

8-29-1984

## St. Louis Rally Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

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### Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "St. Louis Rally Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 17.  
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FINAL DRAFT:  
NOT VERBATIM.

THANK YOU, BILL, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION.  
IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE IN ST. LOUIS. THIS CITY HAS  
ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN AS THE GATEWAY TO THE WEST. AND IN  
1984, THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT CITY AND THIS GREAT STATE  
ARE GOING TO GIVE FRITZ MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO A  
VICTORY THAT WILL BE THE GATEWAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

LET ME TELL YOU. I'VE GOT A GREAT FEELING ABOUT  
MISSOURI THIS YEAR. JUST LOOKING AT THE PEOPLE UP HERE  
ON THIS DAIS IS ENOUGH TO SHOW ME WHAT MISSOURIANS  
LOOK FOR IN THEIR LEADERS.

AND IT SHOWS ME THAT YOU AREN'T LOOKING FOR FOUR  
MORE YEARS OF RONALD REAGAN.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ELECTED YOUR DYNAMIC MAYOR,  
VINCE SCHOEMHL (SHAY' MUL), AREN'T ABOUT TO FORGIVE A  
PRESIDENT WHO HAS ABANDONED AMERICA'S GREAT CITIES.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT BILL CLAY'S FIGHT FOR  
WOMEN'S EQUITY -- AND WITHOUT BILL'S HELP WE COULD NOT  
HAVE PASSED MY PENSION REFORM BILL -- AREN'T ABOUT TO  
BE FOOLED BY AN ANTI- FEMINIST ADMINISTRATION.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ELECTED DICK GEPHARDT, ~~WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING A TAX SYSTEM THAT IS FAIR AND UNDERSTANDABLE,~~ AREN'T ABOUT TO TOLERATE THE UNFAIR TAX POLICIES OF THIS PRESIDENT.

AND THE SAME PEOPLE WHO GAVE HARRIET WOODS 74 PERCENT OF THE PRIMARY VOTE -- AND WHO ARE GOING TO ELECT HER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN NOVEMBER -- AREN'T ABOUT TO REELECT A PRESIDENT WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS TO BE PRESIDENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

LAST WEEK, WHEN THE REPUBLICANS MET IN DALLAS, ALL THEY COULD TALK ABOUT WAS 1980 AND YEARS GONE BY. IT WAS AS IF THE WHOLE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION WERE LOCKED IN A TIME MACHINE WHICH ONLY WENT BACKWARDS.

LET ME SAY THIS: I DON'T THINK ANYBODY NEEDS TO APOLOGIZE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO APPOINTED MORE BLACKS, AND MORE WOMEN, AND MORE HISPANICS TO THE FEDERAL BENCH THAN ALL PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS COMBINED.

I DON'T THINK AMERICANS WANT TO DEBATE 1980. THAT'S THE PAST. THEY WANT TO MOVE TO 1990 AND THE FUTURE.

WHICH FUTURE WE WILL HAVE DEPENDS ON WHAT CHOICE WE MAKE THIS NOVEMBER. MR. REAGAN SAID THAT THIS ELECTION GIVES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE CLEAREST POLITICAL CHOICE IN FIFTY YEARS. AND HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. IN FACT, THERE ARE FOUR CRITICAL CHOICES.

I'D LIKE TO STOP HERE AND ASK YOU REALLY TO THINK ABOUT THESE CHOICES. LISTEN TO WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAY. THE DECISION YOU MAKE IN THE VOTING BOOTH ON NOVEMBER 6 WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT YOUR LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME.

THE FIRST CHOICE IS HOW THE TWO PRINCIPAL PARTIES APPROACH THE CHALLENGE OF WAR AND PEACE.

THIS PRESIDENT HAS NEVER SEEN AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT HE LIKED. JUST LOOK AT THE RECORD.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S TEST BAN TREATY.



HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT NIXON'S SALT I AND ABM TREATIES.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT FORD'S AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS AT VLADIVOSTOK.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SALT II AGREEMENT.

AND NOW, AS PRESIDENT, HE HAS PRESIDED OVER THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF ALL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS.

WELL, I SAY THIS: IF THIS PRESIDENT CAN'T STOP EXCHANGING INSULTS AND START EXCHANGING SOLID NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS TO END THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, THEN IT'S TIME TO EXCHANGE THIS PRESIDENT FOR ONE WHO WILL.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, TENSIONS WITH RUSSIA HAVE RISEN; WE'VE SENT TROOPS TO CENTRAL AMERICA; AND OUR YOUNG MEN HAVE NEEDLESSLY DIED IN BEIRUT. THE QUESTION IS, OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY SON JOHN -- AND TO YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN? WILL THIS PRESIDENT, UNRESTRAINED BY THE NEED <sup>FOR</sup> ~~TO SEEK~~ REELECTION, HEIGHTEN THE RISK OF WAR?

