

10-22-1984

## Harlem Rally Speech, Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building

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### Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Harlem Rally Speech, Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building" (1984). *Speeches*. 51.  
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ADAM CLAYTON POWELL STATE OFFICE BUILDING -- HARLEM, NY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1984

THANK YOU, CHARLIE, FOR THAT TERRIFIC INTRODUCTION. THE 16TH DISTRICT HAS A GREAT CONGRESSMAN IN MY COLLEAGUE CHARLIE RANGEL AND OUR CAMPAIGN HAS THE BEST CO-CHAIR WE COULD ASK FOR. THANK YOU, CHARLIE, FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE.

AND THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO HARLEM TODAY. HARLEM HAS LONG BEEN THE CRADLE OF CULTURAL CREATIVITY AND OUTSTANDING POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. ~~SOME OF THOSE LEADERS ARE WITH US TODAY:~~

~~PERCY SUTTON ...~~

*Did you see the debate last night*

NOW THAT I'M IN FRONT OF A TRULY NONPARTISAN AUDIENCE, I WANT TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY:

DID FRITZ MONDALE WIN THAT DEBATE LAST NIGHT?

DID HE SHOW WHO'S REALLY IN COMMAND?

ARE WE GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION?

YOU BET WE ARE.

2) WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, BLACK AMERICANS WERE FIGHTING FOR THIS COUNTRY IN EUROPE, BUT BACK AT HOME THEY WERE BARRED FROM LUNCH COUNTERS, HOTELS, AND VOTING BOOTHS.

OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS, WE CHANGED ALL THAT. DURING THE 1950s, THE SUPREME COURT OUTLAWED SEGREGATED SCHOOLS. DURING THE 1960s, AFTER MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, BLACKS WON FOR THEMSELVES THE RIGHT TO VOTE, THE RIGHT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC FACILITIES, AND THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968 -- WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, WALTER MONDALE HELPED TO WRITE. AND WE MADE BIGOTRY SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE AT LAST.

And other minority groups have joined us in the fight for full equality

I'M PROUD OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME AS A NATION. WE'RE NOT PERFECT, BUT EACH DECADE WE'RE GETTING BETTER.

IT SAYS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT AMERICA WHEN LAWYERS AND DOCTORS AND PROFESSORS ARE BLACK AND HISPANIC AND FEMALE.

IT SAYS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT AMERICA WHEN TWO OF THE FIRST ASTRONAUTS TO FLY IN THE SPACE SHUTTLE WERE A BLACK AND A WOMAN.

AND IT SAYS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT AMERICA WHEN ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND INFLUENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF OUR TIME IS REVEREND JESSE JACKSON.

EVERY TIME THIS NATION LOWERS ANOTHER BARRIER, OUR SOCIETY IS STRENGTHENED. / EVERY TIME WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TALENTS WE HAD EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF RACISM OR SEXISM, OUR COUNTRY IS RICHER. //

THAT'S WHY I'M SO WORRIED TODAY. / FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFETIME, I THINK WE'RE GOING BACKWARDS. //

THIRTY YEARS AFTER BROWN VERSUS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, / THIS ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO SEGREGATED ACADEMIES. //

TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, / THIS ADMINISTRATION DRAGGED IT'S FEET ON EXTENDING THAT LANDMARK LAW. //

TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE WAR ON POVERTY, / THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS CUT TWELVE BILLION DOLLARS FROM FOOD STAMPS AND CHILD NUTRITION. /

TWENTY YEARS AFTER LYNDON JOHNSON MADE A GOOD EDUCATION THE RIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS, / RATHER THAN THE PRIVILEGE OF A FEW, / THEY'VE CUT HEAD START, STUDENT ASSISTANCE, AND PELL GRANTS. //

THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT OPPORTUNITY IS THE KEY TO OUR FREEDOM, OUR STABILITY, AND OUR FAIRNESS. /

THE PEOPLE OF HARLEM WANT TO WORK. YOU WANT JOBS. THIS PRESIDENT TELLS YOU TO READ THE HELP WANTED ADS, AS IF EVERY UNEMPLOYED PERSON HASN'T COMBED THOSE ADS DAY AFTER DAY. ANY PRESIDENT WHO INSULTS THE UNEMPLOYED, INSTEAD OF HELPING THEM FIND JOBS, OUGHT TO LOSE HIS JOB.

