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Atlanta Rally Speech

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Mayor Andrew Young
Sec of State Max Cleland
Coretta Scott King

Iris Carter knew where to
look for talent. These
people still contributing to
this city, this state, +
this country.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1984

THE POLLSTERS AND THE PUNDITS SAY WE CAN'T WIN IN NOVEMBER.
THEY'VE DECIDED THE RACE BEFORE THE FIRST VOTING BOOTH OPENS.
BUT I WANT TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT
HERE.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

ARE WE GOING TO SEND WALTER MONDALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND
RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

YOU BET WE ARE.

A FEW DAYS AGO, GEORGE BUSH ASKED A CROWD IN COLUMBUS, OHIO:
"DO YOU KNOW WHAT WINS ELECTIONS?" AND HE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION
BY PULLING OUT HIS WALLET AND SAYING, "IT'S WHO PUTS MONEY INTO
THIS AND WHO TAKES MONEY OUT."

THAT SAYS IT ALL. THAT SPONTANEOUS GESTURE OF SELFISHNESS
TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THIS ADMINISTRATION
THAN ALL THEIR PRE-PAID COMMERCIALS.

ON MONDAY, I READ IN THE PAPERS THAT POOR GEORGE BUSH STILL DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS WRONG WITH HIS ~~ANSWER~~. ^{Comment} SO, LET ME EXPLAIN IT ONE MORE TIME FOR HIM.

OF COURSE WE CARE ABOUT MONEY. BUT LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT: THIS IS AN ELECTION, NOT AN AUCTION. AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT UP FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

YOU CARE ABOUT PEACE. ON FRIDAY, MR. REAGAN SAT DOWN WITH MR. GROMYKO AND THEY HAD A TALK. / THAT WAS A GOOD SIGN, AND I HOPE SERIOUS PROGRESS WAS MADE. /

BUT YOU DESERVE A PRESIDENT WHO CALLS ON THE SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, / NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN. /

YOU CARE ABOUT REDUCING TENSIONS. / IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MILITARIZING A CONFLICT THAT SHOULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY, / AND IT IS AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT THAT IS PRIMARYLY LOCAL. /

I SAY IT'S TIME TO STOP THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA. //

YOU CARE ABOUT PERSONAL FREEDOM. / I DON'T WANT JERRY FALWELL TO PICK THE NEXT TWO JUSTICES ON THE SUPREME COURT. /

I WANT A SUPREME COURT THAT RESPECTS OUR RIGHTS AND STAYS
OUT OF OUR HOMES, OUR CHURCHES, AND OUR SYNAGOGUES.

YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS. / WHEN YOUR NEIGHBORS LOSE
THEIR JOBS, YOU KNOW IT'S TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO LOSE HIS. /

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE STAGGERING UNDER THE LARGEST TRADE DEFICIT
IN OUR HISTORY. / LET'S BE CLEAR: TRADE MEANS JOBS. / WE MUST PUSH
OUR EXPORTS AND DEMAND THAT OUR TRADING PARTNERS OPEN THEIR DOORS
AS WIDE AS WE'VE OPENED OURS. /

THIS PRESIDENT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. / HE TELLS THE
UNEMPLOYED TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THE PROBLEM IS, ~~THEY~~ ^{THEY} DON'T GET
ALL THOSE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE ~~YOUR~~ ^{THEIR} JOBS ARE BEING ADVERTISED
NOW.

YOU CARE ABOUT BEING FAIR TO THE DISADVANTAGED.

ACCORDING TO THIS ADMINISTRATION, IF YOU'RE A DEFENSE
CONTRACTOR, \$2,000 FOR A THIRTEEN-CENT NUT IS NOT TOO HIGH A
PRICE. BUT IF YOU'RE AN ELDERLY WOMAN LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY,
THE MINIMUM BENEFIT OF \$122 A MONTH IS EXTRAVAGANT AND MUST BE
CUT.

IF YOU'RE A PENTAGON SUPPLIER, \$7,000 FOR A COFFEE MACHINE IS MARKET VALUE. NOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MR. COFFEE TO KNOW THAT'S TOO MUCH. / BUT IF YOU'RE A YOUNG MOTHER TRYING TO FEED YOUR BABY, THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS \$35 A MONTH WILL BUST THE BUDGET.

