

9-20-1984

Dallas Fundraising 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, "Dallas Fundraising Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 115.
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/115

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.

Thank you

Mr. Specter
John K. ...

John Byrne
Wesley ...
Jim ...

FWA
re: ...

REMARKS BY GERALDINE A. FERRARO
TO THE DALLAS FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST
DALLAS, TEXAS -- SEPTEMBER 20, 1984

THANK YOU FOR THAT TERRIFIC TEXAS WELCOME. I AM ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED TO BE IN DALLAS -- HOME OF THE BIG REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN AUGUST -- AND HOME OF THE EVEN BIGGER MONDALE-FERRARO VICTORY IN NOVEMBER.

THE EXPERTS SAY WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT TEXAS. I HOPE THE EXPERTS ARE HERE TODAY, TO SEE THIS WONDERFUL CROWD AND FEEL YOUR ENTHUSIASM. BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO WIN -- WITH YOU -- AND WITH TEXAS.

Jess + Betty Jo

I WANT TO THANK JUDY TYCHER AND ~~BETTY JO~~ HAY FOR ORGANIZING THE BIGGEST BREAKFAST I'VE EVER SEEN. YOU KNOW, WHEN JUDY FIRST CONTACTED MY CAMPAIGN TO SAY SHE WANTED TO HOLD A LITTLE FUNDRAISER DURING MY VISIT TO DALLAS, I EXPECTED A COUPLE HUNDRED PEOPLE. THEY ALWAYS TOLD ME TEXANS EXAGGERATE -- AND I LOVE IT.

I JUST WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS HERE TODAY -- AND THAT'S NO NEW YORK CITY EXAGGERATION. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT THE WOMEN OF AMERICA CARE ABOUT IN 1984.

WHEN I FIRST ~~WENT~~^{WENT} TO WASHINGTON IN 1979, I WAS THE FIRST
WOMAN EVER ~~SENT~~^{electd} TO CONGRESS ~~BY MY BOROUGH OF QUEENS, NEW YORK.~~^{from}
BUT I DIDN'T ~~GO~~^{GO} TO WASHINGTON TO REPRESENT THE WOMEN OF
AMERICA. I RAN FOR CONGRESS AS AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
AND MY SLOGAN WAS "FINALLY...A TOUGH DEMOCRAT."

THEN I STARTED THINKING ABOUT WHAT THAT REALLY MEANT.

IT WAS TOUGH FOR MY WIDOWED MOTHER TO GO TO WORK IN A
GARMENT FACTORY SO MY BROTHER AND I COULD HAVE A DECENT HOME AND
GOOD EDUCATION.

IT WAS TOUGH FOR ME TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL AT NIGHT, AFTER
TEACHING IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALL DAY, AND HEAR LAW
PROFESSORS TELL ME -- AND THE ONE OTHER WOMAN IN OUR CLASS --
THAT WE WERE TAKING A MAN'S PLACE.

IT IS TOUGH FOR THE TWO-AND-A-QUARTER MILLION ELDERLY WOMEN
WHO TRY TO GET BY ON THE MINIMUM SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT. THIS
ADMINISTRATION DID ITS BEST TO REMOVE THOSE WOMEN FROM SOCIAL
SECURITY. WE STOPPED THAT, AND I'M GLAD WE DID. I AGREE THAT WE
MUST CHOP DOWN THESE DEFICITS, BUT THE FIRST ONES TO BE CUT
SHOULDN'T BE OLDER WOMEN TRYING TO LIVE ON \$122 A MONTH.

IT IS TOUGH FOR WIDOWED WOMEN WHOSE HUSBANDS' RETIREMENT PLANS LEAVE THEM NOTHING. I WAS PROUD TO BE THE AUTHOR OF THE PENSION REFORM BILL. AND I'M GLAD MR. REAGAN SIGNED MY BILL INTO LAW -- EVEN IF HE DIDN'T INVITE ME TO THE SIGNING CEREMONY. *at the Convention* *your beautiful City to participate in*

IT IS TOUGH WHEN YOU'RE A COLLEGE STUDENT, AND THIS ADMINISTRATION JUST ELIMINATED EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR DEPENDENTS OF SURVIVORS ON SOCIAL SECURITY. *or reduced your ability to get a student loan* IF WE WANT A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY AND A STABLE SOCIETY, WE SHOULD BE HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION, NOT MAKING IT HARDER.

