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Merill Rally Speech: Draft 1

Geraldine Ferraro

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Merrill, WISC.
Draft 1 Richard Medley

(OPENING REMARKS TO FOLLOW)

LABOR DAY IS WHEN WE USUALLY START OUR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS. BUT THIS YEAR WALTER MONDALE AND I DID SOMETHING DIFFERENT. WE SET OFF ACROSS AMERICA TO CARRY A MESSAGE TO EACH HOME TOWN IN THE LAND. OUR MESSAGE IS CLEAR: THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION OF OUR LIVES.

THIS NOVEMBER WE WILL DECIDE BETWEEN TWO PATHS FOR THE UNITED STATES. ONE PATH TAKES US FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD OF DEFICITS WE CAN'T AFFORD, SECRET PLANS WE CAN'T HEAR AND ^ANUCLEAR ARMS RACE WE CAN'T ESCAPE. THAT IS THE REPUBLICAN MAP OF THE FUTURE.

THE SECOND PATH LEADS TO LOWER DEFICITS, STRAIGHT TALK AND A FUTURE WITHOUT THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR. THAT IS THE DEMOCRATIC VISION OF THE FUTURE.

OF COURSE, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN MAP OF THE FUTURE, BECAUSE THEY AREN'T TALKING. LAST MONTH WHEN THE REPUBLICANS MET IN DALLAS, ALL THEY COULD DO WAS DREDGE UP OLD STORIES FROM 1980 AND BEFORE. I THOUGHT THEY HAD ALL BEEN LOCKED IN A TIME MACHINE THAT SAILED BACKWARDS FOR A WEEK.

BUT SINCE THE CONVENTION NOTHING HAS CHANGED. THE TALK IS STILL ABOUT 1980, STILL ABOUT THE PAST. PERHAPS THE REPUBLICAN TIME MACHINE WILL KEEP SAILING BACKWARDS ALL THE WAY TO NOVEMBER.

IF RONALD REAGAN WILL ONLY TALK ABOUT 1980 IT'S NO WONDER HE THINKS SIX DEBATES WOULD BORE THE PANTS OFF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. BUT IF HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE. IF HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT CONCRETE PLANS AND NOT FOGGY GENERALIZATIONS THEN I THINK HE'S IN FOR A SURPRISE.

EVERYWHERE I GO AMERICANS ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE. I FEEL A GROWING SENSE OF ENERGY BURSTING THROUGHOUT THIS GREAT LAND. PEOPLE HAVE A DREAM SO REAL YOU CAN ALMOST TOUCH IT. THEY WANT TO GET ON WITH MAKING AMERICA A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS. ~~XXXXXXXX~~

AND THEY WILL DO IT IF THE REPUBLICANS WILL STEP ASIDE AND LET IT HAPPEN.

First, WE MUST GET THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE MONEY MARKETS AND BRING INTEREST RATES DOWN. *Second,* THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO TREAT ALL OF OUR CITIZENS WITH AN EVEN HAND. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF AN OPEN PALM TO THE RICH AND A BACK OF THE HAND TO THE MIDDLE CLASS.

FINALLY, THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE OUR CITIZENS MORE SECURE FROM ATTACK NOT FRIGHTEN THEM WITH NUCLEAR NIGHTMARES.

THOSE THREE THINGS SEEM SIMPLE ENOUGH, BUT THE REPUBLICANS HAVEN'T DONE THEM IN FOUR YEARS, AND FOUR YEARS IS LONG ENOUGH TO EXPERIMENT. IT'S TIME WE GOT DOWN TO WORK.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GET DOWN TO WORK. I WENT TO WORK IN THE NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM TO PUT MYSELF THROUGH LAW SCHOOL AT NIGHT. IT WAS HARD WORK, BUT IT PAID OFF.

MY MOTHER KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GET TO WORK. SHE SPENT YEARS BENT OVER A WOODEN BENCH STRINGING BEADS TO PUT ME THROUGH SCHOOL. IT WAS HARD WORK, BUT IT PAID OFF.

BRINGING BACK THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT AMERICANS WANT WILL ALSO BE A LOT OF HARD WORK, BUT IT WILL PAY OFF FOR US ALL.

