



Vice-President Walter Mondale made a morning stop in Warren during a day-long campaign swing through the Detroit area Tuesday. (Staff photo by John Stano)

# VP leads cheers for auto industry

By TOM LONERGAN

Sounding like a coach at a pep rally, Vice President Walter Mondale led a gymnasium packed with Cousino High School students in Warren Tuesday in cheers for the American auto industry.

"American cars are good, fuel-efficient and the safest cars in the world," Mondale told more than 2,300 students, mostly sons and daughters of auto company personnel.

Mondale's appearance at Cousino, in heavily blue-collar Warren, was his second stop in a day of campaigning for Detroit area votes. His visit came on the heels of President Carter's trip last week to the blue-collar communities of Wayne and Flint.

THE VICE PRESIDENT emphasized that the country's future was threatened by continued dependence on imported oil, claimed Republican nominee Ronald Reagan would cut college tuition aid programs and said his "greatest fear" was the possible use of nuclear weapons.

The high school student crowd responded enthusiastically to Mondale's repeated calls for reductions in oil imports.

"There's nothing like this country when we're aroused," Mondale said. He said there should be "no tolerance of dependence on foreign (energy) sources."

"We're going to show the whole world how to lick that problem."

Mondale said the "biggest source of inflation" is the cost of imported oil, which, he added, was a "threat to jobs and, unless we solve it soon, the independence of our nation."

"Instead of sending billions and billions of American dollars overseas... spend it on American business," said Mondale, "to hire American workers to produce and conserve American energy."

A STUDENT questioner of the vice president tied the reinstatement of draft registration to a possible war over Mideast oil.

Mondale's response, without mentioning the draft, was that a stronger American military presence in the area was needed "to prevent miscalculation and keep the peace."

"Does the Carter Administration think nuclear war is inevitable?" asked another student.

"We do not think nuclear war is containable," Mondale said. He said the country's nuclear weapons policy was based on being "strong enough to deter anybody from thinking they have a choice of attacking our country and succeeding."

He said the country's nuclear policy is "designed to enhance deterrence and not the other way around."

The vice president said the Carter administration had improved the college tuition aid program to help "the middle range of working families."

IN A PRESS conference following his speech, Mondale was more direct in challenging Reagan.

With the Nov. 4 election less than a month away, he declared "Michigan will be a battleground."

Several national publication polls released recently showed Reagan with a slight lead over Carter.

Mondale said Michigan voters will be asked to compare Carter's record regarding the auto industry-dependent state with Reagan's positions.

Mondale cited Carter's support of \$1.5 billion in federal loan guarantees for Chrysler Corp., extended unemployment compensation benefits and the Trade Readjustment Act.

The latter federal policy provided added unemployment benefits to auto-workers laid off due to increased imported auto sales.

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## Tax issues to be aired

Schoolcraft College will sponsor three forums during October on the Nov. 4 tax proposals and candidates.

An 8 p.m. Tuesday program will feature three proponents of the three major tax referendums. Speakers will be Steve Walker, Wayne County coordinator for Proposal A (Smith-Bullard), Douglas Smith, on behalf of the Proposal C ("Coalition"), and Carl Zimmerman for Proposal D (Tisch).

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