

11-1-1984

Garment Center 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, "Garment Center Rally Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 33.
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/33

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.

GARMENT CENTER RALLY

NOVEMBER 1, 1984

THANK YOU, CHICK, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.

I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY THE LAST THREE MONTHS, AND IT'S BEEN A THRILL. BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU, EVERY TIME I COME HOME I REMEMBER, I LOVE NEW YORK.

THE POLLSTERS AND PUNDITS HAVE BEEN MAKING THEIR PREDICTIONS. BUT I'M GOING TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT HERE TODAY.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN ON TUESDAY?

ARE WE GOING TO SEND FRITZ MONDALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

YOU BET WE ARE.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY. ~~YOUR PARENTS CAME HERE FROM EVERY CONTINENT TO FIND THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH ONLY AMERICA PROVIDES, BECAUSE THEY TOOK THAT CHANCE AND WORKED HARD, WE ARE HERE TODAY, AND NOW, WITHIN A FEW BLOCKS OF THIS CORNER, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE WORKING TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD, TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS COUNTRY. AND THEY ARE OF EVERY RACE AND RELIGION, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.~~

THAT'S THE AMERICAN STORY, WRITTEN HERE ON THE STREETS
OF THIS GREAT CITY, BY THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF IMMIGRANTS.
IT'S A STORY THAT MAKES ME PROUD TO BE AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN
FROM NEW YORK CITY. //

BEING HERE TODAY MAKES ME THINK NOT ONLY OF HOW GREAT
THIS COUNTRY IS, BUT ALSO OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME. WHEN I
WAS GROWING UP AND MY MOTHER WORKED IN A GARMENT FACTORY,
THINGS WERE DIFFERENT. MANY WOMEN HAD TO WORK FOR A LIVING
BUT WERE BLOCKED FROM PROFESSIONAL CAREERS. TODAY, ALL THAT
IS CHANGING. WOMEN ARE ENTERING THE WORK FORCE IN RECORD
NUMBERS. //

AND I KNOW ONE PARTICULAR WOMAN WHO PLANS TO ENTER A
NEW JOB ON JANUARY 20, 1985. /

BUT ALL OUR PROGRESS IS THREATENED BY THIS
ADMINISTRATION. THE STAKES IN THIS ELECTION ARE HIGH. THIS
CONTEST IS NOT A DUEL BETWEEN PERSONALITIES. YOU CAN LIKE
RONALD REAGAN, JUST DON'T VOTE FOR HIM. /

MR. REAGAN MAY BE CHARMING, FUNNY, AND PLEASANT. BUT
THERE'S NOTHING CHARMING ABOUT THE COVERT WAR IN NIARAGUA.
THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT TOXIC WASTE THAT CAUSES CANCER.
AND THERE'S NOTHING PLEASANT ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN AND MINORITIES.

3 WE NEED TO LOOK BEYOND THE PERSONALITIES TO SEE THE
THE GREAT ISSUES FACING US IN THIS ELECTION.

FIRST, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT EDUCATION. AMERICANS HAVE
ALWAYS KNOWN THAT EDUCATION UNLOCKS THE DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY.
WE KNOW THAT TO GET AHEAD, YOU HAVE TO GET AN EDUCATION.

~~MY MOTHER DIDN'T HAVE THAT CHANCE. SHE WAS A CROCHET
LEADER HERE IN NEW YORK CITY. WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD,
I ASKED HER ONCE TO TEACH ME HOW TO PUT BEADS ON A DRESS.
FOR TEN MINUTES I WORKED AT IT AND MANAGED TO GET TEN BEADS
ON. SHE WATCHED ME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING. THEN TOOK THE
NEEDLE OUT OF MY HAND AND SAID "YOU BETTER GO TO COLLEGE
OR YOU'LL STARVE TO DEATH."~~

~~I DID GO TO COLLEGE AND I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY IF
IT WEREN'T FOR THE COMMITMENT OUR COUNTRY HAS MADE TO DECENT
EDUCATION. BUT RONALD REAGAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT. HE
HAS CUT STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND SLASHED PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.
HIS IDEA OF READING MATERIAL IS THE COMIC STRIPS, AND HIS
IDEA OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAM IS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO
SPACE.~~

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO IS A READER WHO RESPECTS LEARNING
AND WHO WILL MAKE THIS THE BEST-EDUCATED GENERATION IN
AMERICAN HISTORY. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'LL GET IN FRITZ MONDALE.

