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Germantown Rally Speech

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GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1984

THANK YOU, MAYOR GOODE, FOR THAT FINE INTRODUCTION, AND I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY GOOD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE BILL GRAY. THESE TWO MEN GIVE THE PEOPLE OF PHILADELPHIA LEADERSHIP THEY CAN BE PROUD OF.

I UNDERSTAND RONALD REAGAN CAME TO PHILADELPHIA YESTERDAY. THROUGHOUT THIS CAMPAIGN HE HAS DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A BELIEVER IN ARMS CONTROL AND A FRIEND OF THE GREAT DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF THE PAST, HARRY TRUMAN AND JOHN KENNEDY. NOW, I KNOW IT'S ALMOST HALLOWEEN, BUT ANYBODY CAN SEE THROUGH THAT DISGUISE.

THIS IS MY ^{NINTH} ~~NINTH~~ TRIP TO PENNSYLVANIA. I KEEP COMING BACK TO THIS STATE FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, WE CARE ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA. AND SECOND, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION, AND WE'RE GOING TO WIN IT WITH PENNSYLVANIA.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FINE, NON-PARTISAN CROWD TO CONDUCT MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION?

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

YOU BET WE ARE.

WHEN FRITZ MONDALE OFFERED ME THE NOMINATION, HE DID MORE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN A SINGLE DAY THAN RONALD REAGAN HAS DONE IN FOUR LONG YEARS. ON THAT DAY, I FELT A SPECIAL SURGE OF PRIDE AS AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER. BUT IT WASN'T JUST A PERSONAL VICTORY FOR ME. IT WAS A VICTORY FOR EVERY WOMAN / EVERY BLACK / EVERY HISPANIC / AND EVERY OTHER PERSON EVER EXCLUDED FROM A JOB BECAUSE OF BIGOTRY, DISCRIMINATION, OR HATE. //

TODAY I STAND HERE TO TELL YOU, / IF WE CAN DO THIS / WE CAN DO ANYTHING. //

THIS ELECTION IS NOT A CONTEST BETWEEN PERSONALITIES, / YOU CAN LIKE RONALD REAGAN WITHOUT VOTING FOR HIM. / ~~THIS~~ THIS IS A FIGHT OVER WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY WE ARE AND THE DIRECTION WE WANT TO GO IN. IT'S A CHOICE THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE LIVES OF EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN FOR YEARS TO COME. AND IT'S A PARTICULARLY STARK CHOICE FOR WOMEN / FOR BLACKS / AND FOR ~~OTHER~~ OTHER MINORITIES. //

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, / BLACK AMERICANS WERE FIGHTING FOR THIS COUNTRY IN EUROPE, / BUT BACK AT HOME / THEY WERE BARRED FROM LUNCH COUNTERS, HOTELS, AND VOTING BOOTHS.

OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS, WE CHANGED ALL THAT. / I'M PROUD OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME AS A NATION. / WE'RE NOT PERFECT, BUT EACH DECADE WE'RE GETTING BETTER.

IT SAYS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT AMERICA WHEN LAWYERS AND
DOCTORS AND PROFESSORS ^{and mayors & members of Congress} ARE BLACK AND HISPANIC AND FEMALE.

IT SAYS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT AMERICA WHEN TWO OF THE FIRST
ASTRONAUTS TO FLY IN THE SPACE SHUTTLE WERE A BLACK AND A WOMAN.

AND IT SAYS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT AMERICA WHEN ONE OF THE
MOST EXCITING AND ~~IMPORTANT~~ PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF OUR TIME
IS THE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON.

EVERY TIME THIS NATION LOWERS ANOTHER BARRIER, OUR SOCIETY
IS STRENGTHENED. EVERY TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TALENTS WE
HAD EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF RACISM OR SEXISM, OUR COUNTRY IS RICHER.

THAT'S WHY I'M SO WORRIED TODAY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY
LIFE, I THINK WE'RE GOING BACKWARDS.

RONALD REAGAN'S POLICIES HAVE BEEN BAD FOR THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE. BUT LET'S BE PLAIN ABOUT THIS: THEY'VE BEEN A DISASTER
FOR BLACKS AND OTHER MINORITIES. NO ONE HAS A GREATER STAKE IN
THIS ELECTION THAN THE LOCKED-OUT, THE VULNERABLE, THE HUNGRY,
THOSE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, AND THE UNEMPLOYED.

THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPAL ISSUES AT STAKE THIS YEAR FOR THE
PEOPLE OF PHILADELPHIA. FIRST IS THE ISSUE OF OPPORTUNITY. 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 ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE FAMILIES IN THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT FOR BLACK TEENAGERS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STANDS AT AN UNBELIEVABLE ONE OUT OF TWO.

