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Women's Breakfast Speech: Final Draft

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WOMEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING
COLUMBUS, OHIO SEPT, 12

THANK YOU, DICK, FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL ANY 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-va-low), WE ARE GOING TO WIN OHIO THIS YEAR,

AND IT'S A GOOD THING WE'RE GOING TO WIN, BECAUSE WE DON'T NEED A PRESIDENT WHO THINKS WOMEN'S GREATEST CONTRIBUTION WAS GETTING THE CAVE MAN TO STAND UP STRAIGHT,

BUT WHAT WE DO NEED IS MORE WOMEN ACTIVE IN POLITICS AT ALL LEVELS, WE NEED MORE WOMEN VOTERS, MORE WOMEN JUDGES, MORE WOMEN MAYORS AND GOVERNORS, IN FACT, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HARDLY ANY IN THE U.S. SENATE, THAT'S ONE DEFICIT WE'LL BE GLAD TO REDUCE,

IF THERE'S ANYONE IN THIS STATE WHO DOESN'T TAKE WOMEN SERIOUSLY NOW, LET THEM WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 6TH, WE'LL SHOW THEM HOW SERIOUS YOU AND I ARE,

IF ANYONE SAYS IT'S TOO EARLY FOR A WOMAN VICE-PRESIDENT, I SAY IT'S CERTAINLY TOO LATE, BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN TOO EARLY,

IT TOOK NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS, BUT FINALLY, IN 1984, WE GOT A CANDIDATE WITH THE COURAGE TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS TO NATIONAL PUBLIC OFFICE, WALTER MONDALE GAVE ALL WOMEN NEW HOPE WHEN HE ASKED ME TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE, WHEN HE MADE THAT OFFER HE MADE MORE PROGRESS IN ONE HOUR THAN RONALD REAGAN HAS IN FOUR YEARS,

WALTER MONDALE'S STEP FORWARD WAS NOT JUST GOOD FOR WOMEN, IT WAS GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY, EVERYTIME THIS NATION LOWERS ANOTHER BARRIER, OUR SOCIETY IS STRENGTHENED, EACH TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TALENTS WE HAD EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF RACISM OR SEXISM, OUR COUNTRY IS RICHER,

THE REPUBLICANS HAVE LOST SIGHT OF TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES, LIKE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AND REWARD FOR HARD WORK, WHEN ~~THE~~^{THEY} PULLED THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PLANK OUT OF THEIR PLATFORM, THEY SENT THE ENTIRE PARTY LURCHING DANGEROUSLY TO THE RIGHT,

WELL, LET THEM RETREAT, BECAUSE WE WILL MARCH ON WITHOUT THEM, WOMEN DO NOT NEED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY NEEDS WOMEN,

FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MARCHED SIDE-BY-SIDE IN THE CAUSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, THEY MARCHED TOGETHER FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND THEY WON, THEY BEGAN TO MARCH TOGETHER TOWARD THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, BUT THE REPUBLICANS HAVE TURNED BACK,

THEY HAVE MADE THE MARCH TOWARD EQUAL RIGHTS HARDER, BUT THEY HAVE NOT KEPT IT FROM MOVING FORWARD, AND ON JANUARY 20, 1989 AS I TAKE MY SECOND TERM OATH OF OFFICE, I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD AND PROTECT A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT,

THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN MUCH PROGRESS, THIS YEAR, SIXTY FOUR YEARS AFTER WE GOT THE RIGHT TO VOTE, WE WILL BE THE MARGIN OF VICTORY FOR FRITZ MONDALE, THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WE WILL HAVE A WOMAN IN NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME,

AND WOMEN WILL CAST THEIR VOTES FOR THE MOST PATRIOTIC REASONS, THEY WILL NOT VOTE TO SUPPORT NARROW, PAROCHIAL CONCERNS, THEY WILL VOTE OUT OF A PASSION FOR GREAT CAUSES, AND A DEDICATION TO GREAT PROGRESS,

WHEN WE VOTE IN NOVEMBER, WE WILL BE VOTING TO STOP SPENDING SO MUCH ON THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND SPEND MORE ON THE HUMAN RACE,

WE'LL VOTE TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND OUR ENVIRONMENT, NOT TO SELL IT OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AND LEASE IT OFF TO POLLUTERS,

WE'LL VOTE TO PUT ALL AMERICANS BACK TO WORK, TO REDUCE THESE DEFICITS AND TO BRING DOWN SKY HIGH INTEREST RATES,

WE'LL VOTE TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN, UNDER THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WE HAVE HAD A RIVER OF RHETORIC, BUT ONLY A TRICKLE OF HELP FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, INSTEAD OF HELPING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH, RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO LAUNCH TEACHERS INTO SPACE,

THE ONLY THING I WORRY ABOUT IF WE SEND TEACHERS INTO SPACE IS THAT THEY MAY RUN INTO THIS ADMINISTRATION'S MILE HIGH DEFICITS, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY GOOD TEACHERS,

WITH ALL OF OUR VOTES, WE'RE GOING TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE PRESIDENT, AND GERRY FERRARO VICE PRESIDENT,

THEN, AFTER WE'VE TAKEN OFFICE, I'LL BE PROUD TO SERVE WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WORKS FOR PAY EQUITY, NOT AGAINST IT,

I WILL WORK WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO HELP POOR WOMEN, AND ELDERLY WOMEN SO THEY HAVE THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED TO PAY THE RENT, BUY THE FOOD AND KEEP WARM IN WINTER,

I WILL HELP FRITZ MONDALE MAKE THE RIGHT APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT, SO THAT FOR THE REST OF THIS CENTURY OUR CIVIL AND PERSONAL RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED,

I WANT A SUPREME COURT THAT KEEPS GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, NOT IN PRIVATE HOMES AND SCHOOL ROOMS,

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SLIPPED THE TRACKS, FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL GET US BACK ON THE MAIN LINE TO PROGRESS,

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, WOMEN HAVE BEEN SET BACK BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN MANY WAYS. WHEN RONALD REAGAN TOOK OFFICE, HE FROZE, THEN ELIMINATED PAY EQUITY REGULATIONS THAT PROHIBITED SEX AND RACE DISCRIMINATION BY FEDERAL CONTRACTORS,

HE REPLACED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION AND THREW OUT EVERY PAY EQUITY ACTION FILED UNDER THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT,

WHEN WALTER MONDALE AND I ARE ELECTED, THINGS WILL WORK A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY, WE WILL STAFF 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 LAWS ALREADY ON THE BOOKS,

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER, IT'S NOW,

THE TIME TO MAKE THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PART OF THE
CONSTITUTION IS NOT LATER, IT'S NOW,

AND THE TIME TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE IS NOT LATER, IT'S NOW,

LET'S GET TO WORK, LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE, AND LET'S WIN IN
NOVEMBER,