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Opening Remarks, Vice Presidential Debate

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THE DEBATE ON SUNDAY NIGHT RAISED A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: CAN THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD LIVE THROUGH FOUR MORE YEARS OF RONALD REAGAN?

AS WALTER MONDALE SAID, DURING THE DEBATE WE SAW A PRESIDENT WHO CANNOT MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT A MAJOR ISSUE WITHOUT MAKING A MAJOR MISTAKE.

HE SAID HE NEVER SAID SUBMARINE LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES WERE RECALLABLE.

THE FACT IS THAT HE IS WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS. HE DID SAY SO ON MAY 13, 1982 AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. AND MORE IMPORTANT, THEY ARE NOT RECALLABLE.

HE MADE ANOTHER MISTAKE THAT HAS GRAVE IMPLICATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES IS COMMUNISM.

THE FACT IS THAT THERE IS A VIGOROUS NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IN THAT COUNTRY. THE ASSASSINATED AQUINO WAS ONE OF ITS LEADERS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD TO CORRECT THE PRESIDENT. AND EVEN WORSE, MARCOS NOW FEELS ENCOURAGED IN HIS POLICY OF SUPPRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS.
REAGAN SAID THAT THE CIA HAD CUT OUT OF ITS MANUAL ALL REFERENCES TO ASSASSINATION BEFORE IT WAS PRINTED.

THE FACT IS IT WAS NOT EDITED. THE FACT IS THIS NON-AMERICAN, REPREHENSIBLE DOCUMENT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PRINTED.

REAGAN SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS DEFICIT AND ILLEGAL ALIENS.

THE FACT IS THAT THERE IS. THE U.S. DEFICIT KEEPS INTEREST RATES UP, ATTRACTING FOREIGN CAPITAL THAT COULD BE GOING TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THEIR FALTERING ECONOMIES CANNOT EMPLOY THEIR PEOPLE AND THEY ARE FLEEING TO THE U.S.

FINALLY, IN TOTAL NAIVETY HE SAID HE WOULD SHARE WITH THE SOVIETS OUR POSSIBLE STAR WARS TECHNOLOGY. AFTER, LIKE THE GOOD SALESMAN HE IS, HE GAVE THEM A DEMONSTRATION.

THE FACT IS THAT STAR WARS TECHNOLOGY WOULD INVOLVE THE MOST ADVANCED DEVELOPMENTS IN COMPUTERS, GUIDANCE, LASERS. WE CANNOT TURN OVER OUR MOST SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO THE RUSSIANS.
AND WHERE WOULD HE CARRY OUT THIS DEMONSTRATION? DOESN'T HE KNOW THAT MANY OF THE PROPOSED STAR WAR SYSTEMS REQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHERE ARE THESE EXPLOSIONS GOING TO TAKE PLACE -- OVER WHAT CITY? OVER WHAT STATE?

THE FACT IS THAT WALTER MONDALE, FOUR YEARS AFTER LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE, HAS A BETTER COMMAND OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY, THAN RONALD REAGAN/WHO HAS/ FOR FOUR YEARS/ SAT ON TOP OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATIONAL SECURITY APPARATUS IN THE FREE WORLD.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CANNOT BE CHARMED BY REHEARSED ONE-LINERS. I HAVE FAITH THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SORT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE GAFFS AND MISTAKES AND DETERMINE WHETHER MR. REAGAN OFFERS THE LEADERSHIP NECESSARY TO CREATE A SAFER AND SANER WORLD OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.