SECOND, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT PERSONAL FREEDOM. ~~AMERICANS~~
~~HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT FREEDOM TO CHOOSE IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR~~
~~WAY OF LIFE. BUT~~ THE EXTREMISTS WHO CONTROL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
WOULD IMPOSE A RELIGIOUS TEST ON FEDERAL JUDGES, AND PUT THE
GOVERNMENT BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR MOST PERSONAL CHOICES.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL KEEP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND OUT OF OUR HOMES, OUR CHURCHES, AND OUR
SYNAGOGUES.

I WANT THE SUPREME COURT CHOSEN BY WALTER MONDALE, NOT JERRY
FALWELL.

~~THIRD, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.~~
~~WE WON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF FUTURE WITHOUT THIS PLANET. WE HAVE TO~~
~~KEEP OUR LAND, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR LIVES FREE FROM TOXIC~~
~~WASTES. TOO MANY AMERICANS ALREADY MUST WORRY ABOUT THE AIR THEY~~
~~BREATHE, THE WATER THEY DRINK, AND THE LAND THEY OWN.~~

~~THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON THEM. THEY LEFT~~
~~TOXIC WASTE DUMPS UNCLEARED, AND FAILED TO HELP LOCAL SCHOOL~~
~~DISTRICTS REMOVE ASBESTOS FROM SOME 33,000 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.~~

~~REMEMBER, THIS IS THE ADMINISTRATION THAT GAVE US JAMES WATT~~
~~ONCE, AND ANNE BURFORD TWICE.~~

~~THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT UNDER PRESIDENT MONDALE. HE
WILL ENFORCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. HE WILL REBUILD THE
EPA. HE WILL USE THE SUPERFUND TO CLEAN UP THE MOST DAGEROUS
TOXIC BUMPS. AND HE LL MAKE THE POLLUTERS PAY FOR THE CLEAN
UP, WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT~~

Third

~~FOURTH~~ THERE'S NO GREATER AMERICAN PRINCIPLE THAN PEACE
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT MEANS ENDING THE ARMS RACE.

PRESIDENT REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HOOVER
NOT TO MEET WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART. HE IS THE FIRST
PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR AGE NOT TO SIGN AN
ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

I SAY WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL CALL ON THE SOVIET
LEADER TO NEGOTIATE ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE
FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION AMPAIGN.

PEACE ALSO REQUIRES THIS NATION TO STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT WHEN WE PRESS
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WE STRENGHTEN OUR OWN COUNTRY. I WANT
AN ADMINISTRATION THAT STOPS TOASTING DICTATORS AND STARTS
FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY.

I ALSO WANT A PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO ENDING HUNGER AND PREVENTING STARVATION. RIGHT NOW, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING EACH DAY IN ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE TRAGIC PICTURES AND FELT BAD, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION IS UP AND OUR STOREHOUSES ARE PACKED WITH GRAIN. THAT IS NOT ONLY WASTEFUL, IT IS INDECENT.

NOW, THIS ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES A PLAN FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF. BUT THE PROBLEM ISN'T NEW, AND THEY CUT BACK ON FOOD FOR PEACE BY NEARLY 700 MILLION DOLLARS. THEY DIDN'T ACT WHEN EVERYONE SAW THE PROBLEM DEVELOP, AND NOW WE ARE FACED WITH A TRAGEDY. I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SENDS OTHER COUNTRIES FEWER TOOLS FOR WAR, AND MORE FOOD FOR PEACE.

I ALSO WANT AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH CAN THINK OF A BETTER JOBS PROGRAM THAN MILITARY RECRUITERS. SOME PEOPLE SAY THE ONLY WAY TO BRING BACK JOBS IS BY BRINGING UNIONS TO THEIR KNEES -- EVEN WHILE THEY PRAISE THE UNION MOVEMENT IN POLAND.

