

8-30-1984

Hartford Noon Rally Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Hartford Noon Rally Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 20.
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/20

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the 1984 Vice-Presidential Campaign at FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. It has been accepted for inclusion in Speeches by an authorized administrator of FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. For more information, please contact tmelnick@law.fordham.edu.

2.

~~AND ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED BARBARA KENNELLY~~
~~READY FOR A NEW PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN ECONOMIC EQUITY~~
~~FOR AMERICAN WOMEN?~~

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING YOU. ARE THE PEOPLE OF
CONNECTICUT READY FOR A NEW PRESIDENT WHO WILL LEAD THIS
COUNTRY INTO THE FUTURE? ARE YOU READY FOR WALTER MONDALE
FOR PRESIDENT AND GERRY FERRARO FOR VICE PRESIDENT?

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. PEAGAN 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 5 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

IN TALKING ABOUT WINNING NUCLEAR WAR AND FIRING NUCLEAR WARNING SHOTS, THIS ADMINISTRATION GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT NUCLEAR WAR WOULD BE A SURVIVABLE, TOLERABLE OCCURRENCE AS PART OF THEIR CIVIL DEFENSE PLAN, ~~THEY~~ PROPOSED THAT IN A CRISIS THE PEOPLE OF CONNECTICUT SHOULD GET IN THEIR CARS AND DRIVE TO WHAT THEY CALLED YOUR HOST AREA, WHICH IS THEIR WAY OF DESCRIBING THE STATE OF VERMONT.

WELL, THAT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE. ON A NORMAL FRIDAY AFTERNOON DURING THE SKIING SEASON, THE TRAFFIC ON I-91 A FEW ~~XXXX~~ BLOCKS FROM HERE IS BAD ENOUGH. ~~I BET IT WOULD BE A BREEZE IN THE MIDDLE OF A NUCLEAR WAR WHEN THE WHOLE POPULATION HAD JUST GOTTEN THE ORDER TO DRIVE TO VERMONT.~~ *Can you imagine already being in the middle of a nuclear war when the whole population had just gotten the order to drive to Vermont?*

~~WE KNOW VERMONT HAS GREAT SKIING,~~ BUT WE DON'T WANT TO SKI IN A NUCLEAR WINTER.

MAKING PLANS TO RUN AWAY FROM BOMBS AFTER THEY'VE GONE OFF IS NOT MY IDEA OF ASSURING OUR SAFETY. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO SPENDS HIS TIME MAKING SURE THOSE BOMBS NEVER GO OFF.

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 PEIRUT. 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 FOR RE-ELECTION, 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.

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 HARTFORD RECOVER THEIR JOBS, AND THE FARMERS OF CONNECTICUT 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 HARTFORD ARE ALSO BACK AND STANDING TALL.

THE STRENGTH OF CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY IS BOTH IMPRESSIVE
AND ENCOURAGING. / THIS STATE IS A LEADER IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND
OTHER GROWTH INDUSTRIES. /

BUT I ~~AM~~ ASK YOU TO TYINK OF LESS FORTUNATE REGIONS WITH
HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. / AND I ASK YOU, / HOW LONG CAN RECOVERY LAST WITH
THE DEFICIT TIME*BOMB TICKING AWAY? /

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, MR. REAGAN HAS ADDED MORE TO THE FEDERAL DEBT THAN ALL PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS COMBINED. / AND THESE DEFICITS HAVE GIVEN US THE HIGHEST REAL INTEREST RATES IN HISTORY AND MADE A SHAMBLES OF OUR FOREIGN TRADE. LAST MONTH ALONE, THIS COUNTRY HAD A \$14-BILLION DOLLAR TRADE DEFICIT -- THE LARGEST IN OUR HISTORY. / INSTEAD OF EXPORTING AMERICAN PRODUCTS, / WE EXPORTED 350,000 MORE AMERICAN JOBS IN JULY ALONE. /

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?

DONALD 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. PEAGAN 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 PEAGAN'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 LEADER'S WON'T LEVEL WITH US, / THEN LET'S REPLACE THEM. // I HAVE ~~SOME ADVICE~~ FOR MR. REAGAN: ~~WHEN HE ASKS PEOPLE IF THEY'RE BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO, HE BETTER STICK TO ASKING HIS FRIENDS.~~

THIRD, 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, AND THREE QUARTERS OF THE ELDERLY POOR ARE WOMEN.

THE RESPONSE OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY HAS BEEN TO CUT PROGRAMS THAT HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE OF OUR SOCIETY.

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.

