

9-15-1984

Syracuse University Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Syracuse University Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 107.
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/107

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the 1984 Vice-Presidential Campaign at FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. It has been accepted for inclusion in Speeches by an authorized administrator of FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. For more information, please contact tmelnick@law.fordham.edu.

9/15

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY -- HOME OF THE ORANGEMEN. I KNOW IT'S SATURDAY, AND I KNOW MANY OF YOU MAY BE MORE INTERESTED IN TODAY'S FOOTBALL GAME AGAINST Northwestern THAN YOU ARE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR FOOTBALL TEAM HAS A LOT IN COMMON WITH FRITZ MONDALE AND me. THEY SAID YOU COULDN'T BEAT MARYLAND -- THEY SAID YOU WERE THE UNDERDOGS. BUT I UNDERSTAND THEY WERE WRONG. WELL, PEOPLE SAY FRITZ AND I ARE UNDERDOGS TOO, THEY SAY WE CAN'T BEAT THE REPUBLICANS. BUT I THINK WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THEM A LITTLE ORANGEMEN MAGIC THIS FALL, AND WIN THIS ELECTION.

I REALLY WANT TO WIN IN NOVEMBER. NOT JUST FOR FRITZ MONDALE AND ME. BUT FOR ALL AMERICANS. I'VE TRAVELLED FROM COAST TO COAST SINCE THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, AND I SENSE A SURGE OF EXCITEMENT ABOUT THIS ELECTION. THERE'S A FEELING THAT WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR. PEOPLE SAY DEMOCRATS ARE GIVING THEM SOMETHING TO VOTE FOR ~~_____~~ NOT JUST SOMEONE TO VOTE AGAINST.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

2

AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS PEOPLE WILL VOTE FOR THIS YEAR IS PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. IN EVERY TOWN WE'VE VISITED / PEOPLE YOUR AGE ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, IF THEY ARE RE-ELECTED. / AND I DON'T BLAME THEM, BECAUSE I'M WORRIED TOO.

I HAVE THREE CHILDREN, LAURA AND JOHN, WHO ARE IN COLLEGE, AND DONNA WHO JUST GRADUATED. ~~THEY'RE OUT CAMPAIGNING FOR ME NOW, BUT OVER THE LAST YEAR WE'VE TALKED~~ *Talked* THEY'RE OUT CAMPAIGNING FOR ME NOW, ~~AND~~ BUT OVER THE LAST YEAR WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR AND THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE. TODAY, I WANT TO TALK WITH ALL ^{OF} YOU ABOUT THE SAME THING. THIS IS NOT A RALLY. THE PROBLEMS ARE TOO SERIOUS, AND YOU ALL HAVE TOO MUCH AT STAKE FOR ME TO GIVE YOU JUST ANOTHER SPEECH. SO, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU FROM THE HEART TODAY. AND I ASK YOU TO LISTEN CAREFULLY, BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CHOICE ON ELECTION DAY.

~~THEY'RE OUT CAMPAIGNING FOR ME NOW, BUT OVER THE LAST YEAR WE'VE TALKED~~

THIS ELECTION IS A WATERSHED FOR OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY. REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS DIFFER ON THE CAUSES, THE PROSPECTS AND THE SOLUTIONS FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN PROBLEMS. / RONALD REAGAN SAID THIS ELECTION PRESENTS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THEIR CLEAREST CHOICE IN FIFTY YEARS -- AND FOR ONCE HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

ON NOVEMBER 6TH, YOU WILL CHOOSE OUR FUTURE COURSE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. / WILL WE WORK WITH THOSE COUNTRIES TO STOP THE SPREAD OF POVERTY, OPPRESSION AND COMMUNISM AS WALTER MONDALE WANTS TO DO? OR WILL WE CONTINUE OUR NOT-SO-SECRET WARS THAT HAVE HURT OUR CAUSE?

I SAY WE SHOULD STOP THE FIGHTING AND STEP UP THE TALKS.

UNDER THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, I'M AFRAID THE FIGHTING WILL NOT STOP, AND THE TALKS WILL GET NOWHERE. I'VE STUDIED CENTRAL AMERICA, ^{I've been there} AND I'VE WATCHED THIS ADMINISTRATION. AND THEY JUST DON'T SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE.

THEY SEE THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS -- AS DO WE ALL -- BUT NOT THE CENTURIES OF POVERTY, ~~AND~~ OPPRESSION, ^{AND MILITARISM.}

THEY SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH GUERILLA SABOTAGE -- BUT NOT WHAT'S WRONG WITH CIA MINING.

THEY SEE THE NEED FOR AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA -- BUT NOT THE NEED TO TIE THAT AID TO IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

AND THEY SEEK THE APPROVAL OF WORLD OPINION, BUT NOT THE JUDGMENT OF THE WORLD COURT.

