

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE  
CONCESSION STATEMENT  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
NOVEMBER 4, 1980

A FEW MOMENTS AGO, PRESIDENT CARTER CONGRATULATED MR. REAGAN ON HIS VICTORY. I JOIN THE PRESIDENT IN EXTENDING TO MR. REAGAN, MR. BUSH, AND THEIR FAMILIES OUR CONGRATULATIONS. NOW WE MUST STAND BEHIND OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT -- ALL OF US. WE HAVE ONLY ONE PRESIDENT; HE DESERVES OUR SUPPORT; AND MR. REAGAN WILL HAVE IT.

OBVIOUSLY, I WOULD RATHER HAVE WON. BUT I ALSO SEE REASON TO REJOICE. FOR WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO BE A DEMOCRACY. FOR A DOZEN OR SO HOURS TODAY -- IN HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIAS, TOWN HALLS, CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES -- THE AMERICAN PEOPLE QUIETLY WIELDED THEIR STAGGERING POWER. THEY SAW OUR CAMPAIGN; THEY WEIGHED OUR CASE; AND THEN -- PEACEFULLY, WITHOUT INTIMIDATION -- THEY MADE THEIR CHOICE.

AND WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE <sup>American</sup> ~~THE~~ FREEDOM ~~THEY EXPERIENCED.~~

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IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE CONFERRED ON ME THE HIGHEST PRIVILEGE I HAVE EVER HELD. I AM HONORED TO HAVE SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT. AND I WANT TO THANK PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS AND ROSALYNN'S KINDNESS TO ME, AND JOAN, AND OUR FAMILY. THE PRESIDENT PERMITTED ME TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH HIM THAN ANY OTHER VICE PRESIDENT IN HISTORY. AND I THANK HIM FOR THAT.

I HAVE NO REGRETS. FOR I HAVE LEARNED IN THAT OFFICE ABOUT  
OUR COUNTRY'S RICHNESS -- AND OUR WORLD'S PROMISE. I HAVE BEEN MOVED BY  
THE MAJESTY OF OUR CONTINENT; LIFTED BY THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE;  
BUOYED BY THE GIFT OF THEIR WIT; TOUCHED BY THE DECENCY OF THEIR SPIRIT;  
STRETCHED BY THE REACH OF THEIR HOPE.

TONIGHT I WANT TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE ACROSS THIS NATION  
WHO SUPPORTED ME. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA WHO  
GAVE ME THEIR VALUES -- THEIR COMPASSION, THEIR JOY, THEIR OPTIMISM,  
THEIR FAITH.

*Especially*  
I WANT TO THANK MY FAMILY. JOAN HAS PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY --  
NOT ONLY IN THIS CAMPAIGN, BUT AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ARTS ALL AROUND THE  
COUNTRY. AND TED, ELEANOR, WILLIAM: THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN YOUR  
GENES, BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN REAL TROOPERS.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY STAFF. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF POLITICAL STAFFS;  
I'VE KNOWN MANY, MANY PEOPLE WHO'VE GIVEN THEMSELVES TO PUBLIC SERVICE.  
LET ME TELL YOU AS AN UNBIASED OBSERVER: MY STAFF IS CLASS. THEY ARE THE  
BEST THERE IS.

*Disappointing & Concession* | *The Deputy of all*  
*Commitment to an ideal*  
*is tested more in defeat*  
*than in victory*  
ALL OF US, TOGETHER, HAVE WORKED FOR SOMETHING FAR LARGER THAN  
ONE NIGHT'S HARVEST OF BALLOTS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO A VISION OF AMERICA.  
IT IS A NATION WHERE HONEST WORK IS HONORABLY REWARDED. IT IS A NATION THAT  
FREES THE SPIRIT OF ITS CHILDREN AND SECURES THE DIGNITY OF ITS SENIORS.  
FOR THE VOICELESS, IT MEANS SOCIAL JUSTICE. FOR THE OPPRESSED, IT MEANS  
CIVIL RIGHTS. THE ABUNDANT FARM, THE PROUD CITY, THE GOOD SCHOOL, THE  
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT: THESE ARE OUR COMMITMENTS. UNQUESTIONED DEFENSES, ARMS

CONTROL, HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE: THESE ARE OUR BELIEFS.