IN NOVEMBER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A CHANCE TO BRING BACK A GOVERNMENT AND THAT WILL LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE, NOT BORROW FROM THE FUTURE. /THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO BRING BACK A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL MAKE THE PRESENT MORE FAIR, NOT LIVE IN THE PAST.

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS THIS YEAR, AND EACH OF THEM WILL DETERMINE HOW YOU AND I LIVE FOR THE REST OF THIS CENTURY.

THE FIRST DIFFERENCE IS HOW EACH PARTY VIEWS WAR AND PEACE.

THIS PRESIDENT HAS NEVER SEEN AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT HE LIKED OR A WEAPONS SYSTEM HE DIDN'T.

LOOK AT THE RECORD.

RONALD REAGAN OPPOSED PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S TEST BAN TREATY.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT NIXON'S SALT I AND ABM TREATIES.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT FORD'S VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SALT II AGREEMENT.

AND NOW AS PRESIDENT HE EVEN SEEMS OPPOSED TO JUST TALKING WITH THE SOVIET UNION. RONALD REAGAN HAS PRESIDED OVER THE FIRST COMPLETE COLLAPSE IN ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE.

THAT IS NOT A LEGACY OF SUCCESS, IT IS A RECORD OF FAILURE.

LET ME TELL YOU, IF THE PRESIDENT CAN'T STOP EXCHANGING INSULTS AND START EXCHANGING SOLID PROPOSALS TO END THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, THEN IT'S TIME TO EXCHANGE THIS PRESIDENT FOR ONE WHO WILL.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, TENSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE RISEN; WE'VE SENT TROOPS TO CENTRAL AMERICA; AND WE'VE LOST TROOPS IN BEIRUT. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

RONALD REAGAN DOES NOT HAVE ONE DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS IN FOUR YEARS. THAT IS A RECORD OF FAILURE.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN NEGOTIATION, NOT CONFRONTATION: WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE IS NO GOLD MEDAL IN THE ARMS RACE, ONLY COLD METAL AND NUCLEAR WINTERS.

WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO STOPS INVESTING SO MUCH IN THE ARMS RACE AND STARTS INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE.

THAT PRESIDENT IS WALTER MONDALE.

THE SECOND DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO PARTIES IS BETWEEN PROSPERITY AND BANKRUPTCY. THE PRESIDENT BOASTS OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. BUT IS IT RECOVERY WHEN EIGHT AND ONE HALF MILLION AMERICANS WHO WANT TO WORK CANNOT FIND A JOB? IS IT RECOVERY WHEN WORKERS ACROSS AMERICA ARE TAKING PAY CUTS TO KEEP THEIR JOBS, WHILE THEIR BOSSES RACK UP RECORD NEW BONUSES?

IS IT RECOVERY WHEN ONE QUARTER OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY AND ONE IN EVERY FOUR WOMEN WHO WORK FULL TIME STILL MAKE LESS THAN \$10,000 A YEAR?

THAT IS NOT RECOVERY TO ME, AND I DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYONE WHO CAN BRAG ABOUT AN ECONOMY THAT STILL LEAVES SO MANY OF ITS PEOPLE OUT ON THE STREET.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO BOASTS ABOUT MAKING AMERICA STAND TALL AGAIN. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S VANTAGE POINT IS, BUT WE CANNOT STAND TALL WHILE WE'RE DROWNING IN A SEA OF RED INK.

HE TALKS OFTEN ABOUT A RISING TIDE, BUT THE ONLY THING RISING AROUND MOST AMERICANS IS A WAVE OF NEW DEBT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, RONALD REAGAN HAS BORROWED MORE MONEY THAN ANYONE IN HISTORY.

IN THE PROCESS HE GAVE US THE HIGHEST REAL INTEREST RATES IN HISTORY, PUMMELED TRADE, DEVASTATED FARMERS AND HURT SMALL BUSINESSES TRYING TO BORROW A FEW MORE DOLLARS TO STAY ALIVE OR EXPAND.

WE HAVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF OUR OWN ECONOMIC FUTURE AGAIN. WE CAN BRING THOSE INTERSET RATES DOWN AGAIN. WE CAN MAKE HOMEOWNERSHIP A REALITY AGAIN, NOT JUST AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITH A PRESIDENT LIKE RONALD REAGAN WHOSE PLAN TO REDUCE DEFICITS IS TELLING THE DEMOCRATS TO CLOSE THEIR MOUTHS ABOUT THEM.

