

10-12-1984

Hinsdale Rally Speech

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Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Hinsdale Rally Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 46.
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/46

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HINSDALE, ILLINOIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1984

THANK YOU, JULIANA, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. EVERY AMERICAN CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S EXAMPLE. AND I'M PROUD THAT YOU CARED ENOUGH TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

I'M PROUD, ALSO, TO BE HERE WITH SO MANY FINE PEOPLE WHO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS: CONGRESSWOMAN CARDISS COLLINS ... FORMER SPEAKER BILL REDMOND ... COMMISSIONER JANE SPERGEL ... AND JEAN SIMON, WHOSE HUSBAND PAUL WILL BE THE NEXT SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT WHO WON THE DEBATE. SO LET ME TAKE MY OWN OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT HERE.

DID WE WIN THE DEBATE LAST NIGHT?

DID FRITZ MONDALE BEAT RONALD REAGAN ON SUNDAY?

ARE WE GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

IN THE LAST WEEK, FOUR CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HAVE DEBATED. AND I KNOW TWO THINGS FOR SURE: I BEAT GEORGE BUSH ... AND GEORGE BUSH BEAT RONALD REAGAN. YOU KNOW, TODAY'S PAPER REPORTED THAT SENATOR LAXALT SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS "BRUTALIZED BY A BRIEFING PROCESS" WHICH SMOTHERED HIM WITH FACTS. NOW I ASK YOU -- SINCE WHEN IS IT CONSIDERED CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT TO EXPECT A PRESIDENT TO LEARN THE FACTS HE NEEDS TO GOVERN?

BUT I HAVE TO SAY, IT WAS A CLOSE RACE FOR FOURTH PLACE. BECAUSE WHILE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE ARMS RACE, GEORGE BUSH WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THE WORLD SERIES. I SAY TO THE MAN WHO TRIED TO LECTURE ME ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LEBANON AND IRAN, THERE'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BASEBALL AND THE FATE OF THE EARTH. LAST NIGHT, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE ARMS RACE BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO STOP IT. AND SO DOES FRITZ MONDALE. HE WILL CALL ON THE SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

THERE'S ALSO A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAKING AN HONEST MISTAKE IN A DEBATE AND NOT TELLING THE TRUTH. WHEN GEORGE BUSH CHARGED LAST NIGHT THAT HIS OPPONENTS WERE TELLING THE MOTHERS OF MARINES KILLED IN BEIRUT THAT THEIR SONS DIED IN SHAME HE WAS INSULTING ME, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND DECENT STANDARDS OF CAMPAIGN CONDUCT. //

I HAVE A DRAFT-AGE SON MYSELF. / I WOULD NEVER TELL A MOTHER THAT HER SON DIED IN SHAME. / THOSE MARINES DIED SERVING THEIR COUNTRY, / THROUGH THE NEGLIGENCE OF THEIR LEADERS, / ON A MISSION THEIR PRESIDENT COULD NEVER EXPLAIN. / AND TO MR. BUSH I SAY, / APOLOGIZE FOR THAT RECKLESS REMARK. //

IT'S GREAT TO BE IN HINSDALE. AND IT'S GREAT TO BE AT CENTRAL HIGH -- THE HOME OF STATE CHAMPIONS. TODAY I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME OTHER CHAMPIONS -- A WOMAN NAMED ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND A MAN NAMED WALTER MONDALE.

YESTERDAY WE CELEBRATED THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S BIRTH. ~~SHE ONCE SAID THAT "ACTION BRINGS WITH IT ITS OWN COURAGE, ITS OWN ENERGY."~~ SOME PEOPLE THINK / ~~THAT ELEANOR~~ ^{she} ROOSEVELT WAS AHEAD OF HER TIME. BUT I DON'T AGREE.