IN THESE YEARS, IN THIS CAMPAIGN, WE HAVE JOINED TOGETHER  
IN SERVICE OF THAT CAUSE. IN THAT CAUSE, I PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER  
WITH YOU AGAIN.

THE FACT IS, YOU CAN'T KEEP A MINNESOTAN DOWN. <sup>Our</sup> ~~THE~~ BELOVED  
HUBERT HUMPHREY ONCE TOLD ME SOMETHING I RECALLED THIS EVENING. HE  
SAID THAT TO COME SO CLOSE TO WINNING IN 1968 -- AND THEN TO LOSE --  
WAS HARD. BUT HE ALSO SAID THAT WHEN HE WROTE HIS CONCESSION SPEECH,  
IT HAD TO BE DONE RIGHT -- BECAUSE IT WAS THE OPENING SPEECH OF HIS  
NEXT CAMPAIGN.

TONIGHT, IN THIS CITY OF ST. PAUL, LET ME QUOTE THE WORDS  
OF ST. PAUL: "I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. I HAVE FINISHED THE  
COURSE. I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH." SO HAVE YOU -- AND SO WILL WE.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE  
ELECTION NIGHT -- NOVEMBER 4, 1980

*Raw  
Transcript*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

A FEW MOMENTS AGO, PRESIDENT CARTER CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT-ELECT REAGAN ON HIS VICTORY. (BOO) I JOIN THE PRESIDENT IN EXTENDING TO MR. REAGAN AND MR. BUSH AND THEIR FAMILIES OUR CONGRATULATIONS. NOW WE MUST STAND TOGETHER BEHIND OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT -- ALL OF US. WE HAVE ONLY ONE PRESIDENT. HE DESERVES OUR SUPPORT. AND HE WILL HAVE IT.

OBVIOUSLY, I WOULD RATHER HAVE WON. BUT I ALSO SEE, AS I THINK YOU DO, A CHANCE TO REJOICE. FOR WE ARE ABOVE ALL, THANK GOD, PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY. TODAY ALL ACROSS THIS NATION, IN HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIAS, IN TOWN HALLS, AND CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE QUIETLY WIELDED THEIR STAGGERING POWER. AND PEACEFULLY, WITHOUT INTIMIDATION, MADE THEIR CHOICE. *Ph* AND WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE ABOVE ALL THE PROCESS WE CALL AMERICAN FREEDOM. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS)

THESE LAST FOUR YEARS -- AND WITH YOUR HELP -- THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE CONFERRED ON ME THE HIGHEST PRIVILEGE I'VE EVER HELD, A HIGHER OFFICE THAN I EVER EXPECTED TO HOLD. AND I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO HAVE SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK PRESIDENT CARTER, AND ROSALYNN, FOR THEIR KINDNESS TO ME AND TO JOAN AND TO OUR FAMILY. THIS KIND AND GOOD MAN, THIS PRESIDENT, HAS PERMITTED ME TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH HIM THAN ANY VICE PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. AND I THANK HIM PROFOUNDLY FOR THAT EXPERIENCE. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS)

I HAVE NO REGRETS. ~~FOR~~ I'VE LEARNED IN THIS OFFICE AS I COULD IN NO OTHER WAY, ABOUT OUR COUNTRY'S RICHNESS AND OUR WORLD'S PROMISE. I'VE BEEN MOVED BY THE MAJESTY OF OUR CONTINENT, LIFTED BY THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE, BOUYED BY THE GIFT OF THEIR WIT, TOUCHED BY THE DECENCY OF THEIR SPIRIT, AND STRETCHED BY THE REACH OF THEIR HOPE. ~~AND~~ TONIGHT I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE HERE AND PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE NATION FOR THE SUPPORT THAT YOU'VE GIVEN US. AND ABOVE ALL I WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA FOR THEIR MAGNIFICENT AND CONTINUING TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP. IT IS HERE THAT I'VE LEARNED MY VALUES FROM THEIR JOY, THEIR COMPASSION, THEIR OPTIMISM, AND THEIR FAITH.

