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Portland Stump Speech: Final

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FINAL DRAFT
-- Postcard, Me

THE STUMP 09/09/84

THANK YOU, LIBBY, FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION.

THIS HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY WEEK FOR OUR CAMPAIGN.
WE HAVE TRAVELLED, QUITE LITERALLY, FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA
-- AND BACK AGAIN. FROM NEW YORK. . . TO CALIFORNIA AND THE
WEST . . . AND NOW BACK EAST TO THIS GREAT STATE OF MAINE.

AND LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: I'M MORE CONVINCED THAN
EVER THE POLLSTERS AND PUNDITS WHO SAY THIS ELECTION IS OVER
BEFORE IT STARTS ARE WRONG -- ONCE AGAIN.

BUT LET ME TAKE MY OWN, OBJECTIVE POLL RIGHT HERE. CAN
WE WIN THIS ELECTION?

WILL WE PUT FRITZ MONDALE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND SEND
RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

I THINK SO TOO.

I HAVE A FEELING THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ELECTED GOVERNOR
JOE BRENNAN -- A GENEROUS MAN WHO IS STRONG ENOUGH TO BE
TOUGH ON DRUNK DRIVERS AND CARING ENOUGH TO BE AN ADVOCATE

WE DON'T NEED A PRESIDENT WHO CUTS TAXES FOR THE RICH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR AND CALLS THAT PROGRESS. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL INSIST ON ONE SET OF RULES FOR EVERYBODY IN THE NAME OF SIMPLE FAIRNESS.

I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ELECTED GEORGE MITCHELL -- A MAN WHO CARES DEEPLY ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND TACKLES THE PROBLEM OF ACID RAIN HEAD-ON -- AREN'T GOING TO RE-ELECT A MAN WHO THINKS POLLUTION IS CAUSED BY TREES AND AMERICA'S RESOURCES SHOULD GO TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

WE DON'T NEED A PRESIDENT WHO PUTS AMERICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WHO EXPLOIT FOR TODAY. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL PLACE THOSE RESOURCES IN THE CUSTODY OF THOSE WHO NURTURE THEM FOR TOMORROW.

AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO ELECT LIBBY MITCHELL TO THE U.S. SENATE -- A LEADER ON BEHALF OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN -- AREN'T GOING TO RE-ELECT A MAN WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE WOMEN DESERVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF EQUAL RIGHTS UNDER LAW.

WE DON'T NEED A PRESIDENT WHO TELLS AMERICAN WOMEN THAT ONE OF THEIR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS WAS TO GET THE CAVEMAN TO STAND UP STRAIGHT. WE NEED A PRESIDENT, AND HIS NAME IS

FRITZ MONDALE, WHO WILL STAND WITH THE WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY AS THEY STAND UP STRAIGHT -- WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL PAY.

* * * * *

THE OTHER DAY AT THE 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 BECAUSE HE WAS TOO BUSY WITH HOMEWORK. I TOLD HIM HE SHOULD REGISTER AS A REPUBLICAN.

WHAT I MEANT WAS THAT PEOPLE SHOULD THINK OF MORE THAN THEMSELVES. AND I BELIEVE MOST AMERICANS DO JUST THAT. WE ARE NOT A SELFISH, SELF-CENTERED PEOPLE. 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.

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 INHERITED THE PROMISE THAT EACH GENERATION OF AMERICANS PASSES TO THE NEXT: THE PROMISE 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.

I ALSO LEARNED FROM MY FAMILY THAT DREAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES DON'T COME WITHOUT HARD WORK AND STRAIGHT TALK.

AND IF THERE IS ONE THING THIS CAMPAIGN HAS CONFIRMED, IT'S THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT THEIR LEADERS TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS. THIS ADMINISTRATION ISN'T DOING THAT.

INSTEAD, THEY PRACTICE THE POLITICS OF BLAME.

MR. REAGAN BLAMES THE DEMOCRATS FOR THE DEFICIT. BUT THE FACT IS: RONALD REAGAN HAS ADDED MORE TO THE NATIONAL DEBT THAN ANY PRESIDENT FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JIMMY CARTER.

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 DEFICITS -- IS DOING JUST THAT.

NOW LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT ABOUT THIS REAGAN DEFICIT -- AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU AND ME.

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.

ASK THE BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS WHO ARE TRYING TO BUY NEW EQUIPMENT, OR THE YOUNG FAMILY TRYING TO BUY A NEW HOME, OR THE PARENTS TRYING TO FINANCE THEIR CHILDREN'S COLLEGE -- ASK THEM WHAT HAPPENS TO THEIR INTEREST RATES WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS BORROWING EVERY DOLLAR IT CAN GET ITS HANDS ON.

