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Spokane Rally Speech: Draft

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1st draft - Spokane welcoming rally. Tues, Sept 4.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TOM, FOR THAT WARM WELCOME, AND FOR THIS WONDERFUL CROWD.

LET ME TELL YOU. I'VE GOT A GREAT FEELING ABOUT WASHINGTON THIS YEAR. I THINK THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT STATE OF WASHINGTON WANT TO KNOW THEY HAVE A FRIEND IN THE GREAT CITY OF WASHINGTON, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO SEND FRITZ MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN NOVEMBER.

I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED TOM FOLEY -- A LEADER ON BEHALF OF RATIONALITY ABROAD AND HUMANITY AT HOME -- AREN'T LOOKING FOR FOUR MORE YEARS OF RONALD REAGAN.

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LAST WEEK, WHEN THE REPUBLICANS MET IN DALLAS, ALL THEY COULD TALK ABOUT WAS 1980 AND YEARS GONE BY. IT WAS AS IF THE WHOLE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION WERE LOCKED IN A TIME MACHINE WHICH ONLY WENT BACKWARDS.

LET ME SAY THIS: I DON'T THINK ANYBODY NEEDS TO APOLOGIZE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO APPOINTED MORE BLACKS, AND MORE WOMEN, AND MORE HISPANICS TO THE FEDERAL BENCH THAN ALL PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS COMBINED.

I DON'T THINK AMERICANS WANT TO DEBATE 1980. THAT'S THE PAST. THEY WANT TO MOVE TO 1990 AND THE FUTURE.

WHICH FUTURE WE WILL HAVE DEPENDS ON WHAT CHOICE WE MAKE THIS NOVEMBER. MR. REAGAN SAID THAT THIS ELECTION GIVES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE CLEAREST POLITICAL CHOICE IN FIFTY YEARS. AND HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. IN FACT, THERE ARE FOUR CRITICAL CHOICES.

I'D LIKE TO STOP HERE AND ASK YOU REALLY TO THINK ABOUT THESE CHOICES. LISTEN TO WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAY. THE DECISION YOU MAKE IN THE VOTING BOOTH ON NOVEMBER 6 WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT YOUR LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME.

THE FIRST CHOICE IS HOW THE TWO PRINCIPAL PARTIES APPROACH THE CHALLENGE OF WAR AND PEACE.

THIS PRESIDENT HAS NEVER SEEN AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT HE LIKED. JUST LOOK AT THE RECORD.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S TEST BAN TREATY.

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

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

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SALT II AGREEMENT.

AND NOW, AS PRESIDENT, HE HAS PRESIDED OVER THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF ALL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS.

WELL, I SAY THIS: IF THIS PRESIDENT CAN'T STOP EXCHANGING INSULTS AND START EXCHANGING SOLID NEGOTIATING 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 RUSSIA HAVE RISEN; WE'VE SENT TROOPS TO CENTRAL AMERICA; AND OUR YOUNG MEN HAVE NEEDLESSLY DIED IN BEIRUT. THE QUESTION IS, OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY SON JOHN -- AND TO YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN? WILL THIS PRESIDENT, UNRESTRAINED BY THE NEED TO ~~SEEK~~^{FOR} REELECTION, HEIGHTEN THE RISK OF WAR?

I DON'T WANT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN NEGOTIATION, NOT CONFRONTATION; WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT AN ARMS RACE DOES NOT LEAD TO PEACE -- IT LEADS TO AN ARMS RACE; AND WHO STOPS INVESTING SO MUCH IN THE ARMS RACE AND STARTS INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE.

~~THAT KIND OF PRESIDENT WILL STRENGTHEN AMERICA.~~

SECOND, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE WILL BE. WILL WE HAVE COMPASSION, WILL WE HONOR OUR OBLIGATIONS TO FELLOW CITIZENS IN NEED?

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, FIVE MILLION AMERICANS HAVE JOINED THE RANKS OF THE POOR. EIGHT AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS ARE OUT OF WORK. AND ONE OUT OF FOUR SMALL CHILDREN LIVES IN POVERTY.

THE RESPONSE OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY HAS BEEN TO CUT FOOD STAMPS, THROW PEOPLE OFF SOCIAL SECURITY, MAKE MEDICARE RECIPIENTS PAY MORE, AND REDUCE NEARLY EVERY SINGLE PROGRAM THAT HELPS POOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES HE THINK WE ARE?

I AM NOT SEEKING THE VICE PRESIDENCY TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE HUNGRY TO EAT, THE COLD TO KEEP WARM, OR THE HOMELESS TO FIND SHELTER. I GOT INTO POLITICS IN THE FIRST PLACE SO I COULD HELP THE DISADVANTAGED, NOT HARM THEM. AND THE BEST WAY YOU AND I CAN HELP THEM IN 1984 IS TO DEFEAT RONALD REAGAN AND ELECT WALTER MONDALE.

THIRD, WE FACE A CHOICE BETWEEN ECONOMIC OPPORTUINITY FOR ALL, OR UNFAIR ADVANTAGE FOR A FEW. WILL WE BUILD AN ECONOMY THAT GUARANTEES EVERYONE THE CHANCE TO GET AHEAD, OR WILL WE KEEP ON MORTGAGING OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE SO WE CAN GIVE ANOTHER TAX CUT TO THE RICH?

OUR COUNTRY, THANKS TO RONALD REAGAN, IS 200 BILLION DOLLARS IN DEBT. IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, MR. REAGAN HAS ADDED MORE TO THE FEDERAL DEFECIT THAT ALL OUR PRESIDENTS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JIMMY CARTER COMBINED.

RONALD REAGAN LIKES TO TALK ABOUT THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND FOR SOME PEOPLE, THINGS HAVE IMPROVED.

