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"Leading Montana Forward", Democratic Platform Convention

Max S. Baucus

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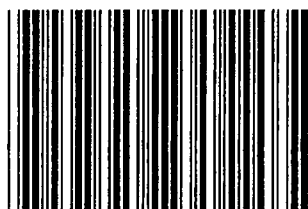
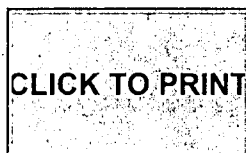
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(2) Subject* **Democratic Platform Convention "Leading Montana Forward"**

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BAUCUS

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM CONVENTION
BILLINGS, MONTANA
JUNE 16, 1984

"LEADING MONTANA FORWARD"

BRUCE (NELSON), TED (SCHWINDEN), DONNA (SMALL), TONY (JEWETT), FELLOW DEMOCRATS, I WANT TO THANK MONTANANS FOR YOUR RECENT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

I AM HONORED TO BE OUR PARTY'S NOMINEE FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE U.S. SENATE.

I LOVE MONTANA.

I HAVE A DEEP PRIDE IN OUR LAND AND OUR PEOPLE.

I AM HONORED TO SERVE MONTANA IN THE U.S. SENATE.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, JOHN MELCHER, PAT WILLIAMS AND I ARE REGAINING THE CLOUT MONTANA HAD WHEN MIKE MANSFIELD AND LEE METCALF REPRESENTED OUR STATE.

I AM ASKING ALL MONTANANS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN MY CAMPAIGN FOR RE-ELECTION, SO THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR MONTANA IN THE U.S. SENATE.

I AM ANTICIPATING A VERY SPIRITED CAMPAIGN.

THIS EVENING, I WANT TO REFLECT UPON THE CHOICE FACING THE
PEOPLE OF MONTANA.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE 1980'S

EACH GENERATION BELIEVES IT HAS A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY.

EACH GENERATION BELIEVES IT IS LIVING AT THE ONE CRITICAL
MOMENT IN HISTORY.

THERE'S A CERTAIN ARROGANCE IN THAT VIEW.

I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE LIVING AT THE ONE CRITICAL MOMENT.

BUT I DO KNOW WE ARE NOW AT A CRITICAL MOMENT.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THIS.

WE ARE NOT AT WAR.

WE ARE NOT IN THE DEPTHS OF A NATIONWIDE DEPRESSION.

OUR CITIES AREN'T BURNING.

THERE ARE FEW OVERT SIGNS OF DISRUPTION.

BUT AS AMERICAN HISTORIAN WILLIAM WOODWARD HAS OBSERVED:

"THE TURNING POINTS OF LIVES ARE NOT THE GREAT MOMENTS. THE REAL CRISES ARE OFTEN CONCEALED IN OCCURRENCES SO TRIVIAL IN APPEARANCE THAT THEY PASS UNOBSERVED."

WE ARE AT SUCH A TURNING POINT TODAY.

WE ARE BEING QUIETLY, BUT SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED...

..CHALLENGED BY PROBLEMS WE'VE BEEN RELUCTANT TO FACE:

O OUR FARMERS, RANCHERS, BUSINESSES, AND WORKING PEOPLE ARE CHALLENGED BY INTOLERABLY HIGH INTEREST RATES THAT ONCE AGAIN ARE CREEPING UPWARDS.

O OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CHALLENGED BY A BUDGET THAT IS OUT OF CONTROL.

O OUR COUNTRY'S POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS IS CHALLENGED BY FIERCE FOREIGN COMPETITION.

O OUR NATION'S ELDERLY ARE CHALLENGED BY SKYROCKETING HEALTH COSTS.

O OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE CHALLENGED BY A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE THAT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

THESE ARE SERIOUS CHALLENGES.

AND THE CENTRAL CHOICE WE FACE IN 1984 IS WHETHER WE TAKE THEM ON...

..OR WHETHER WE DON'T.

THAT'S THE CHOICE.

THE 1980'S CAN BECOME THE DECADE OF NEW SOLUTIONS... OR IT CAN BECOME THE DECADE OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

IT'S UP TO US.

INTEREST RATES AND THE BUDGET DEFICIT

NOWHERE IS THIS CHOICE MORE CLEAR THAN WHEN WE LOOK AT RISING INTEREST RATES.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT IS GROWING BY \$22 MILLION AN HOUR.

IF WE DON'T ACT, IN THE NEXT SIX YEARS THE NATIONAL DEBT WILL DOUBLE...TO OVER \$3 TRILLION.

