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Macomb County Rally Speech

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MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ADLAI STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 25, 1984

THANK YOU, MARTHA, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION. IN
MARTHA GRIFFITHS, THE PEOPLE OF MACOMB COUNTY NOT ONLY HAVE ONE
OF THEIR OWN IN LANSING - THEY HAVE THIS STATE'S GREAT LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR AND ONE OF THE PIONEERING WOMEN LEADERS IN THIS COUNTRY.

delighted to see Mrs. Blanchard here today
I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE GOVERNOR JIM BLANCHARD, MICHIGAN'S
OWN ECONOMIC MIRACLE *Major Harold Sterling Wright* ... ~~SENATOR CARL LEVIN, A MUCH-NEEDED VOICE~~
~~FOR ARMS CONTROL IN OUR CAPITAL~~ ... CONGRESSMAN DENNIS HERTEL,
WHOSE WORK ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING PROTECTS ALL OF OUR
FUTURES ... AND REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BONIOR (BAHN-YER), WHO
FIGHTS EVERY DAY TO KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

THERE ARE OTHER FIGHTERS HERE TODAY, TOO. AND I MEAN THE
BRAVE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN, WHO WITH A HELPING HAND FROM THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PULLED THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION BACK FROM THE
BRINK OF COLLAPSE. A FEW YEARS AGO, THE CRITICS, INCLUDING
RONALD REAGAN, SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE; LET IT RUST. BUT YOU
SURPRISED THE DOUBTERS AND SILENCED ALL THE CRITICS.

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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.~~ Bless you Boys... .. and girls

THIS ELECTION IS MORE THAN A CHOICE BETWEEN PERSONALITIES.
IT'S MORE EVEN THAN A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO POLITICAL PARTIES. IT'S
A CHOICE / ABOUT THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THIS COUNTRY. //

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE / IT'S A REFERENDUM ON WAR AND PEACE. /
LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL CALL ON THE SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE
ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE. / NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS
RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN. //

IT'S A REFERENDUM ON SOCIAL JUSTICE. / LET'S ELECT A
PRESIDENT WHO KNOWS THAT GOVERNMENT BELONGS ON THE SIDE OF CIVIL
RIGHTS. / AND NOT SEGREGATED ACADEMIES. //

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IT'S A REFERENDUM ON TOXIC WASTE DUMPS. THIRTEEN HUNDRED
DAYS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS TOO LONG TO MAKE THE
CITIZENS OF MACOMB COUNTY WAIT WHILE TOXIC ^{Chemical} WASTE BUBBLES IN THEIR
BACKYARDS. LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO TAKES POLLUTERS TO COURT,
AND NOT TO LUNCH. //

AND, AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE, IT'S A CHOICE ABOUT WHAT KIND
OF PEOPLE WE ARE. /

I GREW UP -- NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, I TELL MY CHILDREN / IN
A TIME WHEN HARD WORK WAS REWARDED / WHEN EDUCATION UNLOCKED THE
DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY. /

I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY / IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE SACRIFICES
MY MOTHER MADE TO ENSURE THAT I WENT TO SCHOOL.

I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY / IF AMERICA WERE NOT A LAND OF
OPPORTUNITY.

BUT I FEAR THAT THAT OPPORTUNITY / IS IN DOUBT TODAY / BECAUSE
THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON SIMPLY DOESN'T VALUE EDUCATION,
AND IT DOESN'T CARE WHETHER ALL OF US / NOT JUST A FEW / ENJOY
A FAIR CHANCE TO SUCCEED. /

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WHERE WE SEE A NEED TO INVEST IN THE PROMISE OF OUR YOUTH /
RONALD REAGAN HAS DRAMATICALLY CUT STUDENT AID AND SLASHED PUBLIC
SCHOOL FUNDING. /

I SAY TO THE PRESIDENT: / SENDING A TEACHER INTO OUTER SPACE
WON'T HELP PUT OUR CHILDREN THROUGH COLLEGE. / LET'S HELP TEACHERS
AND STUDENTS HERE ON EARTH. /

JUST TELLING CHILDREN TO STUDY HARD / WON'T PUT BOOKS ON THE
LIBRARY SHELVES OR INSTRUMENTS IN THE LABORATORIES. / FRITZ
MONDALE AND I WILL LAUNCH A MAJOR NEW INVESTMENT IN EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE / TO MAKE THIS THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN
HISTORY. //

EMPTY PLATITUDES AND BROKEN PROMISES / WON'T HELP OUR CHILDREN
MEET THE WORLD'S CHALLENGES. / IT'S TIME WE TURN OUR ATTENTION
FROM THE ARMS RACE / TO THE HUMAN RACE. /

BUT INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE IS NOT OUR ONLY MISSION. / HERE
IN MACOMB COUNTY / MORE THAN FORTY THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN WANT
JOBS AND CAN'T FIND THEM. /

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PRESIDENT REAGAN DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY TO THEM. HE'S TOO BUSY BOASTING ABOUT AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. I SAY THERE'S NOTHING TO BOAST ABOUT WHEN HUNDREDS OF PLANTS AND THOUSANDS OF WORKERS STAND IDLE.