I DON'T WANT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN NEGOTIATION, NOT CONFRONTATION; WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT AN ARMS RACE DOES NOT LEAD TO PEACE -- IT LEADS TO AN ARMS RACE; AND WHO STOPS INVESTING SO MUCH IN THE ARMS RACE AND STARTS INVESTING MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE.

~~THAT KIND OF PRESIDENT WILL STRENGTHEN AMERICA.~~

THE SECOND CHOICE WE FACE IN THIS ELECTION IS THE CHOICE BETWEEN PROSPERITY AND BANKRUPTCY. THE PRESIDENT BOASTS OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. BUT I DON'T THINK THE ECONOMY HAS RECOVERED UNTIL THE WORKERS OF ST. LOUIS RECOVER THEIR JOBS, AND THE FARMERS OF MISSOURI ARE CONFIDENT THEY AREN'T IN DANGER OF LOSING THEIR FARMS.

THIS PRESIDENT SAYS AMERICA IS BACK AND STANDING TALL. I SAY, THAT WON'T HAPPEN UNTIL WE SUPPORT URBAN PROGRAMS SO CITIES LIKE ST. LOUIS ARE ALSO BACK AND STANDING TALL.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, MR. REAGAN HAS ADDED MORE TO THE FEDERAL DEBT THAT ALL PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS COMBINED. AND THESE DEFICITS HAVE GIVEN US THE HIGHEST REAL ESTATE RATES IN HISTORY, PUMMELED TRADE, DEVASTATED FARMERS, AND HURT SMALL BUSINESS AND AVERAGE FAMILIES TRYING TO BUY HOUSES AND CARS.

THE QUESTION IS NOTHING LESS THAN THIS: CAN WE TAKE CHARGE OF OUR OWN ECONOMIC FUTURE? WILL WE EVER SEE AFFORDABLE INTEREST RATES AGAIN? WILL OUR PRODUCTS BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH FOREIGN PRODUCTS?

RONALD REAGAN TOLD THE DEMOCRATS TO CLOSE THEIR MOUTHS ABOUT DEFICITS. MY ANSWER IS, WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE, I WON'T CLOSE MY MOUTH UNTIL HE OPENS UP HIS SECRET PLAN AND TELLS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXACTLY HOW HE'S GOING TO BRING DEFICITS DOWN.



WE CAN REDUCE THE DEFICITS. BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE STRONG LEADERSHIP AND STRAIGHT TALK. THIS ADMINISTRATION HASN'T GIVEN US EITHER. THEY HAVEN'T LEVELED WITH US, AND PEOPLE KNOW IT.

FIRST, MR. REAGAN SAID HE WOULDN'T RAISE TAXES. THEN MR. BUSH SAID THEY WOULD. THEN MR. REAGAN SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NO PLANS TO RAISE TAXES, HE MIGHT. AND NOW THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM PROMISES ANOTHER 160 BILLION DOLLARS IN TAX RELIEF FOR REAGAN'S RICH FRIENDS.

LET'S QUIT DANCING AROUND. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL TELL IT LIKE IT IS. IF DEFICITS ARE BAD FOR INTEREST RATES, THEN LET'S REDUCE THEM. IF TAXES MUST GO UP, THEN LET'S RAISE THEM FAIRLY. AND IF OUR LEADERS WON'T LEVEL WITH US, THEN LET'S REPLACE THEM.

THIRD, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT WHETHER WE WILL BE AN OPEN, EVEN-HANDED SOCIETY. WILL ALL WHO PLAY BY THE RULES HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED? OR WILL SUCCESS BECOME A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW?

I WANT TO SEE A SOCIETY WHERE NEW FAMILIES CAN ONCE AGAIN AFFORD MORTGAGE LOANS TO BUY HOMES, NOT ONE WHERE THE BANKS LOAN VAST SUMS TO MAJOR CORPORATIONS FOR ANTI-COMPETITIVE MERGERS.

I WANT A GOVERNMENT THAT GIVES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO OUR ~~TROUBLED PUBLIC~~ SCHOOLS, AND NOT ONE THAT LOBBIES FOR TAX BREAKS FOR SEGREGATED ACADEMIES.

6.

I WANT OUR GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC CHEMICALS, AND TO STOP TAKING POLLUTERS TO LUNCH, AND TO START TAKING THEM TO COURT.