THAT DEBT:

O DRIVES UP INTEREST RATES;

O FORCES MORE BANKRUPTCIES;

O PREVENTS AMERICAN RANCHERS AND FARMERS FROM COMPETING IN
WORLD MARKETS;

O PUTS PEOPLE OUT OF WORK.

AND EVERYDAY WE PUT OFF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM, IT
COMPOUNDS ITSELF.

THAT HURTS US, BUT IT ALSO HURTS THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

IT WAS PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON WHO WROTE:

"THE QUESTION WHETHER ONE GENERATION HAS THE RIGHT TO
BIND ANOTHER BY THE DEFICIT IT IMPOSES IS A QUESTION OF SUCH
CONSEQUENCE AS TO PLACE IT AMONG THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
OF GOVERNMENT. WE SHOULD CONSIDER OURSELVES UNAUTHORIZED TO
SADDLE POSTERITY WITH OUR DEBTS, AND MORALLY BOUND TO PAY
THEM OURSELVES."

JEFFERSON WAS RIGHT.

WE IN AMERICA BETTER START RESPONDING TO HIS ADMONITION.

EACH DAY WE ARE ADDING A BURDEN TO OUR CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN INSTEAD OF LESSENING IT.

EACH DAY WE ARE ALLOWING THE FUTURE TO SLIP AWAY, INSTEAD OF BUILDING IT.

THAT'S WRONG.

WE KNOW IT'S WRONG.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THESE ARE RONALD REAGAN'S DEFICITS.

REGARDLESS OF WHO CAUSED THE DEFICITS, WE HAVE TO DECIDE WE ARE WILLING TO PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES TO GET THE JOB DONE.

THE FREEZE PROPOSAL

THAT IS WHY I JOINED A BI-PARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS IN PROPOSING A ONE-YEAR BUDGET FREEZE ON ALL FEDERAL SPENDING.

SENATORS KASSEBAUM, GRASSLEY, BIDEN AND I GOT TOGETHER AND DECIDED THAT THESE DEFICITS CRY OUT FOR A UNIQUE SOLUTION:

- o A SOLUTION THAT TRANSCENDS PARTISAN BICKERING;
- o A SOLUTION THAT TRANSCENDS THE PLEAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS;
- o A SOLUTION THAT GETS DEFICITS AND INTEREST RATES DOWN NOW, NOT SEVEN YEARS FROM NOW.

I'M PROUD OF OUR PROPOSAL.

I KNOW THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THE "FREEZE" IS TOO TOUGH.

BUT I'M CONVINCED IT IS THE KIND OF STRONG MEDICINE WE NEED.

I KNOW THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THE "FREEZE" LOCKS IN PLACE SPENDING PRIORITIES WE MAY DISAGREE WITH.

BUT IN FACT, THIS FREEZE WOULD END THE HEMORRHAGING IN DOMESTIC SPENDING.

AND IN FACT, THE FREEZE WOULD STOP OUR "BLANK CHECK" APPROACH TO DEFENSE SPENDING.

THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD RATHER PROMOTE GIMMICKS.

THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD RATHER HIDE BEHIND SMOKE AND MIRRORS.

BUT I WILL TELL YOU TONIGHT THAT WE WON'T GET THE DEFICITS DOWN UNTIL WE HAVE 51 MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND 218 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE THAT HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE IT TAKES TO GET THE JOB DONE. AND I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THAT IT WOULDN'T BOTHER ME A BIT IF THOSE 51 SENATORS WERE ALL DEMOCRATS...ITS ABOUT TIME WE REGAINED CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

THE DEFICIT REDUCTION CONFERENCE

AS MONTANA DEMOCRATS WE CAN'T BE SATISFIED WITH JUST GETTING THE DEFICIT DOWN.

WE HAVE TO DO SO IN A MANNER THAT IS FAIR TO WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

AND IN A MANNER THAT IS FAIR TO MONTANA.

BOTH OF THESE POINTS WERE DRIVEN HOME TO ME THIS PAST WEEK AS I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE ON THE DEFICIT REDUCTION BILL.

ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE TABLE IS MY PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE GENEROUS TAX BENEFITS ON THE BUSINESS USE OF LUXURY CARS.

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT FOR MANY AMERICANS THE USE OF THEIR CAR IS A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS EXPENSE.

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU AND I AS TAXPAYERS SUBSIDIZE THE ENTIRE PURCHASE OF A \$100,000 ROLLS ROYCE OR A \$50,000 MERCEDES BENZ?

THE ANSWER IS: WE SHOULDN'T.

MY PROPOSAL WOULD LIMIT THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE TAX CODE CAN BE USED TO UNDERWRITE THE PURCHASE OF LUXURY CARS.

