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Columbus Rally Speech

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F. Ronald DeLoach

NATIONWIDE PLAZA
COLUMBUS, OHIO
SEPTEMBER 12, 1984

THIS IS A WONDERFUL CROWD, I'M GLAD TO SEE COLUMBUS HAS SO MANY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN POLITICS, THE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT WAY FOR CANDIDATES TO MEET PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COLUMBUS AREA, AND I'D LIKE TO THANK JIM CARTER FOR PUTTING THIS TOGETHER, AND KEEPING THE RAIN AWAY, I'D HEARD THAT NATIONWIDE WAS ON MY SIDE, BUT THIS IS MORE THAN I EXPECTED,

THE OTHER DAY AT TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL IN KANSAS CITY, A STUDENT ASKED ME WHETHER HE SHOULD REGISTER AS A DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN, I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE ARMS RACE, HE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT, AND THAT MADE ME THINK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE,

WE ARE NOT A SELFISH, SELF-CENTERED PEOPLE, AMERICANS THINK OF MORE THAN JUST THEMSELVES, WE ARE A GENEROUS PEOPLE, AND NOT ONLY GENEROUS: WE'RE BOUND TOGETHER LIKE A FAMILY,

LIKE A FAMILY, WE OWE AN OBLIGATION TO EACH OTHER AND -- MOST IMPORTANTLY -- TO THE NEXT GENERATION,

THAT IS SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM MY OWN FAMILY,

MY FATHER CAME TO THIS COUNTRY THINKING THE STREETS WERE PAVED IN GOLD, HE DIDN'T FIND GOLD, BUT HE FOUND GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES, AND HE AND MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME THAT THERE IS NO GREATER GOOD -- NO FINER REWARD -- THAN TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN,

COLUMBUS

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I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT LEGACY, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE THAT IT IS UNIQUE TO MY FAMILY,

FROM THE CHILDREN OF THE MAYFLOWER TO THE CHILDREN OF ELLIS ISLAND -- ALL OF US HAVE WORKED TO OPEN NEW DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN,

THE FACT THAT I STAND HERE TODAY -- THE CHILD OF AN IMMIGRANT -- IS PROOF THAT AMERICA'S DREAMS DO COME TRUE,

AND THE FACT THAT I STAND HERE TODAY AS THE FIRST WOMAN CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS PROOF THAT NEW DOORS ARE OPENING, OLD BARRIERS ARE COMING DOWN, AND AMERICA BELONGS TO US ALL,

BUT THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WE ALL LEARNED AT HOME, THERE WERE MANY THINGS OUR FAMILIES TAUGHT US, AND SOME OF THOSE THINGS WOULD HELP US AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL,

NO FAMILY WOULD SADDLE ITS CHILDREN WITH A MOUNTAIN OF UNPAID BILLS AND I,O,U,'S, BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION -- WITH ITS 200 BILLION DOLLAR YEARLY -- IS DOING JUST THAT,

A DEFICIT ISN'T EASY TO UNDERSTAND, YOU CAN'T SEE IT, YOU CAN'T SMELL IT, YOU CAN'T TOUCH IT, BUT YOU CAN FEEL A DEFICIT, AND YOU'RE FEELING IT RIGHT NOW,

COLUMBUS

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I JUST MET WITH A FAMILY THAT HAS TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF THIS FEDERAL DEFICIT EACH DAY, THEY HAVE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL, A MORTGAGE TO PAY AND THE USUAL EXPENSES WE ALL HAVE, BUT THIS FAMILY IS FRIGHTENED THAT THEIR FATHER MAY LOSE HIS JOB IF INTEREST RATES GO UP AGAIN, BECAUSE OF ALL THAT FEDERAL BORROWING,

MANY OF YOU ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY THIS DEFICIT, IF YOU ARE A BUSINESSMAN OR A FARMER TRYING TO BUY NEW EQUIPMENT, YOU FEEL THE DEFICIT,

IF YOU ARE A YOUNG FAMILY TRYING TO BUY A NEW HOME, OR PARENTS TRYING TO FINANCE YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO INTEREST RATES WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS BORROWING EVERY DOLLAR IT CAN GET ITS HANDS ON,

BUT WHATEVER WE DO, AND HOWEVER WE LIVE, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES THIS: HOW LONG CAN WE CONTINUE A CREDIT CARD RECOVERY BEFORE THE BILL COMES DUE?

