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## Boston Rally Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

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REMARKS OF GERALDINE FERRARO  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1984

THANK YOU, <sup>Senator</sup> TED, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH SEN. TED KENNEDY, MAYOR RAY FLYNN, AND GOVERNOR MIKE DUKAKIS, THREE OUTSTANDING ITALIAN-<sup>American</sup> POLITICIANS.

AS YOU KNOW, WE'RE STANDING WITHIN SIGHT OF THE PLACE WHERE ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTED THE TELEPHONE. WHAT BETTER PLACE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, ~~WHOSE~~ <sup>whose</sup> MOTTO <sup>is,</sup> "REACH OUT AND CRUSH SOMEONE."

THE POLLSTERS AND THE PUNDITS SAY WE CAN'T WIN. THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED THE ELECTION. BUT I WANT TO TAKE MY OWN SCIENTIFIC, OBJECTIVE SURVEY RIGHT HERE.

ARE WE GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER?

ARE WE GOING TO SEND WALTER MONDALE TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO THE RANCH?

BOSTON

PAGE 2

YOU BET WE ARE.

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME. AND  
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE ANGRY I GET.

DID YOU SEE HOW MR. REAGAN WENT TO WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT,  
AND RECALLED WITH SEEMING AFFECTION AND REVERENCE THE NIGHT JOHN  
F. KENNEDY WENT THERE 24 YEARS AGO? //

I MUST SAY, I RESENT IT WHEN RONALD REAGAN LAYS CLAIM TO THE  
MEMORY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND PRETENDS THAT HE HAS ANYTHING IN  
COMMON WITH THAT GOOD MAN. *The people of Massachusetts know  
what John Kennedy stood for.*

PRESIDENT KENNEDY SENT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP LATIN  
AMERICANS MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES. MR. REAGAN SENDS  
SECRET MILITARY AID TO HELP LATIN AMERICANS KILL EACH OTHER.  
LET'S ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STOP THE COVERT WAR IN  
NICARAGUA.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY FOUGHT DISCRIMINATION WITH ALL THE MIGHT  
OF HIS PRESIDENCY. MR. REAGAN TRIED TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO  
SEGREGATED SCHOOLS. I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN CIVIL  
RIGHTS FOR EVERY AMERICAN.

BOSTON

PAGE 3

PRESIDENT KENNEDY FREED THE SKIES OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WITH THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY. MR. REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HERBERT HOOVER NOT TO MEET WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART. A PRESIDENT IN THE NUCLEAR AGE MUST SEEK NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, NOT ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY PLACED THE HIGHEST VALUE ON THE CULTIVATED MIND. MR. REAGAN'S IDEA OF HELPING EDUCATION IS TO LAUNCH A TEACHER INTO SPACE. I SAY, LET'S HELP BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HERE ON EARTH.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY BELIEVED IN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. MR. REAGAN LIKES THE GOLD STANDARD FOR CURRENCY, AND THE DOUBLE STANDARD FOR WOMEN. 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.

[REAGAN AND KENNEDY ARE AS DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER AS NIGHT AND DAY. BUT MR. REAGAN WOULD HAVE US THINK THEY WERE BIRDS OF A FEATHER. THE SAME IS TRUE WITH OTHER HEROES AND OTHER CAUSES.] MR. REAGAN PORTRAYS HIMSELF AS THE FRIEND OF THE VERY THINGS HE UNDERMINES.

BOSTON

PAGE 4

IN A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, RONALD REAGAN WENT TO THE OLYMPICS TO CONGRATULATE OUR ATHLETES, INCLUDING THE FEMALE ATHLETES. BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON, HIS ADMINISTRATION SIDED WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN SPORTS.

I, ~~TOO~~ CONGRATULATE OUR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, BUT I AM AGAINST SEX DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS. I WANT TO HELP WOMEN GET TO THE STARTING BLOCK, NOT JUST PAT THEM ON THE BACK WHEN THEY CROSS THE FINISH LINE.

