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Greensboro Rally Speech

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GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1984

Robin (Britt)

THANK YOU ~~GOVERNOR HUNT~~ FOR THAT GREAT INTRODUCTION. IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE BACK HERE IN GREENSBORO, ~~AND~~ TO SEE SO MANY FRIENDS, *+ to be here with your outstanding Gov. + future Senator Jim Hunt; + your next Gov. Rufus Edmiston.*

THE PUNDITS AND POLLSTERS SAY THE ELECTION IS ALREADY OVER. BUT LET ME TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT HERE.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

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

YOU BET WE ARE.

I'VE BEEN TO EVERY PART OF OUR COUNTRY SINCE THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION. ~~AND~~ EVERYWHERE I GO THERE'S A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR. ~~THERE'S~~ A FEELING THAT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THIS COUNTRY. ~~IN FACT,~~ WE ALREADY HAVE.

FRITZ MONDALE CHANGED HISTORY IN JULY WHEN HE NOMINATED ME AS HIS RUNNING MATE. ~~AND~~ WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE HISTORY AGAIN IN JANUARY ~~WHEN~~ I STAND IN THE CAPITOL TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE AS THE FIRST WOMAN VICE PRESIDENT.

I'VE BEEN TO EVERY PART OF OUR COUNTRY SINCE THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION. AND EVERYWHERE I GO THERE'S A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR. THERE'S A FEELING THAT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THIS COUNTRY. IN FACT, WE ALREADY HAVE.

FRITZ MONDALE CHANGED HISTORY IN JULY WHEN HE NOMINATED ME AS HIS RUNNING MATE. AND WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE HISTORY AGAIN IN JANUARY WHEN I STAND IN THE CAPITOL TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE AS THE FIRST WOMAN VICE PRESIDENT.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT LEADERS. FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, YOU'VE HAD ONE OF THE BEST AS YOUR GOVERNOR. AND FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT SIX YEARS YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE ONE OF THE BEST SENATORS WHEN JIM HUNT GOES TO WASHINGTON AS YOUR U.S. SENATOR.

NOWHERE IN AMERICA IS THERE A MORE CLEARLY DEFINED CHOICE THIS YEAR THAN IN THE RACE FOR THE U.S. SENATE IN NORTH CAROLINA. ON THE ONE HAND WE HAVE IN JIM HUNT A MODERATE LEADER IN TOUCH WITH THE TIMES AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT STATE. AND ON THE OTHER, THERE IS AN EXTREMIST RIGHT WING IDEOLOGY, OUT OF STEP WITH NORTH CAROLINA. OUT OF TOUCH WITH YOUR TRADITIONS. AND, IN MY OPINION, TOTALLY OUT OF LINE.

THAT'S WHY, COME NEXT JANUARY, THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA WILL BE OUT OF WORK.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA DON'T WANT A SENATOR WHO BACKS DEATH SQUADS IN EL SALVADOR. THIS COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED COMMUNISM, AND WE ALWAYS WILL. BUT YOU DON'T FIGHT COMMUNISM BY REPRESSING PEASANTS AND MURDERING NUNS.

THE WAY TO PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS TO OPPOSE BOTH COMMUNISM AND THE DEATH SQUADS OF THE RIGHT. AND THAT'S WHAT JIM HUNT WILL DO.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE DON'T WANT LEADERS WHO SMEAR THE GOOD NAME OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND DRAG THEIR FEET ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT. I RESENT IT WHEN A POLITICIAN TRIES TO DRAG DOWN A GOOD NAME TO PUSH UP HIS OWN POPULARITY.

AND I HAVE NEWS FOR THOSE WHO TRY THAT TRICK. NORTH CAROLINA HAS MOVED PAST THE POLITICS OF DIVISION. YOU DON'T BUY IT. YOU DON'T WANT IT. AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON YOU'RE GOING TO ELECT JIM HUNT.

THEY DON'T WANT LEADERS WHO SPEND THEIR TIME OPPOSING THE GENOCIDE TREATY. FOR TWO YEARS I HAVE LED THE FIGHT FOR RATIFICATION, BUT WE'VE BEEN BLOCKED BY EXTREMISTS. THE RIGHT WING SAYS THE GENOCIDE TREATY WILL MAKE THE UNITED STATES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE WORLD COURT. THEY'RE RIGHT. IT WILL, AND WHEN IT COMES TO GENOCIDE I THINK EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF A REASON WHY WE WOULD EVER LEAVE OPEN THE OPTION OF COMMITTING GENOCIDE. ANYONE WHO THINKS WE SHOULD DOESN'T REPRESENT THE VALUES OF NORTH CAROLINA, AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON YOU'RE GOING TO ELECT JIM HUNT.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA DON'T WANT THEIR CONSTITUTION INTERPRETED BY RIGHT WING IDEOLOGUES. THEY DON'T WANT JERRY FALWELL PICKING THE NEXT TWO JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT. IN THE STATE THAT PROUDLY CALLS ITSELF "FIRST IN FREEDOM," PEOPLE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL PICK A COURT THAT PROTECT PERSONAL FREEDOMS.

