

7-31-1984

Austin 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, "Austin Rally Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 25.
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/25

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.

AUSTIN, TX 7/31

THANK YOU, ANN. ANYBODY WHO THINKS TEXAS WON'T VOTE FOR WOMEN DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TEXAS, AND DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WOMEN.

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE. ANYBODY WHO THINKS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS TOO FAR LEFT FOR AMERICA DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT AMERICA. THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

AND THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT GERALDINE FERRARO STANDS FOR.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN TEXAS ON THE FIRST OFFICIAL SWING OF THIS CAMPAIGN. I'VE GOT A FEELING I'M GOING TO LIKE IT HERE, AND I'M GOING TO BE BACK BEFORE THIS FIGHT IS OVER.

WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT TEXAS IS ITS PEOPLE. TEXANS ARE CONFIDENT, TOUGH, CAN-DO PEOPLE. THEY DON'T MAKE EXCUSES, THEY GET RESULTS. AND THAT'S THE KIND OF VICE PRESIDENT I'M GOING TO BE.

SO FAR, THE TEXANS I KNOW BEST ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY THE REST OF YOU. AND I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, YOU HAVE ELECTED SOME TERRIFIC LEADERS.

YOU DON'T HEAR GOVERNOR MARK WHITE MAKING EXCUSES ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND BEATING UP ON TEACHERS -- HE GETS RESULTS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GIVES TEACHERS THE HELP THEY NEED TO MAKE TEXAS SCHOOLS THE BEST THEY CAN BE.

YOU DON'T HEAR SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN -- ONE OF THE TRUE STATESMEN IN OUR PARTY AND IN THE U.S. SENATE -- MAKING EXCUSES THAT BUDGET DEFICITS DON'T MATTER. HE FIGHTS TO BRING THE DEFICIT DOWN BECAUSE HE KNOWS WE CAN'T HAVE A STRONG ECONOMY UNLESS WE DO.

YOU DON'T HEAR JIM WRIGHT MAKING EXCUSES ABOUT ANYTHING -- WHEN YOU'RE THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE IN CONGRESS, YOU DON'T GET PAID FOR MAKING EXCUSES, YOU GET PAID FOR BEING A LEADER. AND JIM WRIGHT IS A LEADER ALL TEXAS AND ALL AMERICA CAN BE PROUD OF.

MY ONLY REGRET ABOUT RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT IS THAT I WON'T BE IN THE HOUSE IN 1986 WHEN JIM WRIGHT BECOMES THE NEXT SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

YOU NEVER HEARD BARBARA JORDAN MAKE EXCUSES ABOUT NOT ENFORCING THE LAW.

AUSTIN/2

OUR WHOLE COUNTRY HAS BEEN INSPIRED BY HER FIGHT TO MAKE THE LAW TREAT THE MOST POWERFUL AND THE LEAST ADVANTAGED AMONG US EQUALLY.

AND YOU WON'T HEAR SENATOR LLOYD DOGGETT -- THAT'S UNITED STATES SENATOR LLOYD DOGGETT -- MAKING EXCUSES ABOUT A GOVERNMENT THAT FIGHTS FOR THE AVERAGE MAN AND WOMAN. AND LET ME TELL YOU. I'VE SERVED WITH PHIL GRAMM ON THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE. SENDING LLOYD DOGGETT TO THE SENATE IS THE SECOND BEST THING THE PATRIOTIC PEOPLE OF TEXAS CAN DO FOR THEIR COUNTRY THIS YEAR.

AND THE FIRST IS ELECTING WALTER MONDALE PRESIDENT.

IN 1984, TEXAS IS GOING TO VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS ARE PROUD PEOPLE. THEY ARE PROUD OF THEIR STATE, AND PROUD OF THEIR COUNTRY. THEY WANT TO BE THE BEST, AND THEY WON'T SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS.

WE SEE THAT SPIRIT HERE IN AUSTIN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. WHETHER IT'S THE LONGHORN FOOTBALL TEAM, OR THE LBJ SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, OR THE OUTSTANDING SCIENCE AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, YOU WANT TO BE NUMBER ONE. AND YOU AREN'T SATISFIED UNTIL YOU GET THERE.

A MONDALE-FERRARO ADMINISTRATION WILL SPREAD THAT PRIDE, THAT COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, ACROSS AMERICA. WE WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL WE MAKE AMERICA NUMBER ONE.

IN 1984, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT THEIR COUNTRY TO STAND FOR. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT WHICH PARTY, OR WHICH SLOGAN, OR WHO HAS THE BEST SMILE. I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY THIS IS GOING TO BE.

I KNOW WHAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP FRITZ MONDALE AND I ARE GOING TO GIVE AMERICA.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SUPREME COURT THAT IS A FORCE FOR JUSTICE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO PERMIT THE CLOCK TO BE TURNED BACK ON THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS.

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SOCIAL SECURITY REALLY SECURE AGAIN.

AUSTIN/3

WE'RE GOING TO ASSIST STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ENFORCING THE LAW. WHEN I WAS A PROSECUTOR IN NEW YORK CITY, I PUT MY SHARE OF CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS. I DIDN'T TALK ABOUT BEING TOUGH ON CRIME; I WAS TOUGH. A MONDALE-FERRARO ADMINISTRATION WILL STAND FOR THE PRINCIPLE THAT IF YOU OBEY THE LAW, YOU SHOULD BE PROTECTED. BUT IF YOU BREAK THE LAW, YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIME.

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE AMERICA'S SCHOOLS THE BEST IN THE WORLD, SO OUR KIDS CAN HAVE THE BEST TRAINING IN THE WORLD. AS A TEACHER, I SAW KIDS WHO STUDIED HARD BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS TOLD THEM A GOOD EDUCATION HELD THE PROMISE OF A GOOD JOB. IN A MONDALE-FERRARO ADMINISTRATION, WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THAT PROMISE.

AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE AMERICA THE LEANEST, TOUGHEST DEFENSE IN THE WORLD. WE WON'T SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST -- IN A NUCLEAR AGE, A STRONG AMERICA IS THE BEST GUARANTEE OF PEACE. BUT IF WE TAKE THE SOVIET THREAT SERIOUSLY, WE TAKE ARMS CONTROL JUST AS SERIOUSLY. BUILDING NUCLEAR BARGAINING CHIPS IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TOUGH BARGAINING ON SLOWING THE ARMS RACE.

WE CAN BEAT THE RUSSIANS IN AN ARMS RACE. BUT OUR COUNTRY WILL BE MORE SECURE IF WE MEET THEM AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

WHEN I ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION OF MY PARTY TO RUN FOR VICE PRESIDENT, I SAID, "IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN DO ANYTHING." I THINK THAT STATEMENT SUMS UP WHAT TEXAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT, AND IT SUMS UP WHAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS ALL ABOUT. WE'RE GOING TO CARRY OUR MESSAGE TO EVERY CORNER OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY. AND WHEN WE'RE THROUGH, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A GOVERNMENT THEY CAN BE PROUD OF.

THANK YOU.