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Youngstown Rally Speech: Rideout Draft 2

Geraldine Ferraro

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Rideout Draft 2.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Scene:
① School
② Hallway

new scene:
①

YOU KNOW, I FEEL A SPECIAL KINSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE IN THIS CROWD TODAY. LIKE MANY OF YOU, MY ROOTS ARE WORKING CLASS, AND MY FAMILY CAME TO THIS COUNTRY FROM ANOTHER LAND.

WHEN MY FATHER CAME TO THIS COUNTRY, HE THOUGHT HE WOULD FIND STREETS PAVED IN GOLD. WELL, HE DIDN'T FIND THE GOLD, BUT HE DID FIND GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES. HE KNEW THAT IN AMERICA, IF YOU WORKED HARD AND PLAYED BY THE RULES, YOU COULD GET AHEAD.

AND WHEN HE DIED, MY MOTHER WENT TO WORK IN NEW YORK CITY'S GARMENT DISTRICT TO SUPPORT ME AND MY BROTHER. AND BECAUSE SHE WORKED HARD, I DID TOO. I WASN'T ABOUT TO LET HER DOWN.

AND LET ME TELL YOU, THERE IS NO ONE WHO IS MORE PATRIOTIC THAN THE DAUGHTER OF AN IMMIGRANT WHO WAS NOMINATED TO BE HER PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I LOVE MY COUNTRY. AMERICA IS THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH. BUT WE ARE GREAT NOT JUST BECAUSE OF OUR MILITARY MIGHT, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE TRUE TO CERTAIN VERY CHERISHED PRINCIPLES. WE BELIEVE IN HARD WORK, BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE IN COMPASSION. WE BELIEVE EVERY ONE SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL CHANCE TO GET AHEAD, AND WE BELIEVE IN PLAYING BY THE RULES. AND WE DON'T BELIEVE IN LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND AS WE CLIMB TO THE TOP.

BUT TODAY IT SEEMS THAT HARD WORK AND PLAYING BY THE RULES AREN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH. UNDER THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, SOME THINGS ARE A BIT BACKWARDS.

BIG CORPORATIONS WITH HUGE PROFITS DON'T PAY ANY TAXES AT ALL. BUT AVERAGE FAMILIES PAY THE SAME OR MORE. AND THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

INSTEAD OF GIVING THE POOR AND THE DISABLED A HELPING HAND, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS GIVING THEM THE BACK OF THE HAND. AND THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

MILLIONAIRES HAVE PLANTY TO RETIRE ON, BUT THOSE ON SOCIAL SECURITY ARE HAVING THE LITTLE THEY'VE GOT THREATENED AT EVERY TURN. AND THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

MR. REAGAN SAYS AMERICA IS BACK AND STANDING TALL. BUT I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOUNGSTOWN IS BACK AND STANDING TALL.

MR. REAGAN SAYS THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS WORKING AGAIN. BUT I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL THE PEOPLE OF YOUNGSTWON ARE WORKING AGAIN.

MR. REAGAN BOASTS OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. BUT I WOULDN'T BE PROUD OF A SO-CALLED RECOVERY THAT WAS BUILT ON THE BACKS OF THE UNEMPLOYED, AND ON A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE NEED

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE, WITH NO REGION, AND NO SECTOR
LEFT OUT.

WHEN HE WAS CAMPAIGNING HERE IN 1980, RONALD REAGAN PROMISED "I
WON'T FORGET YOU."

BUT HE HAS. HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY HAS PASSED RIGHT BY YOUNGSTOWN,
OHIO.

I COULD PAINT YOU A ROSY PICTURE AND TELL YOU EVERYTHING'S GOING
TO BE GREAT. BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY SO
SPECIAL IS THAT WE DON'T RUN FROM OUR PROBLEMS, WE FACE THEM. WE
DON'T HIDE FROM THE FACTS, WE DEAL WITH THEM. AND WE TELL THE
TRUTH.

