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Address to Working Women

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ADDRESS TO WORKING WOMEN AT HOPKINS PLAZA, BALTIMORE, MD.

September 24, 1984

THANK YOU, BARBARA, FOR THAT TREMENDOUS INTRODUCTION. I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU, BARBARA MIKULSKI IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMITTED AND EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. YOU KNOW, WHEN I FIRST RAN FOR CONGRESS MY SLOGAN WAS, "FINALLY A TOUGH DEMOCRAT," BUT THEN I GOT TO WASHINGTON AND RAN INTO BARBARA.

BARBARA AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER CLOSELY FOR SIX YEARS, AND I MIGHT NOT BE STANDING HERE TODAY IF IT WASN'T FOR ALL THE HELP SHE GAVE ME THIS YEAR. SHE FOUGHT HARD, AND WE ALL WON BIG.

OF COURSE, THERE'S ANOTHER BIG WINNER HERE TODAY. AND I'M TALKING ABOUT THE CITY OF BALTIMORE AND MAYOR SCHAEFER. A FEW YEARS AGO PEOPLE SAID NOTHING COULD BE DONE FOR THIS GREAT CITY. BUT MAYOR SHAEFER DIDN'T LISTEN TO THE CRITICS, HE WENT TO WORK FOR THE FUTURE. JUST LOOK AT YOU NOW. WITH HOPKINS PLAZA, HARBOR PLACE AND A NEWLY ALIVE CHARLES STREET, YOU'VE SURPRISED ALL THE DOUBTERS AND SILENCED ALL THE CRITICS. AS DON SCHAEFER WOULD SAY, "BALTIMORE IS BEST."

OF COURSE, YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THAT WALTER MONDALE AND I HAVE OUR OWN SET OF CRITICS AND DOUBTERS. THE POLLSTERS AND THE PUNDITS SAY WE CAN'T WIN. THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED THE ELECTION. BUT I WANT TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT HERE.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

ARE WE GOING TO SEND WALTER MONDALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

YOU BET WE ARE.

IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE WIN THIS ELECTION. BECAUSE IT'S A REFERENDUM THAT WILL DETERMINE OUR FUTURE FOR THE NEXT DECADE AND THROUGH THE REST OF OUR CENTURY.

RONALD REAGAN SAYS \$200 BILLION DEFICITS DON'T NEED TO BE REDUCED, AND THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS THE ANSWER. BUT I SAY THE PRESIDENT SHOULD STOP PUTTING OUR MONEY WHERE HIS MOUTH IS. LET'S GET THOSE DEFICITS DOWN, AND LET'S DO IT FAIRLY.

RONALD REAGAN SAYS WE HAVE A GLORIOUS RECOVERY. BUT I SAY WE WON'T HAVE A COMPLETE RECOVERY UNTIL EVERY OUT OF WORK PERSON IN MARYLAND HAS A JOB.

RONALD REAGAN SAYS WHEN IT COMES TO CUTTING THE BUDGET, IT'S WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST. BUT I SAY SOCIAL SECURITY IS A CONTRACT, AND THE ELDERLY HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE IN DIGNITY.

RONALD REAGAN SAYS WE SHOULD CUT EDUCATION FUNDS AND WANTS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. BUT I SAY LET'S HELP THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

AND RONALD REAGAN SAYS 115 MILLION WOMEN DON'T NEED EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION. BUT I SAY WHEN THE WOMEN OF AMERICA WIN ALL AMERICANS WIN.

THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY HAS BEEN LONG AND HARD, AND MARYLAND HAS BEEN PART OF THAT STRUGGLE. OVER THREE CENTURIES AGO MARGARET BRENT WALKED INTO THE COLONIAL ASSEMBLY HERE TO DEMAND HER RIGHT TO VOTE. WITH THE MALE ASSEMBLYMEN SHOUTING HER DOWN SHE TALKED OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM THIS MOST BASIC FREEDOM. AND SHE ENDED BY ASKING, "IS THIS JUSTICE? I ASK IN THE NAME OF YEARS TO COME."

SHE ASKED THAT QUESTION ON JANUARY 21, 1648. ON THIS JANUARY 21ST -- MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS LATER -- ON THE STEPS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL -- I WILL TAKE MY OATH OF OFFICE, AND SAY TO MARGARET BRENT, "YES, THIS IS FINALLY JUSTICE. I TELL YOU THAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THE YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED."

BUT OUR WORK IS NOT OVER. AND WHEN I TAKE MY OATH OF OFFICE FOR MY SECOND TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BUDGET DEFICITS, JOBS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND EQUAL RIGHTS WHAT WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IT THE FUTURE. NOT JUST FOR WOMEN, BUT FOR ALL OF US, AND ESPECIALLY FOR OUR CHILDREN.

