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## Women's Breakfast Speech

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1/12/84

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for fred martin: FIRST DRAFT OF COLUMBUS WOMEN'S BREAKFAST SPEECH

THANK YOU, DICK, FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL ALL OF YOU IN THIS ROOM HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO HAVE A MAN OF DICK CELESTE'S HUMANITY, COMMON SENSE, AND COMMITMENT IN THE STATE HOUSE. AND I KNOW WITH DICK'S HELP -- AND THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR STATE TREASURER, MARY ELLEN WITHROW, AND YOUR STATE PARTY CHAIRMAN JIM RUVOLO (ROO-VALOW) -- WE DEMOCRATS ARE GOING TO WIN OHIO THIS YEAR.

AND LET ME SAY THIS: I DON'T THINK YOU DESERVE A PRESIDENT WHO THINKS WOMEN'S GREATEST CONTRIBUTION WAS GETTING THE CAVE MAN TO STAND UP STRAIGHT.

YOU KNOW, I MAY BE A LONG WAY FROM MY DISTRICT IN QUEENS, BUT I FEEL RIGHT AT HOME IN THIS ROOM. AND THAT'S BECAUSE IT FEELS GOOD TO BE IN THE COMPANY OF SO MANY OHIO LEADERS -- SO MANY LEADERS WHO HAPPEN TO BE WOMEN.

AND LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: WE NEED YOU. COLUMBUS NEEDS MORE OF YOU, AND WASHINGTON NEEDS MORE OF YOU. BECAUSE THERE JUST AREN'T ENOUGH WOMEN IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, AND THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WOMEN IN OUR COURTHOUSES AND CORPORATE BOARDROOMS. AND THAT'S ONE DEFICIT WE DEMOCRATS WILL GLADLY MAKE UP.

A GREAT AMERICAN RECENTLY SAID: "THE CAUSE OF AMERICA'S WOMEN IS THE CAUSE OF AMERICA ITSELF. AND IT IS MY CAUSE AS WELL." THAT AMERICAN WAS WALTER MONDALE.

A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE GAVE NEW LIFE TO THAT CAUSE WHEN HE ASKED ME TO

BE HIS RUNNING MATE. AND WHEN I ACCEPTED HIS OFFER, I DID SO WITH GREAT PRIDE. PRIDE AT BEING THE FIRST WOMAN IN THIS POSITION, AND EVEN GREATER PRIDE TO RUN WITH A MAN WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

IT WAS A HISTORIC CHOICE. AND IT WAS A BOLD CHOICE. BUT THAT'S THE KIND OF LEADER WALTER MONDALE IS.

ON EVERY ISSUE OF CONCERN TO WOMEN, WHERE WALTER MONDALE HAS BEEN A LEADER, RONALD REAGAN HAS BEEN A RETREATER.

AND LET ME SAY THIS: A LOT OF PEOPLE CALL RONALD REAGAN A CONSERVATIVE. I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE. RONALD REAGAN HAS BEEN AT THE HEAD OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S RETREAT FROM THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE FOR AMERICAN WOMEN.

SIXTY YEARS AGO, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MARCHED SIDE BY SIDE IN THE CAUSE OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. AND THEY WON. FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE BEGAN THE MARCH FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF WOMEN UNDER LAW THROUGH THE E.R.A. AND WE MADE PROGRESS.

BUT THE REAGAN REPUBLICANS THREW OUT THE E.R.A. AND THEY HAVE ABANDONED THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. SO I SAY TO ALL REPUBLICANS TODAY, AND ESPECIALLY TO REPUBLICAN WOMEN -- THE WELCOME MAT WILL BE OUT TO YOU WHEN FRITZ MONDALE AND I MOVE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE. LET'S RESUME THE BATTLE TOGETHER.

SIXTY FOUR YEARS AGO WOMEN DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE. THIS YEAR, WOMEN WILL ELECT THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WE WILL ELECT ONE OF OUR OWN TO THE NATION'S SECOND HIGHEST OFFICE.

