

7-24-1984

## Remarks Before The House of Representatives

Geraldine Ferraro

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### Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Remarks Before The House of Representatives" (1984). *Speeches*. 21.  
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REMARKS BY REP. GERALDINE FERRARO TO THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES - JULY 24, 1984

Mr. Speaker, when I last stood on the floor of this House on June 29, little did I know that I would return less than a month later as our party's nominee for Vice President of the United States.

Because I respect the rules and the members of this House, I have a problem. My problem is - how do I explain in one minute what my six years in this House, the people's House, have meant to me. If there is one negative in the immense and exciting challenge that lies before our Democratic ticket it is that I will have to give up my seat in this House in order to run.

When I arrived in Washington in January of 1979, I had so very much to learn -- and so many wise and experienced men and women to teach me. Last January, when we mourned the death of our friend and colleague Ben Rosenthal, I spoke of how much he had helped me find my bearings in this august and historic body. There were many, many others on both sides of the aisle and I thank you all.

How well I still recall my first major floor appearance. It was a heartfelt speech on behalf of peace in Cyprus. In the midst of my impassioned rhetoric, the wrong word slipped out and I could not go on because I was laughing too hard -- and so were my colleagues. This House, I quickly learned, is a place where we take the issues confronting this nation very seriously -- but take ourselves a little less seriously.

This is not a farewell address. I plan to spend as much time as possible here in the coming weeks pursuing those issues of special concern to me and the people of the Ninth Congressional District in Queens which I still represent.

But I did want to let you and my colleagues know how deeply I respect and cherish this institution and the distinguished men and women I have come to know in six tough, demanding, inspiring and productive years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.