WE NEED AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SEES THE WHOLE PICTURE, NOT JUST HALF TRUTHS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO CENTRAL AMERICA IS NARROWING OUR OPTIONS, AND BLOCKING SOLUTIONS. WE HAVE NOW HAD ALMOST FOUR YEARS OF RONALD REAGAN'S POLICIES IN THAT REGION AND WHAT HAVE THEY ACCOMPLISHED?

CENTRAL AMERICA IS LESS STABLE NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE RONALD REAGAN TOOK OFFICE. THE SALVADORAN GUERILLA~~S~~ ARMY HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE. THE NICARAGUAN ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES HAVE SWELLED TO FOUR TIMES THEIR 1980 SIZE.

4

EVEN THE COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE GUERILLA WARS ARE LESS SECURE THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS BEFORE. AN EMERGING DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A STAGING AREA FOR A POSSIBLE REGIONAL WAR. AND COSTA RICA, A PEACEFUL DEMOCRACY WITHOUT EVEN A REGULAR ARMY, HAS NOW BEEN DRAGGED INTO CONFLICT WITH NICARAGUA. IN SHORT, CENTRAL AMERICA IS NOW BRISTLING WITH WEAPONS, AND MORE TENSE THAN EVER.

THIS ADMINISTRATION IS LOWERING THE FLASHPOINT THROUGHOUT THE REGION. AND NOTHING COULD BE MORE DANGEROUS, BECAUSE A MILITARY SOLUTION IS NO SOLUTION.

THE TREND TOWARD MILITARIZATION SEEMS TO GET STRONGER EACH DAY. RONALD REAGAN WANTED TO GET THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICA. INSTEAD, THERE ARE NOW MORE SOVIET AND EASTERN BLOC ADVISORS THAN THERE WERE IN 1980. THERE ARE THOUSANDS MORE CUBANS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA. AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE MORE OF OUR OWN YOUNG MEN IN HONDURAS.

SO, WHILE MR. REAGAN SAYS HE WANTS PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA, HIS POLICIES ARE MAKING CONFLICT MORE POSSIBLE. AND WHILE HE SAYS HE WANTS THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF THE REGION, HIS POLICIES ARE BRINGING THEM INTO THOSE COUNTRIES IN RECORD NUMBERS. IT SEEMS THAT HIS EFFORTS HAVE NOT ONLY FAILED, THEY HAVE TAKEN US BACKWARDS.

WE MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE ^{DAJGER} ~~PER~~ OF WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WHEN I WAS THERE EARLIER THIS YEAR I SPOKE WITH MANY CONSERVATIVE BUSINESSMEN WHO ~~SAID~~ TOLD ME THEY ~~WANTED U.S. MILITARY HELP~~. FOR DECADES THEY HAD BEEN THE "HAVES" AND NOW THEY ARE THREATENED BY THE SANDINISTAS. THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE AMERICANS TO COME AND SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. JUST THE WAY THEY DID UNDER SOMOZA. THEY ARE READY FOR THE MARINES

5

WE ARE NOT. I AM NOT DEFENDING THE SANDINISTAS. I DO NOT
CONDONE THEIR REPRESSIVE METHODS. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT THE
DEEP DIVISIONS IN THE NICARAGUAN SOCIETY CANNOT BE SOLVED BY FORCE.

I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE ON THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. I
WANT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN NEGOTIATION, NOT CONFRONTATION.
I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STOP EXCHANGING THREATS, AND START
EXCHANGING ^{SERIOUS} PROPOSALS WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. AND IF
THIS PRESIDENT WON'T DO THAT, THEN WE SHOULD EXCHANGE HIM FOR ONE
^{who} WILL.

CERTAINLY, WE MUST STOP THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN CENTRAL
AMERICA. WE CANNOT IGNORE THE THREAT THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES
POSE TO OUR SECURITY. AND WE CANNOT LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHILE ANY
GOVERNMENT THREATENS ITS OWN PEOPLE.

BUT WE CANNOT SUCCEED BY FORCE ALONE. WE MUST BE WILLING TO
FIGHT IF NECESSARY, BUT WE MUST BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE IF POSSIBLE.
THE MARINES SHOULD BE OUR LAST CHOICE, NOT OUR ONLY OPTION.

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

WALTER MONDALE AND I KNOW THE VALUE OF STRENGTH, AND THE
NEED FOR COMPROMISE. WE ARE DEDICATED TO CHANGING THE COURSE IN
CENTRAL AMERICA, AND GETTING THE SOVIETS OUT, RATHER THAN DARING
THEM TO COME IN. WE ARE DEDICATED TO RECONCILING FACTIONS AND
ENRICHING THE SOIL OF DEMOCRACY. AND WE HAVE A PLAN TO GET THERE
FROM HERE.

