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New Jersey Freeze Voters Speech: Final Draft

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I AM HONORED TO BE HERE TONIGHT, WHERE HISTORY IS TRULY
BEING MADE. THE FREEZE MOVEMENT IS THE MOST EXCITING POLITICAL
MOVEMENT OF OUR TIME. NOT ONLY ARE YOU ADDRESSING OUR MOST
IMPORTANT ISSUE -- THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR -- BUT YOU HAVE
DONE SOMETHING NO OTHER MOVEMENT HAS DONE.

YOU'VE TAKEN AN ISSUE OUT OF THE HANDS OF SELF-APPOINTED
EXPERTS, AND MADE IT AN ISSUE EACH OF US CAN UNDERSTAND. WE
DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH AN EXPERT SAYING IT'S ALL TOO COMPLICATED.
YOU EITHER HAVE A FREEZE OR YOU DON'T.

AND WALTER MONDALE IS DEDICATED TO A MUTUALLY VERIFIABLE
FREEZE. NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS.

WALTER MONDALE WAS THE FIRST NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER TO
ENDORSE THE FREEZE. FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS HE HAS WORKED HARD
TO MAKE YOUR GOAL A REALITY. AND WE ARE CLOSER TO THAT GOAL
THAN EVER BEFORE. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP THIS NOVEMBER.

WE CAN WIN NEW JERSEY. WE WILL WIN NEW JERSEY, BUT WE CAN
ONLY DO IT IF EVERYONE OF YOU REGISTERS AND VOTES. THERE WON'T
BE A SECOND CHANCE THIS YEAR.

RONALD REAGAN RECENTLY SAID, "YOU AIN'T
SEEN NOTHING YET." AND FOR ONCE HE'S RIGHT.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN AN ARMS CONTROL TREATY YET.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN A SERIOUS NEGOTIATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT
REAGAN AND HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART YET.

AND MOST OF ALL, WE HAVEN'T SEEN A NUCLEAR FREEZE YET.
OF COURSE WHEN HE SAID, "YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET,"
HE WASN'T JUST GIVING US A CATALOGUE OF HIS DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES.
HE WAS ALSO GIVEN US THE MOST COMPLETE OUTLINE OF HIS PLANS FOR
A SECOND TERM THAT WE'VE SEEN.

THE IMPLICIT THREAT IN THAT STATEMENT MAKES ME WORRIED ABOUT
BECAUSE,

FOR TWENTY YEARS RONALD REAGAN HAS OPPOSED EVERY MAJOR
ARMS CONTROL TREATY SIGNED. FROM THE TEST BAN TREATIES OF
JOHN F. KENNEDY TO THE SALT II TREATIES OF NIXON, FORD AND
CARTER, RONALD REAGAN HAS SAID, "I'M AGAINST IT."

BUT WHAT WAS HE FOR? MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MORE KINDS
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AND MORE STYLES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS
PRESIDENT HAS NEVER SEEN A WEAPONS SYSTEM HE DIDN'T LIKE.

FOR ALL OF THOSE TWENTY YEARS RONALD REAGAN HAD TO WORRY
ABOUT ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN HE
DOES NOT HAVE ANOTHER ELECTION TO FACE?

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STOP INVESTING SO MUCH IN
THE ARMS RACE AND START INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE.

WALTER MONDALE HAS A COMMITMENT TO ENDING THE NUCLEAR ARMS
RACE, AND HE HAS A PLAN TO END IT, NOT JUST EXCUSES FOR KEEPING
IT GOING.

ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE WALTER MONDALE WILL TALK TO THE
SOVIET UNION LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION. WITHIN
SIX MONTHS HE WILL MEET WITH THE SOVIET LEADER TO ARRANGE A
MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE NUCLEAR FREEZE. AND HE WILL ESTABLISH
YEARELY SUMMITS TO REDUCE WORLDWIDE TENSIONS AND BRING
US OUT OF THE SHADOW OF NUCLEAR WAR.

