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Pittsburg Rally Speech: Version 1

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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
error.

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 he opposed John Kennedy's Test Ban Treaty in 1967. 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.
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.

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