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## Los Angeles Rally Speech

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FINAL  
DRAFT

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1984

Thank you Ted, for that terrific introduction. One of the reasons I'm proud to be a Democrat is because our party has leaders of compassion and decency like Ted Kennedy.

I also want to thank Mayor Bradley, who is a great Mayor, and who should be Governor today.

This evening I've got some good news and some bad news. The bad news is on January 21st, California will have another unemployed actor on its hands. The good news is we're going to win this election.

Since this is, after all, the television capital of America, I'd like to conduct my own Nielsen rating survey right here.

Did Fritz Mondale win that debate Sunday night?

Did he show who's really in command?

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

You bet we are.

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People do funny things in campaigns. And recently, Ronald Reagan did two of the most astounding things I've ever seen.

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 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 a 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 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.

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And as Democrats, we're going to win that fight.

Above all, we are fighting for two basic principles.

First, equal opportunity. 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 woman, minority, and all who have been excluded from our society, to say together: if we can do this, we can do anything.

And the most important thing to do is reverse the policies of this Administration. In the last four years, it's become harder for average Americans to go on to college, because this Administration has cut student assistance. But it's even tougher if you're an inner city youngster. This Administration cut Head Start, Title I, and bi-lingual education.

In the last four years, America's children have suffered from deep cuts in nutrition programs. But the suffering has been greatest for minority children, one out of every four of whom lives in poverty.

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Don't misunderstand me. Every American has a reason to vote for Walter Mondale. But the awful truth is, blacks, Hispanics, women, and the disadvantaged have only themselves to blame if they stay home and let Ronald Reagan be President again.

He has been against you for as long as Walter Mondale has been for you. When Ronald Reagan was making movies, Walter Mondale was making history in the fight for social justice.

When Ronald Reagan was hosting Death Valley Days, Walter Mondale was fighting to stop the arms race.

When Ronald Reagan was the spokesman for General Electric, Walter Mondale was speaking out for the average American family.

When Ronald Reagan was speaking for Barry Goldwater and right-wing Republicans, Walter Mondale was saying with Martin Luther King, Jr., "Americans should not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

All through his public career, Walter Mondale has stood up for civil rights and social justice. And if you want to continue that fight, it's time to stand up and fight for Walter Mondale.

This Administration is taking us backwards. They want the gold standard for the economy, and the double standard for women.

This Administration has reversed forty years of Republican support for the Equal Rights Amendment. 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.

And they don't realize that creating equal opportunity takes more than a photo opportunity. Recently, Mr. Reagan came here to congratulate our Olympic athletes, including many women. But back in Washington, he sided with those who would discriminate against women in sports.

I, too, congratulate our athletes. But I don't want to just pat women on the back as they cross the finish line. I want to outlaw discrimination and help them get to the starting block.

Let me add, I'm not just speaking to women and minorities. You don't have to be a woman to be offended by discrimination. Most men are too.

You don't have to be poor to hate poverty. You don't have to be black or Hispanic to loathe bigotry. All Americans should, and most Americans do.

And you don't have to be a soldier to pray for peace. That's the most important issue in this campaign.

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Mr. Reagan is the first President since Herbert Hoover not to meet with his Soviet counterpart. He is the first President since the dawn of the nuclear age not to negotiate an arms control agreement. When will this President understand that an arms race does not lead to superiority -- it leads only to an arms race. And arms control leads to peace.

Walter Mondale and I will do everything in our power to negotiate a mutual, verifiable nuclear freeze. We will fight the spread of nuclear weapons on this earth, and we will work to keep the arms race out of space.

Let's say, the sky is the limit. Let's say, enough is enough. Let's have a President who will call on the Soviets to negotiate arms control on his first day in office, not on the first day of his re-election campaign.

Not long ago, we celebrated the hundredth birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt. She once said (quote), "You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

Let the Republicans say that when our products don't sell, it's the workers' fault. I say, if we just invest in education and new equipment, and give people the tools they need to do the job, American workers can outproduct, outcompete, and outsell any other worker on the face of the earth.



Let others say that workers are lazy. In the height of the recession, this President told the unemployed to read the want ads. The problem was, the unemployed don't get all those foreign newspapers where their jobs are now being advertised.

Let others say we cannot clean up toxic waste dumps. Remember, this is the Administration that gave us James Watt once and Anne Burford twice. I say we must not only clean up those dumps, we must make polluters pay for it. Let's have an Administration that takes polluters to court not to lunch.

Let others say we cannot keep faith with senior citizens. I say, Social Security is a contract and we're not going to let the Republicans lay a finger on it.

Let others say discrimination cannot be stopped. I say with Martin Luther King, Jr., (quote) "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." In this Administration we face an adversary. But we have faced adversaries before and this one too we shall overcome.

Let others say we cannot trust people to make choices about their own lives. I say no President, and especially not Ronald Reagan, should make those choices for me.

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I want a government that stays in public buildings and out of our homes, our churches, and our synagogues.

I want the next Supreme Court to be chosen by Walter Mondale, and not Jerry Falwell.

Let others say education is not a national priority. Ronald Reagan's idea of helping education is to launch a teacher into space. I say let's help students and teachers here on earth.

Let others say there is 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 and 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 FOR BEING HERE.  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. (Is that enough thanks, Sasso?)

-- END --