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Long Beach Rally Speech

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Cong. Ferraro
Long Beach, California

September 3, 1984

Final
Tom Bradley

Thank you, Gary, for that kind introduction.

I'm delighted to be back in California with Fritz Mondale. And to see so many friends. Alan Cranston is here today, one of the giants of the Senate. Alan, your relentless leadership for arms control has focused the attention of the nation on the single most important goal of our time -- the need to freeze the arms race and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

I am also honored to be here with Sen. Gary Hart. Gary, you waged one of the outstanding campaigns in modern political history. You insisted on discussing the issues, and you directed our gaze toward the future. Today, I believe that the party and the country both are stronger because of the forward-looking leadership you bring to public life.

I share with you a passion for shaping the future. And today is the beginning of a wholly new ~~future~~ ^{era} era for America. For this is not only the first day of the official campaign of 1984. This is the first day of a new period in American political history.

Fritz Mondale made history when he selected me to be his running-mate last July. You will also be making history when I stand in the Capitol and take the oath of office as the first woman Vice President ~~of American history.~~ ^{of this great nation} of American history.

We need California to help write that history. And I believe you will. I believe that on November 6 Californians will vote for Fritz Mondale for President and Gerry Ferraro for Vice President.

Let me make one point today. This election truly matters. When you vote on November 6, you will do more than choose between two candidates. You will choose between two futures that are as different from each other as night and day. In at least four crucial ways, the choice you make in November will affect your lives, directly and personally, for years to come.

First, there is the choice of war and peace.

In the last four years, tensions with Russia have been on the rise. We've ~~in~~ sent troops to Central America, and our young men have needlessly died in Beirut. The question is, over the next four years, what will happen to my son John, and to your children and grandchildren? Will this President, unrestrained by the need for re-election, heighten the risk of war?

I don't want to take that chance. I want a President who ~~is~~ believes in negotiation, not confrontation; who understands that an arms race does not lead to peace -- it leads to an arms race; and who stops spending so much on the arms race and starts investing more in the human race.

If this President can't stop exchanging insults and start exchanging solid ~~new~~ proposals to ~~and~~ control nuclear weapons, then it's time to exchange this President for one who will. *Lower*

Second, we need a President who levels with us about ^{the} tough things we must do to ensure our future.

It's easy to say, as President Reagan always does, that things are just great. And to a certain extent, I agree: this is the greatest, most powerful nation on earth. And I'm proud to be an American.

But one of the keys to our greatness is that we're a people who face reality. The people of California don't deal with their problems by burying their heads in the sand ^{or} ~~and~~ throwing their hands in the air.

You don't brush adversity under the rug: You face it. You don't run from challenge: You meet it. And you don't need a President who ducks the tough ones. You want a leader who rolls up his sleeves, tells the truth, and works by your side for a better American future. And that's what you'll get in Fritz Mondale.

Third, we need an economy that works for us all. When I was growing up, my mother worked hard in the garment district so that I could go to school and get ahead. Later, I taught in the New City Public School system by day, and went to Law School by night, so that I could achieve my ambition of becoming a lawyer. That was hard work, but we had a society of opportunity that rewarded hard work.

The question is, will we continue to be that kind of society? Or will success become the privilege of the few?

I think we can restore that kind of society, but to get there I want to see a tax system that is fair, in which average families don't pay more so the rich can pay less. //

I want our government to give full support to our schools, not to lobby for tax breaks for segregated academies.

I want to see loans made available to young families trying to buy houses, not just to big corporations trying to acquire other corporations.

I want to see government protect our communities from toxic chemicals. I want^a government that takes polluters to court, not to lunch. Pann

Finally, in the future Fritz Mondale wants to build government stays out of our private lives.

I don't believe any political party can say -- or should say -- that it is the sole possessor of moral or religious truth. Under our system, with our traditions, no one can stake that claim.

I agree that the values we get from different religions underpin our thinking about the great public issues. But you don't have to impose your religion or your morality on others in order to be a religious, moral person. And you shouldn't. //

Thomas Jefferson swore his eternal opposition to any form of tyranny over the mind of man. And today I reject any new tyranny over the minds of both men and women.

Mr. Reagan talks about freedom, and he should. But there's no freedom more important than the liberty to think as you want, pray as you believe, and the liberty to be left alone. Mr. Reagan is for limited government -- except when he wants government to affect our most private decisions and beliefs. I'm for strong and effective government, but I want to keep government in public buildings, and out of our homes and churches and synagogues. //

Mr. Reagan preaches love of country, ~~xxxx~~ and I agree with that sentiment, ~~too~~. But I say, let's love our countrymen and women, too. Let's put people to work, let's enforce the laws, let's protect this planet, and let's keep the peace. That's the best way to honor the American flag. //

The time to begin that work is not later. It's now.

The time to register new voters is not later. It's now.

The time to end the arms race is not later. It's now.

And the time for Fritz Mondale is not later. It is now.

*Yours truly - I love you -
Thank you.*

Yesterday, when Mr. Reagan arrived in Southern ~~California~~ California,
he said that this was the place where good Republicans come before they
die. I have no idea what he meant. But I do know that this is where *good*
Democrats come in order to get elected.