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San Diego Rally Speech

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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1984

THANK YOU, JIM, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION. IN JIM BATES, THE PEOPLE OF SAN DIEGO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE WHO FIGHTS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS FOR EQUAL JUSTICE EVERY DAY.

[I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE CALIFORNIA'S SENIOR SENATOR, ALAN CRANSTON. NO ONE HAS DONE MORE TO RAISE THIS NATION'S CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE THAN ALAN CRANSTON.]

THIS IS MY FIFTH TRIP TO CALIFORNIA, AND I'LL BE BACK. I COME BACK TO THIS STATE SO OFTEN FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, WE CARE A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA. AND SECOND, WE WANT TO WIN. I WANT TO TELL YOU HONESTLY, WE NEED CALIFORNIA TO DO WIN WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION, AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT WITH CALIFORNIA.

LET ME FIRST APOLOGIZE FOR BEING A LITTLE LATE TODAY. BUT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PARK THE MOTORCADE FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR.

I UNDERSTAND THAT RONALD REAGAN WAS AT A RALLY IN SAN DIEGO YESTERDAY. TODAY, I'D LIKE TO GIVE A RALLY SPEECH. BUT THIS ELECTION IS ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY AND THE ISSUES WHICH WE FACE ARE MONUMENTALLY IMPORTANT. SO INSTEAD I WANT TO TALK TO YOU SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE CHALLENGES WE FACE IN THE FUTURE.

I CAN THINK OF NOWHERE BETTER THAN CALIFORNIA TO TALK ABOUT THAT FUTURE. THIS STATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE, SHOWING THIS COUNTRY THE WAY TO A SAFER, MORE PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY. WHETHER IT'S PROTECTING OUR AIR AND WATER, REACHING OUT TO NEW MARKETS OVERSEAS OR STARTING THE NUCLEAR FREEZE MOVEMENT, CALIFORNIA HAS LED THE WAY.

AND ON NOVEMBER 6TH, YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD THE WAY AGAIN, WHEN YOU ELECT FRITZ MONDALE THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THREE MONTHS AGO, FRITZ MONDALE AND I BEGAN A JOURNEY WITHOUT PRECEDENT FOR A CAUSE AS OLD AS AMERICA. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO NEAR, NOR DISCRIMINATION SO DISTANT, AS WHEN WALTER MONDALE ASKED ME TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE. THE NIGHT I WAS NOMINATED WAS NOT JUST A PERSONAL VICTORY FOR ME. IT WAS A MOMENT FOR EVERY AMERICAN WOMAN TO SAY: "IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN DO ANYTHING."

THE ROAD TO SAN FRANCISCO WAS PAVED BY A HALF CENTURY OF DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE. / THAT ROAD WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY. WE FOUGHT HARD BATTLES AGAINST LONG ODDS.

SOME PEOPLE SAID A NATIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM WAS TOO COSTLY. / ~~SO DON'T FORGET~~ ^{well,} THERE WOULD BE NO SOCIAL SECURITY TODAY IF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD NOT FOUGHT FOR THE HUMANE IDEA THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETIRE IN DIGNITY. //

SOME PEOPLE SAID THAT AMERICA WASN'T READY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. ~~SO DON'T FORGET~~ ^{well} WE WOULDN'T HAVE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION IF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD NOT PASSED IT. / WE STOOD WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING AND DECLARED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE JUDGED NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN. / BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER. //

SOME PEOPLE SAID THAT EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE A NATIONAL CONCERN. ~~SO DON'T FORGET~~ ^{Remember} THERE WOULD BE NO HEAD START OR STUDENT LOANS IF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD NOT DECIDED THAT EDUCATION IS A RIGHT FOR EVERYONE, NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW. // AS A FORMER TEACHER, I BELIEVE WITH THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND, A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE. //

THOSE BATTLES ARE NOT OVER. / AND IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR WALTER MONDALE.

THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT BE JUDGED ON ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE PAST, BUT ON ITS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. ABOVE ALL, WE WILL BE JUDGED ON HOW WELL OUR GENERATION DEFENDS TWO GREAT FREEDOMS.

FIRST, THE FREEDOM TO ACHIEVE. THERE ARE MANY FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT. AND THE MOST BASIC IS EDUCATION.

