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## Baltimore Rally Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

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Paul Sarbanes  
Barbara Mikulski

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1984

I WANT TO THANK MS. DIXON -- THE PAST PRESIDENT OF BUILD --  
FOR THAT GRACIOUS INTRODUCTION. WITHOUT MS. DIXON, GARY  
RODWELL, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF BUILD, THIS FINE CHILD CARE  
CENTER WOULD NOT EXIST, AND WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF REVEREND  
DOBSON, IT COULD NOT CONTINUE, BUT MOST OF ALL, THIS CENTER IS  
A TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF BALTIMORE, AND THE HARD WORK OF ITS  
PEOPLE.

THE LIFE OF EVERY MOTHER AND CHILD HERE HAS BEEN IMPROVED  
BY THIS CHILD CARE CENTER. AND EVERY DAY ITS SUCCESS PROVES  
THAT WHILE WE ALL HAVE SEPARATE DESTINIES, NONE OF US IS ALONE.  
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

YOU HAVE STOOD TOGETHER FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE IN THIS  
COMMUNITY, AND YOU DESERVE THE SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.  
THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL GET WITH WALTER MONDALE. ~~HE HAS STOOD WITH~~  
~~YOU~~ FOR HIS WHOLE LIFE, <sup>He has fought</sup> FIGHTING AGAINST INJUSTICE,  
DISCRIMINATION AND POVERTY. <sup>He has fought</sup> AND ~~HE HAS STOOD WITH YOU~~ <sup>IN THE</sup>  
~~FIGHT~~ FOR CHILD CARE, HEAD START AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. WALTER  
MONDALE WROTE THE LANDMARK DAY CARE LEGISLATION THAT RICHARD  
NIXON VETOED. HE WORKED AND VOTED FOR CHILD NUTRITION AND  
PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS. AND HE WILL WORK FOR YOU AGAIN AS  
PRESIDENT. BUT HE NEEDS YOUR HELP NEXT WEEK.

AS A MOTHER, A WIFE, AND A LAWYER, I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY TO RAISE A FAMILY AND <sup>hold ~~to~~ a job</sup> PURSUE ~~A CAREER~~. FOR TWENTY YEARS I'VE TRIED TO DO THAT, AND, I THINK, WITH SOME SUCCESS. IT WAS HARD FOR ME, AND I'VE HAD ADVANTAGES DENIED TO MANY WOMEN.

FIRST, ALTHOUGH I FOUGHT FOR EVERYTHING I HAVE TODAY, I WASN'T FORCED TO WORK. BUT MOST WOMEN WORK FOR THE SAME REASON MOST MEN WORK -- TO MAKE ENDS MEET AND THEY NEED THE SAME THING MEN DO -- A DECENT LIVING. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DON'T ALWAYS GET IT. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT POVERTY WE ARE OFTEN SPEAKING OF HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY WOMEN. WHEN WE HEAR ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT, WE ARE OFTEN HEARING ABOUT SINGLE MOTHERS FORCED TO STAY HOME BECAUSE THEY CANNOT LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN ALONE.

NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A JOB, AND A FAMILY. IT'S A CHOICE WE <sup>cannot</sup> ~~CAN'T~~ AFFORD TO MAKE.

SECOND, I DIDN'T HAVE TO RAISE MY FAMILY ALONE. TODAY, MORE MOTHERS ARE TRYING TO DO THAT, BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS. WELL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO <sup>claim to be pro-life</sup> ~~OPPOSE CHOICE~~ REFUSE TO SUPPORT NUTRITION AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS THAT CHILDREN NEED.

WE CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. OUR CHILDREN DESERVE THE BEST WE CAN GIVE THEM.

THIRD, ALTHOUGH MY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LUCKY TO HAVE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES, BLACK CHILDREN STILL HAVE THE ODDS STACKED AGAINST THEM FROM BIRTH -- THEIR INFANT MORTALITY NOW IS HIGHER, THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IS LOWER, AND THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL IS A DISASTER. THE FATE OF MANY BLACK CHILDREN IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE. WALTER MONDALE AND I WILL EVEN THOSE ODDS.

AND ONE WAY WE'LL DO THAT IS TO SUPPORT AND FUND A NEW COMMITMENT TO QUALITY CHILD CARE. CHILD CARE CAN HELP TURN THE STRUGGLE OF WORKING MOTHERS INTO A CHALLENGING AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH PARENT AND CHILD. SONS AND DAUGHTERS LEARN HOW TO INTERPRET THE WORLD BY WATCHING THEIR PARENTS. AND WHEN THEY SEE PRODUCTIVE, SUCCESSFUL FATHERS AND MOTHERS, THEY LEARN THE KEY TO THE AMERICAN DREAM. THEY DISCOVER THAT HARD WORK PAYS OFF, AND THAT LESSON STAYS WITH A CHILD THROUGH HIS OR HER LIFE.

THAT'S ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS OF GIRLS, BECAUSE -  
- LET'S FACE IT -- OUR DAUGHTERS WILL PROBABLY BE AS LIKELY TO HOLD A JOB AS OUR SONS.

