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## Johnstown Rally Speech

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JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1984

THANK YOU, JOHN, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION. IN JOHN MURTHA, THE PEOPLE OF <sup>JOHN TOWN</sup> JOHNSTOWN HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE WHO FIGHTS FOR YOUR INTERESTS EVERY DAY. AND IN ~~JULIUS ORLINE (YOU-LINE)~~ ~~YOU HAVE AN OUTSTANDING HEAD OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO.~~ YOU DESERVE NO LESS.

<sup>JOHNS</sup>  
IN FACT, THE PEOPLE OF JOHNSTOWN DESERVE A LOT MORE. / THE RESIDENTS OF "THE FRIENDLY CITY" DESERVE A FRIEND IN THE WHITE HOUSE. / YOU DESERVE A FAIR DEAL, NOT A RAW DEAL. /

AS I STAND HERE IN THE SHADOW OF THIS GIANT STEEL MILL. / I wonder ~~CAN'T HELP BUT THINK~~ WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF RONALD REAGAN'S PROMISES? / IN 1980, HE TOLD THE STEEL WORKERS AND COAL MINERS THAT HE WOULDN'T FORGET YOU. /

YOU WERE PROMISED JOBS / AND YOU GOT EVASIONS / YOU WERE PROMISED LEADERSHIP / AND YOU GOT EXCUSES / YOU WERE PROMISED A SHARE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM / AND YOU GOT AN ALBUM OF PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES. /

IN 1984, ALL YOU'VE GOT TO SHOW FOR THOSE PROMISES IS A PICTURE POSTCARD FROM THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION. AND THAT POSTCARD SAYS: "EVERYTHING'S GREAT HERE IN AMERICA, JOHNSTOWN. WISH YOU WERE HERE."

JOHN

I SAY TO YOU THAT IF RONALD REAGAN HAS LEFT JOHNSTOWN OFF HIS MAP, THEN LET'S PUT WALTER MONDALE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND SEND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO HIS RANCH.

A FEW DAYS AGO, GEORGE BUSH ASKED A CROWD IN COLUMBUS: "DO YOU KNOW WHAT WINS ELECTIONS?" AND HE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION BY PULLING OUT HIS WALLET AND SAYING: "IT'S WHO PUTS MONEY INTO THIS AND WHO TAKES MONEY OUT."

THAT SAYS IT ALL. THAT SINGLE GESTURE OF SELFISHNESS TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THIS ADMINISTRATION THAN ALL THEIR APPLE PIE RHETORIC.

OF COURSE WE CARE ABOUT MONEY. BUT LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT: THIS IS AN ELECTION, NOT AN AUCTION. AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT UP FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

YOU ALSO CARE ABOUT PEACE. YESTERDAY, MR. REAGAN SAT DOWN WITH MR. GROMYKO AND THEY HAD A TALK. THAT WAS A GOOD SIGN, AND I HOPE SERIOUS PROGRESS WAS MADE.

BUT YOU DESERVE A LEADER WHO CALLS ON THE SOVIETS TO  
NEGOTIATE AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE,  
NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR ENVIRONMENT. LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT  
WHO'LL TAKE POLLUTERS TO COURT, NOT TO LUNCH.

YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN. YOU WANT SCHOOLS THAT WILL  
HELP YOUR CHILDREN MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE WORLD. PRESIDENT  
REAGAN'S RESPONSE IS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. I SAY WE  
NEED TO HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS WHO ARE DEFENDING THIS  
NATION OVERSEAS. AND LATELY, YOU HAVE REASON TO BE WORRIED FOR  
THEIR SAFETY.

MORE MARINES HAVE BEEN KILLED IN LEBANON IN THE LAST 17  
MONTHS THAN ANYWHERE ELSE SINCE VIETNAM. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE  
BOMBINGS. THE FIRST TIME, <sup>There was no gate.</sup> ~~THE GATE WAS OPEN.~~ THE SECOND TIME,  
THE GATE WAS <sup>open.</sup> ~~UNGUARDED.~~ THE THIRD TIME, THE GATE ~~WASN'T EVEN~~  
~~THERE.~~ <sup>was not installed</sup>

THE FIRST INCIDENT WAS A TRAGEDY. THE SECOND SHOWED NEGLECT;  
AND THE THIRD IS A DISGRACE.

WHAT HAS BEEN JUST AS DISGRACEFUL IS THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF THIS DISASTER. LEADERS ARE TESTED IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS, NOT IN PREPAID COMMERCIALS. / AND AT THIS MOMENT, PRESIDENT REAGAN IS FAILING THE CRITICAL TEST. /

HE IS CASTING BLAME, / NOT ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY. / HE IS RUNNING FROM HIS MISTAKES, / NOT LEARNING FROM THEM. / HE IS REPEATING HIS ERRORS, / NOT CORRECTING THEM.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO ADMITS HIS MISTAKES AND LEARNS FROM THEM. / I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WORRIES MORE ABOUT PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES, AND LESS ABOUT PROTECTING HIS OWN IMAGE.

YOU ALSO CARE ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS. / WHEN YOUR NEIGHBORS LOSE THEIR JOBS, YOU KNOW IT'S TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO LOSE HIS.