IT'S TOUGH FOR LITTLE GIRLS WHO WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL, BUT SCHOOLS DON'T LET THEM. IT'S TOUGH FOR WOMEN WHO DESERVE ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS, BUT COLLEGES WON'T GRANT THEM.

THIS PRESIDENT WENT TO THE OLYMPICS TO CONGRATULATE OUR ATHLETES, INCLUDING MANY OUTSTANDING FEMALE ATHLETES. BUT HIS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SIDED WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE GROVE CITY CASE.

I, TOO, CONGRATULATE OUR OLYMPIC ATHLETES. AND I'M GOING TO BE PRESENTING AN AWARD ON MONDAY TO TWO OF THEM. BUT I DON'T WANT TO JUST PAT WOMEN ON THE BACK AFTER THEY'VE CROSSED THE FINISH LINE. I WANT TO HELP THEM GET TO THE STARTING BLOCKS BY OUTLAWING DISCRIMINATION IN ALL FEDERALLY-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS.

IT'S TOUGH FOR WOMEN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WHEN THEY STILL MAKE JUST 59 CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR MADE BY MEN.

I WORKED HARD TO PUT MYSELF THROUGH SCHOOL. AND I DON'T THINK I WAS WORTH ANY LESS AS A TEACHER, OR ANY LESS AS A LAWYER, BECAUSE I WAS BORN A WOMAN.

THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT STANDS FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. THAT'S THE LAW: THEY BETTER STAND FOR IT. BUT THE PLATFORM THEY WROTE HERE IN DALLAS CAME OUT SQUARELY AGAINST PAY COMPARABILITY. I THINK WE AS A PEOPLE SHOULD PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS. WE ALL SAY WE'RE FOR EQUAL TREATMENT. LET'S GO THE NEXT STEP AND TREAT MEN AND WOMEN AS EQUALS.

THESE GOALS WOULD BE EASIER TO REACH IF WE HAD OUR RIGHTS PROTECTED IN THE CONSTITUTION. / WHEN I TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR MY SECOND TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT, / I WANT TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD A CONSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

LET ME ADD: I'M NOT JUST SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM. AND I'M NOT JUST SPEAKING TO WOMEN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO BE OFFENDED BY DISCRIMINATION. MOST MEN ARE, TOO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES TO LOVE PEACE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE POOR TO HATE POVERTY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE
BLACK TO LOATHE BIGOTRY.

LOOK AT ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, AND YOU WON'T FIND A
MORE COMPASSIONATE, CARING PEOPLE THAN AMERICANS. WE'RE IN THIS
COUNTRY TOGETHER, AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS COUNTRY BETTER FOR
US ALL.

WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE AMERICA'S ISSUES. AND THE ISSUE WE CARE
^{about} MOST ~~OF ALL~~ IS PEACE. Today there HAS BEEN YET ANOTHER
TRAGEDY IN BEIRUT INVOLVING OUR EMBASSY. A CAR BOMB HAS EXPLODED,
WOUNDING + KILLING PEOPLE. I JOIN ALL AMERICANS IN EXPRESSING MY
SADNESS OVER THIS SENSELESS LOSS
OF LIFE,
TODAY, IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS
MILITARIZING A CONFLICT THAT COULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS,
AND IT IS AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT THAT IS PRIMARILY LOCAL.
LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT ABOUT THE SO-CALLED SECRET WAR WE'RE
WAGING IN NICARAGUA. IT'S NOT SECRET. IT'S PROBABLY ILLEGAL.
AND IT'S NOT SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I SAY IT'S TIME
TO END THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA.

THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A MISTAKE DOWN THERE TODAY,
AND IT MADE ONE BEFORE IN LEBANON. IT WAS HORRIBLE WHEN MORE
THAN 250 YOUNG MEN DIED IN BEIRUT. BUT IT WAS AN OUTRAGE THAT
THEY DIED FOR NO REASON.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS THE GALL TO POINT WITH PRIDE TO ITS ACTION IN LEBANON. THAT FIASCO IS NOT A POLICY TO BE DEFENDED. IT IS A LESSON TO BE LEARNED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SONS BETWEEN 18 AND 22 ~~YEARS OLD~~. BUT I DO. MY SON JOHN WOULD BE PROUD TO DEFEND THIS COUNTRY, AND I'D BE PROUD, THOUGH WORRIED, TO HAVE HIM DO SO. BUT LIKE EVERY MOTHER IN THIS COUNTRY, I DIDN'T RAISE HIM TO DIE IN AN UNDECLARED WAR, AGAINST AN UNNAMED ENEMY, FOR AN UNKNOWN ~~REASON~~. *Cause*

I AM FOR A STRONG DEFENSE. A PRESIDENT MUST KNOW WHERE TO USE FORCE AND WHEN, BUT HE MUST ALSO KNOW WHEN IT SHOULD NOT BE USED. LET'S UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BEFORE WE ARM IT. AND LET'S HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO SENDS IN THE DIPLOMATS BEFORE HE SENDS IN THE MARINES.

A PRESIDENT MUST ALSO SEEK TO END THE ARMS RACE, FOR THAT IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO PEACE. THAT IS THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION YEAR.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO CALLS ON THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO TELLS US HIS PLANS FOR CONTROLLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TODAY, NOT AFTER THE ELECTION.

I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE NUCLEAR FREEZE. THAT'S THE KIND OF PRESIDENT FRITZ MONDALE WILL BE.

WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE HUMAN ISSUES. THEY ARE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING THIS COUNTRY AND THE WORLD.

IN 1984, I COME BEFORE YOU AS A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE. THIS IS AN HISTORIC MOMENT, AND FRITZ MONDALE MADE IT POSSIBLE.

NO ONE IS MORE PROUD OF THIS COUNTRY THAN I AM, AND NO ONE IS MORE PATRIOTIC THAN AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER NOMINATED BY HER PARTY TO BE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

BUT THIS CANDIDACY IS NOT JUST A SYMBOL: IT'S A BREAKTHROUGH. IT'S NOT JUST A STATEMENT: IT'S A BOND BETWEEN WOMEN ALL OVER AMERICA.

IN ST. PAUL YESTERDAY, A 91-YEAR-OLD WOMAN CAME UP TO ME, HUGGED ME, AND SAID: "I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THIS DAY."

WOMEN COME UP TO ME EVERYWHERE AND SAY THEY NEVER VOTED IN THEIR LIVES, BUT THEY PLAN TO VOTE IN 1984.

A young mother of twins

~~ONE 39 YEAR OLD WOMAN~~ WROTE ME A LETTER WHEN SHE HEARD THE NEWS THAT I WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE NOMINEE. I'D LIKE TO READ PART OF IT TO YOU. ~~IT'S FROM A MOTHER OF TWINS.~~ QUOTE: 'I RAN INTO THE BEDROOM TO SEE IF THEY WERE STILL AWAKE SO I COULD TELL THEM. THEY ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND TOOK THE NEWS CASUALLY SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW YET THAT THIS IS AN HISTORIC FIRST. IT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN I CAN EVER EXPRESS THAT THE CHILDHOOD LESSONS THEY LEARN WILL INCLUDE YOUR NAME.' END QUOTE.

WHAT THESE PEOPLE SAY IS VERY MOVING TO ME. I FEEL A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICANS. I WANT TO BE VICE PRESIDENT. BUT I ALSO WANT TO HONOR THE TRUST/PEOPLE HAVE PLACED IN ME. I WANT TO PROVE THAT IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

- END -