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Queens Rally Speech, Electric Industry Auditorium

Geraldine Ferraro

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FLUSHING, N.Y. -- ELECTRIC INDUSTRY AUDITORIUM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1984

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SANDY, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION. IN SANDY FELDMAN, OUR TEACHERS HAVE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO OPPORTUNITY.

I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE ED CLEARY, WHO FIGHTS FOR NEW YORK'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN EVERY DAY, AND DONALD MANES, THE GREAT PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS.

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN QUEENS. YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF WONDERFUL PLACES OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS, BUT THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

Did you watch the debate last night -

NOW THAT I'M IN FRONT OF A TRULY NONPARTISAN CROWD I WANT TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY:

DID FRITZ MONDALE WIN THAT DEBATE LAST NIGHT?

DID HE SHOW WHO'S REALLY IN COMMAND?

ARE WE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION?

YOU BET WE ARE.

MR. REAGAN SAYS THIS ELECTION PRESENTS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE CLEAREST CHOICE THEY'VE HAD IN FIFTY YEARS. AND FOR ONCE, HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY. / THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS CUT OSHA INSPECTIONS, AND THAT THREATENS WORKERS' LIVES. / I SAY YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE / TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE. //

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR STRONG UNIONS. / THIS ADMINISTRATION PRAISES SOLIDARITY IN POLAND, AND I AGREE. / BUT WALTER MONDALE AND I KNOW WE MUST ALSO SUPPORT THE UNION MOVEMENT HERE AT HOME. //

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR A LIVING WAGE. / THIS ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES A SUBMINIMUM WAGE. BUT THAT PROPOSAL WOULD MAKE OUR YOUNG WORKERS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS / AND IT WOULD THREATEN OUR OLDER WORKERS' JOBS. / WALTER MONDALE AND I REFUSE TO DO THAT. / YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO UNDERPAY WORKERS TO EMPLOY THEM.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR AMERICA'S ELDERLY. / TO PROTECT THEM, LET'S HAVE RONALD REAGAN COLLECTING SOCIAL SECURITY BACK IN CALIFORNIA, INSTEAD OF CUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY IN WASHINGTON.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR OUR PERSONAL FREEDOMS. WE WANT WALTER MONDALE PICKING SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, NOT JERRY FALWELL.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR EDUCATION. RONALD REAGAN'S PLAN FOR HELPING EDUCATION IS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO OUTER SPACE. I SAY, LET'S HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. WHEN I TAKE MY OATH OF OFFICE FOR MY SECOND TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT, I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR PEACE. WALTER MONDALE AND I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION. WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE A BRUTAL AND TOUGH DICTATORSHIP. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WITH THE WILL TO STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS, BUT ALSO WITH THE WISDOM TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE ARMS RACE.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT TO KEEP AMERICAN JOBS HERE AT HOME. MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: TRADE MEANS JOBS. AND REAGANOMICS HAS GIVEN US THE LARGEST TRADE DEFICIT IN HISTORY. WALTER MONDALE AND I WANT TO CHANGE THAT. WITH OUR PROGRAM, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO WALK INTO ANY STORE IN THE COUNTRY, PICK UP A PRODUCT OFF THE SHELF, TURN IT OVER, AND READ THE WORDS, "MADE IN AMERICA."

TAKE JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE REAGAN RECORD. HE WAITED THREE AND A HALF YEARS TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO HELP THE STEEL INDUSTRY. AND WHILE RONALD REAGAN WAITED, 150,000 STEELWORKERS LOST THEIR JOBS. WE WANT TO START REBUILDING THE STEEL INDUSTRY FROM OUR FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT THE FIRST DAY OF OUR RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

WALTER MONDALE HAS OFFERED THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS A PLAN OF ACTION, NOT A REAM OF EXCUSES. HE'LL CUT STEEL IMPORTS BY FIFTY PERCENT. AND HE'LL INSIST THAT THE STEEL INDUSTRY PULL ITS OWN WEIGHT BY INVESTING IN MORE MODERN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

THAT'S A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR PLANS AND THE RE-ELECTION PLOYS OF RONALD REAGAN. THE LAST TIME GOVERNMENT HELPED STEEL COMPANIES, U.S. STEEL WENT OUT AND BOUGHT MARATHON OIL. NOW HOW MANY UNEMPLOYED STEEL WORKERS DO YOU THINK FOUND JOBS IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITES OF MARATHON OIL?

WALTER MONDALE WANTS TO PRESERVE OUR BASIC INDUSTRIES, NOT JUST HELP MANAGEMENT TEAMS. HE'LL BRING LABOR, MANAGEMENT, AND GOVERNMENT TOGETHER TO REBUILD THE INDUSTRIES THAT MAKE AMERICA THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL NATION IN THE WORLD.

AND WALTER MONDALE AND I ALSO SUPPORT A CAPITAL BUDGET AND A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REBUILD OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

~~I SUPPORTED THE NEW YORK WATER TUNNEL BILL, BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION OPPOSED THAT PROJECT, AND THE REPUBLICAN SENATE KILLED IT.~~ *But this* *the state party had in the Rep. seat*
(THESE AREN'T MAKE-WORK JOBS. THESE ARE SERIOUS, CRITICAL TASKS VITAL TO OUR FUTURE. OUR ECONOMY CAN'T GROW IF BRIDGES ARE FALLING DOWN / PORTS ARE BOTTLED UP / AND HIGHWAYS ARE CRUMBLING.

