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Pittsburg Rally Speech

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Medley to write

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 29, 1984

THANK YOU MAYOR CALIGUIRI, FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION. YOU'VE GOT A GREAT MAYOR AND TRULY EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS. YOU DESERVE NO LESS.

IN FACT, YOU DESERVE MORE. YOU DESERVE PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP YOU CAN BE PROUD OF AS WELL. AND WHEN YOU ELECT FRITZ MONDALE AND I IN NOVEMBER, THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL GET.

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 GREED TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THIS ADMINISTRATION THAN ALL THEIR APPLE PIE RHETORIC. THEY BELIEVE THE ONLY THING YOU CARE ABOUT IS MONEY.

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 CARE ABOUT A STEEL POLICY THAT BOILS DOWN TO MORE THAN,
"LET IT RUST." WALTER MONDALE HAS A PLAN TO MAKE MORE STEEL IN
AMERICA, AND BUY LESS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOUR YEARS AGO, RONALD REAGAN PROMISED STEELWORKERS HE WOULD
SAVE THEIR JOBS. WELL HE DIDN'T KEEP THAT PROMISE, AND I DON'T
THINK HE SHOULD KEEP HIS JOB.

YOU CARE ABOUT AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT HELPS YOUR CHILDREN
MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE WORLD. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL MAKE
THIS THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

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

YOU CARE ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS. WALTER
MONDALE AND I WANT TO KEEP THE DOORS OF SUCCESS OPEN TO ALL
AMERICANS.

RONALD REAGAN HAS DRAGGED HIS FEET ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT,
AND TRIED TO SUBVERT THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION. EVEN TODAY HIS
ADMINISTRATION IS BLOCKING IMPORTANT CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION IN
THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

I SAY WE SHOULD SUPPORT OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS, NOT SEGREGATED
ACADEMIES.

YOU CARE ABOUT CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTE DUMPS, AND RECLAIMING OUR LAND FROM INDUSTRIAL POISONS. BUT RONALD REAGAN IS STANDING BY AS TOXIC WASTE DUMPS LEAKE POISONS INTO OUR SOIL AND BUBBLE INTO OUR BACK YARDS.

I SAY WE SHOULD HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT TAKES POLLUTERS TO COURT, NOT TO LUNCH.

BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU CARE ABOUT WHICH LEADER CAN BUILD A SAFER WORLD.

EVERY GENERATION FACES ONE OVERRIDING PROBLEM. FOR OURS, IT IS TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE AND KEEP THE PEACE.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I ARE COMMITTED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE RUSSIANS AND ACHIEVE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE FREEZE.

RONALD REAGAN HAS OPPOSED EVERY ARMS CONTROL TREATY EVER NEGOTIATED. HE MAY PRAISE JOHN KENNEDY NOW, BUT HE OPPOSED JOHN KENNEDY'S TEST BAN TREATY. HE OPPOSED LYNDON JOHNSON'S TREATY TO KEEP NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM SPREADING ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND HE OPPOSED RICHARD NIXON'S ABM TREATY THAT HAS KEPT US SAFER.

IF THIS PRESIDENT CAN'T STOP EXCHANGING INSULTS AND START EXCHANGING SOUND PROPOSALS TO CONTROL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THEN IT'S TIME TO EXCHANGE THIS PRESIDENT FOR ONE WHO WILL.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS RONALD REAGAN MAY HAVE LEARNED THE WORDS OF PEACE, BUT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF ARMS CONTROL. HE CALLS FREEZE SUPPORTERS DUPES OF MOSCOW AND JACKASSES. THEN HE CALLS WALTER MONDALE'S CHALLENGE TO THE SOVIETS A UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT.

WE CANNOT FORGET TWENTY YEARS OF OPPOSITION AND RIDICULE BECAUSE OF AN ELEVENTH HOUR MEETING WITH ANDRE GROMYKO. IT IS SIMPLY TOO LATE AND TOO LITTLE.

I'M GLAD MR. REAGAN FINALLY MET WITH A SOVIET OFFICIAL. BUT I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL MEET WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE NOT IN THE LAST WEEKS BEFORE AN ELECTION.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO TELLS US HIS PLANS FOR CONTROLLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TODAY, NOT AFTER THE ELECTION.

AND I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE FREEZE.

BUT A SAFER WORLD MEANS MORE THAN JUST ARMS CONTROL. WE MUST NOT ONLY REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS WE MUST REDUCE TENSIONS.

TODAY, THERE ARE CIVIL WARS AND OTHER CONFLICTS BEING WAGED AROUND THE WORLD. TWO MILLION PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING AND DYING AS WE MEET HERE TODAY. BUT INSTEAD OF COOLING THESE HOT SPOTS, IN SOME CASES THIS ADMINISTRATION IS THROWING FUEL ON THE FIRE.

IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WE'RE MILITARIZING A CONFLICT THAT COULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. AND WE ARE AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT THAT IS PRIMARILY LOCAL.

I SAY IT'S TIME TO STOP THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA. AND ITS TIME TO START PROMOTING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN EL SALVADOR.