LET THIS PRESIDENT COME TO HARLEM. LET HIM MEET THE PEOPLE HERE. LET HIM FIND OUT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HARLEM WANT NOTHING MORE THAN JOBS, A CHANCE TO WORK AND SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES, A CHANCE TO STAND ON THEIR OWN AND CONTRIBUTE TO THIS COUNTRY.

THE PEOPLE OF HARLEM WANT QUALITY EDUCATION FOR YOUR SCHOOLS. I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE GOOD EDUCATION I RECEIVED. AND I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A TEACHER IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IF I HADN'T THOUGHT THAT TEACHING YOUNGSTERS IS ONE OF THE MOST WORTHY THINGS A PERSON CAN DO.

LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN EDUCATION. WALTER MONDALE HELPED CREATE HEAD START, BILINGUAL EDUCATION, AND EXPANDED STUDENT ASSISTANCE. RONALD REAGAN THINKS IT HELPS KIDS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. I SAY, LET'S PICK A PRESIDENT WHO WILL HELP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE ON EARTH.

LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN OUR CITIES. RONALD REAGAN HASN'T DONE MUCH FOR CITIES. HE PREFERS HIS RANCH. WELL, IF HE LIKES HIS RANCH SO MUCH, LET'S SEND HIM BACK THERE AND ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WANTS TO REBUILD OUR CITIES.

WE'RE ALSO IN A FIGHT FOR THE ELDERLY OF AMERICA. TO PROTECT THEM, LET'S HAVE RONALD REAGAN COLLECTING SOCIAL SECURITY BACK IN CALIFORNIA, INSTEAD OF CUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY IN WASHINGTON.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR OUR PERSONAL FREEDOMS. WE WANT WALTER MONDALE PICKING SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, NOT JERRY FALWELL.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T MAKE IT ON THEIR OWN. RONALD REAGAN SAYS THE HOMELESS LIKE LIVING ON THE STREETS. WALTER MONDALE WANTS TO HELP THEM FIND SHELTER.

WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR THE HUNGRY. THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS THERE IS NO HUNGER IN AMERICA. WALTER MONDALE WANTS TO INVEST MORE IN THE HUMAN RACE AND LESS IN THE ARMS RACE.

AND WE'RE IN A FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WE MUST STAND FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE ABROAD BECAUSE, AS REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. KNEW, "INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

LAST TUESDAY, BISHOP DESMOND TUTU RECEIVED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR HIS CRUSADE AGAINST APARTHEID. ON THE DAY HE GOT THAT RICHLY DESERVED AWARD, HE SAID THAT THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY WAS "MUD" BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR A SYSTEM THAT HAS BROUGHT (QUOTE) "UNTOLD MISERY TO SO MANY OF GOD'S CHILDREN."

TO KEEP FAITH WITH OUR VALUES, WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL PRESS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NOT ONLY IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO IN EL SALVADOR, THE PHILLIPINES, AND SOUTH AFRICA

SOME PEOPLE, LIKE THE LEADERS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, NEVER THINK ABOUT THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN THEMSELVES. AS LONG AS THEY PROSPER, IT DOES NOT MATTER IF OTHERS SUFFER. AS LONG AS THEY GET AHEAD, OTHERS CAN FALL BEHIND.

BUT THAT IS NOT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE. AMERICA IS NOT A SELFISH LAND. WE ARE A GENEROUS, CARING PEOPLE.

WHEN MOSES LED HIS PEOPLE ACROSS THE RED SEA AND OUT OF BONDAGE, NO ONE ASKED WHO WAS FIRST TO CROSS, BUT WHETHER THE LAST ONES WERE SAFE. AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PROMISED LAND. AND IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF US TO CROSS OVER.

AS THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SAID, WE WILL NOT BE SATISFIED "UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN LIKE WATERS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A MIGHTY STREAM."

WITH DR. KING, LET'S DECLARE FINALLY THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE JUDGED NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

WITH DR. KING, LET'S SAY WE FACE AN ADVERSARY, BUT WE HAVE FACED ADVERSARIES BEFORE, AND THIS ONE TOO WE SHALL OVERCOME.

THE TIME TO GO TO WORK FOR OUR FUTURE IS NOT LATER -- IT'S NOW.

THE TIME FOR A RE-BIRTH OF JUSTICE IS NOT LATER -- IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO ELECT WALTER MONDALE PRESIDENT AND GERRY FERRARO VICE-PRESIDENT IS NOT LATER -- IT'S NOW.

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE END OF MY SPEECH. BUT I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ELSE. IF YOU DON'T GO TO THE POLLS, WE CAN'T WIN. I NEED YOUR HELP ON NOVEMBER 6.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

-- END --