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Women's Equality Day Speech

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WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

FORT LEE, N.J.

AUGUST 26, 1984

Virginia Feagins

THANK YOU, ~~BOB~~, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.

SIX YEARS AGO, I ATTENDED A WORKSHOP TO TEACH WOMEN HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE. ONLY EIGHT PEOPLE SHOWED UP. TODAY IF ANYONE DOUBTS THE INTEREST OF WOMEN IN POLITICS, LET THEM COME TO FORT LEE AND SEE THE PEOPLE HERE.

IF ANYONE TODAY STILL DOESN'T TAKE WOMEN SERIOUSLY, LET THEM WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 6th AND WE'LL SHOW THEM JUST HOW SERIOUS YOU AND I ARE. AND IF ANYONE SAYS IT'S TOO EARLY FOR A WOMAN VICE PRESIDENT, I SAY TO THEM, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO GIVE WOMEN THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY. *Pansa*

SIXTY FOUR YEARS AGO, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE VOTE. IN 1984 WOMEN WILL ELECT THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SIXTY FOUR YEARS AGO, WOMEN COULDN'T HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE. IN 1984, WE'LL ELECT ONE OF US TO THE NATION'S SECOND HIGHEST OFFICE.

THIS PROGRESS IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR WOMEN, IT'S GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY. EVERY TIME THIS NATION LOWERS ANOTHER BARRIER, OUR SOCIETY IS STRENGTHENED. EACH TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TALENTS OF ANOTHER EXCLUDED GROUP OUR COUNTRY IS STRONGER. AND THE SAME IS TRUE TODAY.

WOMEN BRING TO POLITICS NOT NARROW, PAROCHIAL CONCERNS,
BUT A PASSION FOR THE GREAT CAUSES OF OUR TIME. // WHEN WE
VOTE IN NOVEMBER, // WE'RE GOING TO VOTE TO STOP THE ~~WAR~~
NUCLEAR ~~WAR~~ ARMS RACE. //

WE'LL VOTE TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND DEFEND THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THIS PLANET. /

WE'LL VOTE TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK, / TO REDUCE
BUDGET DEFICITS, / AND TO ACHIEVE AFFORDABLE INTEREST RATES. //

WE'LL VOTE FOR EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN. / ~~LET'S~~ STOP ^{we'll vote to}
SPENDING SO MUCH ON THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE / AND START INVESTING
MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE. //

WE'LL VOTE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS, /
REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEX OR AGE.

3.

AND WITH OUR VOTES, WE'RE GOING TO ELECT FRITZ MONDALE
PRESIDENT, / AND GERRY FERRARO VICE PRESIDENT. //

Sally
THEN, / AFTER WE'VE TAKEN OFFICE, / I'LL BE
PROUD TO SERVE ~~THE~~ WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WORKS
FOR PAY EQUITY, NOT AGAINST IT. //

I'LL WORK WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO HELP
~~WORKING WOMEN~~, POOR WOMEN, ^{and} AND ELDERLY WOMEN ~~TO GET~~ SO
THAT THEY HAVE THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED TO PAY THE
RENT, BUY FOOD, AND KEEP WARM IN WINTER.

I'LL HELP FRITZ MONDALE MAKE THE RIGHT
APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT / SO THAT FOR THE
REST OF ~~THE~~ THIS CENTURY OUR CIVIL AND PERSONAL
RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED. //

Hummer
THEN, / AT THE OUTSET OF MY SECOND TERM, / WHEN I
TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE, / I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A
CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. //

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS GONE OFF THE RAILS, AND
FRITZ AND I WANT TO ^{PUT} ~~PUT~~ US BACK ON TRACK ~~X~~ --
NOT ONLY AT HOME, BUT ALSO ABROAD.

