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Tacoma Rally Speech

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TACOMA, WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 27, 1984

THANK YOU, NORM, FOR THAT GREAT INTRODUCTION. IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO BE INTRODUCED BY A WONDERFUL SPEAKER AND A CLOSE FRIEND.

THIS IS MY FOURTH TRIP TO THE BEAUTIFUL STATE OF WASHINGTON. I KEEP COMING BACK FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, I LOVE THIS STATE, AND SECOND, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION AND WE'RE GOING TO WIN IT WITH WASHINGTON.

I'M THRILLED TO BE IN A STATE AS NEW AS THE TACOMA DOME, AS MAJESTIC AS MOUNT RAINIER, AS PRECIOUS AS PUGET SOUND, AND AS CONFIDENT AS I AM THAT THE DEMOCRATS WILL WIN ON NOVEMBER 6TH.

AND NOW TO EXPLAIN WHY I'M SO CONFIDENT, I'M GOING TO CONSULT MY FAVORITE POLITICAL ADVISORS -- THIS MARVELOUS CROWD.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

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

YOU BET WE ARE.

FOR THREE MONTHS NOW, OUR PARTY HAS BEEN ON A JOURNEY WITHOUT PRECEDENT, FOR A CAUSE AS OLD AS OUR COUNTRY. THE PROMISE OF EQUALITY WAS NEVER SO NEAR, NOR DISCRIMINATION SO FAR, AS WHEN FRITZ MONDALE ASKED ME TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE. HE DID MORE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN A SINGLE DAY THAN RONALD REAGAN HAS DONE IN FOUR LONG YEARS.

THIS ELECTION IS NOT A DUEL BETWEEN PERSONALITIES. YOU CAN LIKE RONALD REAGAN, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO VOTE FOR HIM.

ABOVE ALL, THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT DEFENDING FOUR GREAT AMERICAN PRINCIPLES.

FIRST, EDUCATION. AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT EDUCATION UNLOCKS THE DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY. WE KNOW THAT TO GET AHEAD, YOU HAVE TO GET AN EDUCATION.

BUT WHERE WE SEE A NEED TO INVEST IN THE PROMISE OF OUR YOUTH, RONALD REAGAN HAS DRAMATICALLY CUT SCHOOL AID AND SLASHED PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.

RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO SEND A TEACHER INTO SPACE, BUT I SAY WE HAVE TO HELP OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

SECOND, AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT PERSONAL FREEDOM IS ESSENTIAL. BUT THE EXTREMISTS WHO CONTROL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WOULD IMPOSE A RELIGIOUS TEST ON FEDERAL JUDGES, AND PUT THE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR MOST PERSONAL CHOICES.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL KEEP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND OUT OF OUR HOMES, OUR CHURCHES AND OUR SYNAGOGUES.

I WANT THE SUPREME COURT CHOSEN BY WALTER MONDALE, NOT JERRY FALWELL.

THIRD, WE WON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF FUTURE WITHOUT THIS PLANET. WE MUST KEEP OUR LAND, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR LIVES FREE FROM TOXIC WASTES. TOO MANY AMERICANS ALREADY MUST WORRY ABOUT THE AIR THEY BREATHE, THE WATER THEY DRINK, AND THE LAND THEY OWN.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON THEM. THEY LEFT TOXIC WASTE DUMPS UNCLEARED, AND FAILED TO HELP LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS REMOVE ASBESTOS FROM SOME 33,000 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

YOU ARE LUCKY TO LIVE ON THIS BEAUTIFUL BODY OF WATER, COMMENCEMENT BAY. AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT OWNERS OF IT, YOU'RE THE TRUSTEES OF IT. YOU WANT TO HAND DOWN TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TO THEIR CHILDREN OUR LAND AND OUR WATER AS BEAUTIFUL AS WHEN WE RECEIVED THEM. BUT THAT GOAL IS THREATENED BY THE POLLUTION IN PUGET SOUND. AND IT WAS THIS ADMINISTRATION THAT KILLED THE CLEAN WATER ACT WHICH WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU CLEAN IT UP.

IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THIS PRESIDENT, WHILE PRAISING SCOOP JACKSON, OPPOSED THE HENRY M. JACKSON WILDERNESS AREA. 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 THE MOST DANGEROUS TOXIC DUMPS. AND HE'LL MAKE THE POLLUTERS PAY FOR THE CLEAN UP.

I SAY WE NEED AN ADMINISTRATION THAT TAKES POLLUTERS TO COURT, AND NOT TO LUNCH.

AND FOURTH, THERE'S NO GREATER AMERICAN PRINCIPLE THAN PEACE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT REQUIRES ENDING THE ARMS RACE.

PRESIDENT REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HOOVER NOT TO MEET WITH THE SOVIET LEADER. HE IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE NOT TO SIGN AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

I SAY WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TALK WITH THE SOVIET LEADER ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

AND WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STOP THE ARMS RACE BEFORE IT SPINS INTO SPACE. IT'S TIME TO SAY, THE SKY'S THE LIMIT. RATHER THAN EXTENDING THE ARMS RACE INTO SPACE, LET'S STOP IT HERE ON EARTH.

CONTROLLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT -- BUT NOT THE ONLY -- KEY TO A SAFER WORLD. OUR SECURITY ALSO CALLS FOR SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT BASIC CONNECTION. IN HIS LAST DEBATE, RONALD REAGAN SAID THE ONLY OPPOSITION TO MARCOS IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS COMMUNISM. WITH THAT SINGLE MISSTATEMENT, PRESIDENT REAGAN STRENGTHENED THE REPRESSIVE FORCES IN THAT COUNTRY, SET BACK THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY, AND WEAKENED THE TRUST THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE HAVE IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

I WISH HE UNDERSTOOD THAT LONG AFTER MARCOS IS GONE, THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE WILL STILL BE THERE. WE NEED THEIR FRIENDSHIP. OUR STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT MILITARY BASES ARE THERE. AND THE BEST WAY TO EARN THEIR FRIENDSHIP IS TO ACT LIKE A FRIEND AND SUPPORT THEIR QUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT WHEN WE PRESS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WE STRENGTHEN OUR OWN COUNTRY. BOTH BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT AND BECAUSE IT'S SMART, I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH STOPS TOASTING DICTATORS AND STARTS FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY.

THOSE ARE THE FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES. BUT TO BUILD THE FUTURE, WE MUST DO IT TOGETHER. DIVIDING US INTO HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS WON'T STRENGTHEN THIS COUNTRY. AND DIVIDING THE REGIONS INTO FROSTBELT AND SUNBELT WEAKENS AMERICA.

I WAS JUST IN SILICON VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA, SPEAKING TO THE EMPLOYEES OF A COMPUTER COMPANY. AND I TOLD THEM WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU: WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING A MORE COMPETITIVE ECONOMY, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

AS THE LOGGERS AND BUILDERS OF WASHINGTON KNOW, WHEN ONE SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMY COLLAPSES, IT TAKES OTHER SEGMENTS DOWN WITH IT. WHEN ONE KIND OF INDUSTRY IS IN TROUBLE, ALL KINDS ARE THREATENED. OUR OWN SELF-INTEREST TELLS US THAT THE SUNBELT CANNOT FORSAKE THE FROSTBELT, AND HIGH TECH CANNOT FORGET SMOKESTACK.

IN MY BOOK, IT'S NOT A COMPLETE RECOVERY UNTIL WORKERS HAVE RECOVERED THEIR JOB. AMERICA IS NOT BACK AND STANDING TALL UNTIL THE LOGGERS OF OREGON, THE STEELWORKERS OF OHIO, AND THE FARMERS OF OUR COUNTRY ARE ALSO STANDING TALL.

WE CANNOT LEAVE ANY INDUSTRY OR REGION BEHIND, AND WE MUST NOT PREVENT ANY PERSON FROM SUCCEEDING. EVERY TIME WE LOWER A BARRIER, OUR NATION IS STRONGER. EVERY TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TALENTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY EXCLUDED, OUR NATION IS RICHER.

WALTER MONDALE AND I ARE COMMITTED TO AN AMERICA WHICH JUDGES PEOPLE NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

WE WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SUPPORTS CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS, NOT SEGREGATED ACADEMIES.

AND WE WANT A COUNTRY THAT KEEPS FAITH WITH WOMEN. 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.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THESE PRINCIPLES. BUT RECENTLY IT SEEMS LIKE WE MAY HAVE ANOTHER NEW CONVERT. RONALD REAGAN HAS BEEN RIDING HARRY TRUMAN'S TRAIN.

TWO WEEKS AGO, 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. 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.

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.

I CAN READ THE POLLS. AND I'VE HEARD WHAT THE REPORTERS SAY. THEY TELL ME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO VOTE FOR MR. REAGAN, EVEN THOUGH THEY OPPOSE HIS POLICIES, BECAUSE THEY LIKE HIM.

WELL, LET ME SAY SOMETHING TO THOSE PEOPLE. MR. REAGAN MAY BE CHARMING, FUNNY AND PLEASANT. BUT THERE'S NOTHING CHARMING ABOUT THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA. THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT TOXIC WASTE THAT CAUSES CANCER. AND THERE'S NOTHING PLEASANT ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND MINORITIES. THOSE ARE THE POLICIES THAT LIE BEHIND THAT FRIENDLY SMILE. IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THEM, RONALD REAGAN'S YOUR MAN.

THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU VOTE FOR RONALD REAGAN, YOU'RE VOTING TO EXTEND THE ARMS RACE INTO SPACE AND TO RETREAT FROM HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT IF YOU VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE, YOU'RE VOTING TO STOP THE ARMS RACE, PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, REDUCE THESE DEFICITS, AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS.

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU DO ON ELECTION DAY. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. I'M VOTING FOR YOU, FOR MY CHILDREN, AND FOR MY CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

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

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

-- END --