THIS MORNING I HAD THE GREAT HONOR OF PRESENTING AWARDS TO TWO OF OUR FINEST FEMALE ATHLETES -- MARTINA NAVARATLOVA AND JOAN BENOIT. THE AUDIENCE FOR OUR PRESENTATION WAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES, AND THAT WAS THE MOST THRILLING PART OF THE CEREMONY. BECAUSE WHEN I LOOKED INTO THEIR FACES I SAW THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE.

BUT THAT PROMISE WILL NOT BE KEPT IF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS RE-ELECTED. RONALD REAGAN IS NOT BUILDING TOWARD THE FUTURE, HE'S BORROWING FROM IT. AND HE'S NOT LEARNING FROM THE PAST, HE'S LIVING IN IT.

IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, HE HAS TRIED HIS BEST TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK. FIRST, HE CUT BACK ON STUDENT LOANS. THEN HE GUTTED THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT -- A BILL WHICH WALTER MONDALE WROTE IN 1974.

THEN HE ELIMINATED EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR DEPENDENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVORS. THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH. I SAY WE SHOULD BE HELPING STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION, NOT THROWING UP ROADBLOCKS.

BUT RONALD REAGAN HAS ANOTHER SURPRISE IN STORE FOR THESE YOUNG WOMEN WHEN THEY GET OUT OF SCHOOL AND GO TO WORK. IF HE HAS HIS WAY, THERE WILL BE NO PAY EQUITY. HIS OWN REPUBLICAN PLATFORM OPPOSES IT. AND HIS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION DENOUNCED COMPARABLE PAY AS, QUOTE "FUNDAMENTALLY RADICAL." UNQUOTE.

WELL, I THINK RONALD REAGAN IS FUNDAMENTALLY RADICAL. I SAY WOMEN SHOULD TAKE HOME FIRST-CLASS PAY FOR FIRST-CLASS WORK.

AND I'VE HEARD ALL THE EXCUSES AND ALL THE REASONS FOR PAYING WOMEN LESS. TWO YEARS AGO, I CO-CHAIRLED THE FIRST FULL SCALE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON PAY EQUITY AND COMPARABLE WORTH.

IN THOSE HEARINGS I LEARNED THAT TREE TRIMMERS IN DENVER WERE PAID MORE THAN EMERGENCY ROOM NURSES. AS IF TREE LIMBS WERE MORE VALUABLE THAN HUMAN LIMBS.

I LEARNED THAT DOG POUND ATTENDANTS WERE PAID MORE THAN CHILD CARE WORKERS. AND THAT LIQUOR STORE CLERKS WERE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN BEGINNING TEACHERS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT STANDS FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. THEY BETTER STAND FOR IT: IT'S THE LAW.

I'VE OFTEN SAID THAT I HAD TO GO TO CONGRESS TO GET PAID THE SAME AS THE MEN I WORK WITH. WELL, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR ALL 115 MILLION OF US THERE. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE EXCITING. SO WALTER MONDALE AND I BELIEVE WE OUGHT TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS. SINCE WE'RE ALL FOR EQUAL TREATMENT, LET'S TREAT MEN AND WOMEN AS EQUALS.

LET ME JUST SAY THAT I'M NOT ONLY TALKING TO THE PEOPLE IN HOPKINS PLAZA, AND I'M NOT JUST SPEAKING TO WOMEN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO BE OFFENDED BY DISCRIMINATION.
MOST MEN ARE TOO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO WORRY ABOUT ISSUES THAT CONCERN
WOMEN. WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE AMERICA'S ISSUES.

AND THE ISSUE WE CARE MOST OF ALL ABOUT IS PEACE.

TODAY, IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MILITARIZING A
CONFLICT THAT COULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. AND IT IS
AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT THAT IS PRIMARILY LOCAL. LET'S GET
SOMETHING STRAIGHT ABOUT THE SO-CALLED SECRET WAR IN NICARAGUA.
IT'S NOT SECRET. IT'S PROBABLY ILLEGAL. AND IT'S NOT SUPPORTED
BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I SAY IT'S TIME TO END THE COVERT WAR IN
NICARAGUA.

THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE DOWN THERE
TODAY, AND IT MADE ONE BEFORE IN LEBANON. IT WAS HORRIBLE WHEN
MORE THAN 250 YOUNG MEN DIED IN BEIRUT. BUT IT WAS AN OUTRAGE
THAT THEY DIED FOR NO REASON.

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS THE GALL TO POINT WITH PRIDE TO ITS
ACTIONS IN LEBANON. THAT FIASCO IS NOT A POLICY TO BE DEFENDED.
IT IS A LESSON TO BE LEARNED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SONS BETWEEN 18 AND 22 YEARS OLD. BUT I DO. MY SON JOHN WOULD BE PROUD TO DEFEND THIS COUNTRY, AND I'D BE PROUD, THOUGH WORRIED, TO HAVE HIM DO SO. BUT LIKE EVERY MOTHER IN THIS COUNTRY, I DIDN'T RAISE HIM TO DIE IN AN UNDECLARED WAR, AGAINST AN UNNAMED ENEMY, FOR AN UNCERTAIN CAUSE.

