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Pittsburg Rally Speech: Version 1

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Tom Forester.
Pres of Allegheny
County Convention

Don Welysen
Bill Engne

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 29, 1984

CALI JEERI

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 ME 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 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 CARE ABOUT AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT HELPS YOUR CHILDREN MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE WORLD. RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO CUT EDUCATION FUNDS / AND HE WANTS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. / I SAY LET'S HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

YOU CARE ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS. RONALD REAGAN DRAGGED HIS FEET ON THE VOTING 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 / AND NOT SEGREGATED ACADEMIES.

YOU CARE ABOUT CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTE DUMPS AND RECLAIMING OUR LAND FROM INDUSTRIAL POISONS. / BUT RONALD REAGAN HAS BARELY LIFTED A FINGER AS TOXIC CHEMICALS LEAK POISONS INTO OUR SOIL AND WATER.

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

YOU CARE ABOUT A STEEL POLICY THAT BOILS DOWN TO MORE THAN
"LET IT RUST." FOUR YEARS AGO, RONALD REAGAN PROMISED
STEELWORKERS HE WOULD SAVE THEIR JOBS. HE DIDN'T KEEP THAT
PROMISE, AND I DON'T THINK HE SHOULD KEEP HIS JOB.

THE OTHER DAY HE TOLD THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND THAT
INCREASED FOREIGN EXPORTS TO AMERICA, CAUSED BY OUR HIGH INTEREST
RATES AND DEFICITS, WERE GOOD FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT. FOREIGN EXPORTS MAY BE GOOD
OVERSEAS, BUT THEY ARE COSTING US JOBS HERE AT HOME. AND THIS
PRESIDENT PATS HIMSELF ON THE BACK FOR EXPORTING OUR JOBS.

MR. REAGAN HAS NO IDEA OF THE PAIN HIS POLICIES ARE CAUSING.
HE TELLS THE UNEMPLOYED TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THE PROBLEM IS,
THE UNEMPLOYED DON'T GET ALL THOSE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE THEIR
JOBS ARE BEING ADVERTISED NOW ~~BECAUSE OF THIS PRESIDENT'S TRADE~~
~~POLICY~~.

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

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

RONALD REAGAN HAS OPPOSED EVERY ARMS CONTROL TREATY EVER
NEGOTIATED. HE MAY PRAISE JOHN KENNEDY NOW BUT ^{m 1963} HE OPPOSED JOHN
KENNEDY'S TEST BAN TREATY. ~~IN 1963~~ HE OPPOSED LYNDON JOHNSON'S
NONPROLIFERATION TREATY TO KEEP NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM SPREADING
ACROSS THE GLOBE. HE OPPOSED RICHARD NIXON'S ABM TREATY WHICH
HAS PREVENTED BOTH SIDES FROM DEPLOYING EXPENSIVE AND DANGEROUS
DEFENSIVE WEAPONS. HE OPPOSED JIMMY CARTER'S SALT II, WHICH THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF SUPPORTED IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL
SECURITY.

AFTER 20 YEARS OF OPPOSITION TO ARMS CONTROL AND FOUR YEARS
OF INACTION THE QUESTION IS WHAT WILL HE DO IN THE NEXT FOUR
YEARS?

I'M GLAD MR. REAGAN FINALLY MET WITH A SOVIET LEADER. BUT I
WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL SEEK TO 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 THAT'S WHAT YOU GET IN FRITZ MONDALE. WE ARE COMMITTED
TO NEGOTIATING WITH THE SOVIETS TO ACHIEVE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE
NUCLEAR 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. / 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
SHOULD 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.

NOWHERE DO WE SEE THE FAILURE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S
FOREIGN POLICY MORE CLEARLY THAN IN LEBANON. / IN 17 MONTHS,
AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS HAVE BEEN BOMBED THREE TIMES. / THE FIRST
TIME IT WAS OUR EMBASSY, ON APRIL 18, 1983. / THERE WAS NO GATE IN
FRONT OF THE EMBASSY / AND THE LOSS OF LIFE WAS A TRAGEDY.

THE SECOND TIME CAME ON OCTOBER 23, WHEN OUR MARINES WERE
BOMBED. / THAT TIME / THE GATE WAS LEFT OPEN / WHICH WAS A FATAL
ERROR.