RONALD REAGAN HAS FINALLY AGREED TO MEET THE SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK THIS FALL...ONE MONTH BEFORE THE
ELECTION. I THINK THE NUCLEAR FREEZE MOVEMENT AND WALTER MONDALE
SHOULD GET A FINDER'S FEE FOR THAT MEETING. WITHOUT YOUR
HARD WORK AND WALTER MONDALE'S STRONG CHALLENGE RONALD REAGAN
THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING THIS SEPTEMBER, JUST LIKE THERE HAD
BEEN NO MEETING THE LAST THREE SEPTEMBERS.
WALTER MONDALE WILL BEGIN WORKING FOR ARMS CONTROL ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

AS GLAD AS I AM THAT RONALD REAGAN IS FINALLY MEETING WITH SOMEONE IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MEETING AND A NEGOTIATION. SINCE DECEMBER 23 OF LAST YEAR THE DUST HAS BEEN GATHERING ON THE DIPLOMATIC TABLES. I KNOW THE SOVIETS WALKED OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT I ALSO KNOW ONLY THE UNITED STATES HASTH THE MORAL LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO BRING THEM BACK TO THE TABLES.

WHEN THE TALKING STOPS, THE DANGER BEGINS TO BUILD. YES WE MUST KEEP OUR MILITARY STRONG. YES, THE SOVIETS ARE A BRUTAL ADVERSARY. AND YES, WE MUST BE READY TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND OUR ALLIES. BUT WE WANT A LEADER THAT NOT ONLY KNOWS HOW TO STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS, BUT HOW TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM AS WELL.

WALTER MONDALE WILL COMBINE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS WITH COVENTIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. INSTEAD OF BUILDING MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHEN WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE WORLD SEVERAL TIMES OVER, WE SHOULD BE INVESTING MORE IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES, IN OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, IN EQUIPMENT FOR THE RESERVES AND NATIONAL GUARD, AND IN TRAINING.

WE NEED TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUR LAST RESORT, NOT OUR ONLY CHOICE.

THIS YEAR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST MAKE AN HISTORIC CHOICE. WE MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN A PLAN FOR PEACE AND A DRIFT TOWARD WAR. WALTER MONDALE WILL CHALLENGE THE SOVIET UNION TO REDUCE TESTING, REDUCE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES AND REDUCE TENSIONS.

JOHN KENNEDY SHOWED WHAT COULD BE DONE BY A LEADER WITH COURAGE. HE BROKE A DEADLOCK WITH THE SOVIETS BY DECLARING
a temporary halt to our atmospheric tests and challenging the
soviet's to respond in kind. as you know, within two months they
had met the challenge and we signed a treaty banning all open-air
testing of nuclear weapons. today, because of that leadership,
we live in a safer world.

once you have enough
we need a leader who understands that
we need moral leadership in the white house.
and that's what we'll get with fritz mondale.

fritz mondale will bring the same courage to the white house
that john kennedy showed with his challenge to the soviets. he
will declare a temporary moratorium and challenge the soviets
to join us. he will call on the leaders in moscow to accept
mutual and verifiable restraints, among them, a pause in the
testing of all nuclear weapons, and deployment of all space
weapons.

then he will use that pause to challenge the soviets to
return to the bargaining table and to negotiate a lasting,
effective, formal agreement to put a mutual and verifiable
freeze on the arms race and to reduce the arsenal of nuclear
war.

we are determined not to lose an arms race, but we're also
smart enough to know that in the nuclear world, no one can
win an arms race. believe me, there is no safety in numbers
in the nuclear arms race.

let this administration try to ridicule the freeze movement.
let them call the majority of americans who support a
freeze duces of moscow and jackasses. walter mondale will
stop calling names and start calling on the soviets.
HE WILL GIVE US A STRONGER DEFENSE, AND GREATER SECURITY.

But before he can make us more secure, we have to make him president.

The time to begin that work is not later. It's now.
The time to register new voters is not later. It's now.
The time to end the arms race is not later. It's now.
And the time to elect Fritz Mondale is not later. It's now.

So let's get out there. Let's get to work. And let's get Fritz Mondale elected. Not later, but now.