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## Association for a Better New York Speech: Medley's Re-write

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ABNY BREAKFAST ADDRESS

SEPTEMBER 24, 1984

THANK YOU LEW. FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION. IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK AT ABNY.

WHEN I ATTENDED THE ABNY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING LAST DECEMBER, ONE OF THE THINGS PEOPLE ASKED ME ABOUT WAS WHETHER I WOULD RUN FOR VICE PRESIDENT. WELL, I GUESS I ANSWERED THAT QUESTION.

OF COURSE, ABNY HAS ANSWERED ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT POLITICS. CAN THERE BE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS? AND ABNY'S ANSWER HAS ALWAYS BEEN: JUST WATCH US.

YOU'VE WORKED ON ISSUES THAT MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK CITY: FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER, TO THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT. BUT I'M EVEN MORE IMPRESSED WITH SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT ABNY. YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE ECONOMY OF NEW YORK MUST WORK FOR MORE THAN JUST THE LARGE CORPORATIONS. YOU KNOW IT MUST WORK AVERAGE CITIZENS AND FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE.

YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR COMPASSION BY SUPPORTING MEALS ON WHEELS FOR HOMEBOUND SENIOR CITIZENS. BY HELPING THE DIAL A TEACHER PROGRAM

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN. AND BY HELPING THIS CITY'S YOUTHS STAY OFF DRUGS AND IN SCHOOL.

I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR WORK. BUT I AM NOT SURPRISED. BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE A CARING PEOPLE. AND YOU REPRESENT THE BEST QUALITIES OF OUR COUNTRY'S SPIRIT.

WE ARE NOT A SELFISH, SELF-CENTERED PEOPLE. WE ARE A GENEROUS PEOPLE. AND NOT ONLY GENEROUS: WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER LIKE A FAMILY.

LIKE A FAMILY, WE OWE AN OBLIGATION TO EACH OTHER AND -- MOST IMPORTANTLY -- TO THE NEXT GENERATION. WE MUST EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN NEED. AND WE MUST FIGHT TO KEEP THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY THROUGH WHICH SOME OF US HAVE PASSED OPEN TO ALL IN THE FUTURE. AND WE MUST OPEN THEM WIDER WHENEVER WE CAN.

I WAS INVITED RECENTLY TO GIVE A TALK AT SOLOMON BROTHERS. WHERE MY DAUGHTER WORKS. AND I'LL BE GOING THERE AGIN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I WAS TOLD BEFORE MY SPEECH THAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT HOW CONGRESS WORKS, FROM AN INSIDER'S POINT OF VIEW.

WHEN I GOT THERE. I FOUND THAT THEY ONLY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT TWO THINGS: BERYL ANTHONY'S BILL TO REDUCE THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX. WHICH THEY LIKED, AND THE BRADLEY- GEPHART BILL TO SIMPLIFY OUR TAX LAWS, AND GET RID OF MANY OF THE LOOPHOLES, WHICH THEY OPPOSED.

I HAVE TO TELL YOU. AND I WILL TELL THEM LATER THIS WEEK. I WAS DISTURBED BY THE NARROWNESS OF THEIR CONCERNS. WHEN WE GOT HOME THAT EVENING, MY DAUGHTER TURNED TO ME AND SAID " DON'T WORRY MOM, I WON'T LOSE MY SOCIAL CONSCIENCE." I WAS THRILLED TO HEAR HER SAY IT.

I EXPECT SOCIAL CONCERNS TO BE THE CONCERNS OF MY DAUGHTER, AND ALSO OF THE FINANCIAL LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRY. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN PROGRESS AS A NATION IS IF WE DO IT TOGETHER. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND. THERE COMES A TIME WHEN WE MUST PUT OUR PERSONAL AGENDAS ASIDE. AND THINK OF OTHERS FIRST.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BLACK TO BE OFFENDED BY DISCRIMINATION. MOST WHITES ARE, TOO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO BE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. MOST MEN ARE TOO.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE POOR TO HATE POVERTY.

LOOK AT ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. AND YOU WON'T FIND A MORE COMPASSIONATE, CARING PEOPLE THAN AMERICANS. WE'RE IN THIS COUNTRY TOGETHER, AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS A BETTER COUNTRY FOR ALL OF US.

BUT WE FACE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. OUR BASIC FAIRNESS WILL BE TESTED AND RE-TESTED AS WE FACE THE FACT

THAT OUR BUDGET DEFICITS MUST BE CUT. AND FRANKLY, I DO NOT TRUST THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO BRING DOWN THE DEFICITS IN A FAIR AND COMPASSIONATE WAY.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE DEFICIT MUST BE CUT. EVEN RONALD REAGAN KNOWS THAT -- AT LEAST HE KNEW THAT WHEN HE TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE IN 1981. IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS HE SAID. "FOR DECADES WE HAVE PILED DEFICIT UPON DEFICIT...TO CONTINUE THIS TREND IS TO GUARANTEE TREMENDOUS SOCIAL CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UPHEAVALS." UNQUOTE.

