

MONDALE/FERRARO

2201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 — Telephone 202-625-1600

MONDALE/FERRARO STUMP SPEECH

This is the most important election in our lifetimes. The choice we make this year will determine what kind of people we are, and what kind of future we will have. The stakes have never been higher -- and the choice has never been clearer.

It is a choice between solving our problems and pretending they don't exist; between justice for all, and advantage for a few; between expanding opportunity and contracting horizons; between diplomatic solutions and military confrontations; between arms control and an arms race; between excellence and expedience; between leadership and salesmanship.

The decisions our next President makes will shape every aspect of our future--our economy, our jobs, our environment, our children's education, and our nation's security. And his response to the nuclear threat will determine whether we even have a future.

ARMS CONTROL

What kind of people are we? We are a strong nation. And we will always defend our cherished freedom. But in a world with 50,000 nuclear

weapons, a President must use our strength to work for peace.

Nuclear war must never be a joking matter. We need a president who can assure us that those godawful weapons will never go off. That is not just an issue -- it is the issue.

Americans care about our future, and they understand that. You and I understand that. But Ronald Reagan doesn't understand that.

Mr. Reagan is the first president since Herbert Hoover not to meet with his Soviet counterpart. He is the first president of either party since the bomb went off to have failed to negotiate any arms control agreement. He has opposed every arms agreement proposed by every president -- Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter. He has conducted an arms race on earth, and now he wants to extend it to the heavens.

We all recognize that the Soviet leaders are cynical, ruthless, and dangerous. They repress their citizens and maintain their pact by force. But we must meet our adversaries on the common ground of survival. John F. Kennedy said something that speaks to us today: "Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."

A generation ago, fall-out from open-air testing was poisoning our air, our water, our food, and our children's milk. President Kennedy broke the deadlock by declaring a moratorium on these tests, and challenged the Soviet Union to do the same. They did -- and within two months we had a treaty banning all atmospheric testing. Because of that,

our children no longer get cancer from Strontium-90, and our world was made safer.

As President, Walter Mondale will follow President Kennedy's example. He will push for annual summit conferences with the Soviet Union. He will work to negotiate a mutual and verifiable nuclear freeze. And he will challenge the Soviets with tough arms control proposals to increase our security and protect our future.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FUTURE

Today, our hopes for the future are pegged to long-term economic growth. Growth means jobs. It means a rising standard of living. And it means our children will do a little bit better than we did.

But today all of that is threatened by President Reagan's elephantine deficits. Right now, there's an obscene trillion dollar debt building up on our children's shoulders.

We need a President who will chop those deficits, and get interest rates down -- and keep them there.

Young families see the effects of the budget deficit as they go to purchase their dream house and find that mortgages are out of sight. Workers see it because these deficits have cost us 3 million of our best jobs. The only one who doesn't seem to see it is President Reagan.

He and his Republicans won't tell you the truth about what we must do

to build our future. Walter Mondale will. He has promised to cut Mr. Reagan's deficit by two-thirds in his first term. His plan to do it is on the table.

Let's tell the truth about the future. Whoever is elected, the budget must be squeezed, and revenues must be restored. But the question is whether it will be done fairly. The question is who will pay. Walter Mondale's plan is on the table, and it is fair to working Americans. He will not allow Americans of average means to pay more so that millionaires and big corporations can pay less, or nothing at all.

President Reagan won't tell us how he plans to raise taxes until after the election -- but you can bet it will be as unfair to working Americans as his programs were in the past.

What kind of people are we? We are not selfish. We are a fair-minded people. But today we have an Administration that attacks Social Security, takes away the payments of the poorest on Social Security, denies student assistance to the dependents of widows, and snags money from the school lunches of hungry children. Let us end this uncaring, icy indifference to human need in American society. We need a President who will stand up and lead us on a humane and decent course again.

FAIRNESS

President Reagan believes a President should serve all the people in his country club. Walter Mondale believes a President should serve all

the people in our country.

In Ronald Reagan's America, if you're rich they give you tax cuts. If you're not, they give you cheese. If you're sick, they make you pay more. If you're young, they call ketchup a vegetable. If you're old, they call fixed income a fortune. If you're a woman, they blame you for the unemployment rate. If you're hungry, they call you a hustler. And if you're homeless, they say you want it that way.

Walter Mondale will tell President Reagan: we don't want it that way. And he'll tell the big boys their gravy days are over. To the 90,000 corporations who paid no taxes at all, his message is: your free ride is over. To the polluters who threaten our health, his message is: clean up your act. To the big companies who send their best jobs overseas, his message is: keep those jobs here at home for Americans. To the defense contractors that charge 50 bucks for a 50-cent lightbulb, his message is: the rip-offs are over.

What kind of people are we? We are a fair and compassionate people. President Reagan believes that a rising tide lifts all yachts. Walter Mondale believes that we cannot move this country ahead while leaving some of us behind.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Finally, Walter Mondale and Ronald Reagan disagree over how to limit the reach of government. President Reagan wants us to think this election is a choice between Big Government and Less Government. Who

does he think he's fooling? Under his leadership, government has grown larger, not smaller. Government's share of our nation's income has increased.

The question is not one of Big Government or Little Government. It's a question of Good Government or Bad Government. And what Mr. Reagan wants to give us is Bad Government. He and his extremist supporters want government to poke its nose into our families, teach our children to pray, and dictate the most personal decisions about private matters.

Ronald Reagan wants government to watch over you. Walter Mondale wants government to watch out for you. He wants government to stand by your side, not look over your shoulder. He wants government opening doors of opportunity, not imposing dictates of conformity.

CONCLUSION

This is an historic election. Never in modern times has the choice between two candidates -- and two possible futures -- been so clear. And the stakes have never been higher. This November, we can choose the kind of people we are to be, and the kind of future we want to have.

What kind of people are we? We are a strong people who champion peace. We can break the old deadlock on nuclear weapons and lead the way toward a safer world. When we stand before the world, they can see America standing for human rights.

We are an honest people with the vision to face the facts. We can be

the country that demands the truth about our economic future, and does what's necessary to make us competitive again. We can be the country that bolsters its schools, supports its scientists, unleashes its entrepreneurs, strengthens its farmers and its rural economy, rebuilds its roads and bridges, its water and transportation systems, and creates a future of excellence, jobs, prosperity, and opportunity for the next generation.

We are a fair people. We can be the country that works hard, plays by the rules, but treats everyone fairly.

We are a deeply religious, and tolerant people. We can be the country that rejects coercion in our personal lives, and rejoices in the freedom of our spirit.

That is the future America can have. And Walter Mondale is the President to help us build it. He's optimistic about that future -- and so am I. That's why we need Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro -- a ticket that has made the future happen today -- to lead us into the future we know America can have tomorrow.

Thank you very much.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Copyright in the Walter F. Mondale Papers belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.