MR. REAGAN, I WILL NOT TAKE PART IN YOUR CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE. WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE I WILL NOT CLOSE MY MOUTH UNTIL YOU OPEN UP YOUR SECRET DECEMBER TAX PLAN.

I WILL NOT CLOSE MY MOUTH UNTIL YOU TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXACTLY HOW YOU'RE GOING TO BRING THOSE DEFICITS DOWN.

IN FACT, WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL PUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ON A LEAN DIET OF STRAIGHT TALK FOR THE REST OF THIS ELECTION. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW WHEN THEY HAVE THE HONEST SCOOP, AND THEY KNOW YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN IT TO THEM YET.

LET'S QUIT DANCING AROUND. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL TELL IT LIKE IT IS. IF DEFICITS ARE BAD FOR INTEREST RATES -- AND THEY ARE -- THEN LET'S REDUCE THEM. IF TAXES MUST GO UP TO BRING DEFICITS DOWN -- AND THEY MUST -- THEN LET'S RAISE THEM FAIRLY; NO MORE LOOPHOLES BIG ENOUGH TO DRIVE A CADILLAC THROUGH.

AND IF OUR LEADERS WON'T LEVEL WITH US -- AND THEY HAVEN'T -- THEN LET'S REPLACE THEM.

THE THIRD DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO PARTIES IS A QUESTION OF FAIR TREATMENT OF ALL AMERICANS. SHOULD WE HAVE A SOCIETY WHERE PLAYING BY THE RULES GIVES PEOPLE A FAIR CHANCE TO SUCCEED? OR SHOULD WE LET SUCCESS BE THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FEW?

FOUR YEARS AGO, RONALD REAGAN PLEDGED TO CREATE "A SHINING CITY ON A HILL." AND HE SUCCEEDED. TODAY, THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS IS IN GREAT SHAPE. BUT CITIES IN WISCONSIN, OREGON, ALABAMA AND MAINE ARE NOT IN GREAT SHAPE.

AND WALTER MONDALE AND I ARE NOT PROMISING CASTLES IN THE AIR. WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE HOUSES ON THE GROUND AFFORDABLE ONCE MORE.

WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE REAL CITIES WORK ONCE MORE.

AND WE ARE TRYING TO HELP REAL FARMERS SELL THEIR PRODUCTS ABROAD ONCE MORE.

MOST OF ALL WE ARE FIGHTING FOR AN ECONOMY THAT LETS US ALL IN FOR OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE GAINS AND THE SETBACKS. WE SHOULD NOT BE AN ECONOMY OF FAT CATS AND STARVING CHILDREN.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL MAKE THIS ECONOMY ALL OF OURS ONCE MORE, NOT JUST THE PROVINCE OF THE PRIVILEGED.

THE FOURTH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IS A QUESTION OF COMPASSION. A QUESTION OF WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE AND WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY WE WILL BECOME. WILL WE CARE ONLY ABOUT OURSELVES OR WILL WE HONOR OUR OBLIGATION TO FELLOW CITIZENS IN NEED?

DURING THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SIX MILLION AMERICANS HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH THE SAFETY NET AND JOINED THE POOR. EIGHT AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS

ARE OUT OF WORK. AND ONE QUARTER OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY.

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS RESPONDED BY TURNING A COLD SHOULDER TO THE POOR. IT HAS SLASHED FOOD STAMPS, THROWN PEOPLE OFF SOCIAL SECURITY, MADE MEDICAID RECIPIENTS PAY MORE AND REDUCED ALMOST EVERY PROGRAM THAT HELPS POOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES RONALD REAGAN THINK WE ARE? DOES HE THINK WE WILL STAND BY SILENTLY? SHOULD WE SHUT OUR MOUTHS ABOUT THIS TOO?

