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Santa Barbara Rally Speech

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SANTA BARRARA, CALIFORNIA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1984

Thank you, Gary, for that terrific introduction. I understand that you’ve just come back from Hawaii. And standing here on this beautiful beach, I’ve got just one question: why did you go in the first place?

I’m delighted to see Mayor Sheila Lodge. I also want to recognize Michele Perrault, the president of the Sierra Club, Firmin Feuerborn [FEWER born] of the Building Trades Union, and Assemblyman Jack O’Connell.

It’s great to be back in the hometown of the next ex-President of the United States.

I’m sure you all saw the debate Sunday night. And as long as I’m here, let me ask you some questions:

Did Fritz Mondale win that debate Sunday night?

Did he show you who’s really in command?

Are we going to send Walter Mondale to the White House, and Ronald Reagan back here to his ranch in November?

You bet we are.
As the debates have shown, this campaign is more than a contest between two personalities or two parties. It’s a fight for the American future. It’s a fight to preserve this magnificent California coastline.

One threat to that future we see here today on this beach. Off in the distance, oil rigs interrupt the horizon. Those rigs are a concern to us all — but not Ronald Reagan.

In the last presidential election, Mr. Reagan told the people of Santa Barbara that the rigs were actually healthy for the environment and trees were bad for it. He said, and I quote, “From our studies after the oil spill, while I was still Governor, recommendations were to drill and get the oil out from under.” Because of earthquake faults, drilling, he said, and I quote, “would probably be the best thing for the channel.”

Now he may think it’s good for the channel to have 76 oil spills in six years. But I say, this channel was a lot better off before those oil spills began.

This beach we’re standing on is only one small part of some of the most beautiful coastline in the world, and I feel lucky to be here today. But everyone feels an obligation to make sure that others will enjoy this beauty in the future. The great naturalist and photographer Ansel Adams reminded us of that mission: “This earth is ours to love and live upon, and to hand down to all the generations of the future.”
But in addition to their unsurpassed beauty, our coastal areas are among America's great resources. They give us energy, transportation, recreation and food.

This Administration doesn't understand that. In the past four years, Ronald Reagan's Interior Department has put our nation's coastlines on the auction block with a policy of area-wide leasing. In just eighteen months, they've put three and a half times more acreage up on the block than the previous Administration did in four years.

Just last week, they were at it again. And the only thing that saved some of this state's most fragile waters was the Congress. Of course we must develop new sources of energy. But let's do so in a responsible way. We're trustees of this planet, not owners.

Walter Mondale and I believe we must stop sacrificing public resources for private profit. We must give states back the power to protect their own coastlines.

Our Administration will support legislation to let Californians decide the destiny of California. We will rebuild Coastal Zone Management Agencies, not ignore and underfund them. And we will appoint people to the EPA and the Department of Interior who care about our environment.
A week ago, I visited Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as part of our campaign's National Toxics Day. Representatives of our campaign visited fifteen toxic waste dumps. We visited more sites in one day than this Administration has cleaned up in four long years.

The people of Santa Barbara don't have to be told about the problems of toxic wastes. And you shouldn't have to remind your President that you have a right to turn on the tap and not worry about what comes out in your water.

Across the board, this Administration has the worst environmental record in modern history.

They tried to cut the EPA budget by half. They cut EPA research by half. They opposed the Safe Water Drinking Act. They sold off our public lands and resources at fire sale prices.

For every chicken coop, they found a fox to guard it. Remember: this is the Administration that gave us James Watt once and Anne Burford twice.
Things will be different under President Mondale. He will enforce our environmental laws. He will rebuild the EPA. He will use a reauthorized and expanded Superfund to clean up toxic dumps. And he will work for people's right to know about the toxic hazards they face in their workplace and their communities.

I want an Administration that takes polluters to court, not to lunch.

No one can guarantee an end to all pollution and health hazards overnight. But the American people deserve a government that takes your side against the interests of polluters. You deserve a government that knows protecting our environment makes good economic sense. And you can count on that kind of government from President Mondale.

And you can also count on an Administration that will make this a safer world. That debate on Sunday showed that one leader is on top of the issues, understands the world, believes in arms control, and can lead us toward peace. And his name is Walter Mondale.

• The single greatest threat to peace today is the nuclear arms race. And Walter Mondale and I are committed to negotiating a mutual, verifiable nuclear freeze.
WALTER MONDALE WILL CALL ON THE SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

MR. REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HERBERT HOOVER NOT TO MEET WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART. WALTER MONDALE WILL MEET WITH THE LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION EVERY YEAR.

EVERYONE IS FOR A SAFER WORLD. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO KNOWS HOW TO GET THERE. I WANT A PRESIDENT, LIKE WALTER MONDALE, WHO WILL DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO STOP THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

ON THE ENVIRONMENT, ON ARMS CONTROL, ON EVERY ISSUE THAT WILL SHAPE THIS NATION'S FUTURE, THERE IS A CHOICE THIS YEAR.

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

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

• WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO SUPPORTS CIVIL RIGHTS, NOT SEGREGATED ACADEMIES.
WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR EDUCATION. RONALD REAGAN'S PLAN FOR HELPING EDUCATION IS TO CUT STUDENT LOANS AND LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. I SAY, LET'S HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

AND WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. 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.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS COUNTRY. MAKE NO MISTAKE: AS DEMOCRATS, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THAT FIGHT.

PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF GREED AND DIVISION. IT'S TIME FOR COMPASSION AND CARING.

PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THE ARMS RACE AND THE NEW COLD WAR. IT'S TIME FOR ARMS CONTROL AND A NEW COMMITMENT TO PEACE.

PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO DEFILE THE EARTH WE LIVE ON. IT'S TIME TO MAKE OUR AIR CLEAN, AND OUR WATER PURE.

PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF LOOKING BACKWARDS. IT'S TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.
People have had enough of the policies of Ronald Reagan. It's time for the Presidency of Walter Mondale.

Thank you very much.

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IF YOU CARE ABOUT THIS BEACH, IF YOU CARE ABOUT THIS OUTSTANDING COASTLINE, IF YOU CARE ABOUT PRESERVING THIS PLANET FOR OUR CHILDREN AND ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS, PLEASE HELP US ON NOV. 6TH.