She was one of my heroes, and I remember how very much in awe of her I was when I met her in 1961 - She was bigger than life and /

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS. IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. AFTER PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DIED, ^{Mrs Roosevelt} ELEANOR SERVED IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AND FOUGHT FOR THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. TODAY, TO HONOR HER IDEALS, WE SHOULD STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE — NOT JUST IN POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO IN EL SALVADOR AND SOUTH AFRICA. //

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO FIGHT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS. DURING THE NEW DEAL, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HELPED BUILD THE NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION. TODAY WE HAVE AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH SAYS IT'S PRO-FAMILY, EVEN AS IT CUTS CHILD NUTRITION AND VACCINATIONS. TO CARRY ON IN ELEANOR ^{Roosevelt's} TRADITION, LET'S INVEST IN EDUCATION. LET'S PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK. LET'S FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN. THAT'S THE WAY BOTH TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, AND TO HONOR ELEANOR ROOSEVELT. //

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT WAS 36 BEFORE SHE CAST HER FIRST VOTE, BECAUSE THE LAW DIDN'T LET HER. WHAT A WASTE. SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM ELECTING PUBLIC OFFICIALS. SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ONE. //

TODAY IT SOMETIMES SEEMS THAT THE IDEALS WHICH GUIDED ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S LIFE HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. TWO YEARS AGO, I CO-CHAIRERD THE FIRST FULL SCALE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON PAY EQUITY AND COMPARABLE WORTH. IN THOSE HEARINGS I LEARNED THAT TREE TRIMMERS IN DENVER WERE PAID MORE THAN EMERGENCY ROOM NURSES. I LEARNED THAT DOG POUND ATTENDANTS WERE PAID MORE THAN CHILD CARE WORKERS. AND LIQUOR STORE CLERKS WERE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN BEGINNING TEACHERS.

NOW I DON'T WANT TO RUN DOWN ANY WORKERS. / BUT THE FACT IS, WOMEN ARE BEING PAID LESS BECAUSE THEY ARE WOMEN. / AND THAT'S WRONG. /

THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT STANDS FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. THEY OUGHT TO. / IT'S THE LAW. / BUT THEY HAVE DRAGGED THEIR FEET FOR FOUR YEARS, AND THEY OPPOSE PAY EQUITY IN THEIR PLATFORM. /

WALTER MONDALE AND I BELIEVE WE OUGHT TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS. / SINCE WE'RE ALL FOR EQUAL TREATMENT, LET'S TREAT MEN AND WOMEN AS EQUALS. /

WHEN I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR MY SECOND TERM, I'LL BE THINKING OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR FAIRNESS. BECAUSE I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT ~~///~~ LET ME ADD, I'M NOT JUST SPEAKING TO WOMEN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO BE OFFENDED BY DISCRIMINATION. MOST MEN ~~DO~~ TOO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO WANT THE BEST EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILDREN. I SAY TO THE PRESIDENT: SENDING A TEACHER INTO OUTER SPACE WON'T HELP PUT OUR CHILDREN THROUGH COLLEGE. LET'S HELP TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HERE ON EARTH.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO WORRY ABOUT ISSUES THAT CONCERN WOMEN. WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE AMERICA'S ISSUES. AND THE ISSUE WE CARE MOST OF ALL ABOUT IS PEACE.

I AM FOR A STRONG DEFENSE. A PRESIDENT MUST KNOW WHERE TO USE FORCE AND WHEN, BUT HE MUST ALSO KNOW WHEN IT SHOULD NOT BE USED. I SAY: LET'S UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BEFORE WE ARM IT.

It is time to end

~~AND LET'S~~ END THE ARMS RACE, BECAUSE THAT IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO PEACE. WALTER MONDALE HAS FOUGHT FOR ARMS CONTROL FOR AS LONG AS RONALD REAGAN HAS OPPOSED IT -- AND THAT'S A LONG TIME.