IF YOU'RE HOMELESS, THEY SAY YOU LIKE IT THAT WAY. IF YOU'RE WITHOUT A JOB, THEY SAY VOTE WITH YOUR FEET. AND IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, THEY SAY EAT CHEESE.

IF THAT'S HIS IDEA OF COMPASSION, I SAY LET'S VOTE WITH OUR HEARTS. / TAKE AWAY HIS JOB. / AND SEND HIM BACK HOME IN NOVEMBER. /

IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOUSANDS OF DISABLED CUT OFF BY THIS ADMINISTRATION'S CRUEL DISABILITY POLICY, THEY SAY "SUE US." AND THEN THEY CUT THE LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS THAT LET YOU DO THAT. BUT IF YOU'RE A BIG BANK FAILING BECAUSE OF MISMANAGEMENT, THEY SAY: TELL US HOW MUCH YOU NEED AND WE'LL SEND IT.

AND IF YOU'RE A VETERAN, THIS PRESIDENT SAID YOU DON'T NEED JOB TRAINING. I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT NOT ONLY RELIES ON ITS SOLDIERS WHEN THEY GO TO WAR / BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THEM WHEN THE FIGHTING ENDS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS A CALCULATOR WHERE ITS HEART SHOULD BE, AND THAT'S NOT ONLY A LACK OF COMPASSION, IT'S A FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP.

OUR PRESIDENTS ARE NOT ELECTED TO RULE, / THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO LEAD. / THEY'RE NOT CHOSEN FOR THEIR SALESMANSHIP, / THEY'RE NEEDED FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP.

NOWHERE HAS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP COST US MORE THAN IN LEBANON. / IN THE LAST 17 MONTHS, MORE MARINES HAVE BEEN KILLED IN BEIRUT THAN ANYWHERE ELSE SINCE VIETNAM, / THERE HAVE BEEN THREE BOMBINGS. THE FIRST TIME, THERE WAS NO GATE. THE SECOND TIME, THE GATE WAS OPEN. THE THIRD TIME, THE GATE WASN'T EVEN INSTALLED.

THE FIRST INCIDENT WAS A TRAGEDY; THE SECOND SHOWED NEGLECT; AND THE THIRD IS A DISGRACE.

WHAT HAS BEEN JUST AS DISGRACEFUL IS THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF THIS DISASTER. LEADERS ARE TESTED IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS, NOT IN TELEVISION ADS. / AND AT THIS MOMENT, PRESIDENT REAGAN IS FAILING THE CRITICAL TEST.

But nothing happened - When he meant
by that comment was Case closed -
End of discussion.

HE BEGAN BY DENYING THE TRUCK GOT INTO THE COMPOUND, /
WHICH IT DID. / THEN HE BLAMED HIS PREDECESSORS, WHICH HE SOON
APOLOGIZED FOR. / LET ME REMIND YOU, WHEN THE HOSTAGES WERE
HELD IN IRAN, ALL THROUGH THAT 14-MONTH ORDEAL PRESIDENT
CARTER NEVER ONCE BLAMED SOMEONE ELSE. / AND I FOR ONE WAS
PROUD OF MY PRESIDENT. //

NOW, AT LAST, MR. REAGAN SAYS HE'S RESPONSIBLE. /
OKAY, SO TELL ME WHAT THAT MEANS.

~~Do you remember that~~

^{Reagan}
Pres. HE SAID HE WAS RESPONSIBLE. / IN DECEMBER 1983, AFTER THE BOMBING OF THE MARINE BARRACKS. /
IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING THEN, AND
IT APPARENTLY DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING NOW. /

WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EMBASSY
BOMBING, DOES HE MEAN HE DIDN'T HEED THE MANY WARNINGS THAT
PRECEDED THE ATTACK? //

DOES HE MEAN HE DIRECTED OUR PEOPLE TO BE MOVED INTO AN
UNSAFE BUILDING? //

DOES HE MEAN HE DIRECTED THE MARINE GUARD BE REPLACED
WITH LOCAL MILITIA?

saying "I'm responsible"

OR DOES ~~HE~~ MEAN, AS IT DID IN 1983, THAT HE WANTS TO
END THE DISCUSSION AND NO ONE WILL ANSWER FOR NEGLIGENCE?

