE I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP. I ALSO WORKED PART-TIME IN DEPARTMENT STORES AND AS A SECRETARY. THAT EXPERIENCE TAUGHT ME LESSONS I CAN NEVER FORGET. AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, I HAVE FOUGHT FOR PROGRAMS LIKE STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND HEAD START. AND AS VICE PRESIDENT I WILL WORK WITH WALTER MONDALE TO MAKE THIS THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE PRODUCT, NOT ONLY OF A CARING ITALIAN-AMERICAN FAMILY, / BUT ALSO OF COMPASSION / AND OF THE BEST EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. I WANT OTHER KIDS TO HAVE THE SAME CHANCE I DID. / I WANT NO AMERICAN TO BE BARRED FROM COLLEGE BECAUSE HE OR SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY.

FORTUNATELY, I HAD THOSE CHANCES / AND I MADE IT THROUGH COLLEGE, AND THEN LAW SCHOOL. I WAS A TEACHER. I GOT MARRIED. I BECAME A PROSECUTOR. I RAN FOR CONGRESS, AND NOW FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THOSE WERE MY DECISIONS. / MY CLASSMATES AT MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN CHOSE OTHER PATHS. / SOME BROKE SEX BARRIERS IN THEIR PROFESSIONS BY BECOMING LAWYERS, DOCTORS, BUSINESSWOMEN AND ACADEMICS. BUT, AND THIS IS JUST AS IMPORTANT, / A NUMBER OF MY FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL CHOSE TO WORK IN THE HOME AS THEIR PRIMARY CAREER. THAT CAREER, TO WORK IN THE HOME, IS A FINE ONE. / I PURSUED IT FOR FOURTEEN YEARS. / AND WHEN I LOOK AT MY FAMILY, / I THINK I DID SO WITH SOME SUCCESS. //

THE POINT IS, OURS WAS PERHAPS THE FIRST GENERATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN FREE TO CHOOSE OUR OWN CAREERS. AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND OF ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS, / EVERY WOMAN OF MY GENERATION HAS FELT DISCRIMINATION. / ALL OF US KNOW WOMEN OUR AGE WHO WERE DENIED OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THEY EARNED. AND DESPITE THE PROGRESS WE'VE SEEN IN OUR LIFETIME, / WE WANT FOR OUR DAUGHTERS MORE FREEDOM TO DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS THAN WE HAD.

LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS: SEXISM HAS NO PLACE IN AMERICAN LIFE. / RACISM HAS NO RIGHT TO A HOME IN OUR LAND. / AGEISM HAS NO ROLE IN OUR VALUES. / AND IF THERE'S ONE THING MY CANDIDACY STANDS FOR, / IT IS THAT AMERICANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH AS FAR AS OUR DREAMS WILL TAKE US. /

MY CANDIDACY IS A BREAKTHROUGH. / IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART, BUT NOT THE ONLY PART, OF THIS CAMPAIGN. /

THIS CAMPAIGN IS ABOUT THE YOUNG GIRL IN DAVENPORT, IOWA, WHO HELD UP A SIGN SAYING, / "MY DAD NEEDS A JOB." /

IT'S ABOUT THE WOMAN IN RACINE WHO TOLD ME SHE WAS UNEMPLOYED <sup>wife</sup> ~~AND~~ <sup>but</sup> THE WORST THING SHE FEARED WAS THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

IT'S ABOUT THE FATHERS WHO HOLD THEIR DAUGHTERS ABOVE THE CROWDS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY. I CAN TELL FROM THEIR PROUD FACES THAT NOW THEY ARE DREAMING THE SAME DREAMS FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS AS THEY HAVE FOR THEIR SONS.

IT'S ABOUT THE DRAMATIC MOMENT WHEN A YOUNG MAN STOOD UP IN A CROWDED HALL AND SAID TO ME, "I AM A VIETNAM VETERAN. PLEASE, PLEASE, DON'T FORGET THE LESSON OF VIETNAM." /

IT'S ALSO ABOUT THE DAY IN STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, WHEN A MAN IN WORK CLOTHES APPROACHED ME AND SAID, 'GERRY, YOU GOT TO WIN THIS ONE. YOU SEE, I MADE A BET. AND IF YOU DON'T WIN, I HAVE TO WALK BAREFOOT FROM STOCKTON TO YUMA.' I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THAT POOR GUY'S FEET.