HE WAS RIGHT. BUT HE'S WRONG NOW. YOU KNOW HOW A MASSIVE DEFICIT AFFECTS US ALL. YOU KNOW IT MEANS HIGHER INTEREST RATES, AND YOU KNOW HIGHER RATES ARE BAD FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK. AFTER STRUGGLING SO HARD, AND COMING SO FAR. THIS CITY SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED BY FEDERAL DEFICITS THAT ARE OUT OF CONTROL.

BUT DEFICITS ARE NOT ONLY BAD FOR THIS CITY. THEY ARE BAD FOR WORKERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. BECAUSE HIGH DEFICITS MEAN SERIOUS TRADE IMBALANCES. THE MOST RECENT QUARTERLY TRADE DEFICIT IS THE WORST WE'VE HAD IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY.

IN FACT, OUR DEFICITS ARE EVEN HURTING WORKERS AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE THIRD WORLD DEBT CRISIS. THAT CRISIS THREATENS TO TOPPLE OUR ENTIRE BANKING SYSTEM AND TAKE THE WHOLE FINANCIAL SYSTEM WITH IT.

SO THAT DEFICIT WILL HAVE TO COME DOWN. NO MATTER WHO IS ELECTED IN NOVEMBER THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO REDUCE THE GAP. WALTER MONDALE AND I HAVE PRODUCED A FAIR PLAN TO BRING DOWN THE DEFICITS BY TWO THIRDS. AND WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT WE HAVE LAID IT OUT ON THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE.

BUT RONALD REAGAN WON'T LET US SEE HIS PLAN. IT'S BEEN DAYS NOW SINCE WE TOLD EVERY VOTE OUR PLAN. WHERE'S HIS PLAN?

I THINK I KNOW WHY HE'S NOT TELLING US. AFTER ALL. IF RONALD REAGAN HAD A FAIR PLAN, WHY WOULDN'T HE TELL US?. AND IF HE'S RE-ELECTED. HE'LL DO WHAT HE'S DONE BEFORE: TAKE THE DEEPEST CUTS FROM PROGRAMS THAT HELP THE WEAKEST PEOPLE.

I'M AFRAID THIS ADMINISTRATION IS AN EIGHTIES UPDATE OF THE TIN MAN. IT DOESN'T HAVE A HEART. IT HAS A CALCULATOR.

RONALD REAGAN RECENTLY SAID THAT IF WE WANT TO KNOW HOW HE'LL BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET. WE SHOULD LOOK AT THE BUDGETS HE'S SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IN THE PAST AND THE CUTS CONGRESS REFUSED TO MAKE. SO LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THEM.

FIRST OF ALL, THE PRESIDENT HAS NEVER SUBMITTED ANYTHING CLOSE TO A BALANCED BUDGET. EVEN IF EVERY ONE OF HIS CUTS WERE ACCEPTED, HE STILL WOULD HAVE ADDED MORE TO THE NATIONAL DEBT THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENT FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JIMMY CARTER.

SO, WE WOULD BE DEEP IN DEBT AND HAVE HURT EVEN MORE PEOPLE GETTING THERE.

IF RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY WE WOULD HAVE CUT HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY. THOUSANDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WOULD NOT HAVE ADEQUATE SHELTER TODAY.

IF RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY, WE WOULD HAVE CUT SOCIAL SECURITY, AND TWO AND A QUARTER MILLION ELDERLY WOMEN WOULD HAVE LOST THEIR SMALL MONTHLY CHECKS.

IF RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY, A COLLEGE EDUCATION WOULD BE AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM FOR MILLIONS OF STUDENTS UNABLE TO GET STUDENT LOANS.

AND IF RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ACROSS AMERICA WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT PROPER NUTRITION, AND REASONABLE HEALTH CARE.

WELL, IF I HAVE MY WAY RONALD REAGAN WON'T HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO RIP HIS ALREADY MEAGER SAFETY NET INTO SHREDS.

WHEN WE LOOK AT THE RECORD, OUR PROBLEM ISN'T WITH WHAT RONALD REAGAN DIDN'T GET. OUR PROBLEMS COME FROM WHAT RONALD REAGAN DID GET.

RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, AND NOW

WE'RE PAYING \$7,000 FOR COFFEE MAKERS, AND \$2,000 FOR A THIRTEEN CENT NUT. OF COURSE REAGAN IS A 24 CARAT NUT, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY]

RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY WITH TAX CUTS FOR BIG CORPORATIONS AND LAST YEAR 90,000 PROFITABLE COMPANIES PAID NO INCOME TAX, AND THE PORTION THAT BUSINESSES PAY IN TAXES HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.

RONALD REAGAN HAD HIS WAY WITH TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, AND LAST YEAR THE WEALTHIEST PEOPLE GOT A CHECK FROM THE GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO BUY TWO CADILLACS, WHILE AVERAGE AMERICANS BARELY GOT ENOUGH BACK TO BUY ONE SPARE TIRE.