BUT WOMEN WON'T MAKE THAT CHOICE ON A SINGLE ISSUE. TODAY, ALL ISSUES ARE WOMEN'S ISSUES. WE WILL NOT ONLY VOTE AGAINST THE REGRESSIVE POLICIES OF RONALD REAGAN, BUT FOR WALTER MONDALE'S POSITIVE VISION OF THE FUTURE.

WE WILL VOTE FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH OUR ENVIRONMENT IS PRESERVED AND PROTECTED, NOT AUCTIONED OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

WE WILL VOTE FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH AMERICA NOT ONLY STANDS UP TO THE SOVIETS BUT ALSO SITS DOWN WITH THEM AT THE BARGAINING TABLE.

WE WILL VOTE FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH ALL CHILDREN -- BLACK OR WHITE, BOY OR GIRL, HANDICAPPED OR NOT -- HAVE THE SAME CHANCE AT A QUALITY EDUCATION AS THE CHILDREN OF REAGAN'S RICH FRIENDS.

AND WE WILL VOTE FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED BY A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

LET ME BEGIN WITH THE ISSUE OF FAIRNESS. A MONDALE/FERRARO ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE ECONOMIC JUSTICE A REALITY.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE AVERAGE FULL TIME FEMALE WORKER IN THIS COUNTRY EARNED 60% AS MUCH AS HER MALE COUNTERPART. A GENERATION LATER, WE'VE

SENT A MAN TO THE MOON AND CRACKED THE GENETIC CODE, BUT WOMEN STILL EARN ONLY 59 CENTS TO A MAN'S DOLLAR.

THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF FAIRNESS. AND I DON'T THINK IT'S YOURS EITHER.

WHEN RONALD REAGAN TOOK OFFICE, HE FIRST FROZE AND THEN ELIMINATED PAY EQUITY REGULATIONS THAT PROHIBITED SEX AND RACE DISCRIMINATION BY FEDERAL CONTRACTORS. AND HE REPLACED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION AND THREW OUT ALL PAY EQUITY ACTIONS FILED UNDER THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT.

WHEN WALTER MONDALE AND I ARE MAKING THE APPOINTMENTS, WE WILL STAFF OUR KEY AGENCIES WITH WOMEN AND MEN WHO ARE COMMITTED TO EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. WE WILL ESTABLISH A CLEARINGHOUSE ON PAY EQUITY. AND WE WILL ENFORCE THE LAW. IF WE ARE TO BE TRUE TO OUR DEEPEST VALUES, WE MUST RECOGNIZE PAY EQUITY AS ONE OF THE KEY CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES OF THE 1980s.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, SIX MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO POVERTY. FORTY TWO PERCENT OF THE FAMILIES HEADED BY WOMEN LIVE IN POVERTY. OVER HALF OF ELDERLY WOMEN LIVE AT OR NEAR THE POVERTY LEVEL. THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW, BY THE YEAR 2000 OUR POVERTY POPULATION WILL BE MADE UP ALMOST ENTIRELY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

BUT THE REAGAN BUDGET CUTS HAVE FALLEN HARDEST ON LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. TAXES FOR THE WEALTHY HAVE BEEN CUT, BUT AVERAGE FAMILIES PAY THE SAME OR MORE. THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF FAIRNESS, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S

YOURS EITHER.

THE RULES OF A DECENT SOCIETY SAY, WHEN YOU DISTRIBUTE SACRIFICE, YOU DON'T PUT WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST. WHEN WALTER MONDALE AND I HAVE TO SQUEEZE THE BUDGET, WE'LL MAKE THE PENTAGON PAY LESS THAN \$100 FOR A SIMPLE NUT BEFORE WE MAKE THE MEMBERS OF A FOOD STAMP FAMILY PAY LESS THAN 47 CENTS A MEAL.