AND THE PEOPLE OF NORTH COURT DON'T WANT RIGHT WINGERS TAKING A MEAT AXE TO OUR PRO-FAMILY PROGRAMS. THESE PEOPLE HIDE BEHIND THE PRO-FAMILY LABEL, BUT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS THEY HAVE SLASHED CHILD VACCINES, FOOD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG MOTHERS, AND DAY CARE FOR WORKING MOTHERS.

IN MY BOOK IT'S NOT PRO-FAMILY WHEN KIDS GET SICK, GO HUNGRY AND DIE. NORTH CAROLINA HAS COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN, AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON YOU'RE GOING TO ELECT JIM HUNT.

THIS COUNTRY IS GOING TO CLEAN HOUSE IN NOVEMBER, BECAUSE THE REPUBLICANS AREN'T DOING THEIR JOB. THE REPUBLICANS SAY THEY'RE FOR A BALANCED BUDGET, BUT THEY'VE GIVEN US THE LARGEST DEFICITS IN HISTORY -- OVER \$200 BILLION.

THEIR MOTTO IS: WE EARN MONEY THE OLD FASHIONED WAY -- WE PRINT IT. I SAY RONALD REAGAN SHOULD STOP PUTTING OUR MONEY WHERE HIS MOUTH IS. LET'S BRING DOWN THE DEFICITS AND LET'S DO IT FAIRLY.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY WHEN IT COMES TO CUTTING THE BUDGET, IT'S THE POOR AND THE ELDERLY FIRST. BUT I SAY SOCIAL SECURITY IS A CONTRACT, AND THE ELDERLY HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE IN DIGNITY.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY WE SHOULD CUT EDUCATION FUNDS, AND THEY WANT TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. BUT I SAY LET'S HELP THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY WE CAN IGNORE TOXIC WASTE DUMPS THAT ARE POISONING OUR WATER AND POLLUTING OUR BACKYARDS. BUT I SAY WE NEED A GOVERNMENT THAT TAKES POLLUTERS TO COURT AND NOT TO LUNCH.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY 115 MILLION WOMEN DON'T NEED EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION. BUT 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.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY THEY STAND FOR PROSPERITY, BUT TODAY THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE OUT OF WORK THAN WHEN RONALD REAGAN TOOK OFFICE. AND MILLIONS MORE ARE NOT COUNTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE GIVEN UP THE SEARCH AFTER YEARS OF FRUSTRATION.

THIS ADMINISTRATION COULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM JIM HUNT ABOUT CREATING PROSPERITY. AND THIS NATION COULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM NORTH CAROLINA ABOUT CREATING JOBS.

IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, JIM HUNT HAS BROUGHT THIRTEEN BILLION DOLLARS IN NEW INDUSTRY TO NORTH CAROLINA AND CREATED 200,000 JOBS. THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE IS A MODEL OF HOW BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITIES CAN WORK TOGETHER.

BUT INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THIS MODEL, THIS PRESIDENT IS SITTING ON HIS HANDS. THE OTHER DAY, HE ACTUALLY TOLD THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND THAT INCREASED FOREIGN EXPORTS TO AMERICA, MADE POSSIBLE BY HIGH DEFICITS AND HIGH INTEREST RATES, WERE GOOD FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND FOREIGN WORKERS.

WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT. FOREIGN EXPORTS TO THIS COUNTRY ARE COSTING AMERICAN JOBS -- GOOD JOBS. AND OUR PRESIDENT IS BUSY CONGRATULATING HIMSELF FOR EXPORTING THOSE JOBS.

HE HAS NO IDEA OF THE PAIN HIS POLICIES HAVE CAUSED. HE TELLS THE UNEMPLOYED TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THE PROBLEM IS, THE UNEMPLOYED DON'T GET THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE THEIR JOBS ARE NOW BEING ADVERTISED.

ABOVE ALL, THE REPUBLICANS ARE NOT LEADING THIS COUNTRY, AND LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I MEAN. A FEW DAYS AGO, GEORGE BUSH ASKED A CROWD IN COLUMBUS, OHIO: "DO YOU KNOW WHAT WINS ELECTIONS?" AND HE ANSWERED BY TAKING OUT HIS WALLET AND SAYING, "IT'S WHO PUTS MONEY INTO THIS AND WHO TAKES MONEY OUT."