WE CAN LOOK AROUND US AND SEE THAT THINGS AREN'T GREAT IN
YOUNGSTOWN. STEEL WORKERS ARE UNEMPLOYED, AND THE SHOPS ON THIS
VERY STREET ARE CLOSING. MR. REAGAN SEEMS TO THINK THAT IF WE

ADMIT ANYTHING'S WRONG IN OUR ECONOMY, WE'RE BLAMING THE PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED, OR THE SHOPKEEPERS WHO ARE CLOSING DOWN. THAT'S JUST BACKWARDS. THE PEOPLE OF YOUNGSTOWN HAVEN'T FAILED. THE LEADERS OF THIS COUNTRY HAVE FAILED THE PEOPLE OF YOUNGSTOWN. SO LET'S DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. LET'S FACE IT. IN WALTER MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO, YOU WILL HAVE LEADERS WHO LISTEN TO YOUR PROBLEMS AND THEN ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND GO TO WORK ON THEM. AND WE'RE GOING TO TELL YOU TODAY WHAT OUR PLANS ARE FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. WE WON'T WAIT UNTIL THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.

THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS GET THOSE REAGAN DEFICITS DOWN. RONALD REAGAN HAS RUN UP A BIGGER DEBT THAN ANY PRESIDENT IN HISTORY, FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JIMMY CARTER COMBINED. RONALD REAGAN'S DEFICIT IS THREE TIMES AS LARGE AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S.

IT'S NOT FAIR TO OUR CHILDREN WHEN WE MORTGAGE THEIR FUTURE, AND

IT'S NOT FAIR TO THE WORKING PEOPLE OF AMERICA EITHER. BECAUSE THAT REAGAN DEFICIT HAS PUMPED UP THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR SO MUCH THAT FOREIGN STEEL AND OTHER PRODUCTS CAN COME IN HERE AND UNDERCUT OUR OWN.

THAT DEFICIT ALSO MEANS HIGH INTEREST RATES, AND THAT MEANS WORKING CLASS FAMILIES CAN'T GET LOANS TO BUY A HOME OR SEND THEIR KIDS TO COLLEGE.

AND THAT DEFICIT HAS GIVEN US THE WORST TRADE IMBALANCE IN HISTORY. SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE THE FASTEST GROWING EXPORT UNDER THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN AMERICAN JOBS.

RONALD REAGAN WON'T TELL YOU HOW HE WILL GET THAT DEFICIT DOWN. FRITZ MONDALE AND I ALREADY HAVE. WE'VE PUT OUR PLAN ON THE TABLE. WE'VE SHOWN WE CAN CUT THAT DEFICIT BY TWO-THIRDS THROUGH FISCAL RESTRAINT, A SLOWER DEFENSE BUILDUP, AND TAX INCREASES FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD THEM.

BUT MR. REAGAN DOESN'T HAVE A PLAN.

ANOTHER THING THAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT IS THAT WE DEMAND FAIR .
TREATMENT FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS. IF SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE, WE'LL
SHARE THEM. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE
MONDALE/FERRARIO PLAN FOR REDUCING THE REAGAN DEFICIT IS ITS
FAIRNESS.

UNDER OUR PLAN, FAMILIES EARNING \$25,000 A YEAR OR LESS WON'T PAY
ANYTHING MORE IN TAXES. WE'LL CLOSE THE CORPORATE LOOPHOLES THAT
ALLOW 90,000 PROFITABLE CORPORATIONS TO PAY NOTHING AT ALL.

INSTEAD OF RAISING TAXES FOR THE RICH, MR. REAGAN WOULD CUT THE
BENEFITS OF THOSE IN NEED. THAT'S NOT MY IDEA OF FAIRNESS, AND I
DON'T THINK IT'S YOURS EITHER.

MR. REAGAN SAID IF WE WANT TO KNOW HOW HE'LL REDUCE THE DEFICIT,
WE SHOULD LOOK AT THE BUDGET CUTS HE'S PROPOSED AND HASN'T GOT.

SO LET'S TAKE A LOOK, AND SEE WHERE THE BURDEN WILL FALL.