NOWHERE DO WE SEE THE FAILURE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES, MORE CLEARLY THAN IN LEBANON. THE TRUE TEST OF ANY ADMINISTRATION COMES NOT DURING ITS PRE-PAID COMMERCIALS, BUT DURING ITS MOMENTS OF CRISIS.

WE NEED AN ADMINISTRATION THAT LEARNS FROM ITS MISTAKES, NOT ONE THAT HIDES FROM THE TRUTH. BUT WHILE AMERICANS ARE DYING IN LEBANON, RONALD REAGAN AND GEORGE BUSH ARE MAKING EXCUSES IN WASHINGTON.

SINCE APRIL OF 1983 NEARLY 300 AMERICANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN FOUR BOMBING ATTACKS. LAST OCTOBER, AFTER 240 MARINES DIED FOR NO REASON, THE PRESIDENT TOOK RESPONSIBILITLY. AND HE PROMISED TO TAKE ACTION.

BUT NOW, EIGHTEEN MONTHS LATER, WE HAVE LOST MORE AMERICANS, AND I THINK RONALD REAGAN SHOULD LOSE HIS JOB.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WAS WARNED ABOUT NEW ATTACKS. THEY WERE TOLD THE EMBASSY WAS INSECURE. OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE SAID AN ATTACK WAS LIKELY. OUR OWN ADVISORS SAID THE EMBASSY COULD NOT BE DEFENDED, THAT THE MOST BASIC SECURITY WAS NOT YET IN PLACE. AND OUR OWN SECURITY CHIEF IN BEIRUT WAS UNEASY ABOUT THE MOVE. BUT OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SAID THEY SHOULD MOVE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS COMPOUNDED THAT FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP WITH A FAILURE OF NERVE. THEY NOW SEEK TO LAY THE BLAME ON THE DOORSTEP OF OTHERS. FIRST, GEORGE BUSH SAID IT WAS WALTER MONDALE'S FAULT. THEN, RONALD REAGAN SAID IT WAS JIMMY CARTER'S FAULT.

THAT'S NOT ONLY WRONG, IT'S COWARDLY. RONALD REAGAN SAID JIMMY CARTER CUT CIA FUNDING, BUT THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE. AFTER GERALD FORD'S CUTBACKS, PRESIDENT CARTER BUILT UP CIA FUNDING AND STAFFING EVERY YEAR SINCE 1978. NOW, THE CIA IS BETTER FUNDED AND STAFFED THAN BEFORE THE FORD ADMINISTRATION CUTS OF 1977.

I THINK RONALD REAGAN SHOULD STOP SHADOW BOXING WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND START TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS OWN FAILURES. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL SWITCH HIS POLICIES, NOT JUST SHIFT THE BLAME.

INSTEAD OF EXPRESSING HIS SORROW ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN BEIRUT, AND STOPPING FUTURE BOMBINGS, RONALD REAGAN SAYS YOU CAN'T REALLY PREVENT THEM, AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE KITCHENS REMODELED.

YOU KNOW, THE LAST PRESIDENT WE HAD WHO TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT KITCHENS WAS HARRY S. TRUMAN -- A PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN LOVES TO QUOTE AND CLAIM AS HIS OWN -- BUT TRUMAN'S MESSAGE ABOUT KITCHENS WAS QUITE DIFFERENT. IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT -- HE SAID -- THEN GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN. AND HE HAD ANOTHER SAYING THAT RONALD REAGAN DOES NOT REPEAT: "THE BUCK STOPS HERE."

IT'S TIME RONALD REAGAN STOPPED TRYING TO PASS THE BUCK TO WALTER MONDALE AND JIMMY CARTER. IT'S TIME THAT RONALD REAGAN UNDERSTOOD THAT WE NEED MORE OUT OF A PRESIDENT THAN SILVER TOUNGED PLATITUDES AND GOLD PLATED EXCUSES.

RONALD REAGAN MAY THINK WE ARE TOO IMPOTENT TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES, BUT I DON'T. RONALD REAGAN MAY THINK WE ARE TOO INCOMPETENT TO SECURE OUR EMBASSIES BEFORE WE MOVE IN, BUT I DON'T.

THERE IS NOTHING MACHO ABOUT DYING IN AN UNSECURED EMBASSAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS, BUT I DO. MY CHILDREN WOULD BE PROUD TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY, AND I'D BE PROUD, THOUGH WORRIED, TO HAVE THEM DO SO. BUT LIKE EVERY MOTHER IN THIS COUNTRY, I DIDN'T RAISE MY CHILDREN TO DIE IN AN INSECURE COMPOUND AT THE HANDS OF AN UNNAMED ENEMY FOR AN UNCERTAIN CAUSE.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO CAN KEEP OUR PEOPLE SAFE, AND WHO CAN LEVEL WITH US WHEN THERE IS TROUBLE. 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.

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.

I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU THAT I FEEL A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILILTY TO AMERICANS. I WANT TO BE VICE PRESIDENT. BUT I ALSO WANT TO HONOR THE TRUST PEOPLE HAVE PLACED IN ME. I WANT TO PROVE THAT IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

--END--