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Letter from a New York Supporter to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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[REDACTED]
Buffalo, New York 14210
July 12, 1984

Hon. Geraldine Ferraro
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ferraro:

As I began my normal work day this morning at 6:00 A.M. and turned on the radio in my kitchen, I was absolutely delighted to hear that you were to be the choice for Vice President. Since that time every single man or woman I have met up to the writing of this letter has been genuinely enthusiastic about your choice and sees it as a real step toward an exciting and successful campaign.

I had the opportunity to hear you in Buffalo on April 28th at the Pellamwood Restaurant when you spoke at the 33rd Annual Political Conference of the Women's Division of the New York State Democratic Committee. If a vote could have been taken that night, you would indeed be the Vice President of the United States.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing the speech I gave that afternoon on the National Democratic Platform serving with [REDACTED] as it covers my background and political involvement. I was Joe Crangle's representative on the panel and have worked with Joe for many, many years and know of his dedication to the Democratic Party and its principles. I know that Joe is a good friend and avid supporter of yours. I am certain that Erie County under Joe will be a great, great help to the Democratic ticket.

Again I am delighted and excited for you and your family and I want you to know that I am available to give you any help here in Erie County or in any capacity that you would deem needed or necessary.

I may be contacted at the above address or at work [REDACTED].

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain,

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Enclosure

JUL 23 1984

WASHINGTON OFFICE

GOOD AFTERNOON. IT IS A PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM WESTERN NEW YORK ON THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM PANEL.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THE PARTY. LORD, HOW MANY TIMES I TYPED THAT STATEMENT/OVER AND OVER AGAIN/AS A YOUNG GIRL TRAINING TO BE A LEGAL SECRETARY. I CAME TO MY PARTY'S AID 34 YEARS AGO. I BEGAN BY HANDING OUT CARDS AT RALLYS FOR THE LATE MAYOR FRANK A. SEDITA IN HIS BID FOR SUPREME COURT (WHEN NO DEMOCRAT COULD WIN)--WHAT A CHANGE FROM TODAY WITH OVER 50% OF THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES IN THE 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DEMOCRATS, TWO OF WHOM ARE WOMEN. AND SO IT BEGAN--AND SO IT CONTINUES. INVOLVEMENT WHICH HAS REMAINED THROUGHOUT MY MARRIAGE OF 32 YEARS TO A MAN DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND TO ITS BELIEFS THROUGH THE RAISING OF MY SIX CHILDREN AND THROUGH MY RETURN TO WORK AFTER 20 YEARS.

POLITICS WAS GOOD FOR ME AND TO ME--I WAS ABLE TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE WORLD AROUND ME. I NEVER FELT FROZEN IN MY ROLE AS A HOUSEWIFE AND MOTHER. YES, I STUFFED THE ENVELOPES, HANDED OUT THE LITERATURE, SET UP THE RALLYS, TYPED THE SPEECHES AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, SET UP THE LUNCHES AND TEAS AND ATTENDED THE MEETINGS AND STILL DO. I BECAME A DISTRICT COMMITTEEMAN, WAS A KENNEDY DELEGATE TO THE 1980 CONVENTION, AND WON A DECISIVE RACE FOR STATE COMMITTEEMAN. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT I NEVER LOST TOUCH WITH THE GRASS ROOTS--WITH THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

MOST OF MY POLITICAL CAREER HAS BEEN SPENT IN HELPING MEN IN THEIR BID FOR OFFICE BUT SINCE MY OPINION WAS SOUGHT, AND MY ADVICE FOLLOWED ON FREQUENT OCCASION, I NEVER REALLY FELT THAT MY VOICE AS A WOMAN WAS BEING OVERLOOKED IN THE REALM OF PARTY POLITICS. I FELT THAT I WAS WELCOME AS A POLITICIAN AND AS A WOMAN, AND, OF COURSE, I DELIGHTED IN BOTH.