YOU CAN'T BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION ON A PILE OF SAND AND YOU CAN'T BUILD A STRONG ECONOMY ON A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT,

FRITZ MONDALE AND I CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE AMERICAN FUTURE TO LET THIS SEA OF RED INK CONTINUE TO RISE,

COLUMBUS

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WE WANT AN ECONOMY FREE FROM HIGH INTEREST RATES, WE WANT A SOCIETY WHERE NEW FAMILIES CAN AFFORD TO BUY HOMES, AND WE WANT A NATION WHERE PEOPLE CAN STAND UP AND SAY, "I WANT TO START MY OWN BUSINESS" -- AND THEN DO IT,

RONALD REAGAN WON'T TELL YOU HIS PLANS FOR THE DEFICIT, FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL, IF THE DEFICIT CAUSES HIGH INTEREST RATES, THEN LET'S REDUCE IT, IF THE BUDGET MUST BE SQUEEZED, THEN LET'S DO IT AND DO IT FAIRLY, IF TAXES MUST GO UP, THEN LET'S RAISE THEM AND DO THAT FAIRLY TOO,

AND IF THIS ADMINISTRATION WON'T LEVEL WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, THEN LET'S REPLACE IT WITH ONE THAT WILL,

AMERICA NEEDS AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US, BECAUSE THE AMERICAN DREAM BELONGS TO EVERY CITIZEN, THAT'S WHY, TOGETHER, WE MUST BUILD AN ECONOMY WHERE NO GROUP OR INDUSTRY OR REGION IS LEFT BEHIND AND TOLD THAT THEIR DAY HAS PASSED,

THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR OUR OLDER AMERICANS WHO'VE WORKED A LIFETIME AND ASK ONLY THAT THEIR SENIOR YEARS ARE ONES OF DIGNITY,

COLUMBUS

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BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP ITS HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY, JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE PRESIDENT'S COUNSELOR ED MEESE AGAIN CRITICIZED THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, SAYING IT ONCE WAS AN INSURANCE PROGRAM, BUT NOW IT'S SIMPLY A TAXATION AND BENEFITS PROGRAM,"

WELL, I THINK THAT THAT'S JUST PLAIN WRONG, SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT JUST ANOTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, IT IS A COMPACT BETWEEN THE GERNATIONS, AND IF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PLANS TO TAMPER WITH THAT SYSTEM -- AND I FEAR THEY DO -- THEN THE TIME TO COME CLEAN, MR, MEESE, IS NOT IN JANUARY, 1985, BUT NOW,

JUST AS OUR PARENTS DID NOT BREAK FAITH WITH US, WE WILL NOT BREAK FAITH WITH THEM,

FOR ASSURING THEIR SECURITY IS PART OF BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OF US,

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN ALSO MEANS THAT WE MUST PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS EARTH ITSELF,

COLUMBUS

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BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE ENVIRONMENT, THIS ADMINISTRATION HASN'T PLAYED BY THE RULES, IT HAS TORN UP THE RULEBOOK AND THROWN IT AWAY,

MR. REAGAN SAYS THAT JAMES WATT AND ANNE BURFORD DID A GOOD JOB, HE LEASED ONE BILLION ACRES OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS RIGHTS AT FIRE SALE PRICES, SHE CLEANED UP ONLY A HANDFUL OF TOXIC SIGHTS THAT THREATEN OUR HEALTH EVERY DAY,,

IF THAT'S MR. REAGAN'S IDEA OF DOING A GOOD JOB ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THEN IT'S TIME TO GIVE SOMEONE ELSE THE JOB OF PRESIDENT,

