

10/24/94  
JIM MALONEY FUNDRAISER  
CONNECTICUT

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PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of The Press Secretary

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REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY  
JIM MALONEY FUNDRAISER  
CONNECTICUT

MRS. CLINTON: I am just delighted to be here. I had such a beautiful drive on this glorious fall afternoon. And I'm pleased to be here with Eileen and Dick, who are friends of mine for many, many years, on behalf of such a worthy candidate. I am privileged to travel around the country speaking on behalf of candidates, but you really have a winner here. Jim Maloney is somebody who has already shown what he can do in a legislative body. I mean, it's a very important attribute that he brings. He knows how to get things done. And the things he has gotten done have been important to his constituents and to the state of Connecticut. And I was delighted when I came in to meet his wife Mary, his three daughters, his mother, his mother-in-law and his godmother, so it seems to me that he has enormous support already --

-- and at least every third voter is related to him in some way --

-- that we don't have to do too much more work to get this done. But we do have a lot of work between now and election day to get the message that Jim is carrying out to every voter. I am more convinced than ever that if voters really know what is at stake, and are not confused by the welter of misinformation that is out there, they will make the right decision.

And it is our job, and it is your contribution, that will enable Jim's message to get through. And that will make the difference on election day. So what you are doing today is extremely important. I want every voter to make an informed decision, because what has happened in the last 20 months in Washington is that we have actually begun to deliver on the promise the President made to change the

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direction of our country.

We have begun to see the results. I picked up the newspaper today. The deficit is now down to 203 billion dollars, after it had been projected to be at about 500 billion. Why? Because this President and the people who supported him had the political guts to make some hard decisions. And that is what we need more of, not less. We need more people willing to put themselves on the line, and you have a very clear choice in this congressional district. You have an automatic Republican no-vote already in the Congress, and you have, on the other side, a thoughtful, experienced person with conviction.

I don't think it's that hard of a decision, because when you look at what the incumbent member of Congress has voted against, you can see that there is no argument you can make that will in any way justify his position. It was Jim Maloney, not the incumbent, who understood that working people needed to have some protection when they had illness in their family. The incumbent voted against family and medical leave. Jim Maloney championed it in Connecticut.

The incumbent voted against college loans for middle income families, and voted against making it easier to repay those loans because we could cut out the middle men and actually get the interest rates down. The incumbent voted against tax relief for people who work 40 hours a week, have children in the home, and still can't get above poverty.

The incumbent voted against, time and time again, programs like Head Start, school to work job training for people who need good jobs and not use welfare as an alternative. The incumbent voted against state school. The incumbent voted against, against, and against all the time. And what is the result? The result is that there is an election at stake now in this district, where you have a very clear choice.

And probably the clearest difference, and the one that above all else marks the incumbent as a tool of the special interest in Washington which are his votes on crime and guns. And if you think that this Congress that's coming up will be good on issues of crime and violence, then you'd better elect people who will be beholden to the people who elect them, and not to the National Rifle Association.

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There are a lot of people who got elected to office over the last decades who talked tough about crime. And they've ranted and railed against it, and they've given speeches, and they've got people all in a lather over it. But it was this President who actually moved a crime bill that had been absolutely stopped dead in its tracks for six long years. It was this President who turned the Brady Bill into the Brady law.

Now in order to do that, he had to stand up to the most powerful lobby in Washington, not once, but four separate times. He had to beat them twice on the Brady Bill and he had to beat them twice on the Crime Bill. And right now, the single biggest supporter of candidates around the country is the gun lobby.

They are determined to defeat members of Congress who voted with the President for the Brady Bill and the Crime Bill, and they are determined to keep in Congress their automatic votes, that will enable them to continue to support the most outrageous gun laws in the entire world. And I hope that all of you will not only work hard for Jim in the next 15 days, but say why you are working for him.

There are educators in this group, there are business people in this group, there are citizens who are concerned about a range of issues, but there is no more of a defining issue than whether we are going to stand up to the forces that have, for too long, told us there is no way to control gun violence, and there is no way to get the guns out of the hands of juveniles.

And let me just say a word about those people who are legitimate supporters of guns for hunting and recreation. So am I. This is not about that. This is not about the Second Amendment. The founders of the Constitution never, ever imagined 15-year-olds with Tech 9 (phonetic) assault weapons. That is not what this is about.