THAT SAYS IT ALL. THAT SINGLE GESTURE OF SELFISHNESS TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THIS ADMINISTRATION THAN ALL THEIR APPLIE PIE RHETORIC.

OF COURSE WE CARE ABOUT MONEY. BUT LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT: THIS IS AN ELECTION, NOT AN AUCTION. AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT UP FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

THERE'S NOTHING IN GEORGE BUSH'S WALLET THAT SAYS WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT THE DISADVANTAGED. THERE'S NOTHING IN HIS WALLET THAT TELLS US TO SEARCH FOR PEACE. THERE'S NOTHING IN HIS WALLET THAT SAYS, IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY, LET'S STOP THE ARMS RACE.

LEADERSHIP IS NOT JUST TELLING PEOPLE WHAT YOU THINK THEY WANT TO HEAR, IT'S ALSO TELLING THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW. IT'S NOT JUST PROMISING TO GIVE THEM MONEY, IT'S ALSO ASKING THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COUNTRY. AND IT'S NOT JUST SENDING IN THE TROOPS AT THE DROP OF A HAT, IT'S TAKING CARE OF VETERANS AFTER THE FIGHTING IS OVER.

AND LET ME STOP THERE FOR A SECOND. THIS PRESIDENT LIKES TO TALK TO VETERANS ABOUT OUR MILITARY STRENGTH. WHAT HE LEAVES OUT OF HIS SPEECH IS IF YOU'RE A VETERAN SUFFERING FROM AGENT ORANGE POISONING, THIS ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO DENY YOU COMPENSATION. IF YOU'RE A YOUNG VET IN NEED OF COUNSELING, THEY SAID THEY COULDN'T AFFORD IT. AND IF YOU'RE ONE OF ALMOST ONE MILLION VETS WHO NEED A JOB, THEY SAID TRY THE WANT ADS.

I WANT A GOVERNMENT THAT NOT ONLY RELIES ON ITS SOLDIERS IN TIME OF WAR, BUT ALSO STANDS BY THEM IN TIME OF PEACE.

WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION FORGETS IS THAT VETERANS ARE PARENTS, AND THEY CARE ABOUT QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THEIR KIDS. THEY KNOW THE REALITY OF WAR; AND THEY CARE ABOUT CONTROLLING THE ARMS RACE. THEY LOVE THEIR COUNTRY ENOUGH TO HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR IT -- THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE IT FOULED BY TOXIC WASTES.

DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY IS, PERHAPS, THE ULTIMATE PATRIOTIC ACT. BUT PATRIOTISM DOESN'T TAKE A HOLIDAY DURING PEACE. THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF PATRIOTISM, NOT JUST ONE. AND THE LEAST WORTHY KIND IS A TELEVISION COMMERCIAL OF SWELLING MUSIC AND SWEEPING VISTAS MADE ON MADISON AVENUE.

THERE ARE THOSE -- LIKE YOUR OUTGOING SENATOR -- WHO WANT TO TURN THIS ELECTION INTO A CONTEST OVER WHO IS MORE PATRIOTIC. THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE IN 1984. NO ONE IS MORE PROUD OF THIS COUNTRY THAN I AM. NO ONE IS MORE PATRIOTIC THAN AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER NOMINATED BY HER PARTY TO BE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE ISSUE IS HOW TO BEST SERVE THIS COUNTRY.

I THINK THE BEST WAY TO SERVE IT IS NOT BY FLAUNTING OUR FLAG WITH TELEVISION ADS, BUT BY HONORING IT WITH HUMAN DEEDS.

WHEN WALTER MONDALE MADE THE DECISION TO PUT ME ON THE TICKET, AN OLD BARRIER WAS BROKEN DOWN -- AND TEARING DOWN BARRIERS OF PREJUDICE IS A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN, WE BUILD OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE --AND THAT IS A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FINALLY STOP THE ARMS RACE, AND REDUCE THE GREATEST THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE KEEP THE PEACE, YOUNG MEN DON'T DIE -- AND THAT'S A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, WE OPEN DOORS EVERYWHERE -- AND THAT'S A PATRIOTIC ACT.

THE TIME TO BEGIN THAT WORK IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO CLEAN UP OUR ENVIRONMENT IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO STOP THE ARMS RACE AND END THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO SEND JIM HUNT TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE IS NOT
LATER. IT'S NOW.

AND THE TIME TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE PRESIDENT AND GERRY
FERRARO VICE PRESIDENT IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

-- END --