IN 1969, FRITZ MONDALE WAS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF SENATORS WHO OPPOSED PUTTING MULTIPLE WARHEADS ON OUR MISSILES BECAUSE, AS HE SAID, THE SOVIETS WOULD SOON CATCH UP AND DO THE SAME THING. IF WE HAD LISTENED TO WALTER MONDALE THEN, WE WOULD BE SAFER TODAY.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WITH THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS, BUT WHO WILL ALSO HAVE THE WISDOM TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM. AND I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL NEGOTIATE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE FREEZE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

FRITZ MONDALE HAS FOUGHT FOR OUR CHILDREN ALL THROUGH HIS CAREER. WHEN WALTER MONDALE WAS A SENATOR, HE LED THE FIGHT FOR EXPANDED DAY CARE, CHILD NUTRITION, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. AND AS VICE PRESIDENT, HE FOUGHT FOR AND HELPED FOUND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, A LEADER MUST REMIND US NOT ONLY THAT WE ARE A GREAT NATION, BUT THAT AMERICA CAN BE EVEN GREATER. EVERY NOW AND THEN, A LEADER MUST SWIM AGAINST THE TIDE TO BE TRUE TO HIS BELIEFS. FRITZ MONDALE IS THAT KIND OF LEADER.

NAME THE LAST TIME RONALD REAGAN TOOK THE LEAD ON A ISSUE IN
ADVANCE OF HIS TIME. / A LEADER MUST. // NAME THE LAST TIME
PRESIDENT REAGAN TOOK A CHANCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. / WALTER
MONDALE HAS. / TIME AND AGAIN HE HAS PUT HIS CAREER ON THE LINE TO
SECURE THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS. //

AND THE MOST RECENT CHANCE HE TOOK WAS TO ASK ME TO BE HIS
VICE PRESIDENT. / EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. / ONLY A
FEW STAND UP FOR IT. / AND WHEN I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE AS THE
FIRST FEMALE VICE PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY / WE CAN ALL THANK
WALTER MONDALE. /

THIS CANDIDACY IS NOT JUST A SYMBOL: / IT'S A BREAKTHROUGH. /
IT'S NOT JUST A STATEMENT: / IT'S A BOND BETWEEN WOMEN ALL OVER
AMERICA. //

IN ST. PAUL A FEW WEEKS AGO, A 91-YEAR-OLD WOMAN CAME UP TO
ME, HUGGED ME AND SAID: "I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE THIS DAY."
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THIS DAY. BUT I THINK
SHE'D BE PROUD.

I WAS THINKING ON MY WAY HERE ABOUT ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND
WHAT SHE HAS MEANT TO ME. I WAS STRUCK BY HOW LITTLE WE HAVE IN
COMMON.

SHE WAS BORN TO PRIVILEGE. / I WAS NOT. / SHE CAME FROM A
FAMOUS AMERICAN FAMILY. / MY FATHER WAS ~~BORN IN~~ ITALY,
an immigrant from

YOU NAME IT: / RELIGION / ACCENT / EDUCATION / AND BACKGROUND. /
WE ~~WERE~~ AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY.

BUT WHEN YOU COME DOWN TO IT, NONE OF THAT REALLY MATTERS.
BECAUSE WE SHARE BELIEFS, AND THAT MEANS FAR MORE THAN ALL THE
LESS IMPORTANT WAYS WE DIFFER. AND THE BELIEFS WE SHARE ARE THE
ONES THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR.

CIVIL RIGHTS; / JOBS AND A DECENT LIFE FOR WORKING MEN AND
WOMEN; / PEACE; / DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS; / AND JUSTICE FOR EVERY
AMERICAN.

THOSE ARE MY GOALS / AND THE GOALS OF MY RUNNING MATE AND MY
PARTY. / ELEANOR ROOSEVELT DEDICATED HER LIFE TO THEM, AND TODAY
THEY ARE AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION. /

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT! / WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THE HEART
AND SOUL OF THIS COUNTRY.

THIS IS A BRAND NEW RACE. / IT'S GETTING HOT / AND THEY'RE
FEELING THE HEAT. / IT'S GETTING CLOSE -- AND THEY'RE GETTING
WORRIED.

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FOR OUR COUNTRY, FOR OUR FUTURE, FOR THE PRINCIPLES WE
BELIEVE IN, WALTER MONDALE AND I HAVE JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT.

- END -