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.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS MEDICARE CUTS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON ALL THE ELDERLY. BUT NO PROPOSAL WAS MEANER THAN THE REAGAN PROPOSAL TO TAKE THE MINIMUM SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT FROM THREE MILLION POOR AMERICANS, NEARLY ALL OF WHOM WERE WOMEN.

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. EVERY AMERICAN HAS A REASON TO VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE. BUT THE AWFUL TRUTH IS, BLACKS, WOMEN ~~AND~~ DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS, AND OTHER MINORITIES HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME IF THEY STAY HOME AND LET RONALD REAGAN BE PRESIDENT AGAIN.

THE SECOND ISSUE AT STAKE IS WAR AND PEACE. WAR IS A HORRIBLE THING FOR EVERY PERSON. BUT LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS:

~~PHILADELPHIA TO WASHINGTON D.C. ABOUT / FOR THE TRUTH / AND FOR
WALTER MONDALE~~

HE HAS BEEN ON YOUR SIDE FOR AS LONG AS RONALD REAGAN HAS BEEN AGAINST YOU. / WALTER MONDALE HELPED WRITE THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968. / HE HELPED PASS THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT. / HE WAS A FIGHTER FOR HEAD START. / HE LED THE BATTLE FOR AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM FOR THE POOR. / HE INVESTIGATED THE PLIGHT OF MIGRANT WORKERS. / AND HE'S BEEN A FRIEND OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR TWENTY YEARS. //

NAME A DECENT CAUSE, AND FRITZ MONDALE HAS BEEN THERE, FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. / AND IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE / I THINK IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR WALTER MONDALE. /

HE BELIEVES WITH THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THAT "INJUSTICE ANYWHERE / IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

HE BELIEVES, WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING, THAT WE CANNOT STOP / "UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN LIKE WATER / AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE THE MIGHTY STREAM." //

WITH DR. KING / LET'S DECLARE FINALLY / THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE JUDGED NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, / BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

WITH DR. KING, LET'S SAY WE FACE AN ADVERSARY, BUT WE HAVE
 FACED ADVERSARIES BEFORE, AND THIS ONE TOO WE SHALL OVERCOME.

WHEN MOSES LED HIS PEOPLE ACROSS THE RED SEA, AND OUT OF
 BONDAGE, NO ONE ASKED WHO WAS THE FIRST TO CROSS, BUT WHETHER THE
 LAST ONES WERE SAFE. AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PROMISED LAND.
 IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF US TO CROSS OVER. IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF US
 TO WORK FOR WALTER MONDALE.

THE CHALLENGES ARE GREAT TODAY, BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE
 EVEN GREATER. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT STOKED THE EMBER OF DEFIANT HOPE
 IN ALL OF US, WHEN SHE SAID, "YOU MUST DO THE THING YOU THINK YOU
 CANNOT DO."

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 IN
 THIS COUNTRY. I DO NOT WANT RONALD REAGAN OR ANY OTHER PRESIDENT
 TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT MY PERSONAL LIFE. I WANT TO MAKE THOSE
 DECISIONS FOR MYSELF.

LET OTHERS SAY WE CANNOT CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTE DUMPS. I SAY
 WE OWE IT TO OUR CHILDREN NOT TO POISON THEIR WORLD.