UNTIL MR. REAGAN, WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO FIND ENOUGH TO HELP THE IMPOVERISHED AND THE INFIRM AND WE'VE NEVER HAD A DEFICIT LIKE THE WHOPPER WE'VE GOT TODAY.

WE SIMPLY MUST REDUCE THAT DEFICIT, AND WE WILL, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL DO IT FAIRLY. IF THE BUDGET MUST BE SQUEEZED, AND IT MUST, THEN LET'S SHARE THE SACRIFICES. IF TAXES MUST BE RAISED -- AND THEY MUST -- THEN LET'S DO IT FAIRLY. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WON'T LET THE RICH PAY LESS WHILE AVERAGE WORKING FAMILIES PAY THE SAME OR MORE.

RONALD REAGAN'S TAX AND BUDGET POLICIES ARE BAD, BUT THEY HAVE COMBINED WITH HIS SOCIAL POLICIES LIKE SIDING WITH INSTITUTIONS



THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST BLACKS AND WOMEN TO CREATE A DRIFT FROM FAIRNESS.

FRANKLY, I'M CONCERNED THAT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN BECOMING "TWO AMERICAS". ONE OF THE RICH, AND ONE OF EVERYBODY ELSE. INSTEAD OF OPENING DOORS, WE ARE ERECTING BARRIERS. INSTEAD OF EXTENDING A HELPING HAND, WE ARE GIVING THE POOR THE BACK OF THE HAND.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I SEE ONE AMERICA, WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. WE SEE A FUTURE IN WHICH THE ECONOMY WORKS FOR EVERYONE.

MR. REAGAN'S SPEECHES FREQUENTLY REFLECT THESE SAME GOALS. BUT HIS ACTIONS TELL A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.

MR. REAGAN TALKS ABOUT A SAFETY NET. BUT HE HAS GIVEN US A SIEVE.

UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION, 6 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE FALLEN INTO POVERTY. MOST OF THEM ARE CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, AND THE DISABLED. HERE IN NEW YORK THERE ARE MORE HOMELESS PEOPLE THAN WE HAVE HAD SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

RONALD REAGAN TALKS ABOUT HELPING THE TRULY NEEDY. AND WHO COULD BE MORE TRULY IN NEED THAN THOSE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT WORK BECAUSE OF DISABLING ILLNESSES OR CRIPPLING INJURIES?

BUT IN RESPONSE TO A CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF PEOPLE RECEIVING DISABILITY BENEFITS. BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION CONDUCTED A PURGE, NOT A REVIEW, THROWING NEARLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE OFF THE ROLLS. AND ASKING QUESTIONS LATER.

LAST WEEK, CONGRESS FINALLY PASSED LEGISLATION RESTORING FAIRNESS TO THIS PROCESS. AND NOW THE PRESIDENT WILL SIGN IT WITH GREAT FANFARE. BUT IT WAS HIS CRUEL POLICIES THAT MADE THIS LEGISLATION NECESSARY.

RONALD REAGAN WENT TO THE OLYMPICS CARRYING A TORCH FOR OUR WOMEN ATHLETES. BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON, HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SIDED WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN SPORTS.

I ALSO CONGRATULATE OUR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS. AND WILL BE PRESENTING SOME AWARDS TO TWO OF THEM LATER TODAY. BUT I WANT TO HELP WOMEN GET TO THE STARTING BLOCK, NOT JUST PAT THEM ON THE BACK WHEN THEY HAVE ALREADY WON AND THE CAMERAS ARE ROLLING.

RONALD REAGAN VISITED A BLACK FAMILY THAT WAS THE VICTIM OF BIGOTRY. BUT WHILE HE WAS SAYING ALL THE RIGHT WORDS TO THE FAMILY, HE WAS DOING ALL THE WRONG THINGS IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER.

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT FULLY BACKS THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND DOES NOT TRY TO SUBVERT THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION.

LET ME SAY THIS DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT: DON'T TELL US YOUR POLICIES ARE FAIR, WHEN THEY ARE NOT. AND STOP PRETENDING TO SUPPORT THE VERY THINGS YOUR POLICIES ARE WORKING AGAINST.

I HONESTLY BELIEVE THIS ELECTION PRESENTS A MOST FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE TO THE VOTERS OF THIS COUNTRY. IT IS NO LESS THAN A CHOICE BETWEEN A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN SOCIAL DARWINISM, AND A MAN WHO CARES ABOUT SOCIAL DECENCY.

THE CHOICE WE MAKE IN NOVEMBER WILL BE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE, AND WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE WANT TO BE. AND THE CHOICE WILL BE MADE ON ISSUES. IT WILL BE MADE ON THIS PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS, AND NOT ON HIS WORDS.

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.

WHEN YOU GO TO THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER 6, I ASK YOU TO LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT THESE ISSUES. AND I ASK YOU TO ASK YOURSELVES WHAT KIND OF A NATION WE REALLY WANT TO BE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WILL BE WITH ME OR AGAINST ME. BUT I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL MAKE AN INTELLIGENT AND CAREFUL CHOICE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.