ASK THE WORKERS OF THIS STATE WHO ARE FORCED TO COMPETE WITH IMPORTS THAT ARE PRICED LOWER BECAUSE THESE DEFICITS GIVE A FALSE VALUE TO OUR DOLLAR.

ASK THE HIGH TECH EXPORTERS THROUGHOUT THIS REGION WHO KNOW THAT, WITH THIS DEFICIT-DISTORTED DOLLAR, EVERYTHING THEY OFFER ABROAD IS MORE EXPENSIVE AND HARDER TO SELL.

AND ASK YOURSELF THIS: HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE CAN 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.

AND LET ME SAY ONE THING TO MR. REAGAN: YOU CAN'T BUILD A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON A PILE OF EXCUSES.

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

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. BUT WHILE THE REPUBLICANS HAVE RULED THE ROOST, THEY'VE GIVEN THEIR RICH FRIENDS A MONOPOLY ON THE AMERICAN DREAM.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, TAXES FOR THE WEALTHY HAVE BEEN SLASHED. WHILE AVERAGE FAMILIES ARE PAYING THE SAME OR MORE. SIX MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO POVERTY BY AN ADMINISTRATION THAT OPERATES ON THE THEORY OF SURVIVAL OF THE RICHEST. WELL, THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF FAIRNESS AND I DON'T THINK IT'S YOUR EITHER.

BECAUSE THE AMERICAN DREAM BELONGS TO ALL OF US. 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.

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP ITS HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY. JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE PRESIDENT'T 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, LET ME TELL ED MEESE SOMETHING: SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT JUST ANOTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. IT IS A COMPACT BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS. AND IF THE REAGAN 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.

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.

ROALD REAGAN DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUDY ACID RAIN TO DEATH TO KNOW THAT IT'S KILLING THE LAKES AND TREES OF THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE.

WE DON'T NEED MORE STUDIES ON ACID RAIN, WE NEED MORE ACTION.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT WE WILL CUT THE EMISSION OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE THAT CAUSES ACID RAIN IN HALF BY THE END OF OUR SECOND TERM.

MR. REAGAN SAYS THAT JAMES WATTS 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 -- 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 TRUNED 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.

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

P/12

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.

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, GIVE US YOUR ENERGIES, YOUR EFFORTS, YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND TOGETHER WE CAN WIN THIS ELECTION AND BUILD THAT AMERICAN FUTURE.

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 KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SAFE IS NOT LATER. IT'S

NOW.

THE TIME TO CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTE DUMPS IS NOT LATER .
IT'S NOW.

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

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

LET'S GO OUT THERE AND WIN THIS ELECTION. NOT LATER,
BUT NOW.

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[DELETED FROM DELIVERED SPEECH, BUT IN FINAL DRAFT]

AND THAT'S WHY A MONDALE-FERRARO GOVERNMENT WILL BE COMMITTED TO AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR ALL. BECAUSE THAT'S HOW WE KEEP OPENING NEW DOORS.

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, MY MOTHER WORKED HARD IN THE GARMENT DISTRICT SO THAT I COULD GO TO SCHOOL AND MOVE AHEAD. LATER, I TAUGHT IN NEW YORK'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY DAY, AND WENT TO LAW SCHOOL BY NIGHT. THAT WAS HARD WORK -- BUT WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY THAT REWARDS HARD WORK.

I'M SURE THAT FOR MANY OF YOU -- FOR MANY OF YOUR FAMILIES -- EDUCATION HAS BEEN THE KEY TO MOVING AHEAD.

REONALD REAGAN DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT. HIS COMMITMENT TO REBUILDING AMERICAN EDUCATION HAS BEEN A MILE WIDE ON RHETORIC AND AN INCH DEEP ON POSITIVE ACTION. HE'S SLASHED PROGRAMS FOR COLLEGE LOANS. HE'S CUT PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING IN SCIENCE AND MATH. HE'S REDUCED FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION TO THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE THE 1960'S.

P/15

MR. REAGAN SAYS THAT HE WILL SEND A TEACHER INTO SPACE.
WELL, I SAY TO MR. REAGAN; IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SEND A TEACHER
INTO SAPCE. WE MUST INVEST IN OUR TEACHERS AND OUR STUDENTS
HERE ON EARTH.

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