IF AMERICA IS GOING TO KEEP JOBS HERE AT HOME, WE NEED THE MOST SKILLED, COMPETITIVE WORK FORCE IN THE WORLD. IF HIGH TECH INDUSTRIES ARE TO STAY ON THE FRONTIER OF DISCOVERY, WE MUST INVEST IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE, AND THE TRAINED HUMAN MIND.

LATELY, WE HAVE LOST SOME MARKETS THAT SHOULD BE OURS, AND LOST JOBS THAT BELONG IN AMERICA. FOR THIS, SOME PEOPLE BLAME OUR WORKERS. BUT THAT ~~IS~~ A ~~PROFOUND~~ MISTAKE. IF WE INVEST IN EDUCATION, MODERNIZE OUR INDUSTRIES, AND GIVE PEOPLE THE TOOLS TO DO THE JOB, AMERICAN WORKERS CAN OUTPRODUCE, OUTSELL, AND OUTCOMPETE ANY OTHER WORKER ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

THE SECOND FOUNDATION OF ACHIEVEMENT IS A STRONG, GROWING NATIONAL ECONOMY. THE PRESENT RECOVERY IS ALREADY WINDING DOWN. MANY ECONOMISTS SAY THAT A NEW RECESSION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. MR. REAGAN MAY NOT SEE THE CONNECTION, BUT WHEN DEFICITS GO UP, INTEREST RATES, OUR DOLLAR, AND IMPORTS ALL GO UP WITH THEM. AND THAT CHAIN REACTION COSTS US JOBS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NO PLAN TO REDUCE DEFICITS. THEIR MOTTO IS: WE MAKE MONEY THE OLD FASHIONED WAY -- WE PRINT IT.

WALTER MONDALE HAS PUT HIS PLAN TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT ON THE TABLE. BECAUSE IF DEFICITS ARE BAD FOR THE ECONOMY, THEN LET'S REDUCE THEM. IF THAT TAKES RAISING TAXES LET'S DO IT, AND DO IT FAIRLY. AND IF OUR PRESIDENT WON'T LEVEL WITH US, THEN LET'S REPLACE HIM.

THIRD, PERSONAL FREEDOM IS ANOTHER KEY TO INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT. THE EXTREMISTS WHO CONTROL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY BELIEVE THAT THE MORAL VALUES OF ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE SHOULD BE THE LAW THAT GOVERNS ALL THE PEOPLE.

I SAY WE SHOULD KEEP GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND OUT OF OUR HOMES, OUR CHURCHES AND OUR SYNAGOGUES. WE NEED WALTER MONDALE PICKING SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, NOT JERRY FALWELL.

FOURTH, THE FREEDOM TO ACHIEVE REQUIRES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. EVERY TIME WE TAKE DOWN BARRIERS, THIS COUNTRY IS STRONGER. EVERY TIME WE USE THE TALENTS OF ALL OUR PEOPLE THIS COUNTRY IS RICHER.

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE SUPREME COURT OUTLAWED SEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS, THIS ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO SEGREGATED ACADEMIES.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE WAR ON POVERTY, THIS ADMINISTRATION SENT SIX MILLION ADDITIONAL AMERICANS INTO THE RANKS OF THE POOR.

ACCORDING TO THIS PRESIDENT, IF YOU'RE HOMELESS, YOU LIKE IT THAT WAY. IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, EAT CHEESE. AND IF YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB, VOTE WITH YOUR FEET. I SAY, LET'S VOTE WITH OUR HEARTS, TAKE AWAY HIS JOB, AND SEND HIM BACK TO THE RANCH.

THIS PRESIDENT PAYS LIP SERVICE TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. HE WENT TO THE OLYMPICS TO CONGRATULATE OUR WOMEN ATHLETES, BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON, HIS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SIDES WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN SPORTS.

I TOO CONGRATULATE OUR OLYMPIC ATHLETES, BUT I DON'T JUST WANT TO PAT WOMEN ON THE BACK AS THEY CROSS THE FINISH LINE. I WANT TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION AND HELP THEM GET TO THE STARTING BLOCKS.

AND 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.

BUT WE NEED MORE THAN JUST THE FREEDOM TO ACHIEVE. WE ALSO NEED, AS FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT SAID, FREEDOM FROM FEAR. TODAY, WE LIVE WITH THE FEAR THAT OUR EARTH IS BEING POISONED. TOXIC WASTES ARE EVERYWHERE; PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CONTAMINATED WITH LETHAL ASBESTOS; OUR WATER IS BEING TAINTED BY CHEMICALS; AND THE BEAUTY OF THIS LAND IS BEING SCARRED.