BUT ESPECIALLY I WANT TO THANK MY FAMILY. IF ANYBODY IS BLESSED, I AM. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS) I DON'T KNOW HOW WELL THE REST OF US HAVE DONE, BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS: JOAN HAS PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS) AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THEIR GENES, BUT (LAUGHTER) TED AND ELEANOR AND WILLIAM HAVE BEEN REAL TROOPERS. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS) ~~I~~ I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY STAFF. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF STAFFS IN MY LIFE, IN WASHINGTON AND IN MINNESOTA. AND I DON'T WANT TO INSULT ANYONE ELSE, BUT I BELIEVE I'VE HAD THE BEST SUPPORT FROM MY STAFF THAT ANYONE HAS EVER HAD. AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTED ASSISTANCE. (APPLAUSE) THEY WROTE THOSE LINES IN THERE THEMSELVES. (LAUGHTER)

FINALLY, LET ME TALK TO YOU AS OLD FRIENDS. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SO MANY YEARS. AND I WANT TO TALK PARTICULARLY TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE HERE TODAY, WHO ARE NEW OR RELATIVELY NEW TO POLITICS. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, AND MAYBE EVEN HEARTBROKEN TONIGHT. BUT YOU KNOW IN A REAL SENSE THE DEPTH OF YOUR VIEWS AND BELIEFS, THE COMMITMENT TO YOUR IDEALS, ARE TESTED MUCH MORE SEVERELY IN DEFEAT

THAN IN VICTORY. AND WE'RE TESTED AGAIN TONIGHT. AND LET US REMEMBER THAT ALL OF US ARE IN POLITICS FOR A REASON. <sup>Q</sup>WE'VE WORKED FOR SOMETHING FAR LARGER THAN A SINGLE NIGHT'S HARVEST OF BALLOTS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO A VISION OF AMERICA. A NATION WHERE HONEST WORK IS HONORABLY REWARDED, A NATION WHICH FREES THE SPIRIT OF HER CHILDREN, AND SECURES THE DIGNITY OF ITS SENIORS. FOR THE VOICELESS IT MEANS SOCIAL JUSTICE. FOR THE OPPRESSED IT MEANS CIVIL RIGHTS. THE ABUNDANT FARM, THE PROUD CITY, THE GOOD SCHOOL, THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT: THESE ARE OUR COMMITMENTS. UNQUESTIONED DEFENSES, ARMS CONTROL, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE: THESE ARE OUR BELIEFS. <sup>Q</sup>IN THESE YEARS, IN THIS CAMPAIGN, WE'VE JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF THAT CAUSE. AND IN THAT CAUSE I PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU AGAIN. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS) (WE WANT FRITZ CHANT) DON'T GET ME ~~I~~ INTO ANY TROUBLE TONIGHT. (LAUGHTER)

THE FACT OF IT IS, YOU CAN'T KEEP A MINNESOTAN DOWN. (CHEERS AND APPLAUSE) IT WAS ALMOST TWELVE YEARS AGO TONIGHT WHEN I MET WITH OUR BELOVED HUBERT WHEN HE WAS PREPARING HIS CONCESSION SPEECH AFTER LOSING THAT HARD CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND HE TOLD ME WHEN HE WROTE THAT SPEECH, HE SAID, "IT'S GOT TO BE DONE RIGHT, BECAUSE", HE SAID, "IT'S REALLY THE OPENING SPEECH OF MY NEXT CAMPAIGN." (CHEERS AND APPLAUSE) (WE WANT FRITZ CHANT)

IT'S AMAZING WHAT DEMOCRATS WILL DO WHEN THEY THINK THEY'RE ON LIVE TELEVISION. (LAUGHTER)