WHAT ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT THEY ARE THINKING OF SOMETHING LARGER THAN THEMSELVES. / THAT'S WHAT I SAW IN THIS CAMPAIGN. / THAT'S WHAT MOVED ME DEEPLY -- PEOPLE EXPRESSING OUR MOST BASIC VALUES. / AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING ONCE AGAIN. /

I REMEMBER WHEN JOHN F. KENNEDY LAUNCHED THE PEACE CORPS, WHEN HUBERT HUMPHREY STARTED FOOD FOR PEACE, / WHEN LYNDON JOHNSON STOOD UP FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, / AND WHEN JIMMY CARTER FOUGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. //

THOSE LEADERS WERE DOING WHAT'S RIGHT. / THEY KNEW THAT WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY IS ALSO SMART FOR THIS COUNTRY. AND I AGREE.

*Public life*

I DIDN'T ENTER POLITICS TO PARROT OPINIONS OF THE DAY. / I AM HERE TO FIGHT FOR WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT / AND TO STAND UP FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN.

SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM. I WON'T SAY THAT. I'M NOT RUNNING FOR OFFICE TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT I WANT TO BE PART OF.

SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT STANDING UP FOR POOR PEOPLE IS UNFASHIONABLE. I CAN'T GO ALONG. / I AM NOT RUNNING FOR OFFICE TO WATCH THE NEEDY GO UNAIDED, / THE HUNGRY GO UNFED, / AND THE HOMELESS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. //

SOME PEOPLE TODAY WOULD MAKE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ACCEPTABLE AGAIN. I REJECT THAT. / THOSE DAYS ARE OVER. AMERICAN WOMEN WILL NOT ACCEPT SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP ANYMORE.

AND NEITHER WILL WALTER MONDALE. HE HAS FOUGHT FOR EVERY DECENT CAUSE IN THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. / HE STANDS UP FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES IN EVEN WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST HIM. / FOR TWO CENTURIES, CANDIDATES HAVE RUN FOR PRESIDENT. NOT ONE FROM A MAJOR PARTY ASKED A WOMAN TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE -- UNTIL WALTER MONDALE. / HISTORY WILL HONOR HIM FOR THAT BRAVE ACT, / AND SO SHOULD WE. /

I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A PRESIDENT WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING. / IF YOU WANT CARING, WISE, AND STRONG LEADERSHIP, / STAND UP AND BE COUNTED IN THIS FIGHT OF THE CENTURY, / AND VOTE FOR A BETTER FUTURE WITH WALTER MONDALE.

THE VOTERS DECIDE IN A FEW HOURS. BUT YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW, MY CONCERN IS ALSO FOR MY FAMILY. / IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS, MY CHILDREN AND MY HUSBAND WERE MY MAINSTAYS, JUST AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR YEARS. / THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED ME, / COMFORTED ME / LOVED ME, / AND BACKED ME ALL THE WAY. / I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT THEM. //

IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY, BUT IT'S BEEN WORTH IT FOR ALL OF US. / EVEN IF THIS MOMENT WERE FROZEN IN TIME, THIS CAMPAIGN WOULD STILL HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. / MY CANDIDACY HAS SAID TO WOMEN, THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY ARE OPENING. / AND FOR ME, LIFE CAN NEVER BE THE SAME / BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE SUPPORT, THE LOVE, AND THE GOODWILL OF MEN AND WOMEN ALL OVER AMERICA. /

I'VE NEVER CARED MORE ABOUT ANYTHING, OUTSIDE OF MY FAMILY, THAN WINNING THIS ELECTION. / NO ELECTION IN RECENT MEMORY HAS MATTERED MORE TO OUR COUNTRY THAN THE ONE WE HOLD TOMORROW. WE'RE CHOOSING BETWEEN PEACE / AND THE RISING RISK OF WAR, <sup>between</sup> FREEDOM <sup>between</sup> AND INTRUSION IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES, <sup>between</sup> FAIRNESS / AND GROWING INEQUITY. <sup>between</sup>

THESE ARE THE CHOICES WE FACE. AND HERE AT MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN, WHERE I FIRST LEARNED TO MAKE SERIOUS CHOICES, I ASK YOU TO PULL THE LEVER FOR PEACE, RAISE YOUR VOICES FOR JOBS, VOTE FOR FAIRNESS, AND PICK A PRESIDENT WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. / HIS NAME IS WALTER MONDALE. /

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.