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Upper Darby Rally Speech

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UPPER DARBY, PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 29, 1984

Thank you very much, Bob, for that terrific introduction. I've worked closely in the House with my good friend Bob Edgar. We served together on the Public Works Committee. I've seen him fighting for the programs this District needs. And at the same time, I've seen him lead the battle against wasteful, pork-barrel projects.

I've been impressed by his commitment to our veterans, and I've benefitted from his leadership in the Northeast-Midwest Coalition in the Congress.

Let me tell you something. Bob Edgar is a real fighter for the people of this District, and the entire nation is better off because of his votes of common sense and good judgment. Give him your support. I thank you for sending him to Washington.

You know, the pollsters and the pundits have been saying for years that the numbers aren't there for Bob Edgar to win this District. And for years, Bob Edgar has been proving them wrong.

This year, the pollsters and the pundits are saying Mondale and Ferraro can't win the state of Pennsylvania. But come November 6, the people of this great state are going to prove them wrong again.
This is my ninth visit to Pennsylvania. I keep coming back for two reasons: first, we care about Pennsylvania. And second, we're going to win this election and we're going to do it with Pennsylvania.

While I have you all here, let me tell you a few awesome things my own beautiful Oleander Swamp.

Are we going to win in November?

Are we going to re-elect Bob Edgar?

Are we going to send Walter Mondale to the White House and Ronald Reagan back to the 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.

AND I DON'T WANT AN ADMINISTRATION COMING UP WITH NEW
PARTY OR FAITH. We must appoint people who can best defend the constitutional rights of all Americans, including the rights of those with whom we disagree.

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.

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.

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 his Soviet counterpart. 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 call on 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.
I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT WHEN WE PRESS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WE STRENGTHEN OUR OWN COUNTRY. I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH STOPS TOASTING DICTATORS AND STARTS FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY.

I ALSO WANT A PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO ENDING HUNGER AND PREVENTING STARVATION. RIGHT NOW, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING EACH DAY IN ETHIOPIA BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT. WE HAVE SEEN THE TRAGIC PICTURES. MEANWHILE, WORLD CEREAL PRODUCTION IS UP AND OUR STOREHOUSES ARE PACKED WITH GRAIN. THAT SHOCKING CONTRAST IS INDECENT.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF, BUT THEY CUT BACK ON FOOD FOR PEACE BY NEARLY 700 MILLION DOLLARS. THEY DID NOT ACT WHEN EVERYONE SAW THE PROBLEM AND NOW THE PROBLEM HAS BECOME A TRAGEDY.

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SENDS FEWER TOOLS FOR WAR AND MORE FOOD FOR PEACE.
I want a President who understands that when he press for human rights we strengthen our own country. I want a new administration which stops boasting about how strong we are and starts fighting for fairness.

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 in Silicon Valley in California last week, 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.

Some people like to blame our workers for the problems of our basic industries. We know better. 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 outproduce, outcompete, and outsell any other worker on the face of the earth.

Let others say that people aren't looking hard enough for
WORK. 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 TRY TO DIVIDE AMERICA REGION AGAINST REGION. IN MY BOOK, IT'S NOT A COMPLETE RECOVERY UNTIL WORKERS HAVE RECOVERED THEIR JOBS. AMERICA IS NOT BACK AND STANDING TALL UNTIL THE AUTOWORKERS OF MICHIGAN, THE STEELWORKERS OF PENNSYLVANIA, 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 CHEER TO DEMULT A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL
WE ALSO WANT A GOVERNMENT THAT FIGHTS DISCRIMINATION FOR ITS WHOLE TERM. THE OTHER DAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN ASSERTED THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY LACKED THE "MORAL COURAGE" TO DENOUNCE ANTI-SEMITISM. THAT WAS A DISGRACEFUL FALSEHOOD.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS LED THE FIGHT AGAINST EVERY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION. WHETHER IT WAS ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM, AGEISM OR SEXISM, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS STOOD UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS. AND WE HAVE DONE THAT YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT FOR FIFTY YEARS, BECAUSE ITS RIGHT, NOT JUST IN ELECTION YEARS BECAUSE WE NEED VOTES.

THAT'S WHY I'M PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT AND THAT'S WHY THE PRESIDENT OWES US AN APOLOGY FOR HIS INDECENT REMARK.

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.

A few 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 are saying. 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 any of you who feel that way. 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. IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THOSE POLICIES, RONALD REAGAN'S YOUR MAN.

THINK ABOUT IT. IF PEOPLE VOTE FOR RONALD REAGAN THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY'RE VOTING TO EXTEND THE ARMS RACE INTO SPACE AND THEY'RE VOTING TO RETREAT FROM HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT THEY SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT IF THEY VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE, THEY'RE VOTING TO STOP THE ARMS RACE, PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, REDUCE THESE DEFICITS, AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS.
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 what 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, moving our way, first by the hundreds, then by the thousands, and on next Tuesday, by the millions, they'll make up their minds, 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.

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