I WANT AN ECONOMY IN WHICH ALL OF US SHARE BOTH THE GAINS AND THE SETBACKS. UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION WHILE MOST PEOPLE LOST INCOME OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, \$25 BILLION HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE RICHEST MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY. I HAVE SOME ADVICE FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN: WHEN ~~THE PRESIDENT~~ <sup>he</sup> ASKS PEOPLE IF THEY'RE BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO, HE BETTER STICK TO ASKING HIS FRIENDS.

I WANT OUR TAX SYSTEM TO BE FAIR. NEVER AGAIN SHOULD THERE BE A TAX CUT THAT GIVES THOSE EARNINGS <sup>^</sup> \$200,000 ENOUGH ~~MONEY~~ TO BUY TWO LINCOLN CONTINENTALS WHILE THE TEACHERS AND AUTO-WORKERS GET ONLY ENOUGH TO BUY A HUB-CAP. FRITZ MONDALE AND I PLEDGE THAT AVERAGE FAMILIES WON'T PAY MORE WHILE THE RICH PAY LESS.

FINALLY, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE WILL BE. WILL WE HAVE COMPASSION, WILL WE HONOR OUR OBLIGATIONS TO FELLOW CITIZENS IN NEED?

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, FIVE MILLION AMERICANS HAVE JOINED THE RANKS OF THE POOR. EIGHT AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS ARE OUT OF WORK. AND ONE OUT OF FOUR SMALL CHILDREN LIVES IN POVERTY.



THE RESPONSE OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY HAS BEEN TO CUT FOOD STAMPS, THROW PEOPLE OFF SOCIAL SECURITY, MAKE MEDICARE RECIPIENTS PAY MORE, AND REDUCE NEARLY EVERY SINGLE PROGRAM THAT HELPS POOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES HE THINK WE ARE?

I AM NOT SEEKING THE VICE PRESIDENCY TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE HUNGRY TO EAT, THE COLD TO KEEP WARM, OR THE HOMELESS TO FIND SHELTER. I GOT INTO POLITICS IN THE FIRST PLACE SO I COULD HELP THE DISADVANTAGED, NOT HARM THEM. AND THE BEST WAY YOU AND I CAN HELP THEM IN 1984 IS TO DEFEAT RONALD REAGAN AND ELECT WALTER MONDALE, ~~PRESIDENT.~~

THOSE ARE THE FOUR CHOICES WE FACE. THE STAKES ARE HIGH THIS FALL - HIGHER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN YEARS. WILL WE BE A SAFER NATION, OR NOT; WILL WE BE PROSPEROUS, OR NOT; WILL THE BARRIERS COME DOWN AND THE DOORS OPEN UP FOR ALL AMERICANS, OR NOT; WILL WE BE A CARING, COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE, OR NOT? ~~THOSE ARE THE CHOICES AT STAKE IN 1984.~~

HOW WE DECIDE THEM <sup>se choices</sup> WILL DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY WE WILL HAVE FOR YEARS TO COME. AND, ULTIMATELY, THAT ~~COURSE~~ <sup>cause</sup> - OUR COUNTRY'S CAUSE - IS WHAT DRIVES US.

THE REPUBLICANS

AT THEIR CONVENTION MADE MUCH OF THEIR PATRIOTISM. BUT I DON'T THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BUY THE SELF-CONSCIOUS PATRIOTISM THAT'S MADE ON MADISON AVENUE. THEY FEEL THE SELFLESS PATRIOTISM OF MAIN STREET AMERICA.

WHEN SOMEONE FINDS JOBS FOR THE JOBLESS IN ST. LOUIS -- 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 ALL OF US WORK SO THAT AMERICAN LIVES ARE NOT LOST, BECAUSE THE PEACE IS NOT BROKEN -- THAT IS A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE CLEAN UP THE TOXIC WATES THAT THREATEN OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FULLY ENFORCE OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS -- THAT'S A PATRIOTIC ACT.

AND WHEN WE FINALLY GIVE WOMEN EQUAL RIGHTS AND MAKE THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT A PART OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

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, STUDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESS, THE  
YOUNG AND THE OLD. THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG IS  
TO PUT PEOPLE TO WORK, <sup>ENFORCE THE LAWS</sup> AND KEEP THE PEACE.

THIS IS THE DIRECTION THAT POINTS TO A STRONGER FUTURE.  
AND THE TIME TO BEGIN THAT JOURNEY IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME FOR ALL OF US TO THINK ABOUT THE CHOICES WE  
FACE IN 1984 IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO HALT THE ARMS RACE IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THANK YOU FOR BEING SO WARM TODAY. NOW LET'S GO OUT  
AND WORK TOGETHER TO WIN THIS ELECTION, NOT LATER -- BUT NOW.