FINALLY, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT WHETHER WE WILL BE AN OPEN, EVEN-HANDED SOCIETY. WILL THOSE WHO PLAY BY THE RULES BE REWARDED? OR WILL SUCCESS BECOME A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW.

I WANT A GOVERNMENT THAT GIVES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO OUR SCHOOLS / NOT ONE THAT LOBBIES FOR TAX BREAKS FOR SEGREGATED ACADEMIES. /

I WANT TO SEE A SOCIETY WHERE NEW FAMILIES CAN ONCE AGAIN AFFORD MORTGAGE LOANS TO BUY HOMES. / NOT ONE WHERE MAJOR CORPORATIONS ARE PERMITTED TO BORROW VAST SUMS FOR ANTI-COMPETITIVE MERGERS.

I WANT AN ECONOMY IN WHICH ~~ALL~~^{ALL} OF US SHARE BOTH THE GAINS AND THE SETBACKS. WHILE MOST PEOPLE LOST GROUND OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, REAGAN'S POLICIES—TRANSFERRED \$25-BILLION DOLLARS TO THE RICHEST MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY. I HAVE SOME ADVICE FOR MR. REAGAN: WHEN HE ASKS PEOPLE IF IF THEY'RE BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO, HE BETTER STICK TO ASKING HIS FRIENDS.

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

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ENVIRONMENT THIS ADMINISTRATION HASN'T PLAYED BY THE RULES. IN FACT, IT HAS ENTIRELY REWRITTEN THEM.

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD.

FOR EIGHTY YEARS, ~~SINCE~~ TEDDY ROOSEVELT, ~~THIS~~ COUNTRY HAS HAD A TRADITION OF BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. ~~UNTIL~~ 1980, ~~ALL~~ OF OUR PRESIDENTS RECOGNIZED THAT A COMMITMENT TO A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT ~~MAKES~~ US A STRONGER COUNTRY.

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, DONALD REAGAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUDY ACID RAIN TO DEATH TO KNOW THAT IT'S BAD FOR TREES AND LAKES.

HE DOESN'T SEE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GUT THE CLEAN AIR ACT TO PUT PEOPLE TO WORK.

HE CHOOSES TO IGNORE THE MANY STUDIES SHOWING THAT POLLUTION CONTROLS ACTUALLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JOBS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOUR JOB AND YOUR HEALTH. YOU CAN -- AND YOU MUST -- HAVE THEM BOTH.

MR. REAGAN SAYS THAT TREES CAUSE POLLUTION AND THAT JAMES WATT AND ANNE BURFORD DID A GOOD JOB. HE SOLD OFF OUR OUR PUBLIC LANDS AT FIRE SALE PRICES. HE ABANDONED THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES. HE LEASED ONE BILLION ACRES OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS RIGHTS.

HE CLEANED UP ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE HUNDREDS OF SUPERFUND PRIORITY TOXIC WASTE SITES. AT THE SAME TIME HE OPPOSED EXTENSION OF THE SUPERFUND BILL NOW BEFORE CONGRESS.

~~OUR LAWS ARE NOT BEING ENFORCED.~~ THIS ADMINISTRATION -- WHICH SAYS IT BELIEVES IN LAW AND ORDER -- SHOULD BEGIN BY ENFORCING THE LAW. FRITZ MONDLE AND I WILL DO THAT.

WE WILL PROTECT THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS. WE WILL USE THE SUPERFUND TO CLEAN UP TOXIC DUMPS.

WE WILL CUT THE EMISSIONS THAT CAUSE ACID RAIN ONE-HALF BY THE END OF OUR SECOND TERM. ~~WE WILL ENFORCE THE LAWS OF THE LAND.~~

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} ~~NOR~~; / WILL WE BE PROSPEROUS, OR NOT; / WILL WE BE A CARING, COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE, / OR NOT; / WILL WE HAVE AN OPEN, FAIR SOCIETY, / OR NOT? //

HOW WE DECIDE THESE CHOICES WILL DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY WE WILL HAVE FOR YEARS TO COME. AND, ULTIMATELY, THAT CAUSE - OUR COUNTRY'S CAUSE - IS WHAT DRIVES US.

AT THEIR CONVENTION, THE REPUBLICANS 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 200,000 JOBLESS IN CONNECTICUT -- 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 WASTES THAT THREATEN OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FULLY ENFORCE OUR CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS -- 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. THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG IS TO PUT PEOPLE TO WORK, ENFORCE THE LAWS, 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 WONDERFULLY WARM TODAY.
NOW LET'S GO OUT AND WORK TOGETHER TO WIN THIS ELECTION,
NOT LATER -- BUT NOW.

END