AS TO PARTY POLITICS, IS IT ALL THAT SURPRISING THAT THE PARTY SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE WEAKENING? TRADITIONALLY THE PARTY MEANT DISCIPLINE--EACH MEMBER WORKING FOR ITS GOOD AND PART OF A DISCIPLINED WHOLE. WITH THE GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF DISCIPLINE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY--IN FAMILY, IN SCHOOL, IN CHURCH, IN LABOR UNIONS, THERE HAS LIKEWISE BEEN A BREAKDOWN IN POLITICAL PARTY DISCIPLINE. IF THERE IS ANY SINGLE FACTOR IN 1984 POLITICS, IT IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AS A CANDIDATE, THE PERSON WHO DOES NOT DEPEND UPON ANY PARTICULAR PARTY FOR ORGANIZATION, FINANCING OR SUPPORT. TRUE, THIS CANDIDATE MAY RECEIVE SUCH HELP FROM THE PARTY, BUT FEELS NO RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER TO THE PARTY. I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS CHANGE IF I FELT THAT IT PROVIDED BETTER GOVERNMENT. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT IT HAS NOT. I BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT DISCIPLINE IN EVERY FACET OF LIFE IS THE CORNERSTONE AND BACKBONE OF A STRONG AMERICA.

AND SO IF I LOOK AT MYSELF HONESTLY, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT FOR MOST OF MY YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT I DID NOT SEE POLITICS THROUGH THE EYES OF A WOMAN. THEN, NINE YEARS AGO I STEPPED

INTO ANOTHER WORLD--THE WORLD OF THE WORKING WOMAN. WITH SOME 70 WOMEN AROUND ME, I SAW AND HEARD FIRST HAND THE ANGER, THE FRUSTRATIONS AND THE PROBLEMS--UNEQUAL PAY, UNABLE TO SPEAK OUT FOR FEAR OF BEING FIRED BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO WORK--THE SINGLE WOMAN, THE UNWED MOTHER WHO HAS CHOSEN TO KEEP HER CHILD, THE DIVORCED WOMAN WITH CHILDREN TO RAISE, THE WIDOW, AND I SEE NOW MY OWN DAUGHTER AS A YOUNG MOTHER WHO HAS TO WORK (SHE DOES NOT HAVE A CHOICE OR THE LUXURY OF STAYING HOME AS I DID). AND HEARING THEIR OUTCRY MADE ME REALIZE THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR WOMEN TO GET INVOLVED--TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD AT THE VOTING BOOTH BECAUSE WE SEE LIFE IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. WHILE MOST WOMEN VIEWED POLITICS AS NOT THEIR "CUP OF TEA", THEY ARE NOW BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT POLITICS AND/OR GOVERNMENT CONTROL THEIR LIVES AND THAT THEY MUST BECOME INVOLVED AND BE HEARD ON THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEIR VERY LIVES.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR LEADERS LISTEN AND KEEP THEIR PROMISES AND FACE THE REALITY OF WOMEN IN TODAY'S WORLD? CERTAINLY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON HAS NOT HEARD THE WOMAN'S VOICE. THE VOTE IS THE KEY--THE LEVER. AND NOW THE BOTTOM LINE--WOMEN MUST RUN FOR OFFICE AND SET THE PACE AND BE THE LEADERS, DISTRICT COMMITTEEMEN, STATE COMMITTEEMEN, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AS I KNOW MANY IN THIS ROOM HAVE DONE. YES, WE HAVE MADE INROADS BUT HAVE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE. WE ARE ON THE HORIZON BUT HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE WE CHANGE THE COURSE OF THIS COUNTRY.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEED FORMULA FOR SUCCESS--BUT WITH HARD WORK WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN. WOMEN ARE USED TO HARD WORK!

AND SO 34 YEARS LATER, I WOULD TYPE THIS

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD WOMEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THE PARTY! THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK NOW--WE MUST GO FORWARD UNITED AS THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL--AS WOMEN--AND AS SUCH HOLD THE POWER TO ELECT THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

GAF DATA ENTRY FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

RR



City:

BUFFALO

State: NY

Zip: 14210 R/S: *

CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

RC

Letter Code: VO1

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION *

d/i code 1: W

d/i code 2: VOLUN

d/i code 3: _____

d/i code 4: _____

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