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Nurse's Meeting Speech

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Thank you, Norma, for that very Kind introduction.

Conf. Jim Mordy

Erry MONDALE AND I CAME TO MERRILL, WISCONSIN, ON LABOR DAY.

AND THE PEOPLE WERE FANTASTIC. SO I CAME BACK FOR A LITTLE MORE WISCONSIN WARMTH. AND I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS STATE IN NOVEMBER.

NOW I DON'T WANT TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM YOUR PATIENTS on studies FOR TOO LONG. SO AS ADLAI STEVENSON ONCE SAID, "I'M THE SPEAKER HERE, AND MY JOB IS TO SPEAK. YOU'RE THE AUDIENCE, AND YOUR JOB IS TO LISTEN. SO IF YOU FINISH YOUR JOB BEFORE I FINISH MINE, FEEL FREE TO GET UP AND LEAVE."

I DO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HISTORIC ENDORSEMENT OF FRITZ MONDALE AND ME. I KNOW IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE. AND THE NURSES IN WISCONSIN ARE GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR VICTORY HERE IN NOVEMBER.

NOW, I'M NOT SUGGESTING YOU ASK YOUR PATIENTS HOW THEY INTEND TO VOTE JUST BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM THEIR SHOTS. BUT I AM SUGGESTING THAT THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION'S EN-DORSEMENT IS A BIG SHOT IN THE ARM TO OUR CAMPAIGN.

BUT I DON'T BELIEVE YOU ENDORSED US MERELY TO COMPLIMENT FRITZ MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO. I BELIEVE IT'S A SIGN OF YOUR RECOGNITION, BOTH AS HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND AS CITIZENS, OF THE PROFOUND DECISION WE FACE THIS NOVEMBER. BECAUSE THE CHOICE WE MAKE NOW WILL SET OUR COURSE FOR THE FUTURE.

AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT CHOICES WE'LL MAKE IS ENSURING ACCESS
TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CITIZENS. FRITZ MONDALE AND I HAVE
A HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL KEEP COSTS DOWN,
NOT BY CUTTING BENEFITS, NOT BY MAKING SICK PEOPLE PAY MORE, BUT BY
CONTROLLING SOARING HOSPITAL AND DOCTOR'S COSTS. AND THAT'S THE
FAIR WAY TO DO IT. The other step is to employ move nurses
FAIR WAY TO DO IT. The bust way to save money in the bust place.

BUT I KNOW THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOU. THEY

FIRST, TWO YEARS AGO THREE CONGRESSWOMEN: PAT SCHROEDER OF COLORADO, MARY ROSE OAKAR OF OHIO, AND I, USED OUR SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS TO HOLD THE FIRST EVER CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON COMPARABLE WORTH.

CONCERN ME, AS WELL.

WE LEARNED THAT DOG POUND WORKERS ARE PAID MORE THAN CHILD CARE WORKERS.

WE LEARNED THAT LIQUOR STORE CLERKS MAKE MORE THAN TEACHERS.

AND WE LEARNED THAT IN DENVER, TREE TRIMMERS ARE PAID

MORE THAN EMERGENCY ROOM NURSES.

Now I'm nor putting down and of those witheres

Wall i bet you know which are the men's jobs and which jobs are

MAINLY DONE BY WOMEN.

THE FACT IS THAT THE WORK WOMEN DO - IN THE HOME AND OUTSIDE IT - IS UNDERVALUED BECAUSE IT'S DONE BY WOMEN.

THE REPUBLICANS DON'T WANT WOMEN TO BE PAID WHAT OUR WORK
IN their platform
IS REALLY WORTH. THEY SAID SONIN DALLAS. and keep an eye
on the State of washington case

FRITZ MONDALE AND I ARE COMMITTED TO EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK AND EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF COMPARABLE VALUE AND I WANT TO THANK AMERICA'S NURSES FOR BEING IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT FOR PAY EQUITY.

SECOND, FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL ENFORCE ALL THE LAWS THAT HELP SECURE EQUAL RIGHTS. AND ONE OF THE LAWS WE'LL ENFORCE IS THE PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION I WROTE. WE SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT A SYSTEM WHERE ELDERLY WOMEN ARE FORCED INTO POVERTY BECAUSE OF LOWER PAY AND SEX-BASED PENSIONS.

BUT THE KEY TO EQUAL TREATMENT IS NOT INDIVIDUAL LAWS, IT'S THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. WHEN I TAKE MY OATH OF OFFICE FOR A SECOND TERM, I WANT TO SWEAR TO PROTECT AND UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

I'VE FOUGHT FOR THESE ISSUES DURING MY WHOLE PUBLIC CAREER. I'LL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THESE ISSUES AS VICE-PRESIDENT. I CARE ABOUT THEM DEEPLY, AND I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THEM TODAY. IN FACT, YOU'RE SO ENTHUSIASTIC I'D LOVE TO GIVE A RALLY SPEECH, BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.

BECAUSE AS MUCH AS I CARE ABOUT THESE ISSUES, I CARE EVEN MORE ABOUT ONE OVERRIDING ISSUE -- WAR AND PEACE, AND THAT'S A TRUE WOMAN'S ISSUE I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT TODAY.