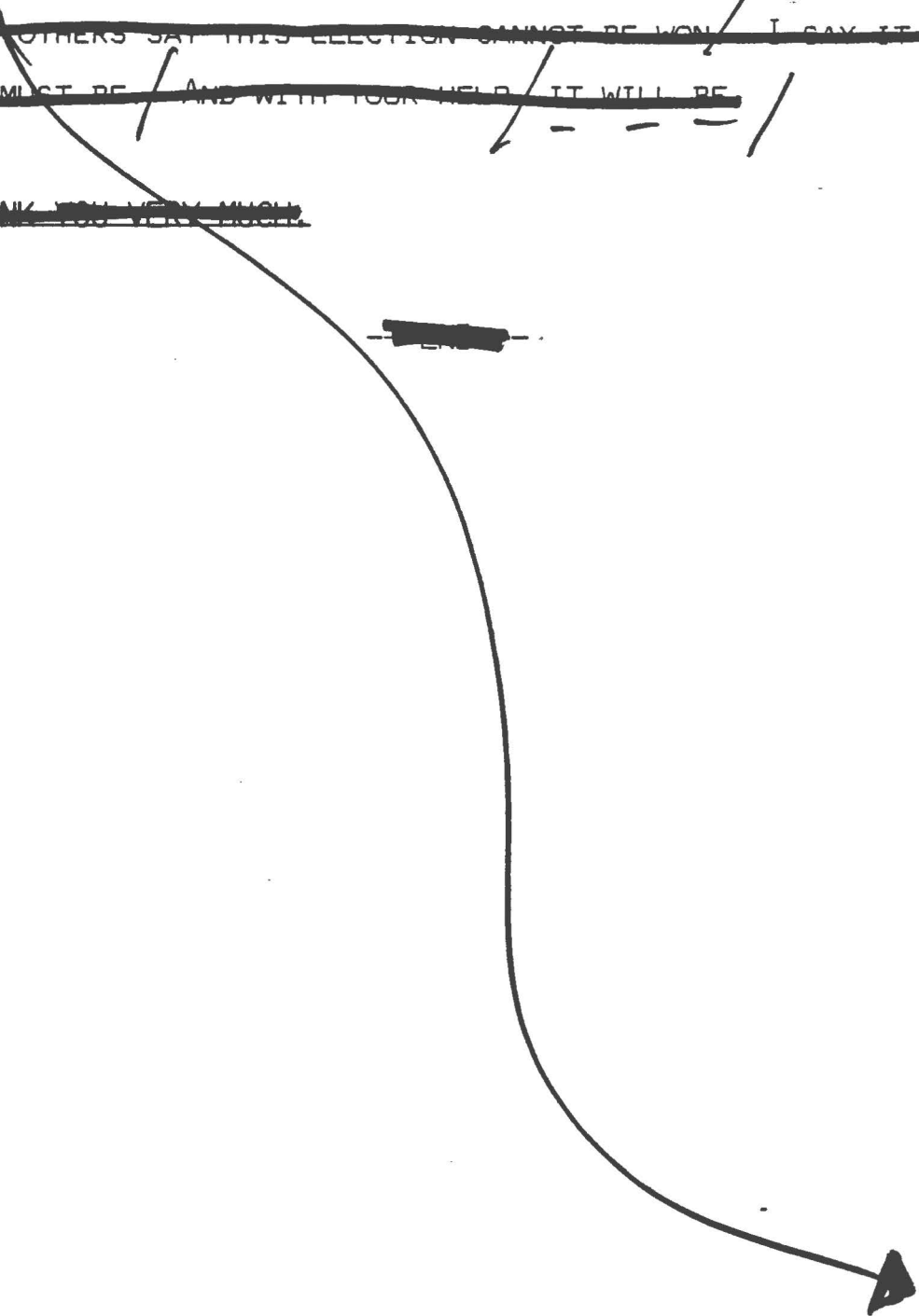
LET OTHERS SAY WE CANNOT KEEP OUR BOND WITH SENIOR CITIZENS.
 I SAY WE MUST KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SECURE.

AND LET OTHERS SAY THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. I SAY OUR NATION'S SECURITY AND OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT. THIS COUNTRY HAS NEVER FAILED TO MEET A CHALLENGE, AND WE WON'T START NOW.

~~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 VERY MUCH.~~

~~END~~



I THINK PEOPLE WILL DO THAT. I THINK THAT OUR SECRET WEAPON
IN THIS CAMPAIGN IS PEOPLE'S CONSCIENCE. WHEN PEOPLE GO INTO
THE POLLING BOOTH AND PULL THAT CURTAIN BEHIND THEM, THEY WILL
STOP AND THINK ~~ABOUT WHAT~~ ^{what it is} DEEP DOWN / THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT --
WHETHER IT IS PROTECTING OUR PERSONAL FREEDOMS, CREATING JOBS
FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS, TEACHING OUR CHILDREN, OR STOPPING
THE ARMS RACE.

WHEN THEY DO THAT -- AND I BELIEVE THEY WILL -- THEIR
CONSCIENCE WILL TELL THEM TO PULL THAT LEVER FOR WALTER MONDALE.

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.

I CAN FEEL THIS RACE TIGHTENING UP. IN THIS LAST WEEK, I CAN
TELL WE'RE CLOSING IN. PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT THE IMPACT OF
THEIR VOTE, AND THEY'RE LISTENING TO THEIR CONSCIENCE. IN THESE
FINAL DAYS, THEY'RE MOVING OUR WAY. FIRST BY THE HUNDREDS, THEN
BY THE THOUSANDS, AND ON NEXT TUESDAY, ^{FINALLY} BY THE MILLIONS, THEY'LL
MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO CHOOSE A NEW PRESIDENT, AND HIS NAME IS
WALTER MONDALE.

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.