But we are at a point of time in our country where everybody is going to have to start making some hard decisions so that we can pull together to solve our problems. It was this President, not his predecessors, who has introduced real welfare reform.

And it is with Jim Maloney's help that we will get real welfare reform, because the other party loves talking

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about welfare. They wouldn't know what to do if we ever reformed it, and they can't keep running against it. Jim Maloney will help us really (inaudible) and develop that --

There are so many issues like that, where the other side is filled with rhetoric, and they have great ads, and great slogans. Sometimes those of us on the other side talk too much, analyze too much, and explain too much. You always lose if somebody else is screaming and you're saying "But now, on the other hand, this, and we got to consider that."

But that's the way any good decision making process works, and Jim Maloney knows that, because he's been in the midst of it. And I hope, too, that many of the initiatives that this President has undertaken, which are bearing fruit in a very difficult time, will also be seen and understood more clearly. There are new ways of approaching our problems.

But in a time of change, particularly at the end of an era, like the end of the Cold War, people often become somewhat anxious and insecure. It is because the old way of explaining things is no longer adequate, and the new way has not yet been articulated. That happened at the end of World War I. It happened at the end of World War II. It has happened again.

So even though conditions improved, even though this country is the greatest and strongest the world has ever seen, and the remaining superpower, there is an underlying sense of unease as people try to make sense of the world we have inherited. But if you look at what has happened in the last few weeks, you can see the kind of seeds that the President has planted.

They are bearing fruit in Haiti. They're bearing fruit in South Africa. They're bearing fruit in Northern Ireland. They're bearing fruit in the Middle East. They're bearing fruit in North Korea. We are making the world both safer and more democratic. Is it easy? No. It is not easy. It is difficult. It is challenging. That's why it demands not only dedicated leadership, but leadership that really takes a different look at how we do things and how we think about our problems, and leadership that is willing to take on tough battles, whether it is against the NRA or any other established, vested interest.

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I'm always amused when I hear people say "What battles does your husband take on?" And I say "Well, I don't know." You all don't see the same world we see.

I travel around the country and see kinds of forces that have been stirred up against the changes that are happening. I know full well that the other side appreciates greatly what my husband is trying to do, which is why they are so dead set against us and try to stop us.

But I'm actually very optimistic about this campaign that Jim is running, and about campaigns around the country. I believe, as we continue to talk about what's really at stake, get people to focus, and cut through a lot of the rhetoric, the right decisions will be made more often than not. But it cannot happen without your help.

And those of you who are already supporting Jim, go talk to your friends and neighbors who either aren't or are undecided. Sit down with them and ask what it is that the incumbent has done that they approve of so much. What has he done for the people of this district? How do they feel about his automatic no votes on behalf of issues that affect the people of this district, and his automatic votes for vested interests like the NRA.

Ask them what they would do in the face of the extraordinary violence we have. What's a better solution than a crime bill, which contains more police for Connecticut to walk our streets, more prison construction money, domestic violence provisions to help women and children, and the kind of prevention programs that police chiefs say will work.

What are their alternatives, and how do they justify the incumbent being against the kind of provisions that we think eventually will work to make our country safe again? And then speak from your own experience, those of you who have known Jim, worked with him, watched his work, speak about what you think he can bring to the debate in Congress.

We don't need more people who are locked into what my husband calls brain-dead politics, of either the right or the left. We shouldn't be worrying about whether we're going to jerk our country one direction or the other, but instead how we will move forward into the future together. And most of our problems demand positive, progressive, pragmatic solutions, not knee-jerk political slogans.

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And that is what Jim can bring to this debate. So please, in the next days, not only have you given your resources, but now give some of your time, and reach out to those voters who are persuadable, as I think nearly everybody is today. They just want to hear from somebody as to why it is important, because I think we have a lot to be very grateful for in the last 20 months.

But there will be even more ahead of us, because I believe that America is finally ready to roll up its sleeves and solve its problems. And the last thing we need are more people who will agree with a contract for America that will send us back, delude us and render us cynical because of its use of slogans and talk of cutting taxes, cutting spending, except raising defense spending, reinstituting Star Wars, and balancing the budget.

We've heard all that before. We don't need that kind of political charade. We need political leadership, and Jim Maloney will offer it. So please help him win on November the 8th.

(End of Speech)

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