IF THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS IS YES AND HE DID MAKE
THOSE DECISIONS, THEN THIS PRESIDENT WAS SERIOUSLY NEGLIGENT.

~~AND MUST PAY A PRICE.~~ IF THE ANSWER IS NO AND HE WAS NOT

INVOLVED, THEN THIS PRESIDENT WAS NOT PAYING ATTENTION AND
IS NOT IN CHARGE. EITHER WAY, ~~HE~~ LET US DOWN AND ~~HE~~ SHOULD

THIS PRESIDENT THIS PRESIDENT

PAY A PRICE.

*AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IS AN
EMPTY GESTURE.*

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WORRIES MORE ABOUT PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES, AND LESS ABOUT PROTECTING HIS OWN IMAGE.

LEADERSHIP IS NOT JUST TELLING PEOPLE WHAT YOU THINK THEY WANT TO HEAR, IT'S TELLING THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW. IT'S NOT JUST PROMISING PEOPLE MORE MONEY, IT'S ASKING THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS COUNTRY.

NAME THE LAST TIME RONALD REAGAN TOOK THE LEAD ON AN ISSUE IN ADVANCE OF HIS TIME. WALTER MONDALE WAS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF SENATORS WHO OPPOSED PUTTING MULTIPLE WARHEADS ON OUR MISSILES BECAUSE AS HE SAID, THE SOVIETS WOULD SOON CATCH UP AND DO THE SAME THING. WE SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO WALTER MONDALE THEN -- BECAUSE WE WOULD BE SAFER TODAY IF WE HAD.

NAME THE LAST TIME RONALD REAGAN TOOK A CHANCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. MR. MONDALE HAS. AND THE MOST RECENT CHANCE HE TOOK WAS TO SELECT ME TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE. EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, BUT WHEN I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE AS THE FIRST FEMALE VICE PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY, I WILL KNOW THAT THAT HISTORIC, MORAL VICTORY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY FRITZ MONDALE.

And how to strengthen this country is what this election is all about. Creating equal opportunity strengthens this country.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, A LEADER MUST SWIM AGAINST THE TIDE TO BE TRUE TO HIS BELIEFS. FRITZ MONDALE IS THAT KIND OF LEADER. HE WOULD RATHER LOSE A FIGHT OVER DECENCY, THAN WIN ONE OVER SELF-INTEREST. AND SO WOULD I.

SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO MAKE PATRIOTISM AN ISSUE IN THIS CAMPAIGN. BUT THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE IN 1984. NO ONE IS MORE PROUD OF THIS COUNTRY THAN I AM, AND NO ONE IS MORE PATRIOTIC THAN AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER NOMINATED BY HER PARTY TO BE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE ISSUE IS HOW BEST TO serve OUR COUNTRY. IN MY OPINION, THE LEAST WORTHY WAY TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY IS WITH A COMMERCIAL OF SWELLING MUSIC AND PHONY GOOD CHEER MADE ON MADISON AVENUE.

WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT WHEN SOMEONE FINDS JOBS FOR THE EIGHT AND A HALF MILLION UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN, WE BUILD OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE -- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE KEEP THE PEACE, YOUNG MEN DON'T DIE -- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FINALLY STOP THE ARMS RACE, WE'LL ENHANCE OUR SAFETY
— AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, WE OPEN DOORS
EVERYWHERE — AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

IT MAY BE THAT MADISON AVENUE PATRIOTISM IS SMART POLITICS.
~~IT MAY BE THAT PULLING OUT A WALLET AND PROMISING TO FILL IT WITH
MONEY WINS VOTES. BUT I DON'T THINK SO. AND EVEN IF IT IS, I
WON'T DO IT. I'M IN THIS ELECTION TO FIGHT FOR WHAT I THINK IS
RIGHT, AND TO STAND FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN.~~

I THINK IT'S RIGHT TO STOP THE ARMS RACE; TO RESTORE
FAIRNESS; TO FIGHT FOR AMERICAN JOBS; AND TO PROTECT OUR
ENVIRONMENT. AND IF YOU AGREE, THE TIME TO HELP US IS NOT LATER.
IT'S NOW.

The time to help the fight is now later,
THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO CREATE JOBS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

The time to educate our young people

THE TIME FOR FRITZ MONDALE TO BECOME PRESIDENT, AND GERRY
FERRARO TO BECOME VICE PRESIDENT, IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.