I AM NOT SEEKING THE VICE PRESIDENCY TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE HUNGRY TO BE FED, THE COLD TO KEEP WARM OR THE HOMELESS TO FIND SHELTER. I GOT INTO POLITICS IN THE FIRST PLACE TO HELP THE DISADVANTAGED, NOT HARM THEM.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL RESTORE THE BASIC FAIRNESS AND DECENCY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE PART OF THEIR LIVES. WE CANNOT STAND BY WHILE RONALD REAGAN CASTS OUR LEAST FORTUNATE CITIZENS INTO THE SHADOWS OF HIS SHINING CITY ON THE HILL.

THOSE ARE THE FOUR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, BETWEEN GEORGE BUSH AND GERALDINE FERRARO AND BETWEEN RONALD REAGAN AND WALTER MONDALE.

THE STAKES ARE HIGH. WILL WE BE A SAFER NATION OR NOT; WILL WE BE PROSPEROUS, OR NOT; WILL WE BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS AND OPEN THE DOORS TO ALL, OR NOT; WILL WE BE A CARING, COMPASSIONATE NATION OR NOT?

YOUR VOTES WILL DETERMINE WHICH PATH WE TAKE FOR YEARS TO COME. THAT IS WHAT GOT WALTER MONDALE AND I OUT ON THE CAMPAIGN EARLY AND IT IS WHAT WILL KEEP US ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL THROUGH NOVEMBER.

I WANT TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES ON THIS DAY OF CELEBRATING THE VALUE OF HARD WORK TO THINK ABOUT THE WORK AHEAD OF US ALL.

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE ONE IN FOUR CHILDREN WHO LIVE EACH DAY IN POVERTY. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT HOW HIS OR HER DAY LOOKS IN THE MORNING. DO THESE CHILDREN HAVE A CHANCE WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT CUTS THEIR SCHOOL LUNCHES, SLASHES THEIR EDUCATION ~~EXXXXX~~ FUNDS

AND THE REFUSES TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A WARM PLACE TO LIVE?

I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE UNEMPLOYED BLACK TEENAGER WHO LOOKS AROUND AND SEES ALMOST HALF OF HIS FRIENDS UNABLE TO FIND WORK OF ANY KIND. WHAT CHANCE DOES HE OR SHE HAVE AGAINST AN ADMINISTRATION THAT ALMOST ELIMINATES JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS. WHAT CAN THEY SAY TO A PRESIDENT WHO READS THE WASHINGTON POST WANT-ADS AND THEN RIDICULES THE NOTION THAT PEOPLE ARE JOBLESS?

I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE ONE IN THREE WOMEN WHO HEAD HOUSEHOLDS AND LIVE IN POVERTY. WHAT CHANCE DOES SHE HAVE AGAINST AN ADMINISTRATION THAT VIEWS DAY CARE AS A THREAT TO THE FAMILY, THAT SLASHES MOTHER AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND THAT VIEWS THE E-R-A AS A FOUR-LETTER WORD.

I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN WHO CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO BUY A HOME. WHAT CHANCE DO THEY HAVE AGAINST AN ADMINISTRATION THAT RUNS UP MASSIVE DEFICITS, DRIVING MORTGAGE RATES THROUGH THE ROOF? WHAT CAN THEY DO WHEN THE AVERAGE PRICE OF NEW HOMES SOARS ABOVE \$100,000?

FINALLY, I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE OLDER MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIVE IN FEAR OF A SICKNESS THEY CANNOT AFFORD OR A MEDICAL BILL THEY CANNOT PAY. THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED ALL THEIR LIVES AND PLAYED BY THE RULES MUST NOW LISTEN TO AN ADMINISTRATION THAT BLAMES THEM FOR THE DEFICITS. WHAT CHANCE DO THEY HAVE AGAINST AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL QUIBBLE ABOUT A HOSPITAL BILL FOR SICK PEOPLE, BUT WILL PAY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A SIMPLE NUT THAT ANYBODY BUT THE PENTAGON CAN BUY FOR 13 CENTS?

THIS LABOR DAY WE SHOULD ALL REMEMBER THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS STACKED THE CARDS AGAINST WORKING PEOPLE, WOMEN, MINORITIES, THE YOUNG AND OLD. IT IS OUR DUTY TO RESHUFFLE THAT DECK ON ELECTION DAY, SO EVERY AMERICAN GETS A FAIR HAND.

THAT IS THE WORK AHEAD OF US THIS LABOR DAY.

THANK YOU.