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## American Federation of Teachers: Final Draft

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 22, 1984

THANK YOU, AL, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.

LET ME ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OUTSTANDING PRESIDENT, AL

SHANKER AND YOUR SECRETARY-TREASURER, BOB PORTER.

*slow*

AND LET ME PICK AT RANDOM A SINGLE STATE FEDERATION TO MENTION, NEW YORK'S OWN UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AND ITS LEADER, SANDY FELDMAN.

AS <sup>Al mentioned</sup> ~~SOME OF YOU KNOW~~, I USED TO BE A TEACHER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NEW YORK. ~~BACK THEN~~ -- <sup>Before the Teacher Guild was even</sup> ~~WHEN THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS PRESIDENT~~ -- <sup>emerging</sup> TEACHERS DIDN'T HAVE MANY RIGHTS. WE DIDN'T HAVE THE LEVERAGE TO SHAPE LEGISLATION, WE SOMETIMES BARELY AFFECTED PUBLIC POLICY.

ALL THAT IS CHANGED TODAY - IN LARGE PART, BECAUSE OF YOU, THIS UNION, AND THE AFL-CIO. I AM A BELIEVER IN UNIONS. UNIONS ARE GOOD FOR TEACHERS. THEY'RE GOOD FOR SCHOOLS. AND THEY'RE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY. I AGREE WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION THAT WE SHOULD SUPORT THE UNION MOVEMENT IN POLAND. BUT UNLIKE MR. REAGAN, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT IT AT HOME.

NORMALLY, I BEGIN A SPEECH BY SAYING I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE, BUT TODAY IS DIFFERENT. AFTER THIS PAST WEEK, I AM *absolutely* THRILLED TO BE HERE WITH THE A.F.T.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF THIS CAMPAIGN. WE'RE GOING TO RETURN TO DISCUSSING THE ISSUES, WE'RE GOING TO GET BACK TO TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.

STARTING TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OUR CASE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR THE EXPERTS AND POLLSTERS: ~~COME NOVEMBER, WE'RE GOING TO WIN.~~ *we'll give them Dallas for just today // But come + take the country*

THE OVERRIDING ISSUE IN THIS CAMPAIGN IS THE FUTURE. AND THE CENTRAL QUESTION IS, WHICH CANDIDATE CAN LEAD US THERE. *insert*

~~I BELIEVE THAT~~ <sup>*AND*</sup> THE CANDIDATE TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA IN THE FUTURE IS THE ONE WHO BELIEVES WITH ALL HIS HEART IN EDUCATION. AND THAT CANDIDATE <sup>*obviously*</sup> IS NOT RONALD REAGAN, IT'S WALTER MONDALE.

WHEN WE NEED TO DEVELOP THE SCIENCE AND MATH SKILLS OF OUR CHILDREN NOW MORE THAN EVER, ~~WHEN WE HAVE FEW HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS TEACHERS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY THAN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS,~~ <sup>*what does*</sup> THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ELIMINATES ~~TEACHING~~ <sup>*DO? IT*</sup> THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S PROGRAM TO STENGTHEN ~~TEACHING~~ <sup>*we have*</sup> SCIENCE AND MATH.

WHEN HIGH INTEREST RATES AND THE RECESSION THREATEN FAMILY'S ABILITY TO FINANCE A COLLEGE EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN, <sup>*what does*</sup> THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION <sup>*DO? IT*</sup> CUTS STUDENT AID - AND WOULD HAVE GUTTED IT COMPLETELY IF CONGRESS HADN'T STOOD IN THE WAY.

AS THE NATION WAS TURNING AGAIN TO THE QUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, <sup>*it*</sup> ~~THEY~~ CUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF PUBLIC AND SECONDARY SCHOOL FINANCING TO THE LOWEST LEVELS SINCE THE 1960's.

*what did the Reagan Administration do -*

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM AMERICAN EDUCATION FACES, NOR SHOULD IT. IN OUR NATION, EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT IS WHERE IT SHOULD REMAIN. *But we need broader*

*Leadership*  
~~BUT THE CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN EDUCATION IS A NATIONAL PROBLEM AND IT'S SOLUTION REQUIRES A NATIONAL STRATEGY.~~

*And with your help + ideas he developed a*  
FRITZ MONDALE HAS SET FORTH THAT STRATEGY *in excellence* AND STARTING ON JANUARY 20, 1985, THIS FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER IS GOING TO WORK WITH HIM AS VICE PRESIDENT TO REBUILD THAT PARTNERSHIP ~~FOR EXCELLENCE~~ THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE. WE WILL:

*1st we will*  
1. RAISE THE QUALITY AND PRESTIGE OF TEACHING WITH BETTER PAY ... LESS PAPER WORK ... BETTER TEACHER TRAINING ...  
NEW EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE, MATH AND LANGUAGES ... AND A NATIONAL FUND FOR EXCELLENCE.