AFTER WORLD WAR II WE REBUILT WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN. I SAY IT'S TIME TO REBUILD AMERICA.

Walter Mondale was

AND THE LAST THING ~~HE~~ DO IS RUN DOWN AMERICAN WORKERS. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE RECESSION, RONALD REAGAN TOLD THE UNEMPLOYED TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THE PROBLEM WAS, WORKERS DON'T GET ALL THOSE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE THEIR JOBS ARE BEING ADVERTISED.

BUT THAT WASN'T THE STRANGEST THING MR. REAGAN HAS SAID OR DONE. PEOPLE DO FUNNY THINGS IN CAMPAIGNS. AND RECENTLY MR. REAGAN DID TWO THINGS THAT WERE TRULY ASTOUNDING.

FIRST, HE TOOK HARRY TRUMAN'S PULLMAN CAR OUT OF A MUSEUM TO TRY TO RECREATE TRUMAN'S FAMOUS WHISTLE-STOP TOUR OF 1948.

THAT TRAIN STUNT DIDN'T FOOL ANYONE. WORKERS KNOW THAT THERE'S ONE PERSON IN THIS ELECTION WHO STANDS FOR TRUMAN'S IDEALS. AND IT'S NOT RONALD REAGAN. IT'S WALTER MONDALE.

BUT THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT BETTER SYMBOL COULD RONALD REAGAN GIVE US OF HIS ADMINISTRATION: THERE HE WAS, FACING BACKWARDS, WITHOUT A CLUE ABOUT WHO WAS AT THE CONTROLS, OR IN WHAT DIRECTION HE WAS GOING.

THE SECOND THING REAGAN DID WAS WHEN HE SAID THAT FRITZ MONDALE IS APPEALING TO "SPECIAL INTERESTS." I HAVE TO CONFESS, HE'S GOT US THERE. HUNGRY CHILDREN, WIDOWS ON SOCIAL SECURITY, THE UNEMPLOYED, KIDS WHO NEED EDUCATION AND DESERVE OPPORTUNITY: WE CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, AND WE WON'T TURN OUR BACKS ON THEM. AFTER ALL, WE'RE DEMOCRATS, AND WE'RE PROUD TO BE DEMOCRATS.

BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS BEING TOO MODEST. HE DIDN'T TELL YOU THE OTHER HALF OF THE STORY: ABOUT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN FOR THE TRULY NEEDY IN OUR SOCIETY.

WHEN POOR AND HOMELESS POLLUTERS CAN'T FIND A PLACE FOR THEIR TOXIC WASTE, RONALD REAGAN OFFERS THEM YOUR BACKYARDS.

RONALD REAGAN CAN'T RESIST AN APPEAL FROM DEFENSE CONTRACTORS DOWN ON THEIR LUCK. THEY ASK HIM TO SPARE A DIME FOR CUP OF COFFEE, AND HE GIVES THEM \$7,000 FOR A COFFEE MAKER.

THERE WASN'T A DRY EYE IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN THE FORGOTTEN WEALTHY ASKED FOR A HAND-OUT. SO REAGAN DUG DEEP INTO OUR POCKETS AND CAME UP WITH 750 BILLION DOLLARS IN TAX RELIEF.

AND HE WAS SO MOVED WHEN THEY PASSED THE PLATE FOR BIG OIL THAT HE KINDLY DONATED THE WHOLE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.

LET'S TALK SENSE. HIS SPECIAL INTERESTS ARE THE RICH, THE POWERFUL, AND THE GREEDY. OUR CAUSES ARE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN, THE ELDERLY, VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION, AND OUR CHILDREN.

SO IF RONALD REAGAN WANTS A DEBATE OVER SPECIAL INTERESTS, WE'LL GIVE IT TO HIM. IF HE TRIES TO RUN FROM HIS RECORD, WE'LL STOP HIM. AND IF THIS ELECTION IS DECIDED ON WHO'S A CAPTIVE TO SPECIAL INTERESTS AND WHO'S SPEAKING FOR AMERICA, WE'LL WIN THIS ELECTION.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS COUNTRY.

AND AS DEMOCRATS, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THAT FIGHT.

THERE ARE TWO WEEKS LEFT IN THIS RACE. WE HAVE CLOSED THE GAP AND SILENCED THE DOUBTERS. AS HARRY TRUMAN SAID, "WE HAVE THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE HAVE THE VOTES."

PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF LOOKING BACKWARDS. IT'S TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

THE TIME TO GO TO WORK FOR THAT FUTURE IS NOT LATER -- IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO STAND UP FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN IS NOT LATER -- IT'S NOW.

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

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE END OF MY SPEECH, BUT I WANT TO ADD SOMETHING. IF ONE-HALF OF THE WORKING PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY VOTE FOR RONALD REAGAN AGAIN, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THIS ELECTION.

IF YOU DON'T GO OUT AND WORK, GET YOUR FRIENDS TO WORK, GET YOUR NEIGHBORS TO WORK, AND DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 6, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THIS ELECTION. BUT IF YOU DO HELP US, WE'RE GOING TO WIN.

FOR THE FUTURE, FOR THE COUNTRY, FOR THE PRINCIPLES YOU AND I BELIEVE IN, HELP US WIN THIS ELECTION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

-- END --