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AFL-CIO Speech

Max S. Baucus

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Record Type*: **Speeches & Remarks**

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: **September-1982**

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(1) Subject*: **AFL-CIO Speech in Helena**

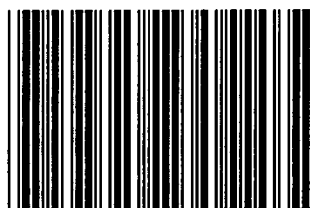
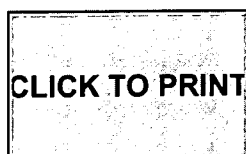
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(2) Subject*

DOCUMENT DATE*: **09/01/1982**

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* "required information"



BAUCUS

AFL-CIO

Helena

Sept 82?

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO
BE HERE TODAY.

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO BE AMONG
FRIENDS LIKE JIM MURRY.

AND IT'S EQUALLY GOOD TO BE AMONG
THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN ME SUPPORT AND
ADVICE, AS YOU HAVE.

MANY GREAT BATTLES LIE AHEAD, AND
TOGETHER, WE CAN DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR
WORKING PEOPLE AND FOR MONTANANS.

THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES.

OVER 10 MILLION AMERICANS, AND SOME
50,000 MONTANANS, ARE OUT OF WORK.

INTEREST RATES ARE 14%.

BANKRUPCIES ARE AT 1932 LEVELS.

BUDGET DEFICITS APPROACH \$100 BILLION
A YEAR.

REPUBLICANS AND CONSERVATIVES WON
THE 1980 ELECTION.

THEY WON THE WHITE HOUSE. THEY WON
THE SENATE.

THEY OFTEN HAVE A CONSERVATIVE
MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE.

THEY GAVE US A RADICAL AND UNTESTED PROGRAM, FIRST WRITTEN BY PROFESSOR LAFFER ON A NAPKIN.

THEY CALLED IT SUPPLY SIDE ECONOMICS.

THEY SAID WE SHOULD PASS THE LARGEST TAX CUT IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

CONGRESS DID---AS THE SUPPLY SIDERS WANTED.

THEY SAID THE GREATEST BENEFITS SHOULD GO TO THE MOST WEALTHY AMERICANS.

CONGRESS AGREED---AS THE SUPPLY SIDERS PROPOSED.

THEY SAID INVESTMENTS WOULD SKYROCKET. BUT THEY HAVEN'T.

THEY SAID SAVINGS WOULD DRAMATICALLY INCREASE. BUT THEY DIDN'T.

THEY PROMISED JOBS. BUT MILLIONS WERE THROWN OUT OF WORK.

THEY PREDICTED GROWTH AND PROSPERITY. BUT THEY WERE WRONG AGAIN.

THEY PROMISED A BALANCED BUDGET. BUT THEY GAVE US RECORD DEFICITS.

THEY OFFERED A SAFETY NET TO THE NEEDY.....

THEN TORE HOLES THROUGH THE NET.

UNEMPLOYMENT RISES---BUT THEY CUT JOB TRAINING.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE IN TROUBLE.....

BUT THEY CUT AID TO EDUCATION, AND
SUPPORT TUITION TAX CREDITS.

NOW THE ELDERLY ARE NERVOUS:

MEDICARE HAS BEEN CUT BY OVER \$13
BILLION OVER 3 YEARS.

SOCIAL SECURITY MAY BE THE NEXT
TARGET----AFTER ELECTION DAY, OF COURSE.

AND WHILE THE HOUSING INDUSTRY IS
IN A DEPRESSION, THEY SAY WE CAN'T AFFORD
A HOUSING BILL.

I WISH THEY'D COME TO MONTANA FOR A
WEEK.

THIS IS SUPPLY SIDE ECONOMICS.

I VOTED AGAINSI MANY OF THE SPECIFICS

I WARNED MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE.

BUT WE LOST VOIE AFTER VOIE.

NOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
PATIENT WITH THIS PROGRAM.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANTED IT TO
WORK. I WANTED IT TO WORK.

BUT IT HASN'T WORKED, IT WONT WORK,
IT CANT WORK---NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE'D
LIKE IT TO WORK.

WE... JUST... CANT... DO... EVERETHING...
AT ONCE.

WE CANT HAVE THE LARGEST TAX CUT
IN AMERICAN HISTORY.....

.....AND THE LARGEST PEACE-TIME
DEFENSE BUILD-UP IN AMERICAN HISTORY...

AND PROTECT THE ELDERLY.....

AND HAVE A SAFETY NET.....

AND PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK.....

AND BALANCE THE BUDGET...

ALL AT ONCE. WE JUST CANT DO IT. IT
WONT WORK. AND IT HASN'T WORKED.

MOREOVER, THE PROGRAM ISN'T FAIR, IT
ISN'T EVEN-HANDED, IT ISN'T REASONABLE.

MOST AMERICANS ARE ASKED TO SACRIFICE

WHILE A FEW COME OUT FAR, FAR AHEAD.

LOOK AT THE SUPPLY-SIDE TAX CUT.

COMPARE TWO FAMILIES OF FOUR.

ONE HAS AN ANNUAL INCOME OF \$20,000.

THE OTHER MAKES \$100,000.

IN 1982, THE MIDDLE INCOME FAMILY
GETS A TAX BREAK OF UNDER \$300.

BUT THE WEALTHIER FAMILY GETS ALMOST
\$3,000-----TEN TIMES AS MUCH.

IN 1984, THE MIDDLE INCOME FAMILY
WILL RECEIVE AN EXTRA \$600.

BUT THE WEALTHIER FAMILY WILL RECEIVE
ALMOST \$7,000---ALMOST TEN TIMES AS MUCH.

