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## Senior Institute Address

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Kosigarian draft  
senior citizens  
dinner,  
Columbus, OH  
9/11/54

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR CELESTE, FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION. I HAVE TO TELL YOU, THERE'S A SPECIAL REASON FRITZ MONDALE WANTED ME TO BE AT THIS SENIOR INSTITUTE IN COLUMBUS. AS YOU KNOW, COLUMBUS IS THE HOME OF WENDY'S. AND EVER SINCE CLARA PELLER SAID "WHERE'S THE BEEF?", COLUMBUS AND SENIORS HAVE HAD A SPECIAL ROLE IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SENIOR INSTITUTE RUN BY OHIO'S DEPARTMENT OF AGING. AND I WANT TO COMMEND DICK CELESTE FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN UPGRADING THE COMMISSION ON AGING TO CABINET-LEVEL STATUS. THE PEOPLE OF OHIO CAN BE VERY PROUD THAT THEY HAVE A GOVERNOR WHO UNDERSTANDS THE SPECIAL CONCERNS OF ELDERLY AMERICANS, AND THE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS THEY CAN MAKE TO THIS STATE AND OUR COUNTRY.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND THOSE THINGS TOO. FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING IN CONGRESS MORE THAN 100,000 SENIOR CITIZENS. I HAVE VISITED SENIOR CENTERS ALL OVER MY DISTRICT. I HAVE TALKED AND LISTENED TO THEM, AND I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS. AND WHAT I HAVE HEARD IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT EACH OF YOU HEARS IN YOUR CITIES AND TOWNS.

THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE EARNED A RETIREMENT OF DIGNITY, BUT NOW FEEL IT THREATENED.

THEY ARE PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE COMING OF WINTER MEANS FACING THE CHOICE BETWEEN HEATING AND EATING.

AND THEY ARE PEOPLE WHOSE VALUES AND EXPERIENCE ARE ONE OF THIS NATION'S GREAT RESOURCES, IF ONLY WE WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

IN OPENING HIS CAMPAIGN ON LABOR DAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN PROMISED, "YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET."

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE OLDER AMERICANS I KNOW, AND MILLIONS MORE LIKE THEM ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, ARE AFRAID OF. TO THEM, THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS SOUNDED MORE LIKE A THREAT THAN A PROMISE.

A THREAT FROM AN ADMINISTRATION THAT TRIED TO CUT SOCIAL SECURITY BY 25 PERCENT, THAT IT WOULD BE BACK TO TRY AGAIN.

A THREAT FROM AN ADMINISTRATION THAT THINKS THE WAY TO GET HEALTH CARE COSTS UNDER CONTROL IS TO PUT MEDICARE UNDER THE KNIFE.

A THREAT THAT LEGAL SERVICES, AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE, AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICES JOBS PROGRAM, WHICH SURVIVED THE FIRST REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, WILL COME UNDER ATTACK AGAIN.

THE FACT IS, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IT ISN'T THAT "WE AIN'T SEEN NOTHING." WE'VE SEEN TOO MUCH. TOO MUCH OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION TRYING TO TURN THE TWILIGHT YEARS INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I HAVE SAID THAT WHAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS ABOUT IS THE FUTURE. AND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ORIENTED TO THE FUTURE.

THAT'S WHY WE WORK AND STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICE, NOT JUST TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR OURSELVES, BUT TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR GRANDCHILDREN. THAT SPIRIT IS THE BOND BETWEEN GENERATIONS THAT MAKES OUR COUNTRY STRONG.

THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT BOND. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, ON THE REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES, THEY ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

LAST WEEK, ED MEESE, COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT, SAID, AND I'M QUOTING HIM, "SOCIAL SECURITY IS SIMPLY A TAXATION AND BENEFIT PROGRAM."

BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SEE SOCIAL SECURITY AS A COMPACT BETWEEN GENERATIONS. IT IS THE PROMISE WE HAVE MADE TO OURSELVES. AND IF PRESIDENT REAGAN PLANS TO TRY AGAIN TO BREAK THAT PROMISE, WE WANT TO KNOW NOW -- NOT AFTER THE ELECTION.

THEY'RE OUT OF TOUCH ON ARMS CONTROL. RONALD REAGAN HAS OPPOSED EVERY ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT EVER NEGOTIATED. AND HE IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE NOT TO ENTER INTO AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. IT'S TIME TO STOP BUILDING NUCLEAR

BARGAINING CHIPS, AND START DOING SOME TOUGH BARGAINING WITH THE SOVIETS.

