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## Remarks by Rep. Geraldine Ferraro: Working Women's Registration Event, Cleveland, Ohio, July 31, 1984

Geraldine Ferraro

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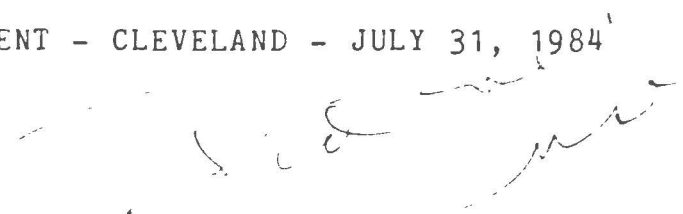
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REMARKS BY REP. GERALDINE FERRARO - WORKING WOMEN'S VOTER  
REGISTRATION EVENT - CLEVELAND - JULY 31, 1984

  
I want to thank Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar and all of you for welcoming me back to Cleveland today. When I was here last May to chair a regional hearing of the Democratic Platform Committee, the Greater Cleveland Growth Association gave me a handsome pewter ashtray and named me an honorary citizen.

The ashtray is proudly on display in my Congressional office. But I guess I should tell you that I am hoping to show it off in a different office in Washington this January.

This day began in my neighborhood in Queens where we showed Fritz Mondale some down-home New York hospitality. After this visit, Fritz Mondale and I are on our way to Jackson, Mississippi. As we travel this land I am constantly reminded how much we all have in common in this country.

Women, especially, are reaching out -- across state lines, across racial lines, across political lines -- to address concerns about education and jobs and family life.

The fact is that more women are working outside the

home than ever before. Many of us are supporting families on our own. Many of us are facing old age alone. And we are doing it for just 61%. Yes -- right now, in 1984, full-time working women are making just 61% as much as full-time working men.

Here in Ohio, your Governor, Dick Celeste, promised to look at women's wages -- and he is living up to that promise. A study of pay levels in the Ohio state workforce is underway. As members of Congress, Mary Rose Oakar and I chaired a series of hearings on pay inequity back in 1982. We are working to achieve fairer pay for women in the federal and private sectors.

We reject the notion that paying women like you what your work is worth will take pay away from your husbands. The simple fact is that those who say our economy can't afford to pay women fairly are the same folks who said it would cost too much to abolish child labor, ban racial discrimination, or pay a minimum wage.

what can you do about the economy -- your economy? You have all taken the first big step today by registering to vote. The next step is to go out and use that vote in November. Just 64 years after we won the right to vote, we are going to use our votes this year to make a difference in the way this country is run.

When my youngest daughter Laura turned 18 in June, I gave her two presents -- a Walkman stereo set and a voter registration card. I suspect she liked the first present a little more. But I know the vote will do more for her and for our country over the long run. So, get out there and vote. Sign up your mothers and your grandmothers and your aunts and sisters and daughters. In this great Democracy, voting makes us strong. Thank you.