AND INSTEAD OF ADDRESSING THESE PROBLEMS, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING THEM WORSE. THEY CUT THE EPA BUDGET BY HALF. THEY CLEANED UP ONLY SIX OF EIGHT HUNDRED SUPERFUND TOXIC DUMPS. THIS IS THE ADMINISTRATION THAT GAVE US JAMES WATT ONCE, AND ANNE BURFORD TWICE. FOR EVERY CHICKEN COOP, THEY FOUND A FOX TO GUARD IT.

WHEN WALTER MONDALE AND I HELD TOXICS DAY LAST WEEK, DEMOCRATS VISITED MORE SUPERFUND SITES IN ONE DAY THAN THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS CLEANED UP IN FOUR LONG YEARS.

THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT UNDER PRESIDENT MONDALE. HE WILL ENFORCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. HE WILL REBUILDD THE EPA. HE WILL REAUTHORIZE AND EXPAND SUPERFUND TO CLEAN UP TOXIC DUMPS. AND HE WILL TAKE POLLUTERS TO COURT, NOT TO LUNCH.

TODAY, ELDERLY AMERICANS LIVE WITH THE FEAR OF SICKNESS,
DEPENDENCE AND FINANCIAL RUIN. BUT THIS PRESIDENT FORCED HALF A
MILLION DISABLED AMERICANS OFF DISABILITY. HE TRIED TO TAKE \$122
A MONTH FROM THE POOREST OF THE ELDERLY -- MOST OF THEM OLD
WOMEN.

AND HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT JUST
ANOTHER PROGRAM, IT'S A CONTRACT, IT'S A PROMISE, PEOPLE DEPEND
ON IT, AND WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL PROTECT IT.

SO, LET'S SEND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO CALIFORNIA, WHERE HE
CAN COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY, INSTEAD OF KEEPING HIM IN
WASHINGTON, WHERE HE CAN CUT SOCIAL SECURITY.

TODAY, WE LIVE WITH THE RISE FEAR OF WAR. THIS IS THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC BOMBING THAT TOOK THE LIVES OF
241 BRAVE MARINES IN BEIRUT. WE MOURN THEIR LOSS. WE ADMIRE
THEIR COURAGE. LIKE THEM, EVERYONE HERE WOULD BE PROUD TO SERVE
THIS COUNTRY, EVEN DIE FOR IT, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES. BUT LIKE
EVERY PARENT, I DID NOT RAISE MY SON AND DAUGHTERS TO DIE IN AN
UNDECLARED WAR, AGAINST AN UNNAMED ENEMY, FOR AN UNCERTAIN CAUSE.

WHEN WE SEND OUR MEN INTO COMBAT, LET'S BE SURE WE SEND THEM
FOR A GOOD REASON -- A REASON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND
SUPPORT. WE'RE RISKING THAT BASIC PRINCIPLE WITH OUR POLICY IN
CENTRAL AMERICA.

RIGHT NOW, THE UNITED STATES IS MILITARIZING A CONFLICT WHICH SHOULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS, AND WE ARE AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT THAT IS PRIMARILY LOCAL. THIS IS A MISBEGOTTEN ADVENTURE. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL STOP THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA.

LAST WEEK, AMERICA WAS STUNNED TO LEARN THAT THE CIA HAS WRITTEN AND IS CIRCULATING, IN NICARAGUA, A MANUAL THAT TEACHES ASSASSINATION, TERROR, KIDNAPPING, AND MOB VIOLENCE. IT IS WRITTEN MORE IN THE SPIRIT OF STALIN THAN JEFFERSON. IT READS LIKE MAO, NOT LINCOLN. IT BEFITS A DICTATORSHIP, NOT A DEMOCRACY. IT'S AN INSULT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

MOREOVER, ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THAT REFINING THE MURDER TECHNIQUES OF CENTRAL AMERICANS WILL ADVANCE OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES US STRONG. IN OUR OWN SELF INTEREST, WE SHOULD BE BUILDING ECONOMIES, NOT MINING HARBORS. WE SHOULD BE HELPING PEOPLE FEED THEMSELVES, NOT KILL EACH OTHER.