THEY ARE OUT OF TOUCH ON WHEN TO USE AMERICAN POWER, AND WHEN TO USE AMERICAN INFLUENCE. WE HAVE SENT TROOPS TO CENTRAL AMERICA, AND TURNED OUR BACKS ON NEGOTIATIONS. AND OUR YOUNG MEN -- OVER 250 OF THEM -- WERE SENT TO BEIRUT ON A MISSION WITH NO PURPOSE AND DIED FOR NO REASON. NEXT TIME, LET'S SEND IN THE DIPLOMATS BEFORE THE MARINES.

AND THEY'RE OUT OF TOUCH ON THE DEFICIT. WALTER MONDALE HAS PUT HIS DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN BEFORE THE PEOPLE. HE KNOWS WHAT \$175 BILLION FEDERAL DEFICITS ARE DOING TO INTEREST RATES, AND HE KNOWS WHAT THOSE INTEREST RATES ARE DOING TO OUR ECONOMY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW BEFORE THE ELECTION WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE NEXT PRESIDENT. WE CHALLENGE PRESIDENT REAGAN TO PUT HIS PLAN ON THE TABLE.

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WHAT WE OFFER IN THIS ELECTION IS LEADERSHIP THAT MAKES THE TOUGH CHOICES AND IS IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO DOES NOT SHARE OUR VALUES. THE PRESIDENT WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE. IF HE'S NOT DOING THINGS THE WAY YOU WANT THEM DONE, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS AND ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL.

IN 1980, RONALD REAGAN GOT ELECTED BECAUSE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE STAYED HOME. THEY DID NOT VOTE. THEY LET SOMEBODY ELSE DECIDE FOR THEM. THIS TIME AROUND, DON'T LET SOMEBODY ELSE DECIDE.

THE CHOICE IN 1984 IS AS CLEAR AS IT WILL EVER BE FOR AMERICA'S SENIOR CITIZENS. THE DECISION YOU MAKE ON NOVEMBER 6 WILL HELP DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

IF RONALD REAGAN IS REELECTED, YOU WILL SPEND THE NEXT FOUR YEARS THE WAY YOU HAVE SPENT THE PAST FOUR YEARS. FIGHTING TO PREVENT DEEP CUTS IN SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY WHO DEPEND ON THEM. ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO PREDICT WHAT A SECOND REAGAN TERM WOULD BE LIKE IS LOOK AT THE FIRST REAGAN TERM.

THEY WILL GO AFTER THE TITLE V JOBS PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES 2,356 JOBS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN OHIO. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ELDERLY.

THEY WILL CUT BACK ON NUTRITION AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES UNDER THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT.

AND THEY WILL MAKE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE PRIME TARGETS WHEN THEY FINALLY GET AROUND TO DEALING WITH THE DEFICIT.

SO FAR, CONGRESS HAS BEEN ABLE TO BLOCK THE MOST DAMAGING OF THOSE PROPOSALS. AND MAYBE CONGRESS WILL BE

COLUMBUS SENIORS/6

ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN. BUT THAT'S TAKING A CHANCE WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE.

LET'S NOT TAKE THE CHANCE THAT THE SECOND REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT BE MORE SUCCESSFUL AT CUTTING THESE PROGRAMS THAN THE FIRST ONE HAS BEEN. LET'S MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T A SECOND REAGAN ADMINISTRATION.

THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I'D LIKE TO SAY. IT'S ABOUT THE TERM 'SENIOR CITIZEN.' IT MEANS MORE THAN SOMEONE WHO IS 65 YEARS OLD. IT MEANS YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST STANDING IN OUR SOCIETY.

ADLAI STEVENSON SAID, "AS CITIZENS OF THIS DEMOCRACY, YOU ARE THE RULERS AND THE RULED, THE LAWGIVERS AND THE LAW-ABIDING, THE BEGINNING AND THE END."

AS SENIOR CITIZENS IN THIS DEMOCRACY, YOU HAVE SET THE EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF US. I AM CONFIDENT, AND GRATEFUL, THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

THANK YOU.

## COLUMBUS SENIORS/7/NOTES

TWO ADDITIONAL ITEMS I FORGOT TO INCLUDE.

1) IN THE INTRO, IN THE PART ABOUT ALL THE TERRIFIC STUFF OLD PEOPLE DO, WE NEED TO MENTION MAGGIE KUHN, THE HEAD OF THE GRAY PANTHERS, WHO WILL BE AT THE RECEPTION.

2) IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A HIT ON MONDALE'S DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN, IT SHOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HOW DICK CELESTE CAME IN AND HAD TO DEAL WITH AN ENORMOUS DEFICIT LEFT HIM BY HIS REPUBLICAN PREDECESSOR. FRITZ AND I INTEND TO MODEL OUR APPROACH AFTER GOV. CELESTE'S, OR SOME SUCH SALUTE.