*2nd we will*  
2. INVEST IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH IN OUR COLLEGES WITH ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION ... BETTER LABORATORIES AND EQUIPMENT.

*3rd we will*  
3. ASSURE EVERY CHILD A FAIR CHANCE WITH ~~STRENGTHEN~~ *stronger B. Lingual +* HANDICAPPED EDUCATION, ~~BI-LINGUAL~~, HEAD-START, AND CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT.

*4th we will*  
4. ASSURE THAT THE CHILDREN OF AVERAGE WORKING FAMILIES CAN AFFORD A COLLEGE EDUCATION WITH INCREASED STUDENT AID AND WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.

*and 50% - we will*  
 AND STRENGTHEN BASIC RESEARCH. WHEN IT COMES TO RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. WE WANT AMERICANS TO DISCOVER IT FIRST, APPLY IT TO THE PRODUCTION LINE FIRST, AND SELL IT FIRST.

THIS IS A BROAD, NEW NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION. IT IS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT IF WE WANT A STRONGER AMERICA -- WITH A SURE DEFENSE AND A ~~PRO~~SPEROUS ECONOMY -- EDUCATION IS THE BEST INVESTMENT WE CAN POSSIBLY MAKE.

*As you know*  
 EVERY DOLLAR OUR COUNTRY SPENDS ON EDUCATION RETURNS \$6 TO THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT. EVERY \$4 WE SPEND TO GET STUDENTS TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL RETURNS \$7 IN PUBLIC REVENUES.

BUT MORE INVESTMENT ~~DONE~~ WILL NOT DO THE JOB. STUDENTS MUST WORK HARDER. PARENTS MUST TURN OFF THE T.V.. TEACHERS MUST HAVE BETTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. AND STANDARDS THROUGHOUT OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION MUST BE RAISED.

THE A.F.T. HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THAT FIGHT FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS. WE WANT TO JOIN THAT FIGHT -- NOT RUN AWAY FROM IT, LIKE SOME PEOPLE ~~DO~~ TODAY.

THE OTHER DAY, GEORGE BUSH WAS ASKED ON TELEVISION ABOUT THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN APPARENTLY FALLS ASLEEP AT CABINET MEETINGS. MR. BUSH ANSWERED BY ASKING HIS ~~Q~~UestionERS IF THEY HADN'T EVERY FALLEN ASLEEP AS KIDS IN SCHOOLS.

HE MAY THINK THAT'S AN EFFECTIVE REPLY. BUT LET ME SAY THIS: WE NOT ONLY NEED PRESIDENTS IN COMMAND OF THEIR CABINET - WE ALSO NEED SCHOOL CHILDREN ALERT IN SCHOOLS. AND WE NEED LEADERS IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHO DON'T TRY TO EXCUSE THEIR OWN INATTENTION BY ~~CONDONING SLEEP~~ IN SCHOOLS.

~~NOT CAN~~ LEARNING TAKE PLACE WHEN TEACHERS ARE PHYSICALLY THREATENED. WE ASK A GREAT DEAL OF ~~TEACHERS~~ <sup>you</sup>. WE PUT OUR ~~FUTURE~~ <sup>children and our</sup> IN ~~THEIR~~ <sup>your</sup> HANDS. AND WE DON'T PAY ~~THEM~~ <sup>you</sup> AS MUCH AS ~~THEY~~ <sup>you</sup> DESERVE. THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS PROTECT ~~THEM~~ <sup>you</sup> AS A FORMER TEACHER AND A MOTHER, I SUPPORT YOU ALL THE WAY IN TRYING TO REMOVE VIOLENCE, DRUGS, AND DANGER FROM OUR CLASSROOMS.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE GOALS THAT LIE BEFORE PUBLIC EDUCATION TODAY. HOW DO ~~THE~~ <sup>our</sup> OPPONENTS PLAN TO MEET THEM? LISTEN TO THE REAGAN PLATFORM DRAFTED IN DALLAS. "THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION," IT TELLS US, "SHOULD BE LIMITED." SO MUCH FOR ACTIVE LEADERSHIP.

EDUCATION IS PRIMARILY A LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY, BUT THE PROBLEMS WE FACE ARE NATIONAL. AND THEIR SOLUTION REQUIRES A NATIONAL ROLE.