TONIGHT, IN THIS CITY OF ST. PAUL, LET ME QUOTE THE WORDS OF ST. PAUL, WHEN HE SAID "I <sup>HA</sup>VE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. I HAVE FINISHED THE COURSE. I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH." SO HAVE YOU -- AND SO WILL WE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. (APPLAUSE AND CHEERS)

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TRANSCRIPT  
REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE  
ELECTION NIGHT -- NOVEMBER 4, 1980

A few moments ago, President Carter congratulated President-elect Reagan on his victory. I join the President in extending to Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush and their families our congratulations. Now we must stand together behind our President-elect -- all of us. We have only one President. He deserves our support. And he will have it.

Obviously, I would rather have won. But I also see, as I think you do, a chance to rejoice. For we are above all, thank God, privileged to live in a democracy. Today, all across this nation -- in high school cafeterias, in town halls, and churches, and synagogues -- the American people quietly wielded their staggering power, and peacefully, without intimidation, made their choice.

And whatever the outcome, tonight we celebrate above all the process we call American freedom. (applause and cheers)

These last four years -- and with your help -- the American people have conferred on me the highest privilege I've ever held, a higher office than I ever expected to hold. And I am deeply honored to have served as Vice President of the United States. I especially want to thank President Carter, and Rosalyn, for their kindness to me and to Joan and to our family. This kind and good man, this President, has permitted me to work more closely with him than any Vice President in American history. And I thank him profoundly for that experience. (applause and cheers)

I have no regrets. For I've learned in this office as I could in no other way about our country's richness and our world's promise. I've been moved by the majesty of our continent, lifted by the strength of our people, buoyed by the gift of their wit, touched by the decency of their spirit, and stretched by the reach of their hope.

And tonight I want to thank everyone here and people all across the nation for the support that you've given us. And above all I want to thank the people of Minnesota for their magnificent and continuing trust and friendship. It is here that I've learned my values -- from their joy, their compassion, their optimism, and their faith.

But especially I want to thank my family. If anybody is blessed, I am. (applause and cheers) I don't know how well the rest of us have done, but I'll tell you this: Joan has performed magnificently. (applause and cheers) And I don't know what's in their genes, but (laughter) Ted and Eleanor and William have been real troopers. (applause and cheers)

I also want to thank my staff. I've seen a lot of staffs in my life, in Washington and in Minnesota. And I don't want to insult anyone else, but I believe I've had the best support from my staff that anyone has ever had. And I want to thank you for your gifted assistance. (applause) They wrote those lines in there themselves. (laughter)

Finally, let me talk to you as old friends. We've been together so many years. And I want to talk particularly to the young people here today, who are new or relatively new to politics. It is understandable that you're disappointed, and maybe even heartbroken tonight. But, you know, in a real sense the depth of your views and beliefs, the commitment to your ideals, are tested much more severely in defeat than in victory. And we're tested again tonight. And let us remember that all of



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us are in politics for a reason.

We've worked for something far larger than a single night's harvest of ballots. We are committed to a vision of America -- a nation where honest work is honorably rewarded, a nation which frees the spirit of her children, and secures the dignity of its seniors. For the voiceless it means social justice. For the oppressed it means civil rights. The abundant farm, the proud city, the good school, the clean environment: these are our commitments. Unquestioned defenses, arms control, human rights and peace: these are our beliefs.

In these years, in this campaign, we've joined together in the service of that cause. And in that cause I pledge to work together with you again. (applause and cheers)

The fact of it is, you can't keep a Minnesotan down. (cheers and applause) It was almost twelve years ago tonight that I met with our beloved Hubert, when he was preparing his concession speech after losing that hard campaign for President of the United States. And he told me that when he wrote that speech he said, "It's got to be done right, because," he said, "it's really the opening speech of my next campaign." (cheers and applause)

Tonight, in this city of St. Paul, let me quote the words of St. Paul, when he said, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith." So have you -- and so will we.

Thank you very much. (applause and cheers)

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