IN A CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE, RONALD REAGAN WENT TO BUFFALO TO DEDICATE A SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING PROJECT AND CALLED IT "WONDERFUL...A SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP," WHICH IT IS. BUT BACK IN WASHINGTON, HE HAS DECIMATED THE PROGRAM THAT BUILT THAT VERY SAME PROJECT.

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SHELTERS THE ELDERLY, NOT JUST THE INCOME OF THE WEALTHY.

~~IN A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, RONALD REAGAN PLANS TO DEDICATE A MONUMENT TO THE GREAT NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER ANSEL ADAMS. BUT IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, HE HAS WORKED AGAINST EVERYTHING THAT ANSEL ADAMS LOVED.~~

In front of the cameras, Ronald Reagan boasts of his research on acid rain. But in the corridors of power, he killed the ~~plan~~ plan of his own EPA head to control acid rain.

BOSTON

PAGE 5

We don't need just to study acid rain. We need to stop it.

I WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT ~~CLEANS UP TOXIC WASTES AND~~

TAKES POLLUTERS TO COURT, NOT OUT TO LUNCH.

If this President is ~~re-elected~~, the next time we hold a rally in the rain, we'll have to bring umbrellas made of lead.

I SAY TO MR. REAGAN: DON'T TELL US YOU CLEAN UP THE

ENVIRONMENT, BECAUSE YOU DON'T. / DON'T TELL US YOU'VE EXPANDED

OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T. / DON'T TELL US YOU SUPPORTED

JOHN KENNEDY, BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T. / AND DON'T TELL US, MR.

PRESIDENT, THAT YOUR POLICIES ARE FAIR -- BECAUSE THEY AREN'T. /

FAIRNESS IS ESSENTIAL. / AMERICANS UNDERSTAND WHAT IS MEANT BY FAIRNESS. / EVEN IF THEIR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT. /

ACCORDING TO THIS ADMINISTRATION, IF YOU'RE A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR, \$2000 FOR A THIRTEEN-CENT NUT IS NOT TOO HIGH A PRICE. / BUT IF YOU'RE AN ELDERLY WOMAN LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY, THE MINIMUM BENEFIT OF \$122 A MONTH IS EXTRAVAGANT AND MUST BE CUT.

IF YOU'RE A PENTAGON SUPPLIER, \$7000 FOR A COFFEE MACHINE IS MARKET VALUE. / BUT IF YOU'RE A WORKER THROWN OUT OF A JOB, THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS VOTE WITH YOUR FEET. /

IF YOU'RE HOMELESS, THEY SAY YOU LIKE IT THAT WAY. / IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, HAVE SOME CHEESE. /

BOSTON

PAGE 6

IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOUSANDS OF DISABLED CUT OFF BY THIS ADMINISTRATION'S CRUEL SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS, THEY SAY "SUE US." AND THEN THEY CUT FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICES WHICH WOULD ALLOW YOU TO DO THAT. BUT IF YOU'RE A BIG BANK FAILING BECAUSE OF MISMANAGEMENT, THEY SAY, TELL US HOW MUCH YOU NEED AND WE'LL SEND IT.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS A CALCULATOR WHERE ITS HEART SHOULD BE. AND ~~WHEN IT COMES TO TREATMENT OF WOMEN~~ IT'S A CALCULATOR WITH A DOUBLE STANDARD, especially when it comes to women.

w/ P. Scheraga  
- Mr. O'Connell

TWO YEARS AGO, I CO-CHAIRING THE FIRST FULL SCALE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON PAY EQUITY AND COMPARABLE WORTH. IN THOSE HEARINGS I LEARNED THAT TREE TRIMMERS IN DENVER WERE PAID MORE THAN EMERGENCY ROOM NURSES. DOG POUND ATTENDANTS WERE PAID MORE THAN CHILD CARE WORKERS. AND LIQUOR STORE CLERKS WERE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN BEGINNING TEACHERS.