I HOPE IT WILL BE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK.

I'M GLAD I'M ON THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SO THAT I CAN PROTECT THAT PROPOSAL.

INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M GLAD I'M ON THE CONFERENCE SO THAT I CAN FIGHT TO PROTECT MONTANA.

THERE IS A PROVISION IN THE DEFICIT REDUCTION BILL THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY LIMIT MONTANA'S ABILITY TO ISSUE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS.

THOSE BONDS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MONTANA.

THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE "BUILD MONTANA" PROGRAM.

UNDER A PROPOSAL AUTHORED BY CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI, A CAP WOULD BE PLACED ON THE AMOUNT OF BONDS A STATE CAN ISSUE.

THE ROSTENKOWSKI CAP IS BLATANTLY UNFAIR. IT WOULD PERMIT STATES TO ISSUE BONDS BASED ON THEIR POPULATION. BIG STATES -- LIKE CALIFORNIA -- WOULDN'T BE AFFECTED.

BUT NEW INVESTMENT IN MONTANA WOULD BE CRUSHED. IT WOULD ELIMINATE MONTANA'S BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAM:

- O LAST YEAR MONTANA ISSUED \$201 MILLION OF BONDS.
- O THE CAP WOULD LIMIT THAT AMOUNT TO \$121 MILLION.
- O THE CAP WOULD SLASH MONTANA'S BOND CAPACITY BY 40%!
- O NEXT WEEK WHEN THE CONFERENCE RECONVENES, I WILL BE OFFERING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ROSTENKOWSKI CAP TO PERMIT ALL STATES TO ISSUE AT LEAST \$300 MILLION IN NEW BONDS EVERY YEAR.

UNDER MY PROPOSAL, ROSTENKOWSKI'S CAP WOULD STILL RAISE SOME NEEDED REVENUE, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LEAST POPULOUS STATES.

MONTANA WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RAISE THE MONEY WE NEED FOR NEW JOBS AND NEW BUSINESSES.

I ASSURE YOU I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO GET THIS IMPORTANT PROVISION ADOPTED.

I AM PROUD TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND MONTANA'S INTERESTS.

I AM PROUD OF MY RECORD OF FIGHTING FOR MONTANA.

THAT RECORD IS THE BASIS UPON WHICH I'M PROUD TO ASK MONTANANS TO SUPPORT MY RE-ELECTION.

THE CHOICE OF LEADERSHIP

THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA HAVE SOME BASIC CHOICES TO MAKE IN NOVEMBER.

O WE CAN ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD OF US, OR WE CAN CONTINUE TO IGNORE THEM.

O WE CAN DEVISE TOUGH, EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS, OR WE CAN SETTLE FOR POLITICAL GIMMICKS.

O WE CAN PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP IT TAKES TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, OR WE CAN RELY ON IDEOLOGICAL EXTREMISM.

WE AS MONTANA DEMOCRATS OUGHT TO BE PROUD OF THE ALTERNATIVE WE WILL PROVIDE:

O TED SCHWINDEN AND GEORGE TURMAN, WHO HAVE PUT IN PLACE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR WHICH THEY ARE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED.

O PAT WILLIAMS, WHO IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

O CHET BLAYLOCK, WHO WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS ANOTHER OF THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

O AND MANY OTHER MONTANA DEMOCRATS, WHO WORK TOGETHER TO FORM A VERY IMPRESSIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THIS STATE.

CONCLUSION

1984 IS A PIVOTAL YEAR.

NOT BECAUSE WE ARE STARING CATASTROPHE IN THE FACE --

WE AREN'T.

BUT THIS STATE AND THIS COUNTRY ARE POISED AT THE EDGE OF AN IMPORTANT WATERSHED.

WE ARE FACED WITH IMPORTANT CHOICES...

..AND WITHIN THOSE CHOICES LIE AS EXCITING A SET OF OPPORTUNITIES AS ANY GENERATION OF AMERICANS HAS HAD.

TONIGHT, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A COMMITMENT TO SEIZE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES.

TO CAPTURE THEM AND RIDE THEM AS FAR AS THEY WILL TAKE US.

IT WAS FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT WHO URGED US:

"LET US MOVE FORWARD WITH STRONG AND ACTIVE FAITH."

LET US HEED HIS WORDS.

LET US NOT LOOK TO IDEOLOGY.

LET US NOT LOOK TO DOGMATISM.

LET US LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

AND LET US WORK TOGETHER TO LEAD MONTANA FORWARD.

THANK YOU.