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## Closing Remarks, Vice Presidential Debate

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## CLOSING REMARKS

BEING MY PARTY's nominee for vice president is the greatest honor I have ever had. But my candidacy is more than a personal achievement for me alone. I wouldn't be here tonight if Walter Mondale hadn't had the courage, and the Democratic Party hadn't had the values, to stand up for fairness and equal opportunity.

Those values make us stronger, and that, in a way, is the issue in this election: who will make our country stronger for the future?

In the past two months, I have talked about the future with people all over the country. I met with the Diehouse family in Kentucky worried about losing their jobs because of sky-high interest rates.

I met with young parents in Cleveland afraid for the safety of their children because of the nuclear arms race.

I met with the Allen family in Dayton whose health will hinge on how well we clean up toxic dumps and preserve our environment.

Those people take pride not just in what our country has achieved -- but in our ability to achieve even more. They believe that the heart of patriotism is not a television commercial which says we're great -- but our willingness to make this country even greater.

When we find jobs for the eight-and-a half million unemployed Americans, we will have a stronger economy and that will be a patriotic act.

When we reduce deficits and bring interest rates down so that people can buy houses for their families -- that will be a patriotic act.

When we educate our children, we prepare this nation to compete in the world economy -- and that's a patriotic act.

When we stop buying seven thousand dollar coffee machines for the Pentagon, and start improving our conventional forces -- that will be a patriotic act.

When we keep the peace, young men don't die -- and that's a patriotic act.

When we finally stop the arms race we'll have a safer world -- and that will be a patriotic act.

These steps are the keys to a better future. The question is, who has the leadership to take us there?

When Walter Mondale was Attorney General of Minnesota, he helped a man who had been denied justice because he could not afford a lawyer.

When Walter Mondale was a Senator, he led the fight for child nutrition. He investigated the problems of migrant workers. He wrote the Fair Housing Act of 1968. He fought for student assistance for average-income Americans.

And when Walter Mondale was Vice President, he helped bring together Israel and Egypt and create peace between two nations that had fought each other for 30 years.

Each time, Walter Mondale stood for what was right, not what was easy. No one had ever heard of Clarence Gideon, the man without a lawyer. Children don't vote. Migrant workers are not powerful. ~~And there was no political mileage in Middle East diplomacy.~~

But each time, there was a wrong that deserved to be righted, and Walter Mondale led the cause. ~~A leader must be ready to swim against the tide to be true to his beliefs. Walter Mondale is that kind of leader.~~ He would rather lose a fight over decency than win one over self-interest. And so would I. }

For twenty years, Walter Mondale has been a leader for all that is right in America. Now he has a plan to stop the arms race, to reduce deficits, and to build a more fair society.

This campaign is far from over. It is only beginning. For the future, for our country, for the principles we believe in, Walter Mondale and I have just begun to fight.