MEANWHILE, THE BUDGET CUTS FALL MOST
HEAVILY ON MIDDLE INCOME AND POOR
MONTANANS.

THIS---ON ITS FACE----IS UNFAIR.

AND WHY HAVEN'T SAVINGS AND
INVESTMENT RISEN AS PROMISED?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

CONSIDER A RECENT EDITORIAL BY
DAVID BRODER OF THE WASHINGTON POST.

HE WAS IN SEATTLE, WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT
IS OVER 10%.

UNEMPLOYMENT LINES WERE LONG. BUT
THE MOST EXPENSIVE YACHTS WERE SELLING
VERY WELL.

HE WAS IN CONNECTICUT, WHERE THE
HOUSING INDUSTRY IS IN A DEPRESSION.

THE AVERAGE HOUSE WASN'T SELLING.

BUT MILLION DOLLAR HOUSES WERE DOING
VERY WELL.

NOT LONG AGO, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
RAN A STORY ABOUT THE RECESSION.

THEY FOUND THAT MANY AMERICANS ARE
SUFFERING, WHILE OTHERS ARE ON A SHOPPING
SPREE FOR LUXURY ITEMS.

MEANWHILE, THE FEDERAL DEFICIT,
AND INTEREST RATES, ARE OUT OF CONTROL.

SO I SUPPORT A TAX CUT --- BUT
NOI A FIVE YEAR, \$750 BILLION TAX CUT.

NOT A TAX CUT THAT GIVES SO MANY
BENEFITS TO THE MOST WEALTHY.

WE SHOULD POSTPONE SOME OF THE
TAX BREAKS FOR PEOPLE MAKING OVER
\$70,000 A YEAR.

THAT'S FAIR. AND IT WOULD SAVE
SOME \$30 BILLION.

WE SHOULD REPEAL THE TAX LEASING PROVISION FROM LAST YEAR'S TAX BILL.

THAT PROVISION ALLOWS SOME OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES IN AMERICA TO BUY AND SELL TAX BREAKS.

SOME ACTUALLY AVOID PAYING ANY TAXES AT ALL, AND THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS.

REPEALING THIS UNFAIR LOOPHOLE WOULD SAVE ANOTHER \$30 BILLION, OVER FIVE YEARS.

THIS FALL, CONGRESS WILL BEGIN A MAJOR LOOK AT THE TAX CODE. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

IT'S TOO COMPLICATED. THERE
ARE TOO MANY TAX LOOPHOLES AND TAX
SHELTERS.

POLITICALLY, GREAT BATTLES
LIE AHEAD.

ULTRACONSERVATIVE GROUPS WILL
SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO ELECT
THEIR FRIENDS.

AND MOST OF THEIR FRIENDS ARE
NOT LABOR'S FRIENDS.

THERE WILL BE NEGATIVE AND NASTY
CAMPAIGNS.

AND REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR
FRIENDS IN 1980.

THE ANTI-LABOR GROUPS ARE
MOBILIZING, AND THEY HAVE MONEY
TO SPEND.

BUT LET...THERE...BE...NO...DOUBT...
THAT WE WILL RESIST ANY EFFORTS TO
TURN BACK THE CLOCK.

WE WILL NOT TURN BACK THE CLOCK ON
DAVIS-BACON.

WE WILL NOT ABANDON A LAW THAT
HAS HELPED WORKING PEOPLE GET A FAIR
SHAKE FOR 40 YEARS.

WE WILL NOT RETREAT INTO THE PAST.

WE WILL NOT TURN BACK THE CLOCK
ON WORKER SAFETY. WE WILL NOT
SURRENDER TO THOSE WHO WOULD ABANDON OSHA.

WE WILL NOT ABANDON THIS
IMPORTANT COMMITMENT TO WORKING MEN
AND WOMEN.

WE WILL NOT TURN BACK THE CLOCK
ON RIGHT TO WORK.

WE CANNOT ALLOW RIGHT TO WORK
LEGISLATION TO BECOME THE LAW OF
THE LAND.

ONCE AGAIN, THE THREAT HAS BEEN
RAISED, THE DANGERS ARE REAL, AND WE
WILL RESIST AND PREVAIL.

ALL OF THESE ISSUES INVOLVE THE
SAME IDEA: FAIRNESS.

FAIRNESS IN THE TAX CODE.

FAIRNESS IN THE PROGRAM CUTS.

FAIRNESS TO WORKING PEOPLE WHO
HAVE A RIGHT TO BE SAFE, TO GET AN
HONEST WAGE, AND TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY.

FAIRNESS TO ALL MONTANANS---AND
ALL AMERICANS---WHO SHOULD SHARE IN THE
SACRIFICE AND SHARE IN THE REWARDS.

WE IN MONTANA COME FROM A PROUD
TRADITION.

OUR PARENTS---AND THOSE WHO CAME
BEFORE THEM---WERE INDEPENDENT AND
COURAGEOUS.

THEY BELIEVED IN HARD WORK AND
JUST COMPENSATION.

THEY WERE A SPECIAL BREED.

WE WANT TO LIVE UP TO THIS
TRADITION.

WE WILL SACRIFICE---ALONG WITH OTHERS.

WE WANT GROWTH, AND JOBS, AND
SECURIIY FOR OUR PEOPLE.

AND WE WILL WORK TOGETHER---IN AN
HONEST, OPEN, AND REASONABLE WAY---TO
ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

THAT'S ALL WORKING PEOPLE EVER
WANTED: A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE,
AND A FAIR SHAKE WHEN THEY DO.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT.

TOGETHER, LET'S GET THE JOB DONE.

THANK YOU.