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Hartford Noon Rally Event Memo & Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

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TO: FRED MARTIN
FR: VICKY RIDEOUT

EVENT MEMO FOR GAF FOR HARTFORD NOON RALLY, AUGUST 30, 1984

Most in the crowd are likely to be office workers at the local insurance companies and banks that surround the plaza at the Old State House where the rally will be held. Both Aetna and CBT (Connecticut Bank and Trust) are right nearby.

As of this writing (5pm 8/29) Senator Dodd has not been confirmed for GAF introduction. If he is not available, Governor William O'Neill will introduce.

In the group on the platform with GAF will be the following:
~~he should recognize~~ Governor O'Neill, Lt. Gov. Joe Fauliso, Mayor Thirman Milner, State Senate Majority Leader Richard Schneller, State Democratic Party Chairman James Fitzgerald, and Members of Congress Barbara Kennelly, Sam Gejdenson, Bill Ratchford, and Bruce Morrisson. Morrisson and possibly Ratchford face tough races. Two Democratic Congressional candidates will also be there -- John Orman from the 4th District and Art House from the 6th. All the Members and candidates except Kennelly (who will be in the car) will speak before GAF arrives.

Everyone says the best issues to talk about in Connecticut are the freeze, and possibly the environment. The state is full of defense contractors, so we might not want to go too hard on them. There is also a growing high tech industry in the state, all of which has helped make Connecticut's economy very strong; unemployment is low. Everyone also advised not trying to make unemployment or economic issues the focus of our speech.

Incidentally, I-91, mentioned in the attached draft remarks, runs about 200 yards from the plaza.

TO: FRED MARTIN

FROM: VICKY RIDEOUT

DRAFT COVER REMARKS FOR GAF AT HARTFORD NOON RALLY AUGUST 30, 1984

Thank you, for that wonderful introduction and for this beautiful crowd. The people of Connecticut are very smart. I know that just by looking at the leaders I see gathered here today.

The state that elected William O'Neill its governor and Chris Dodd as its Senator is too smart for Ronald Reagan's politics of meanness at home, and confrontation in Central America.

The state that elected Barbara Kennelly, Bruce Morrison, Bill Ratchford, and Sam Gejdenson to Congress -- and is going to re-elect them in November -- is also the state which is going to send John Orman and Art House to Washington next year to help Fritz Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro set America on a course for the future.

You know, the people of Connecticut and New York have so much in common -- and I have worked together with your fantastic Congressional delegation on so many issues of special concern to both our states -- that I really feel like I'm back in the neighborhood, and let me tell you, that's a good feeling.

One link between our two states is our strong commitment to putting an end to the nuclear arms race. Fritz Mondale and I know that support for a nuclear freeze runs deep in Connecticut. You should be proud of the fact that your entire congressional delegation supports a mutual and verifiable nuclear freeze. You should be proud of the fact that you have people like John Filer, Chairman of Aetna, and Walter Connolly, Chairman of CBT, sponsoring a public dialogue in this state on the nuclear arms race next month.

They know that we need to do something about stopping the nuclear arms race. President Reagan talks about that arms race . . . every four years. Four years ago the President said he'd like to begin negotiating with the Soviets, but he needed more bargaining chips before he could. Well, let me tell you, I believe the people of Connecticut would like to see a lot more of the bargaining, and a lot less of the chips.

You know, a couple of years ago, when the president was still talking about winning a nuclear war, he proposed a plan to move the people of Connecticut -- what his administration calls a "high risk" area -- to Vermont, a "host" area "just as soon as we get a hunch that a nuclear war might be about to start."

Now, I ask you, is that believable? Have any of ^{you} ~~us~~ ever tried to take I-91 to Vermont on a Friday afternoon in skiing season? Is there any traffic out there? I bet it'll be a lot easier in a nuclear war, don't you?

Fritz Mondale and Gerry Ferraro know that a nuclear war isn't winnable or survivable. We believe in working for peace, not spending taxpayers money on hairbrained plans to run away from the bombs once they start to fall.