FIRST, WE WILL END OUR PRESENT AND PROPOSED MILITARY EXERCISES
IN HONDURAS, AND WITHDRAW OUR COMBAT FORCES FROM THAT COUNTRY.
BUT WE WILL CONTINUE LEGITIMATE NON-COMBAT ASSISTANCE TO MEET THEIR
SECURITY NEEDS.

7

WHERE ARE THE CONTRAS GETTING THE MONEY TO CONTINUE THEIR
WAR?

HOW ARE VOLUNTEERS ABLE TO GET ARMS TO CENTRAL AMERICA IN
POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF U.S. LAWS?

WHAT PLANS ARE THER TO SEND MORE ADVISORS TO EL SALVADOR?

WE NEED ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE ELECTION
IN NOVEMBER. ~~_____~~
~~_____~~

IN FACT, TODAY IS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT DAY FOR RONALD
REAGAN TO TELL US HIS PLANS FOR 1985. SEPTEMBER 15TH IS THE
"DAY OF THE TORCH" THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA. IT'S THEIR FOURTH
OF JULY.

ON THIS DAY, SCHOOLCHILDREN HAVE TRADITIONALLY CARRIED TORCHES
THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA, PASSING THEM ACROSS BORDERS, AS A
SYMBOL OF UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP.

BUT THIS YEAR, TORCHES ARE NOT BEING PASSED ACROSS BORDERS,
BECAUSE THE TENSIONS ARE TOO HIGH. NO SCHOOLCHILD'S HAND OF
FRIENDSHIP REACHES FROM ONE COUNTRY TO THE NEXT.

BUT A FEW MILES FROM HERE, NEAR ITHACA, SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE
PASSING A TORCH AS THEY CIRCLE CAUYAHUGA LAKE IN A GESTURE OF
SYMPATHY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SCHOOLCHILDREN OF CENTRAL AMERICA.
THE HOPE WE SEE IN THAT LAKE FRONT RUN | SHOWS US THE POWER OF

8

COOPERATION, RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION IN THIS WORLD.

LET US LEARN FROM OUR CHILDREN AND EXTEND HELPING HANDS,
RATHER THAN WEAPONS OF WAR TO OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN FRIENDS.
CERTAINLY, WE MUST BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE DANGERS IN THAT
REGION, BUT WE SHOULD NOT TURN OUR BACK ON PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS
OUT OF FEAR OF NEGOTIATION.

I WANT TO SEE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT STOPS SPENDING SO
MUCH MONEY ON WEAPONS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, AND STARTS SPENDING
MORE MONEY ON EDUCATION HERE AT HOME.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE, AND
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT ^{what} ~~what~~ THEY HAVE IN MIND. IN 1982, RONALD REAGAN
STARTED A NOT-SO-SECRET WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA. IN 1983, HE BEGAN
BUILDING BASES IN HONDURAS. AND IN 1984 THE U.S. HELPED MINE THE
HARBORS OF NICARGUA.

NOW, AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK SAYS THEY WILL INCREASE FUNDING
FOR NICARAGUAN ^{CONTRAS} ~~████████~~ IN 1985, IF THEY ARE RE-ELECTED.

Insert *8a*

SO, BEFORE YOU VOTE FOR RONALD REAGAN IN 1984, THINK ABOUT
WHAT HE MIGHT DO IN 1985.

AND THE HISTORY OF MILITARIZATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS PARTICULARLY FRIGHTENING ~~BECAUSE THIS ADMINISTRATION~~ DOES NOT SEEM TO KNOW WHEN ITS ⁵ POLICIES HAVE FAILED AND ITS PROSPECTS HAVE FADED.

JUST YESTERDAY GEORGE BUSH DEFENDED THE REAGAN LEBANON POLICY ONCE MORE. THAT WORRIES ME. IF GEORGE BUSH CAN'T SEE THAT A POICY WHICH COST THE LIVES OF 250 BRAVE YOUNG MEN ~~XX~~ AND ~~XXXXXX~~ HAD NO

As I said when I started this morning
this election is very important.

It's more than a popularity contest

It's a choice between an amiable
smiling salesman of packaged ideology and
an honest leader looking at the problems
facing the nation who is leveling with
the American people.

It's a referendum on the environment
It's a " " " budget deficits
It's a " " " as the Republican
wants it to be, on the issue of choice

It's a referendum on arms
control.

It's a referendum on this administra-
tion policies in the Middle East &
Central America.

My responsibility to the American Public
is to bring the issues before it
as a candidate.

Your responsibilities to me, and yourselves
is to weigh the facts

I don't know if you'll be with me or
against me on Nov. 6, but I have confidence that
when you vote, you'll vote intelligently