AND NOW THE THIRD BOMBING. THIS TIME, THE GATE WAS NOT EVEN
INSTALLED. AND THAT IS A DISGRACE. WE HAD PLENTY OF WARNING.
THE LONG COMMISSION WARNED US ABOUT SECURITY MEASURES. THEN OUR
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WARNED US. OUR CHIEF OF SECURITY IN
BEIRUT WARNED US. AND, FINALLY, THE TERRORISTS THEMSELVES WARNED
US.

BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION IGNORED ALL THE WARNINGS. AND THEY
IGNORED COMMON SENSE. THEY MOVED OUR EMBASSY WORKERS TO A
VULNERABLE BUILDING WITHOUT EVEN THE MOST BASIC PROTECTION
AGAINST EXPLOSIONS. AND THEY REPLACED OUR TRAINED MARINE GUARDS
WITH LOCAL MILITIA.

THESE WERE MISTAKES -- OUTRAGEOUS MISTAKES. BUT INSTEAD OF
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, RONALD REAGAN IS NOW MAKING EXCUSES.

HE SAID THE TRUCK BOMB DIDN'T GET INTO THE COMPOUND. WHEN IT
DID. HE SAID TERRORIST ATTACKS "HAPPEN SOMETIMES," AS IF THERE'S
NOTHING WE CAN DO TO DIMINISH THE DANGER. HE LIKENED SECURITY
PROCEDURES TO REMODELLING A KITCHEN, WHICH TRIVIALIZES THE LOSS
OF LIFE AND IS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE. AND NOW HE BLAMES JIMMY
CARTER.

* Quite a switch from what Candidate Reagan
said in 1980 -

Even 90. r known Pen. find. I agree
with him ~~that he is out of line~~
There is no doubt that ~~the~~ the show.
throwing, the pros is out of line.

IN THIS LAST CHARGE, MR. REAGAN HAS GONE TOO FAR. 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.

WE WANT AN END TO THE POLITICS OF BLAME. A LEADER MUST BE
BIG ENOUGH TO ADMIT HIS MISTAKES AND LEARN FROM THEM. I WANT A
PRESIDENT WHO WORRIES MORE ABOUT PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES, AND
LESS ABOUT PROTECTING HIS OWN IMAGE.

LEADERSHIP IS TESTED IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS. AND PATRIOTISM IS
MEASURED IN LOYAL ACTS. THIS WHITE HOUSE THINKS THAT COMMERCIALS
MADE ON MADISON AVENUE EQUAL PATRIOTISM. BUT IN MY OPINION THEIR
SWELLING MUSIC AND SWEEPING VISTAS MANIPULATE THE VIEWER AND
CHEAPEN OUR VALUES. LET'S NOT FLAUNT OUR FLAG WITH TELEVISION
ADS. LET'S HONOR IT WITH HUMAN DEEDS.

WHEN WE FIND JOBS FOR THE 538,000 PENNSYLVANIANS OUT OF
WORK THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

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

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

IT MAY BE THAT MADISON AVENUE PATRIOTISM IS SMART POLITICS!
IT MAY BE THAT PULLING OUT A WALLET AND PROMISING TO FILL IT WITH
MONEY WINS VOTES. BUT I DON'T THINK SO.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE AN INTELLIGENT PEOPLE -- SMARTER
THAN THE REPUBLICANS THINK AND ~~we~~ ARE A GOOD PEOPLE.

BUT EVEN IF IT IS SMART POLITICS TO TRY TO FOOL THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE AND APPEAL TO NARROW SELF-INTEREST, I WON'T DO IT. I AM
IN THIS ELECTION TO FIGHT FOR WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT AND TO STAND
FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN.

I THINK IT'S RIGHT TO STOP THE ARMS RACE; TO RESTORE
FAIRNESS; TO FIGHT FOR AMERICAN JOBS; AND TO PROTECT OUR
ENVIRONMENT. AND IF YOU AGREE, THE TIME TO HELP US IS NOT LATER.
IT'S NOW.

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

THE TIME TO STOP THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. / IT'S
NOW.

THE TIME TO RESTORE STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND GIVE A NEW BOOST
TO EDUCATION IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE PRESIDENT AND GERRY FERRARO
VICE PRESIDENT IS NOT LATER -- IT'S NOW.

-- END --