HE SAYS THE ECONOMY IS MOVING AHEAD. I SAY WE CAN'T MOVE AHEAD BY LEAVING BEHIND THE WORKERS, THE INDUSTRIES, AND THE REGIONS THAT MADE AMERICA THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL NATION ON EARTH.

HE SAYS AMERICA IS BACK AND STANDING TALL. I SAY WE'RE NOT THERE UNTIL MACOMB COUNTY IS ALSO BACK AND STANDING TALL.

~~THROUGH INCOMPETENCE AND INDIFFERENCE~~ WE'RE STAGGERING UNDER THE LARGEST TRADE DEFICITS IN HISTORY. LET'S BE CLEAR: TRADE MEANS JOBS. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO PUSH OUR EXPORTS AND DEMAND THAT OUR TRADING PARTNERS OPEN THEIR DOORS AS WIDE AS WE'VE OPENED OURS. THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

INSTEAD, HE TELLS YOU TO CHECK THE WANT ADS / THE PROBLEM IS YOU DON'T GET ALL THOSE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE YOUR JOBS ARE NOW BEING ADVERTISED. / IT'S TIME TO REPLACE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS MADE JOBS AMERICA'S CHIEF EXPORT.

MR PRESIDENT, DON'T PASS THE BUCK. / YOUR MISMANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY IS SENDING OUR JOBS OVERSEAS. / THE PEOPLE OF MACOMB COUNTY ARE SAYING WITH A SINGLE VOICE: IT'S TIME TO REPLACE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS MADE ^{American} JOBS OUR CHIEF EXPORT.

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NOW SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO SAY THAT DECLINING EXPORTS ARE THE FAULT OF THE WORKERS WHO PRODUCE THEM. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IN RUNNING DOWN AMERICAN WORKERS. I SAY THAT IF YOU GIVE OUR WORKERS THE TOOLS TO DO THEIR JOBS AND DON'T UNDERMINE THEIR MARKETS WITH A MISMANAGED ECONOMY, AMERICAN WORKERS CAN OUT-COMPETE, OUT-PRODUCE AND OUT-SELL ANY WORKERS ON EARTH.

SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO RUN DOWN OUR UNIONS, EVEN WHILE THEY PRAISE ~~THE~~ LABOR UNION ~~MOVEMENT~~ OVERSEAS. I AGREE WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION THAT WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE UNION MOVEMENT IN POLAND. THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS A FOUNDATION OF POLITICAL LIBERTY. BUT UNLIKE MR. REAGAN, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT THE UNION MOVEMENT AT HOME.

THE UNIONS LONG AGO UNDERSTOOD THAT IF A FEW WORKERS SUFFERED, THE RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY WERE NOT SAFE. EVERYONE IN A FACTORY SHARES COMMON BENEFITS, NOT JUST A FEW WHO ARE STRONGER THAN OTHERS. AMERICANS UNDERSTAND WHAT IS MEANT BY FAIRNESS. EVEN IF THEIR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT.

ACCORDING TO THIS ADMINISTRATION, IF YOU'RE A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR, \$2000 FOR A THIRTEEN-CENT NUT IS NOT TOO HIGH A PRICE. BUT IF YOU'RE AN ELDERLY WOMAN LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY, THE MINIMUM BENEFIT OF \$122 ^{a month} IS EXTRAVAGANT AND MUST BE CUT.

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IF YOU'RE A PENTAGON SUPPLIER, \$7000 FOR A COFFEE MACHINE IS MARKET VALUE. BUT IF YOU'RE A WORKER THROWN OUT OF A JOB, THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS VOTE WITH YOUR FEET.

IF YOU'RE HOMELESS, THEY SAY YOU LIKE IT THAT WAY. IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, HAVE SOME CHEESE.

IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOUSANDS OF DISABLED ~~THROWN ON THE ASH~~ HEAP BY THIS ADMINISTRATION'S CRUEL SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY POLICY, THEY SAY "SUE US." BUT IF YOU'RE A BIG BANK FAILING BECAUSE OF MISMANAGEMENT, IT'S TELL US HOW MUCH YOU NEED AND WE'LL SEND IT.

cut off

And then they cut funding for legal services that would allow you to do that

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS A CALCULATOR WHERE ITS HEART SHOULD BE. AND IT'S A CALCULATOR WITH A DOUBLE STANDARD.

BUT TO LISTEN TO MR. REAGAN, YOU'D THINK THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A MORE DECENT, COMPASSIONATE GOVERNMENT THAN HIS. HE HAS THE HABIT OF TAKING BOWS WHILE THE HEROINE'S STILL TIED TO THE TRACKS. HE HAS A KNACK FOR READING THE HERO'S LINES EVEN WHEN HE'S CAST HIMSELF IN THE ROLE OF THE HEAVY.

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IN A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY / RONALD REAGAN WENT TO THE OLYMPICS TO CONGRATULATE OUR ATHLETES, INCLUDING THE FEMALE ATHLETES // BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON / HIS ADMINISTRATION SIDED WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN SPORTS.

I, TOO, CONGRATULATE OUR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS / BUT I AM AGAINST SEX DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS. I WANT TO HELP WOMEN GET TO THE STARTING BLOCK, NOT JUST PAT THEM ON THE BACK WHEN THEY CROSS THE FINISH LINE.

IN A CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE // RONALD REAGAN WENT TO BUFFALO TO DEDICATE A SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING PROJECT AND CALLED IT "WONDERFUL...A SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP." / ^{which it is.} BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON // HE HAS 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 A SYMBOLIC GESTURE / RONALD REAGAN PLANS TO DEDICATE A MONUMENT TO THE GREAT NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER ANSEL ADAMS. BUT IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, HE HAS WORKED AGAINST EVERYTHING THAT ANSEL ADAMS LOVED.

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I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT DOES MORE THAN TALK ABOUT LAW
AND ORDER / I WANT ONE THAT ENEORCES OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.

MR. REAGAN TALKS A LOT ABOUT HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE WORKING
MAN AND WOMAN. / BUT WHEN THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION WAS ON THE
ROPE, MR. REAGAN SAID, LET IT FAIL //

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO STANDS UP FOR AMERICA'S BASIC
INDUSTRIES, ^{AND JUST FOR} NOT THE BIG SHOTS.
^ ^

A FEW DAYS AGO, MR. REAGAN SPOKE REVERENTLY ABOUT JOHN
KENNEDY. / BUT IN FACT, MR. REAGAN WAS A LEADER OF DEMOCRATS FOR
NIXON IN 1960. / HE TRIED TO BEAT JOHN KENNEDY. AND HE HAS
OPPOSED NEARLY EVERY DECENT CAUSE WHICH THAT GOOD PRESIDENT
LOVED.

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 DON'T. / DON'T TELL US YOU'VE EXPANDED
OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T. / AND DON'T TELL US, MR.
PRESIDENT, THAT YOUR POLICIES ARE FAIR -- BECAUSE THEY AREN'T.]

Don't pretend you have a monopoly on patriotism, either, because you don't. No one is more proud of this country than I am, and no one is more patriotic than an immigrant's daughter nominated by her party to be Vice President of the United States.

What this administration doesn't understand is that there are many ways to serve this country, and the least worthy ~~impressive~~ kind of patriotism is a ~~the~~ commercial of swelling music and sweeping vistas made by Madison Avenue.

What they don't understand is that when someone finds jobs for the ~~the~~ jobless here that will be a patriotic act.

When we educate our children, we build our country's future -- and that's a patriotic act.

When we keep the peace, young men don't die and that's a patriotic act.

When we pass the Equal Rights Amendment, we open doors everywhere -- and that's a patriotic act.

When we finally stop the arms race, we'll enhance our safety -- and that will be a patriotic act.

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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 CLEAN UP OUR ENVIRONMENT IS NOT LATER. IT'S
NOW.

THE TIME TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE AND STOP THE COVERT WAR IN
NICARAGUA IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

The time to re-elect Carl Levin to the U.S. Senate

THE TIME FOR FRITZ MONDALE TO BECOME PRESIDENT, AND GERRY
FERRARO TO BECOME VICE PRESIDENT, IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW. }
}

~~LET'S DESERT AND WORK TOGETHER TO WIN THIS ELECTION. NOT
LATER BUT NOW.~~

-- END --