I AM FOR A STRONG DEFENSE. A PRESIDENT MUST KNOW WHERE TO USE FORCE AND WHEN, BUT HE MUST ALSO KNOW WHEN IT SHOULD NOT BE USED. LET'S UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BEFORE WE ARM IT. AND LET'S HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO SENDS IN THE DIPLOMATS BEFORE HE SENDS IN THE MARINES.

A PRESIDENT MUST ALSO SEEK TO END THE ARMS RACE, BECAUSE THAT IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO PEACE. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO CALLS ON THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

AND THAT'S THE KIND OF PRESIDENT FRITZ MONDALE WILL BE.

WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE TRULY HUMAN ISSUES. THEY ARE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING THIS COUNTRY AND THE WORLD.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE IN THIS ELECTION. WE MUST HAVE A LEADER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN TRUST. WE MUST HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS, AND WHO WILL STAND UP FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.

WALTER MONDALE AND I HAVE LAID OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE. RONALD REAGAN HAS OPENED AN ALBUM OF PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AND ASKED US TO LOOK AT THE PRETTY PICTURES INSIDE.

RONALD REAGAN WENT TO THE OLYMPICS CARRYING A TORCH FOR THE FEMALE ATHLETES THAT HAD BROUGHT SO MUCH PRIDE TO THE UNITED STATES. BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SIDED WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN SPORTS.

I, TOO, CONGRATULATE OUR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, BUT I WANT TO HELP WOMEN GET TO THE STARTING LINE, NOT JUST PAT THEM ON THE BACK AFTER THEY CROSS THE FINISH LINE.

THEN RONALD REAGAN TRAVELLED TO BUFALLO TO DEDICATE A SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING PROJECT. HE CALLED IT "WONDERFUL...A SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP."

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID, MR. REAGAN? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? YOU KNOW THAT BACK IN WASHINGTON YOU HAVE DECIMATED THE PROGRAM THAT BUILT THAT VERY SAME PROJECT. I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SHELTERS THE ELDERLY, NOT JUST THE INCOME OF THE WEALTHY.

IN ANOTHER MEDIA EVENT, RONALD REAGAN VISITED A BLACK FAMILY THAT WAS THE VICTIM OF BIGOTRY. BUT IN REALITY, HE DRAGGED HIS FEET ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, AND TRIED TO SUBVERT THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION.

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT FULLY SUPPORTS OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS, AND NOT SEGREGATED ACADEMIES.

LET ME SAY THIS TO THE PRESIDENT: DON'T TELL ME YOUR POLICIES ARE FAIR. DON'T PRETEND TO SUPPORT THE VERY THINGS YOUR POLICIES UNDERMINE.

JUST THREE DAYS AGO RONALD REAGAN SPOKE NOSTALGICALLY ABOUT JOHN KENNEDY. IN A TONE OF REVERENCE HE RECALLED THE VISION AND POWER OF THAT GREAT PRESIDENT. BUT WHERE WAS RONALD REAGAN WHILE JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ALIVE?

RONALD REAGAN WAS A LEADER OF DEMOCRATS FOR NIXON IN 1960. HE TRIED TO BEAT JOHN KENNEDY. AND HE HAS OPPOSED NEARLY EVERY DECENT CAUSE THAT GOOD PRESIDENT LOVED.

WHEN WILL THIS STOP? HOW FAR CAN HE GO?

I SAY TO MR. REAGAN: DON'T TELL US YOU SUPPORTED JOHN KENNEDY, BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T. DON'T TELL US YOU CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT. DON'T TELL US YOU'VE EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES, BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T. AND DON'T TELL US, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOUR POLICIES HAVE PROMOTED FAIRNESS. BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT.

THE UNITED STATES IS NOT JUST ANOTHER STAGE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT CHARACTERS. PROBLEMS ARE NOT STORY LINES. IMAGES WILL NOT PERSUADE. THE ISSUES ARE WHAT MATTER. AND THE ELECTION WILL NOT GO ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S SCRIPT.

FOURTEEN DAYS AGO WALTER MONDALE AND I RELEASED OUR TAX AND BUDGET PLANS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. BUT WE'VE HEARD NOTHING FROM RONALD REAGAN. MR. PRESIDENT, WHERE'S THE PLAN?

ONE MONTH [?] AGO, RONALD REAGAN ANSWERED HIS LAST PUBLIC QUESTION FROM THE PRESS. SINCE THEN WE'VE HEARD NOTHING BUT COMMERCIALS AND SCRIPTS. MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN WILL YOU ANSWER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS? HOW LONG CAN YOU HIDE?

IN THIS ELECTION WE FACE THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES OF OUR GENERATION. WE NEED TO RESTORE A SENSE OF FAIRNESS IN THIS LAND. THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS TO DEFEAT RONALD REAGAN AND ELECT WALTER MONDALE.

-- END --