BUT IF OUR DAUGHTERS, AND OUR SONS, ARE GOING TO WORK, WE NEED MORE THAN CHILD CARE, WE NEED JOBS -- GOOD JOBS THAT CAN SUPPORT A FAMILY AND LEAVE THEM ROOM FOR DREAMS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LESSONS OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS DO NOT GIVE US HOPE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES HAVE BEEN BAD FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. / BUT THEY'VE BEEN A DISASTER FOR BLACK AMERICANS. /

NO ONE HAS A GREATER STAKE IN THIS ELECTION THAN MINORITIES, THE POOR, THE HOMELESS AND THE UNEMPLOYED. / AND NO ONE HAS A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO GET INVOLVED THAN THE COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PARENTS IN THIS ROOM. /

*Get right to Build*

AS THE PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN THIS HEAD START PROGRAM KNOW ALL TOO WELL, / THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT HARDER THAN EVER TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION IN THE CITY. / THEY'VE CUT MONEY FOR HEAD START AND TITLE I -- TWO OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS IN HISTORY. //

BUT THE DAMAGE DIDN'T STOP THERE. / ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO BLACK TEENAGERS IS UNEMPLOYED TODAY. / HALF OF OUR MOST PRODUCTIVE AND ENERGETIC GENERATION IS LOCKED OUT OF THE WORK FORCE. /

ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO BLACK CHILDREN NOW LIVES IN POVERTY, / AND MORE OF THEM ARE BEING FORCED TO LIVE ON THE STREET EACH DAY. / IN THIS CITY / THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW PUBLIC HOUSING BUILT SINCE RONALD REAGAN TOOK OFFICE. / BUT THE NEED FOR HOUSING KEEPS GROWING. / NOW, ANOTHER COLD WINTER IS ROLLING IN. / AND 48,000 OF YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS ARE STANDING IN LINE FOR SHELTER. //

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. EVERY AMERICAN HAS A GOOD REASON TO VOTE FOR WALTER MONDALE. BUT LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING FROM THE HEART. BLACKS, AND WOMEN, AND DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME IF THEY STAY HOME AND LET RONALD REAGAN BE PRESIDENT AGAIN.

YOU MUST TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHO MIGHT NOT VOTE THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR. YOU KNOW HOW HIGH THE STAKES ARE, AND AS MOTHERS, FATHERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, YOU HAVE A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY. YOU MUST LET OUR PEOPLE KNOW. //

*And don't let the girls discourage you - they're wrong -*

THEY MUST KNOW THAT OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON HOW WE VOTE NEXT WEEK. WE AREN'T VOTING FOR JUST THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS, OR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS, OR EVEN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. WE ARE VOTING FOR THE REST OF THIS CENTURY.

MOST OF ALL, WE'RE VOTING FOR OUR CHILDREN. EVERYWHERE I'VE BEEN SINCE THE CONVENTION I NOTICE THE CHILDREN. SOME ARE SITTING ON THEIR FATHER'S SHOULDERS. SOME ARE HOLDING THEIR MOTHER'S HAND, AND SOME ARE JUST STANDING AT THE FRONT OF OUR CROWDS WITH THAT GLORIOUS EXPRESSION OF JOY AND AMAZEMENT THAT FADES ALL TOO QUICKLY AS WE GROW OLDER.

I THINK ABOUT THEM, AND I WONDER HOW THEIR LIVES WILL TURN OUT. I WONDER WHAT KIND OF WORLD WE WILL LEAVE THEM. AND I WONDER ABOUT THE ANSWERS WE WILL FIND, AND THE PROBLEMS WE WILL SOLVE. THAT'S WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ALL ABOUT, AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TODAY.

ABOVE ALL, WE HAVE TO LEAVE OUR CHILDREN A SAFER WORLD. WE MUST ACT LIKE ADULTS AND GET THIS ARMS RACE UNDER CONTROL. WE MUST WORK WITH OUR ALLIES, OUR FRIENDS, AND EVEN OUR ENEMIES TO REDUCE WORLD TENSIONS AND TO REDUCE THE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES THAT THREATEN US EVERY DAY.

BUT SAFETY IS MORE THAN JUST PEACE. IT IS CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND CLEAN LAND. TOXIC WASTE DUMPS ARE POISONING OUR LAKES AND STREAMS. WE CAN'T KEEP SACRIFICING THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN FOR THE PROFITS OF POLLUTERS. WE HAVE TO GET THOSE DUMPS CLEANED UP, AND THE POLLUTERS SHOULD PAY FOR IT.

FINALLY, SAFETY MEANS FOOD, SHELTER, AND CLOTHING THAT KEEP OUR CHILDREN HEALTHY AND WARM. FOR FIFTY YEARS, EVERY PRESIDENT, EVERY CONGRESS HAS WORKED TO WIPE OUT HUNGER AND DISEASE AMONG AMERICAN CHILDREN. THIS IS NO TIME TO RETREAT.

ON ELECTION DAY, I WANT YOU ~~ALL~~ TO THINK ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHO WILL STAND BESIDE YOU IN THE FIGHT FOR THEIR FUTURE. WHEN YOU DO THAT, I KNOW YOU'LL JOIN ME IN VOTING FOR OUR CHILDREN BY PULLING THE LEVER FOR WALTER MONDALE.

THANK YOU.