WE ALL SUPPORT SOLIDARITY IN POLAND. THE DIFFERENCE WE HAVE WITH MR. REAGAN IS WE ALSO SUPPORT SOLIDARITY AND UNIONS HERE AT HOME.

SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO BLAME WORKERS FOR OUR PROBLEMS. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE RECESSION, RONALD REAGAN TOLD THE UNEMPLOYED TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THE PROBLEM WAS, WORKERS DON'T GET ALL THOSE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHERE THEIR JOBS ARE NOW BEING ADVERTISED.

BUT THAT WASN'T THE STRANGEST THING MR. REAGAN HAS DONE.

RECENTLY, HE TOOK OUT HARRY TRUMAN'S PULLMAN CAR TO RECREATE TRUMAN'S FAMOUS WHISTLE-STOP TOUR OF 1948. THAT TRAIN STUNT DIDN'T FOOL ANYONE. WORKERS KNOW THAT THERE'S ONE PERSON IN THIS ELECTION WHO STANDS FOR TRUMAN'S IDEALS. AND IT'S NOT RONALD REAGAN. IT'S WALTER MONDALE.

BUT THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT BETTER SYMBOL COULD RONALD REAGAN GIVE US OF HIS ADMINISTRATION: THERE HE WAS FACING BACKWARDS WITHOUT A CLUE ABOUT WHO WAS AT THE CONTROLS, OR IN WHAT DIRECTION HE WAS GOING.

- MORE -

~~I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SENDS OTHER COUNTRIES FEWER
TOOLS FOR WAR, AND MORE FOOD FOR PEACE.~~

3

THOSE ARE THE ~~THE~~ BASIC PRINCIPLES. BUT TO BUILD OUR
FUTURE, WE MUST DO IT TOGETHER. DIVIDING US INTO HAVES AND
HAVE-NOTS WON'T STRENGTHEN THIS COUNTRY.

EVERY TIME WE LOWER A BARRIER, OUR NATION IS STRONGER.
EVERY TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TALENTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY
EXCLUDED, OUR NATION IS RICHER.

WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL BUILD AN AMERICA THAT JUDGES
PEOPLE NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF
THEIR CHARACTER.

WE ALSO WANT A COUNTRY THAT KEEPS FAITH WITH WOMEN. WHEN I
TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR MY SECOND TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT, I
WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL
RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

will be recorded in history not only as one of our
~~THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THESE~~

~~PRINCIPLES. BUT RECENTLY IT SEEMS LIKE WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW
CONGRESS. ROBERT REAGAN HAS BEEN RIDING THRU FROM
FEW YEARS AGO HE TOOK PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S PULMONARY UNIT
MUSEUM TO TRY AND RECREATE WHAT PRESIDENT'S FAMILY WOULD STOP~~

~~1948.~~
Greatest Presidents but also as a courageous man,
no, when he asked me to be his runningmate, did more
equal opportunity in a single day than Ronald Reagan has done in
four years.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THE
HEART AND SOUL OF THIS COUNTRY. MAKE NO MISTAKE:
AS DEMOCRATS, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THAT FIGHT.

WE'RE GOING TO PROVE THAT AMERICANS ARE NOT A SELFISH
PEOPLE. WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THAT THE ARMS RACE CAN AND MUST
BE STOPPED. WE'RE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AMERICANS BELIEVE
IN HUMAN RIGHTS. AND WE'RE GOING TO PROVE FOR WOMEN FOR
ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FOR ALL THOSE COUNTED OUT
BEFORE THEIR TALENTS WERE ADDED UP THAT IF WE CAN DO THIS,
WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

AND WE'RE GOING TO PROVE ONE MORE THING: THE POLLS
ARE WRONG.

SOME PEOPLE SAY THIS ELECTION CANNOT BE WON. I SAY
IT CAN BE. I SAY IT MUST BE. AND WITH YOUR HELP, I SAY
IT WILL BE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.