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Letter from a New Jersey Supporter to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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Feshanic Station, N.J.
August 13, 1984

The Hon. Geraldine Ferraro, Rep. N.Y.
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ferraro:

Congratulations! Enclosed please find a check for a Campaign contribution for $100.00, also several other articles which may be of interest. I am sure your signature will some day be a collector's item.

Please excuse my typing. I bought this typewriter at my Princeton DAR Rummage sale several years ago for $5.00, and tho' it skips, it is a big improvement on my handwriting.

The Sunday "Star-Ledger", carried a lead article, titled "Reagan Holds Wide Lead in Race for Jersey Vote". That's for now. A little more rope may be all that's needed! Is it necessary for a country as strong as ours to go out of our way to demean and insult the Russians??

However, two years ago, when I worked in Mrs. Fenwick's Primary and General Election Campaign, I was appalled when one of her aides told me she hadn't, (to his knowledge), made any public appearances in Camden, (that down-at-the-heel, mostly black, deteriorating city). Altho' that very morning the radio had stated that she had a 99% "recognition rating" amongst blacks. I doubt very much if Pres. Reagan will stop there.

May I offer the idea that, on one of your trips to New Jersey, you start with Philadelphia, cross over to Camden, then Trenton, St. Lawrence Rehab Center in Lawrenceville, Perth Amboy and Newark. There are a lot of votes hidden in these poor struggling areas -if they can only be registered, and gotten to the polls on Election Day. The reason I mention St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center in Lawrenceville, I went back to work there (at 65) for a year in 82-83. It is an excellent, well-run Class B Hospital, with a
positive and successful program in Rehabilitation.

While teachers have long had a voluble and powerful lobby (more militant since men began to see themselves in positions of power and money in Education), who has ever spoken up for Nurses and Nursing Schools? Yet there must be a million votes from nurses out there. This country is short 100,000 Nurses (according to the ANA) It would just absolutely thrill nurses to have you take note of them. Nurses grievances are tied directly, not so much to salaries, as to overwork and understaffing due to the lack of recruitment. Nursing still is, and probably always will be, both physically and mentally demanding. Supposing we had a sudden military emergency? Where would the nurses be?

May I recommend to your attention a brilliant and politically savvy Nurse Administrator? [Name], Director of the New Jersey Hospital Schools of Nursing Association, Center for Health Affairs, Princeton N.J., [Name] is so direct, and knowledgeable and fearless, she tickles me, and would be able to explain nursing needs. For instance, "articulation"-a ladder of academic achievement through continuing education for young women in the health fields. This would encourage (and hopefully subsidize where necessary) poor girls, and minority girls, to obtain an education, and advance professionally from the lowest rung, up the ladder to a better Life.

Is it true that President Reagan's aids brushed off President Carter's offer to go over policy commitments, with the new Administration, and never has called on him for his opinion? If true, boy how petty can you get? I believe that President Carter and Roslyn, and Georgia black leaders can swing Georgia into the Democratic column. The same goes for Claude Pepper and Florida's senior citizens, and Bentzen, Cisneros and Wright in Texas, Glenn in Ohio and Eagleton in Missouri, and Sen. Kennedy in Massachusetts, Penney and certainly in West Virginia. I wish that Linda Johnson Robb could be prevailed on to ask for funds for the Mondale/Ferraro campaign. Nothing controversial about her. She is a real prototype of the involved, (but Southern), lady.
And finally, the enclosed news item on that Marine Capt. and his enlisted girl friend. Not only is that a sad, unfortunate situation. It is much, much worse. It is cruelty and wickedness, and I speak from experience. As an officer in the ANC, I dated enlisted men. My Chief Nurse's were always on my tail about it. Finally I had had it, and I went down to Rochester (Illinois) and called my Congressman from Grand Rapids— in Washington, D.C. and talked to him. Someone must have told them out at the base, they didn't bother me any more—just cut my orders and sent me to Texas!! It's kind of funny now, but it wasn't then. There is altogether too much elitism in the service, it is getting more and more pronounced. Think of the cold, hard cash we taxpayers have lost in the Dishonorable Discharge of that young officer, training, materiel, even reputation of that service and possibly a morale factor. The humane and sensible way to have handled that situation, would have been to Honorably discharge the young woman, or transfer her to a Reserve unit (either permanently or temporarily). This callousness on the part of the Marine hierarchy makes my blood boil.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

RN