IF U.S. STEEL WANTS TO BUY ANOTHER HUGE CONGLOMERATE, TODAY THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM. BUT HERE IN SPOKANE, THOSE DEFECITS AND THE HIGH INTEREST RATES THEY BRING MEAN THAT SMALL BUSINESSES CAN'T GET THE LOANS THEY NEED TO PROSPER AND EXPAND. AND THAT'S NOT FAIR.

IF 90,000 BIG CORPORATIONS WANT TO GET AWAY WITHOUT PAYING ANY TAXES AT ALL, TODAY THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM. BUT HERE IN SPOKANE, THOSE DEFECITS AND THE HIGH INTEREST RATES THEY BRING MEAN THAT PEOPLE AT BOEING ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS TO FOREIGN COMPETITION, AND THATS NOT FAIR.

IF DEFENSE CONTRACTORS WANT TO SELL THE PENTAGON A BILL OF GOODS AT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER'S EXPENSE, TODAY THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM. BUT HERE IN SPOKANE, THOSE DEFECITS AND THE HIGH INTEREST RATES THEY BRING MEAN THAT TOO MUCH WHEAT IS GOING UNSOLD, AND THATS NOT FAIR.

YOU NEED AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS AS WELL FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST AS IT DOES FOR THE TYCOONS OF WALL STREET. YOU NEED AN ECONOMY IN WHICH ALL OF US SHARE BOTH THE GAINS AND THE SETBACKS. AND YOU NEED A TAX SYSTEM WHERE AVERAGE FAMILIES DON'T HAVE TO PAY MORE, WHILE THE RICH PAY LESS.

THAT'S A FAIR ECONOMY. THAT'S THE KIND OF ECONOMIC FUTURE FRITZ MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO PLAN TO DELIVER WHEN WE'RE ELECTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1984.

AT A TIME WHEN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD GO TO BED HUNGRY EACH NIGHT, ITS A CRIME TO HAVE WHEAT WASTING IN THE FIELDS OF WASHINGTON, WITH FARMERS UNABLE TO SELL THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOR.

AT A TIME WHEN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY YEARN FOR THE SECURITY OF OWNING THEIR OWN HOME, IT IS A CRIME THAT HIGH INTEREST RATES WON'T LET THEM, WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN WASHINGTON HAS DROPPED 14% IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

AND AT A TIME WHEN SO MANY JOBS IN WASHINGTON DEPEND ON FOREIGN TRADE, ITS IS A CRIME THAT EXPORTS FROM THIS STATE HAVE FALLEN 12% UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION.

I USED TO BE A PROSECUTOR. I THINK RONALD REAGAN IS GUILTY OF THESE CRIMES. YOU BE THE JUDGE.

WE CAN REDUCE THE REAGAN DEFECITS AND RIGHT THESE WRONGS. BUT ITS GOING TO TAKE STRONG LEADERSHIP AND STRAIGHT TALK. THIS ADMINISTRATION HASN'T GIVEN US EITHER. THEY HAVEN'T LEVELED WITH US, AND THE PEOPLE KNOW IT.

RONALD REAGAN TOLD THE DEMOCRATS TO CLOSE THEIR MOUTHS ABOUT DEFECITS. MY ANSWER IS, WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE, I WON'T CLOSE MY MOUTH UNTIL HE OPENS UP HIS SECRET PLAN AND TELLS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXACTLY HOW HE'S GOING TO BRING THESE DEFECITS DOWN.

FIRST, MR. REAGAN SAID HE WOULDN'T RAISE TAXES. THEN MR. BUSH SAID THEY WOULD. THEN MR. REAGAN SAID WHILE HE HAD NO PLANS TO RAISE TAXES, HE MIGHT. AND NOW THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM PROMISES ANOTHER 160 BILLION DOLLARS IN TAX RELIEF FOR REAGAN'S RICH FRIENDS.

LET'S QUIT DANCING AROUND. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL TELL IT LIKE IT IS. IF DEFECITS ARE BAD FOR INTEREST RATES, THEN LET'S REDUCE THEM. IF TAXES MUST GO UP, THEN LET'S RAISE THEM FAIRLY. AND IF OUR LEADER;s WON'T LEVEL WITH US, THEN LET'S REPLACE THEM.

THESE ARE THE CHOICES WE FACE. THE STAKES ARE HIGH THIS FALL -- HIGHER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN YEARS. WILL WE BE A SAFER NATION, OR NOT: WILL

WE BE A CARING, COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE, OR NOT; WILL THE DOORS TO
A BRIGHTER ECONOMIC FUTURE BE OPEN TO ALL AMERICANS, OR NOT?

HOW WE DECIDE THESE CHOICES WILL DETERMINED WHAT KIND OF A COUNTRY
WE WILL HAVE FOR YEARS TO COME. AND ULTIMATELY, THAT CAUSE -- OUR
COUNTRY'S CAUSE -- IS WHAT DRIVES US.

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MR. REAGAN PREACHES LOVE OF COUNTRY, AND I AGREE.
BUT I SAY, LET'S LOVE OUR COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN, TOO. LET'S
HELP FARMERS, THE UNEMPLOYED, STUDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESS, THE
YOUNG AND THE OLD. THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG IS
TO PUT PEOPLE TO WORK, ^{ENFORCE THE LAWS} AND KEEP THE PEACE.

THIS IS THE DIRECTION THAT POINTS TO A STRONGER FUTURE.
AND THE TIME TO BEGIN THAT JOURNEY IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME FOR ALL OF US TO THINK ABOUT THE CHOICES WE
FACE IN 1984 IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

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

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

THANK YOU FOR BEING SO WARM TODAY. NOW LET'S GO OUT
AND WORK TOGETHER TO WIN THIS ELECTION, NOT LATER -- BUT NOW.