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New Haven Rally Speech

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REMARKS OF GERALDINE A. FERRARO

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

THANK YOU, CHRIS, 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 CONNECTICUT.

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 SENT CHRIS DODD TO THE SENATE -- AND WILL REELECT HIM AGAIN IN 1986 -- AREN'T ABOUT TO VOTE FOR A MAN WHO HAS SPONSORED A SECRET WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO MADE ELLA GRASSO THEIR GOVERNOR AND BARBARA KENNELLY A CONGRESSWOMAN AREN'T ABOUT TO REELECT A MAN WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE WOMEN DESERVE THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF EQUAL RIGHTS UNDER LAW.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO SENT BRUCE MORRISON TO CONGRESS -- WHERE HE HAS DONE AN ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC JOB -- AREN'T ABOUT TO VOTE FOR A PRESIDENT WHO CUTS TAXES FOR THE RICH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR AND CALLS THAT PROGRESS.

AND THE SAME PEOPLE WHO MADE BEN DILIEITO (DUH-LEE'-TOE)) THEIR MAYOR AREN'T GOING TO VOTE FOR AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS **TURNED ITS BACK ON** ~~OUR~~ OUR CITIES.

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TODAY, I AM HONORED TO BE INVITED TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, AND TO THE PRIDE OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, THE CONTE (KON-TEE) SCHOOL.

ITS A FITTING PLACE, WHERE OUR CHILDREN LEARN, TO TALK ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

~~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, IN MY OPINION, 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 ~~FOUND NOT~~ ^{DIDN'T FIND} GOLD, BUT ^{HE FOUND} GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES. AND HE
AND MY MOTHER ~~TAUGHT~~ ^{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 IN 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 AMERICA
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~~ **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
ALL.

I ALSO LEARNED FROM MY FAMILY THAT DREAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES DON'T
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~~ **THEM THE TRUTH.**
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 ALL PRESIDENTS

FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JIMMY CARTER COMBINED.

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 OF MAINE 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 NEW ENGLAND 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.

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 UNBURDENED BY HUGE DEFICITS. 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 -
AND IT DOES - THEN LET'S REDUCE IT. IF THE BUDGET MUST BE SQUEEZE
AND IT MUST - THEN LET'S DO IT AND DO IT FAIRLY. IF TAXES MUST
GO UP - AND THEY MUST - THEN LET'S RAISE THEM AND DO ^{THAT} FAIRLY ^{TO}

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 YOURS EITHER.

TODAY WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT OF THE RICH, BY THE RICH AND FOR THE RICH. WHAT WE NEED IS A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE.

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.

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.

RONALD REAGAN DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT. HIS COMMITMENT TO REBUILD 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 1960s.

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 SPACE. WE MUST INVEST IN OUR TEACHERS AND OUR STUDENTS HERE ON EARTH.

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BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN ALSO MEANS THAT WE MUST PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS EARTH ITSELF. ~~IF THERE IS A STATE IN THE UNION THAT TREASURES OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE IT IS THIS STATE OF MAINE.~~

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.

RONALD 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 OF MAINE.

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 - including those on GEORGE'S BANK --- 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. REACHING FOR EXCELLENCE AGAIN IN OUR SCHOOLS. PRESERVING OUR NATURAL **H**ERITAGE -- 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 NUCLEAR WEAPONS THAT WILL BE OBSOLETE THE DAY THEY ARE READY, 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.

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.