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## Nurse's Meeting Speech Insert

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# NURSES INSERT -1-

FRITZ MONDALE AND I SHARE THOSE CONCERNS. WE KNOW THAT ENSURING ALL OF OUR CITIZENS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALSO CONCERNED -- AND YOU SHOULD BE -- ABOUT BEING TREATED EQUITABLY AS WE STRIVE TO MAKE HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I BELIEVE IN EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. YOU KNOW, TWENTY YEARS AGO THE AVERAGE FULL TIME FEMALE WORKER IN THIS COUNTRY EARNED SIXTY PERCENT AS MUCH AS HER MALE COUNTERPART. A GENERATION LATER, WE'VE SENT A MAN TO THE MOON AND WE'VE CRACKED THE GENETIC CODE. BUT WOMEN STILL EARN FIFTY-NINE CENTS TO A MAN'S DOLLAR.

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.

AND ONE OF THE LAWS WE WILL ENFORCE WILL BE MY PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION. BECAUSE WE CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT A SYSTEM IN WHICH ELDERLY WOMEN ARE FORCED INTO POVERTY; BECAUSE OF LOWER PAY AND A SEX BASED PENSION SYSTEM.

FRIEZ MONDALE AND I RECOGNIZE THAT THESE ARE AMONG THE KEY CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES OF THIS DECADE. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS THE E.R.A. WHEN WE TAKE OUR OATH OF OFFICE FOR A SECOND TERM, WE WANT TO DO SO ON A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.