FIRST, IT WILL FALL ON THE ELDERLY. WHEN HE WAS A CANDIDATE, RONALD REAGAN PROMISED TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, WHICH HE CORRECTLY CALLED "THE FOUNDATION OF THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS". BUT IN HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, HE CUT \$20 BILLION WORTH OF BENEFITS FROM THE PROGRAM. AND IN THE YEARS SINCE HE HAS ENGAGED IN LOOSE TALK OF "RESTRUCTURING" AND "REVAMPING" SOCIAL SECURITY.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS THE BASE ON WHICH ALMOST EVERY EARNER IN AMERICA BUILDS PROTECTION FOR HIMSELF OR HERSELF AND THEIR FAMILIES AGAINST THE LOSS OF EARNED INCOME. SOCIAL SECURITY IS FAMILY INSURANCE.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WHEN HE SPEAKS OF SOCIAL SECURITY SEES THE WORKERS, WIDOWS, AND CHILDREN THE PROGRAM SERVES, NOT JUST A TARGET FOR HIS BUDGET CUTTERS. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL NOT

PROPOSE NOR WILL WE SUPPORT ANY CUTS IN BENEFITS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS.

SECOND, THE BURDEN UNDER A SECOND REAGAN TERM WILL FALL ON THE SICK AND THE DISABLED. RONALD REAGAN PROPOSED CUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PROTECTION BY 30 PERCENT. HIS ADMINISTRATION THREW OVER 500,000 DISABLED PEOPLE OFF THE ROLLS OVER NIGHT, CAUSING SUFFERING AND ANGUISH THAT ARE ALMOST INDESCRIBABLE. AND HE HAS CUT THE BENEFITS AND RAISED THE PREMIUMS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHO DEPEND ON MEDICARE.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO FOCUSES ON KEEPING HEALTH CARE COSTS DOWN, NOT MAKING THE PAYMENTS OF ELDERLY CITIZENS GO UP. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL NOT MAKE THE OLD PAY MORE FOR THE MEDICAL CARE THEY NEED.

THIRD, THE BURDEN UNDER A SECOND REAGAN TERM WILL FALL ON STUDENTS.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THE AMERICAN FUTURE. OUR CHILDREN MUST BE WELL EDUCATED IF THEY ARE TO KEEP PACE WITH A CHANGING WORKPLACE. EDUCATION IS THE BEST CHANCE OUR KIDS HAVE TO GET AHEAD.

RONALD REAGAN WOULD ABOLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. HE WOULD CUT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BY 25 PERCENT. HE'LL GET RID OF THE PROGRAM THAT FUNDS SCHOOL LIBRARIES ALL TOGETHER. HE'LL SLASH THE PROGRAMS THAT HELP CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES CATCH UP. AND HE'LL TEAR THE HEART OUT OF THE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS THAT LET THE CHILDREN OF WORKING CLASS FAMILIES GET THE SAME COLLEGE EDUCATION AS THE CHILDREN OF REAGAN'S RICH FRIENDS.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO HELPS OUR CHILDREN DREAM AND GIVES THEM THE CHANCE TO TURN THOSE DREAMS INTO REALITIES. NOT ONE WHO SHUTS THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY IN THEIR FACES. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL SEE THAT ALL THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA HAVE THE EDUCATION THEY NEED TO THRIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD.

AND FINALLY, THE BURDEN IN A SECOND REAGAN TERM WOULD FALL ON THOSE IN NEED. THE UNEMPLOYED.

RONALD REAGAN ELIMINATED THE TRIGGER FOR THE EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. TODAY, MOST PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED DON'T RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE AT ALL. THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID THAT UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROVIDES 'UNINTENDED' BENEFITS AND DISCOURAGES PEOPLE FROM LOOKING FOR JOBS. FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK MR. REAGAN KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO LOOKS AT UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND SEES NOT A HAND OUT, BUT A HAND UP. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, BUT WE'LL ALSO SEE THAT THOSE WHO ARE OUT OF A JOB GET THE AID THEY NEED TO GET BY AND THE TRAINING THEY NEED TO MOVE AHEAD.

I WON'T STAND UP HERE AND MAKE YOU A BUNCH OF PROMISES I CAN'T

KEEP. I DON'T CLAIM WE CAN GET THOSE DEFICITS AND THAT TRADE
IMBALANCE DOWN OVERNIGHT. AND I DON'T CLAIM WE CAN SOLVE ALL OF
YOUNGSTOWN'S PROBLEMS OVERNIGHT EITHER. BUT I DO PROMISE YOU THAT
IN FRITZ MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO YOU WILL HAVE LEADERS WHO CARE
ABOUT WORKING CLASS PEOPLE. WE WILL FACE THE FACTS AND TELL THE
TRUTH. WE HAVE A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE AND WE WILL WORK HARD, BY
YOUR SIDE, TO GET US THERE. TOGETHER.