MR. REAGAN IS PLEASED WITH THE RALLY ON WALL STREET. / I CAN'T TAKE PRIDE IN WALL STREET. / WHEN PINE STREET IS BOARDED UP.

I LOOK AROUND AT BOARDED SHOP WINDOWS AND I SEE THE SHATTERED HOPES OF SHOPKEEPERS. / IN JOHNSTOWN TODAY, / THERE ARE 18 FOOD PANTRIES HELPING THE UNEMPLOYED. / THAT'S 18 MORE THAN WHEN RONALD REAGAN TOOK OFFICE. / THE PEOPLE OF JOHNSTOWN ARE COMPASSIONATE, EVEN IF OUR GOVERNMENT IS NOT.

WHEN U.S. STEEL THREATENED TO CLOSE ITS PLANT HERE LAST APRIL, YOUR UNION ASKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR A LITTLE TIME. BUT RONALD REAGAN GAVE YOU THE BACK OF HIS HAND. HIS STEEL POLICY CAN BE DESCRIBED IN THREE WORDS: "LET IT RUST."

WALTER MONDALE HAS OFFERED YOU A PLAN. INSTEAD OF VAGUE PROMISES, HE'LL CUT STEEL IMPORTS BY FIFTY PERCENT. HE'LL WORK WITH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT TO RETRAIN WORKERS AND MODERNIZE PLANTS. AND HE'LL PROMOTE OUR EXPORTS.

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE STAGGERING UNDER THE LARGEST TRADE DEFICIT IN OUR HISTORY. LET'S BE CLEAR: TRADE MEANS JOBS. WE MUST PUSH OUR EXPORTS AND DEMAND THAT OUR TRADING PARTNERS OPEN THEIR DOORS AS WIDE AS WE'VE OPENED OURS.

THIS PRESIDENT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. HE TELLS THE UNEMPLOYED TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THE PROBLEM IS, YOU DON'T GET ALL THOSE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE YOUR JOBS ARE BEING ADVERTISED NOW.

SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO RUN DOWN OUR WORKERS. BUT YOU AND I KNOW THAT AMERICANS ARE NOT LAZY. THE PEOPLE OF JOHNSTOWN ARE SAYING WITH A SINGLE VOICE: GIVE US JOBS, AND WE'LL OUT-BUILD, OUT-SELL, AND OUT-COMPETE ANY WORKERS ON THE FACE OF THE 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. / BUT UNLIKE MR. REAGAN / I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT THE UNION MOVEMENT AT HOME. /

RONALD REAGAN SAYS AMERICA IS BACK AND STANDING TALL. / I SAY WE'RE NOT THERE UNTIL JOHNSTOWN IS ALSO BACK AND STANDING TALL. /

RONALD REAGAN SAYS THE ECONOMY IS MOVING AHEAD. / I SAY WE CAN'T MOVE AHEAD BY LEAVING BEHIND THE WORKERS, THE INDUSTRIES, AND THE REGIONS THAT MAKE AMERICA THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL NATION IN THE WORLD.

FINALLY, YOU CARE ABOUT BEING FAIR TO THE DISADVANTAGED.

ACCORDING TO THIS ADMINISTRATION, IF YOU'RE A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR, \$2,000 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.

IF YOU'RE A PENTAGON SUPPLIER / \$7,000 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 CUT OFF BY THIS  
ADMINISTRATION'S CRUEL SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY POLICY / THEY  
SAY "SUE US." / AND THEN THEY CUT THE LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS THAT  
LET YOU DO THAT. / BUT IF YOU'RE A BIG BANK FAILING BECAUSE OF  
MISMANAGEMENT, THEY SAY: / TELL US HOW MUCH YOU NEED AND WE'LL  
SEND IT. /

AND IF YOU'RE A VETERAN, / THIS PRESIDENT SAID YOU DON'T NEED  
EXTRA COUNSELLING. / YOU DON'T NEED COMPENSATION FOR BEING  
POISONED BY AGENT ORANGE. / YOU DON'T NEED A JOB. /

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SUPPLIES ITS SOLDIERS WHEN  
THEY GO TO WAR, / BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THEM WHEN THE FIGHTING ENDS. /

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS A CALCULATOR WHERE ITS HEART SHOULD  
BE. / ~~I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A HEART TRANSPLANT.~~



I SAY TO MR. REAGAN: 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. DON'T TELL US YOU'VE SAVED STEEL JOBS, BECAUSE YOU ~~HAVEN'T~~ <sup>didn't</sup>. 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 KIND OF PATRIOTISM IS A COMMERCIAL OF SWELLING MUSIC AND SWEEPING VISTAS MADE ON MADISON AVENUE.

WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT WHEN SOMEONE FINDS JOBS FOR THE 16,000 JOBLESS HERE -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN, WE BUILD OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE -- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE KEEP THE PEACE, YOUNG MEN DON'T DIE -- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, WE OPEN DOORS  
EVERYWHERE -- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FINALLY STOP THE ARMS RACE, WE'LL ENHANCE OUR SAFETY  
-- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

THE TIME FOR NEW LEADERSHIP IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO CREATE JOBS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

*the time for Nancy Pelosi & Ilhan Murtitha in Congress*

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

-- END --