WHEN SPUTNIK ~~STURRED~~ <sup>named</sup> US TO ACTION IN THE 1950'S AND 60'S, OUR RESPONSE WAS NOT A "LIMITED" ONE. WE PASSED TITLE I, HEAD START, BILINGUAL, MORE STUDENT ASSISTANCE, AND MORE HELP FOR BASIC RESEARCH.

TODAY, IN THE CHANGING ECONOMY, ~~WE FACE~~ ALL THE DEMANDS IT WILL PLACE UPON OUR SKILLS, WE FACE A CHALLENGE TO OUR TALENTS JUST AS GREAT AS THEN. ~~AND~~ WE NEED TO RESPOND BY DECLARING THAT THIS GENERATION WILL BE THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. AND THAT TAKES NOT A LIMITED ROLE BUT AN ALL-OUT COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION, LED BY FRITZ MONDALE.

AND LET ME ADD: EVEN AS WE ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE, WE MUST NEVER SACRIFICE EQUITY. A MIND ~~IS~~ A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE ~~AND~~ TO STOP WASTING YOUNG MINDS TODAY IN INNER-CITY AND LOW-INCOME AREAS, I BELIEVE WE MUST STOP SPENDING SO MUCH ON THE ARMS RACE, AND START INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE.

IN THE LIGHT FOR THE FUTURE, EDUCATION IS THE FIRST WEAPON -- BUT NOT THE ONLY ONE. THERE IS MUCH WE MUST DO TO KEEP FAITH WITH THE NEXT GENERATION. ~~TODAY I DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN THE LIST, BUT~~ LET ME MENTION JUST THREE ADDITIONAL TASKS, BESIDES BETTER EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN.

FIRST, WE MUST CONTROL THESE RUNAWAY DEFICITS. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS ALL FOR BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENTS -- BUT ~~SHIRKS~~ FROM THE BOLD ACTIONS THAT LEAD TO A BALANCED BUDGET. IT'S ALL FOR PREACHING OPTIMISM -- BUT IT REFUSES TO GIVE US A PLAN.

NOT LONG AGO, MR. REAGAN SAID ~~THEY~~ WOULDN'T RAISE TAXES. *And now the Republican Platform says they will* THEN MR. BUSH SAID THEY WOULD <sup>A</sup> AND THEN MR. REAGAN SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NO PLANS TO RAISE TAXES, HE MIGHT ~~DO SO ANYWAY~~.

WHY ALL THE DANCING AROUND? AMERICANS EXPECT STRAIGHT TALK FROM THEIR LEADERS. IF DEFICITS ARE BAD FOR INTEREST RATES, THEN LET'S REDUCE THEM. IF REDUCING DEFICITS TAKES MORE TAXES, THEN LET'S RAISE THEM. AND IF OUR LEADERS WON'T LEVEL WITH US, THEN LET'S REPLACE THEM.

SECOND, WE WON'T BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE UNLESS WE BUILD IT TOGETHER.

IF THERE'S ONE THING ABOVE ALL ELSE WHICH THIS CAMPAIGN STANDS FOR, IT'S THE HOPE THAT OLD BARRIERS ARE COMING DOWN, AND NEW DOORS ARE OPENING UP.

I WANT TO REALIZE THAT HOPE. LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL ENFORCE OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. ~~AND LET'S MAKE THE ERA A PART OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE LAND.~~

*And at the start of my second term, when I take my oath of office, I want to swear to uphold a constitution that will include the ERA.*

FINALLY, LET'S VOTE. INCREASING REGISTRATION IS ALSO A TOOL FOR BUILDING THE <sup>FUTURE</sup> ~~PICTURE~~. YOU'VE MADE IT THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF THIS CONVENTION, AND YOU'RE RIGHT.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, I'VE MET PEOPLE WHO TELL ME THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES, THEY WANT TO VOTE. THERE'S A NEW INTEREST, AN ENERGY, AN ENTHUSIASM COMING TO LIFE IN AMERICA.

PEOPLE WANT TO VOTE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THIS COUNTRY.

THEY'RE SAYING THE TIME TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REDUCE DEFICIT IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO RAISE STANDARDS AND EDUCATE CHILDREN IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO STOP THE ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. IT IS NOW.

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

AND THE TIME TO WAGE THIS CAMPAIGN FOR A BETTER FUTURE IS NOT LATER. IT IS NOW.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT. NOW LET'S GO OUT, WIN THIS ELECTION, ~~AND PUT A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRAT IN THE WHITE HOUSE.~~

*to be held  
with me &  
yourself*

*Thank you for your support.*

*not later - Now*

*I particularly want  
to thank you for your warm  
reception this morning.  
I needed that!*