SECOND, A MONDALE/FERRARO ADMINISTRATION WILL BE COMMITTED TO AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR US ALL.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES. IT'S THROUGH EDUCATION THAT WE OPEN NEW DOORS, AND MAKE NEW OPPORTUNITIES A REALITY. AND THAT'S WHY ALL THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA DESERVE EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

BUT RONALD REAGAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. HIS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION HAS BEEN A MILE WIDE ON RHETORIC AND AN INCH DEEP ON ACTION.

HE'S SLASHED PROGRAMS FOR COLLEGE LOANS.

HE'S REDUCED FEDERAL EDUCATION AID TO THE LOWEST LEVELS IN TWENTY YEARS.

AND FOR NEXT YEAR, HIS BUDGET WOULD CUT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BY 25 PERCENT, EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED BY 12 PERCENT, AND IT WOULD ELIMINATE AID TO EDUCATIONAL LIBRARIES ALTOGETHER.

AND RONALD REAGAN'S JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS DONE IT'S BEST TO TEAR THE HEART OUT OF TITLE NINE AND OUT OF THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT, THE ONLY PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS ACTIVELY TO ELIMINATE GENDER BIAS IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS. WALTER MONDALE WROTE THAT ACT. AND RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO TEAR IT UP AND THROW IT AWAY.

A MONDALE/FERRARO ADMINISTRATION WILL RESTORE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EDUCATION, MAKE COLLEGE LOANS AND GRANTS AVAILABLE AGAIN, AND PUT THE TEETH BACK INTO TITLE NINE. WE WON'T BE SATISFIED PUTTING A TEACHER INTO OUTER SPACE. WE'LL INVEST IN OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HERE ON EARTH.

THESE ARE CHALLENGES WE WILL FACE TOGETHER, AND CONQUER TOGETHER. BUT THERE IS ONE CHALLENGE THAT OVERSHADOWS THEM ALL: THE CHALLENGE TO BUILD A SAFER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN.

RONALD REAGAN THINKS ARMS CONTROL IS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. I SAY: WITH 50,000 NUCLEAR WEAPONS CIRCLING THE EARTH, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE A MAN LIKE THAT IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE REAGAN RECORD IS PAINFULLY CLEAR.

RONALD REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HERBERT HOOVER NOT TO EVEN MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN THE SOVIET UNION. FRITZ MONDALE WILL BE THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO HOLD ANNUAL SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH HIM.

RONALD REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR ERA

-- DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN -- NOT TO ENTER INTO AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, FRITZ MONDALE WILL CHALLENGE THE SOVIETS TO TALKS ON A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR FREEZE WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIETS. BUT WE KNOW THAT THE ARMS RACE DOESN'T LEAD TO PEACE -- IT LEADS ONLY TO AN ARMS RACE. AND WE WOULD RATHER TALK TEN TIMES THAN FIGHT ONCE.

THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT FACE US IN 1984. PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTING OUR PRIVATE LIVES FROM GOVERNMENT INTRUSION, CARING FOR THE ELDERLY, AND REDUCING THE REAGAN DEFICIT ARE OTHER CONCERNS.

IN 1980, RONALD REAGAN WAS ELECTED BECAUSE MILLIONS PEOPLE STAYED HOME. THEY DIDN'T VOTE. THEY LET SOMEONE ELSE DECIDE.

YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION WORK IS VITALLY IMPORTANT. BRINGING IN THE DISAFFECTED WILL BE THE KEY TO OUR VICTORY IN NOVEMBER. ALREADY, PEOPLE ARE SIGNING UP TO VOTE IN RECORD NUMBERS. THEY KNOW THAT THIS YEAR THEIR VOTE COULD -- QUITE LITERALLY -- MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

IT COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISCRIMINATION OR ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

IT COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT OR A CLEAN



ONE.

IT COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SECOND CLASS CITIZENSHIP AND  
EQUAL RIGHTS.

IT COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE.

SO I ASK ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY, AS WALTER MONDALE AND I ASK ALL  
AMERICANS, BEFORE YOU VOTE IN 1984, THINK ABOUT 1985.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END.