~~FRIDAY~~
~~YESTERDAY~~, MR. REAGAN WENT BEFORE THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND TOLD THEM ONLY WHAT HE THOUGHT THEY WANTED TO HEAR -- NOT WHAT THEY NEEDED TO KNOW. MANY VETERANS ARE ELDERLY. THEY NEED SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEALS ON WHEELS TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE AND MONEY TO PAY THE RENT. THEY HAVE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WHOSE PROPER EDUCATION MATTERS AS MUCH AS ANYTHING UNDER THE SUN. THAT'S WHO AND WHAT THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR. THESE, TOO, ARE VETERANS' NEEDS. AND THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO MEET THEM IF WE CONTINUE TO WASTE BILLIONS X OF DOLLARS ON REDUNDANT MILITARY SYSTEMS. BUT THIS PRESIDENT DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO TELL THAT TO THE VETERANS.

THIS PRESIDENT DIDN'T HAVE THE CANDOR TO TELL THEM HOW HE HAS BEEN WASTING OUR MONEY. TODAY THE PENTAGON IS PAYING \$1100 FOR PLASTIC STOOL CAPS THAT COST 22 CENTS; \$435 FOR CLAW HAMMERS THAT COST .17, AND TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A SIMPLE NUT THAT COSTS 13 CENTS.

AT THIS RATE, IF RONALD REAGAN WENT UP TO THE CORNER HARDWARE STORE ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON, HE'D COME BACK WITH A TOOL BOX COSTING HALF A MILLION DOLLARS. AND THEN HE'D GO HOME AND BLAME HIS FISCAL PROBLEMS ON THE COST OF FOOD AND HOUSING.

I HAVE NEWS FOR HIM: WHATEVER WE HAVE LOST TO THE FEW DISHONORABLE PEOPLE WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE MILLIONS RIPPED OFF BY DEFENSE CONTRACTORS IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY. I WANT THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE NATIONAL DEFENSE.

BUT WE WON'T ACHIEVE IT BY PAYING WELFARE TO DEFENSE CONTRACTORS. AND WE WON'T GET IT BY ROOTING OUT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE JUST IN SOCIAL PROGRAMS, TOO. Let's get rid of waste in defense programs too.

PAUSE

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA, NOT JUST ONE. AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SERVE THIS COUNTRY, NOT JUST ONE. THE REPUBLICANS MADE MUCH OF THEIR PATRIOTISM IN DALLAS. BUT I DON'T THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BUY THE PATRIOTISM MADE ON MADISON AVENUE.

8 million Americans

WHEN SOMEONE FINDS JOBS FOR THE ~~200,000 ALABAMIANS~~ OUT OF WORK TODAY -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE PROVIDE TEACHERS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FINALLY STOP THE ARMS RACE / THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE RATIFY THE ERA / THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

PAUSE

MR. REAGAN PREACHES LOVE OF COUNTRY, AND I AGREE.
 BUT I SAY, LET'S LOVE OUR COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN TOO. / LET'S
 HELP FARMERS, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE YOUNG, AND THE OLD.
~~LET'S PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK.~~ THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO
 HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG. //

THERE'S ONE OTHER WAY. THAT'S BY VOTING.

BACK IN JUNE, MY DAUGHTER LAURA CELEBRATED HER 18TH
 BIRTHDAY. AND I GAVE HER TWO PRESENTS. ONE WAS A WALKMAN.
 SHE LOVED IT. BUT THE OTHER GIFT, WHICH COST ME NOTHING,
 WAS FAR MORE VALUABLE, AND FAR MORE LONG-LASTING.
 IT WAS A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.

I DID WHAT ANY FAIR, REASONABLE MOTHER WOULD DO.
 I TOLD LAURA SHE COULDN'T HAVE THE WALKMAN IF SHE DIDN'T
 SEND IN THE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.

WELL SHE DID, OF COURSE, THINKING IT WOULD ENTITLE
 HER TO VOTE FOR GERALDINE FERRARO FOR CONGRESS. LITTLE
 DID WE KNOW THAT SHE WOULD BE CASTING HER VERY FIRST VOTE
 FOR WALTER MONDALE FOR PRESIDENT AND ^{for her mom} GERALDINE FERRARO FOR
 VICE PRESIDENT.

TODAY, WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, IS MY BIRTHDAY AND IT
 IS BOB TORRICELLI'S BIRTHDAY. AND I WANT YOU, ALL OF YOU,
 TO GIVE ^{me} US A PRESENT THAT WILL COST YOU NOTHING, BUT
 GAIN YOU A LOT.