8-8-1984

Letter from a New Jersey Supporter to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

GS 1

RD3 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
August 8, 1984

The Honorable Geraldine Ferraro
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Ferraro;

Congratulations on your nomination for the Vice Presidency of the United States. It is a necessary and long overdue step that will make this election historoic regardless of the outcome. Since if elected you must be ready to assume the office of President at any moment, it is only fair to let the American people know your stands on all major issues. Indeed you have been giving us your thoughts on such issues as the deficit, foreign conflict, arms control with the Soviets, etc. Since you will continue to do so, I will not ask you about those. There is one issue, however, that is vitally important for our future yet has received almost no attention during the current campaign. What is your attitude toward the civillian space program?

There are many reasons the U.S. government should do all it possibly can to aid the space program. From a scientific or a commercial viewpoint, the benefits of outer space are potentially infinite, and I do mean *infinite*. It is too plain to be contested that virtually every physical science will benefit enormously from space exploration. The Space Telescope will result in the largest gains ever for astronomy and astrophysics. The atmosphere may be essential but it is an intolerable nuisance for those fields. The growth of perfect crystals will be a boon to chemistry and other fields. The word "geology" may mean "study of the Earth" but the science is the study of planetary history. Geology may certainly be practiced on Mars as well as here, improving our knowledge not only of Mars but of Earth as well. And the list simply goes on and on.

What good does all this do the average citizen? Many of these sciences have no immediately obvious applications, but they are there. In some cases, such as pocket computers now available at a reasonable price, we are already reaping great benefits from our investment. The Greeks found no applications for their steam engine, nor the Chinese for rockets and movable type. This clearly does not mean the steam engine is useless; it only means the Greeks gave up on it too fast. The result was that the world had to wait many generations for these and other items to be re-invented and properly used for the first time. Our culture should not be the one to let the space revolution pass us by because we saw no immediate applications in a field that will surely result in a technology as far ahead of what we have now as what we have now is ahead of the stone-age. But it won't happen if we just sit here; we must go out and do it, and do it *now*. Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Civilian space program

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Title: * _Mr_ _ _ _ _ _ _

First Name: ████████ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   Middle Name:* _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Last Name: ████ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   Salutation: _ _Mr ████████ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Address 1: ████████████████ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

VE Smith   ADH   Letter Code: _GE 1_ _ _

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION *

d/1 code 1: _M_ _ _ _ _   d/1 code 2: _ _ _ _ _ _   d/1 code 3: _ _ _ _ _ _   d/1 code 4: _ _ _ _ _

* All items marked with * are optional, including all d/1 codes. All items not marked with * must be filled in