NOW, I'M NOT TAKING ANYTHING AWAY FROM THOSE WORKERS. BUT THE WORK OF WOMEN IS UNDERVALUED BECAUSE THEY ARE WOMEN. AND THAT'S NOT FAIR.

THIS ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT STANDS FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. THEY BETTER STAND FOR IT: IT'S THE LAW. BUT THEY OPPOSED PAY EQUITY IN THEIR PLATFORM.

BOSTON

PAGE 7

WALTER MONDALE AND I BELIEVE WE OUGHT TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS. SINCE WE'RE ALL FOR EQUAL TREATMENT, LET'S TREAT MEN AND WOMEN AS EQUALS.

THIS IS AN HISTORIC CANDIDACY, NOT FOR ME ALONE, BUT FOR ALL OF US. AND FRITZ MONDALE MADE IT POSSIBLE.

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 THE OTHER DAY, I TOLD A STORY ABOUT HOW AN OLDER WOMAN CAME UP TO ME AND SAID SHE NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D LIVE TO SEE THIS DAY. AND WHEN I WAS THROUGH, A 91-YEAR-OLD WOMAN CAME UP TO ME AND SAID: "I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THIS DAY EITHER."

A YOUNG MOTHER OF TWINS 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. 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.



BOSTON

PAGE 8

*she & other*

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 <sup>that you</sup> ~~PEOPLE~~ HAVE PLACED IN ME. I WANT TO PROVE THAT IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

LET ME ADD, I'M NOT JUST SPEAKING TO THE WOMEN HERE.

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

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FEMALE TO WORRY ABOUT ISSUES THAT CONCERN WOMEN. ~~WOMEN'S~~ ISSUES ARE AMERICA'S ISSUES. AND THE ISSUE WE CARE MOST OF ALL ABOUT IS PEACE.

TODAY, IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MILITARIZING A CONFLICT THAT SHOULD 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 IN NICARAGUA. / IT'S NOT SECRET. / IT'S PROBABLY NOT LEGAL. / AND IT'S NOT SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

BOSTON

PAGE 9

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SONS BETWEEN 18 AND 25 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 UNCERTAIN 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 / BECAUSE THAT IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO PEACE. / I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO HAS THE WILL TO STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS, BUT ALSO HAS THE WISDOM TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE ARMS RACE.

AND I WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL NEGOTIATE A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE NUCLEAR FREEZE, AND BRING AN END TO THE ARMS RACE.

WITH ARMS CONTROL, / WE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COUNTRY, AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS. 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.

BOSTON

PAGE 10

WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SERVE THIS COUNTRY. / AND THE LEAST WORTHY KIND OF PATRIOTISM IS A COMMERCIAL OF SWELLING MUSIC AND SWEEPING VISIAS MADE BY MADISON AVENUE. /

WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT WHEN SOMEONE FINDS JOBS FOR THE EIGHT AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS WITHOUT JOBS / THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN, WE BUILD OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE -- AND THAT IS A PATRIOTIC ACT. /

WHEN WE KEEP THE PEACE, YOUNG MEN DON'T DIE -- AND THAT'S A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, WE OPEN DOORS EVERYWHERE -- AND THAT IS A PATRIOTIC ACT.

WHEN WE FINALLY STOP THE ARMS RACE, WE'LL ENHANCE OUR SAFETY -- AND THAT WILL BE A PATRIOTIC ACT.

THE TIME TO BEGIN THAT WORK IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

THE TIME TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.

BOSTON

PAGE 11

THE TIME TO CLEAN UP OUR ENVIRONMENT IS NOT LATER. IT'S  
NOW.

THE TIME TO STOP THE COVERT WAR IN NICARAGUA IS NOT LATER.  
IT'S NOW.

*John Kerry to the US Senate*

THE TIME FOR FRITZ MONDALE TO BECOME PRESIDENT, AND GERRY  
FERRARO TO BECOME VICE PRESIDENT, IS NOT LATER. IT'S NOW.