AND WHEN FRITZ MONDALE IS PRESIDENT, WE WILL STOP TAKING POLLUTERS TO LUNCH -- AND START TAKING THEM TO COURT,

WHEN FRITZ MONDALE IS PRESIDENT, WE WON'T JUST TALK ABOUT LAW AND ORDER -- WE'LL ENFORCE THE LAW AND CLEAN UP THE TOXIC DUMPS THAT THREATEN OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY,

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TACKLING THE DEFICITS, RESTORING FAIRNESS TO GOVERNMENT, PROTECTING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS, PRESERVING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE -- THESE ARE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE TOGETHER AND -- LIKE A FAMILY --

COLUMBUS

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MUST MEET TOGETHER, AND THERE IS ONE OTHER THAT OVERSHADOWS THEM ALL: IT IS TO BUILD A MORE ENDURING PEACE FOR OUR CHILDREN,

THE REAGAN RECORD IS PAINFULLY CLEAR, HE HAS OPPOSED EVERY ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT EVER NEGOTIATED, PERIOD, AND HE IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE NOT TO ENTER INTO AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT,

WHILE WE'VE FUNNELLED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO UNNECESSARY NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WHILE OUR CONVENTIONAL STRENGTH HAS DECLINED, TENSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN RAISED TO A FEVER PITCH, WE'VE SENT TROOPS TO CENTRAL AMERICA AND TURNED OUR BACK 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,

A PRESIDENT MUST KNOW WHERE TO USE FORCE AND WHEN, BUT HE MUST ALSO KNOW WHERE IT SHOULD NOT BE USED, LET'S SEND IN THE DIPLOMATS BEFORE THE MARINES, LET'S TRY NEGOTIATION BEFORE CONFRONTATION, LET'S UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BEFORE WE ARM IT, AND LET'S BE SURE THE NEXT TIME WE SEND OUR MEN INTO COMBAT WE HAVE A GOOD REASON TO SEND THEM,

COLUMBUS

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AMERICANS BELIEVE IN STRENGTH AND MILITARY READINESS, WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIETS, BUT AMERICANS NOT ONLY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS, THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO ALSO WILL SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE,

AMERICANS DON'T WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TURN THE HEAVENS INTO A NEW BATTLEGROUND, THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL END THE ARMS RACE HERE ON EARTH,

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WITH ALL OF OUR DIFFERENCES AS AMERICANS, WE SHARE A COMMON DREAM: TO LEAVE OUR CHILDREN A BETTER AND A SAFER WORLD, TO OPEN DOORS FOR THEM JUST AS OUR PARENTS DID FOR US,

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE OUR CHILDREN WILL BE FREE FROM THE BURDEN OF DEBT, AND OUR PARENTS WILL LIVE WITH DIGNITY,

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY WILL BE OPEN TO ALL -- NOT JUST THE PRIVILEGED FEW,

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE OUR FAMILIES WILL BREATHE CLEAN AIR AND DRINK FROM UNPOLLUTED WATERS,

COLUMBUS

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TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD AN AMERICAN FUTURE WHERE WOMEN
AND MEN STAND EQUAL UNDER THE LAW,

AND TOGETHER, WE CAN LIFT THE SHADOW OF FEAR AS WE STEP
BACK FROM THE NUCLEAR BRINK,

IN THE NEXT SIXTY DAYS, EVERY AMERICAN WILL HAVE TO STOP
AND ASK WHICH PARTY OFFERS ALL OF US THE MOST OPORTUNITY, THE
CLEANEST ENVIRONMENT AND THE SAFEST WORLD, WALTER MONDALE AND I
HAVE SPELLED OUT OUR PLANS IN DETAIL, WHY WON'T THE ADMINISTRATION
SPELL OUT THEIR PLANS,

WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO HIDE?

I CHALLENGE RONALD REAGAN TO TELL US HIS PLAN TO REDUCE
THE DEFICIT, I CHALLENGE HIM TO TELL US HIS PLAN TO END THE NUCLEAR
ARMS RACE, BUT MOST OF ALL, I CHALLENGE HIM TO RISE ABOVE POLITICS
AND SPELL OUT HIS PLAN TO MAKE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY WORK FOR ALL OF
US ONCE MORE,