THAT MANUAL IS ALIEN TO OUR MOST BASIC BELIEFS -- BELIEFS WHICH THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO PROMOTE. TODAY WE HAVE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS CODDLED RACISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND TOASTED DICTATORS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

I REMEMBER WHEN JOHN F. KENNEDY LAUNCHED THE PEACE CORPS, WHEN HUBERT HUMPHREY STARTED FOOD FOR PEACE, AND WHEN JIMMY CARTER STOOD UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL PROMOTE AMERICA'S DEEPEST VALUES AND WILL TELL THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR RACIST SYSTEM OF APARTHEID MUST FINALLY END.

ABOVE ALL, AMERICANS MUST BE FREE FROM THE DANGER OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL CALL ON THE SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

THE OTHER NIGHT ^{during the debate} OUR PRESIDENT MADE THE ASTOUNDING PROPOSAL OF SPENDING HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON A STAR WARS WEAPONS SYSTEM THAT HE WANTS TO HAND OVER TO THE SOVIET UNION. NOW, THAT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE. WE WON'T SELL THE RUSSIANS ORDINARY COMMERCIAL COMPUTERS, BUT THIS PRESIDENT WANTS TO GIVE THEM OUR MOST IMPORTANT, SENSITIVE MILITARY SECRETS.

ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL THINGS AT STAKE THIS YEAR IS CHOOSING A PRESIDENT WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING WHEN IT COMES TO NUCLEAR STRATEGY. WE NEED A PRESIDENT ON TOP OF THE FACTS. WE NEED A PRESIDENT LIKE WALTER MONDALE.

LEADING THIS COUNTRY MEANS MORE THAN HOLDING CEREMONIES. IT TAKES ENERGY, UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM. IT ALSO TAKES A CARING HEART. AMERICA IS NOT A SELFISH LAND. WE ARE A GENEROUS AND COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE.

NOT LONG AGO, I WAS ASKED TO SPEAK TO A BROKERAGE HOUSE IN NEW YORK. THEY TOLD ME THEY WANTED TO HEAR AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF CONGRESS. BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, ALL THEY REALLY WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT WAS A PROPOSAL IN CONGRESS TO REDUCE THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX -- WHICH THEY LIKED -- AND THE BRADLEY-GEHARDT BILL TO ELIMINATE TAX LOOPHOLES -- WHICH THEY DIDN'T LIKE.

WHEN I GOT HOME, I TOLD THIS STORY TO MY DAUGHTER DONNA, WHO HAD JUST JOINED A BROKERAGE HOUSE HERSELF. SHE COULD TELL I WAS UPSET BY THE NARROWNESS OF THEIR CONCERN. AND SHE SAID TO ME (QUOTE), "DON'T WORRY, MOM. I WON'T LOSE MY SOCIAL CONSCIENCE." I KNOW SHE WON'T. AND, AS A NATION, I KNOW WE CAN'T.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, WHOSE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY WE JUST CELEBRATED, WAS ONE PERSON WHO ALWAYS THOUGHT OF OTHERS. SHE SAID (QUOTE), "YOU MUST DO THE THING YOU THINK YOU CANNOT DO."

SOME PEOPLE IN THIS ELECTION THINK WE CANNOT, OR SHOULD NOT, FACE OUR PROBLEMS. BUT I DISAGREE.

LET OTHERS SAY WE CANNOT AFFORD EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA.
I SAY WE MUST PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

LET OTHERS SAY WE CANNOT GUARANTEE OUR PERSONAL FREEDOMS. I
WANT TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT MY OWN LIFE. I DON'T WANT RONALD
REAGAN, OR ANY OTHER PRESIDENT, TO MAKE THEM FOR ME.

LET OTHERS SAY WE CANNOT CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTE DUMPS. I SAY
WE MUST NOT ONLY CLEAN UP THOSE TOXIC DUMPS, WE MUST MAKE THE
POLLUTERS PAY FOR IT.

LET OTHERS SAY WE CANNOT KEEP FAITH WITH SENIOR CITIZENS. I
SAY THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MUST NOT LAY A FINGER
ON SOCIAL SECURITY, AND I MEAN IT.

LET OTHERS SAY THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.
I SAY WE NEED A PRESIDENT WITH THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO THE
SOVIETS, BUT ALSO THE WISDOM TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM TO NEGOTIATE
AN END TO THE ARMS RACE.

LET OTHERS SAY THIS ELECTION CANNOT BE WON. I SAY IT CAN
BE. IT MUST BE. AND WITH YOUR HELP, IT WILL BE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

-- END --