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New York Rally Speech

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REMARKS OF CONGRESSWOMAN GERALDINE A. FERRARO

SHERATON CENTRE -- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1984

Today we celebrate a day of discovery, we honor Christopher Columbus.

When Columbus set sail on his voyage, the Old World scoffed. They told him it couldn't be done. They said the world was flat. They warned Columbus he would fall off the edge if he did not change his course. But he stuck to his plan and he brought back not just new treasure. He made possible a new world.

Today, after almost 500 years we have a new bunch of flat worlders. They say Fritz Mondale and I should trim our sails. They say we can't run a campaign where we say what we think, and tell people the truth. Well, I say, ~~just watch us.~~

I hope they wanted the debate was never.

They say we can't win, but I say we can and we will. And just to prove it, let me take my own scientific, objective survey right here.

~~You have to say~~

Are we going to win in November?

Are we going to send Walter Mondale to the White House and

*they said RR could get long
expect that there that under are going to be
around once again*

Ronald Reagan back to the ranch?

You bet we are.

This Columbus Day, let us renew our faith in America's future. Let us celebrate the promise of tomorrow. And let's keep that promise to all Americans, not just the privileged few.

Christopher Columbus told his countrymen that the people living in the new world were a generous people. He said, "they show as much love as if they were giving their hearts."

For almost five hundred years the compassion and warmth that is truly the spirit of America has not dimmed. But this election is a struggle for the heart and soul of our country.

On November 6th we will decide what kind of future we face. And last night's debate showed just how clear that choice will be. Those who said Ronald Reagan would win are printing retractions and eating crow today.

Last night, Walter Mondale showed us the difference between leadership and salesmanship. He showed us the difference between honest opinions and pre-paid commercials. But most of all, he showed us that this election will not be bought by promises. It will be won by answers. That's why we'll have Walter Mondale in the White House next year.

We know Walter Mondale will build a more secure future by freezing the arms race today. We need a president who will stand up to the Soviets, but who has the wisdom to sit down with them and negotiate an end to the arms race.

We know Walter Mondale will build a more tolerant future by appointing a Supreme Court that will guard our rights, not restrict our lives. Let's not permit Jerry Falwell to pick the next two justices of the Supreme Court.

We know Walter Mondale will build a more just future by passing the Equal Rights Amendment. / When I take my oath of office for my second term as vice-president I want to swear to uphold a constitution that includes the ERA.

Finally, we know Walter Mondale will build a more peaceful future by working toward peace in Central America. We need a president who will do more than just call for new talks. / We need a president who will end the covert war in Nicaragua.

But now, I'll let him tell it in his own words. So, in this corner at a feisty one hundred and seventy pounds, the new heavyweight debater of the free world -- Fightin' Fritz Mondale.

--END--

Of course, Columbus Day is not the real reason we're here today. We're really here to help Steve Adubato, Jr. celebrate his birthday. And to honor his father, Steve Adubato, Sr., who founded this center, and reaffirmed our most cherished values of family and community.

I know those values well. They are the values I was taught by my own parents.

My father came here from the small town of Marcianise, in Casserta. He came to this land of golden opportunity, believing that if you worked hard, played by the rules, and kept faith with your God, you could carve out a better future for yourself and your family.

My mother shared that belief. And when she was widowed with two young children, she went back to work in New York City's garment district, to make sure my brother and I would have the opportunities she never had.

And because she worked hard, I worked hard. I wasn't about to let her down. After college I taught in the public schools of New York by day, and went to law school at night. It was hard work, but I owed that to her.