

9-5-1984

## Eugene Rally Speech: Draft

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### Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Eugene Rally Speech: Draft" (1984). *Speeches*. 156.  
[https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice\\_presidential\\_campaign\\_speeches\\_1984/156](https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_speeches_1984/156)

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Draft Two

Draft

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ALL ELECTIONS ARE ABOUT CHOICES. THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE. MR. REAGAN HAS SAID THAT THIS ELECTION GIVES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE CLEAREST POLITICAL CHOICE IN FIFTY YEARS. AND--FOR ONCE--HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER PLACE THAN OREGON TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE. FOR HERE IN OREGON YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE.

LONG BEFORE THIS ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK ON OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMS, YOU DEMANDED EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL. IN 1984, YOU WILL STAND FOR NOTHING LESS.

LONG BEFORE MR. REAGAN HIRED JAMES WATT AND ANNE BURFORD TO LOOK AFTER OUR FORESTS AND STREAMS, YOU FOUGHT FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. IN 1984, YOU WILL STAND FOR NOTHING LESS.

LONG BEFORE THE PRESIDENT STARTED JOKING ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR, YOU VOTED FOR A MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE NUCLEAR FREEZE. AND IN 1984 YOU WILL STAND FOR NOTHING LESS.

IN 1984, I AM CONVINCED, YOU WILL STAND WITH FRITZ MONDALE AND GERRY FERRARO. AND TOGETHER WE WILL FIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN FUTURE.

YOU WILL STAND WITH US BECAUSE WE'LL SPARE YOU THE CUTE ANECDOTES AND THE ROSE-TINTED PICTURES. YOU WILL STAND WITH US BECAUSE WE'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHOICES WE FACE. AND YOU WILL STAND WITH US BECAUSE WE OFFER THE RIGHT DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

TODAY I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ONE OF THOSE DECISIONS YOU WILL MAKE ON NOVEMBER 6--A CHOICE ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE. IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC PROSPERITY AND REPUBLICAN BANKRUPTCY. IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS AND REPUBLICAN POVERTY. AND IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND PROFITS FOR THE PRIVILEGED FEW--OR ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR US ALL. IF THAT SOUNDS TO YOU LIKE A SERIOUS CHOICE, WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE IT IS.

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RONALD REAGAN WON'T TELL YOU ABOUT THAT CHOICE. HE'LL SIT BACK IN THE COZY CONFINES OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND TELL STORIES ABOUT THE GREAT ECONOMIC RECOVERY SWEEPING ACROSS THIS LAND.

WELL, TODAY I'VE ALREADY HEARD A FEW STORIES. AND NOW I HAVE A STORY OF MY OWN TO TELL MR. REAGAN.

IT'S THE STORY OF A STATE BLESSED WITH TREMENDOUS NATURAL RESOURCES AND FANTASTIC BEAUTY.

IT'S THE STORY OF A STATE BLESSED WITH THE GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE-- A VITAL, ENERGETIC PEOPLE.

IT'S THE STORY OF A STATE THAT HAS BEEN PUSHED INTO HARD TIMES, BUT STILL BELIEVES IN ITS FUTURE.

FOR NOW, IT'S A SAD STORY. BECAUSE IF YOU ASK THE PEOPLE OF EUGENE-- AND PEOPLE ALL OVER OREGON--TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE GREAT REAGAN RECOVERY, THEY'LL SHOW YOU NOTHING BUT EMPTY POCKETS, AND GIVE YOU NOTHING BUT PUZZLED LOOKS.

THE TRUTH, MR. REAGAN, IS THAT THE RECOVERY HAS BYPASSED EUGENE. AND IT'S BYPASSED OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS IN OREGON, AND OTHER PARTS OF THE NORTHWEST, AND OTHER STATES ALL OVER THIS NATION.

WHY IS THAT?

IS IT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF EUGENE ARE NOT STRONG AND SKILLED ENOUGH TO EXPAND THEIR ECONOMY?

IS IT BECAUSE THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES HAVE GONE AWAY?

IS IT BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN A FINE EDUCATION, IN WORKING HARD FOR THEIR MONEY, IN MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY?

NO, MR. REAGAN, IT'S NOT. TRUTH BE TOLD, MR. REAGAN, IT'S BECAUSE YOUR SO-CALLED ECONOMIC "RECOVERY" HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT LEAST. AND IT'S BECAUSE IN YOUR WORLD, MR. REAGAN, THE GOLDEN RULE HAS BEEN STOOD ON ITS HEAD ~~AND~~ THOSE WITH THE GOLD ARE MAKING THE RULES.

AND FRANKLY, MR. REAGAN, FRITZ MONDALE AND I--AND DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

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FROM COAST TO COAST--THINK THAT ~~THAT~~ STINKS. BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT AMERICA HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL--NOT JUST FOR THE PRIVILEGED FEW. AND WE KNOW THAT IN A MONDALE/FERRARO WORLD, OUR SOCIETY WON'T BE FEUDAL, IT WILL BE FAIR.

WHY ELSE HAS THE RECOVERY BYPASSED SO MANY, MR. REAGAN? ~~IT'S~~ BECAUSE OF YOUR DEFICIT, YOUR 200 BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, THE 200 BILLION DOLLAR WEIGHT YOU'VE HUNG AROUND THE NECKS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

REMEMBER THE DEFICIT, MR. REAGAN? YOU WERE REMINDED OF IT LAST WEEK, WHEN YOU WENT BACK TO SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON. THEY TACKLED SOME PRETTY TOUGH MATH PROBLEMS IN THAT CLASS YOU VISITED, MR. REAGAN, AND--BLESS YOUR HEART--YOU SAID YOU SURE COULD USE SOME MATH LESSONS.

BUT YOU DIDN'T REALLY DO JUSTICE TO YOURSELF, MR. REAGAN. BECAUSE YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A MATH WHIZ. HOW ELSE COULD YOU HAVE SINGLEHANDEDLY ADDED MORE TO THE FEDERAL DEBT IN FOUR YEARS THAN ALL OF THE 39 PRESIDENTS WHO CAME BEFORE YOU?

NOW LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT ABOUT THIS DEFICIT.

A DEFICIT IS NOT EASY TO UNDERSTAND. YOU CAN'T SEE A DEFICIT. YOU CAN'T SMELL A DEFICIT. YOU CAN'T TOUCH A DEFICIT.

BUT YOU CAN FEEL A DEFICIT. AND YOU'RE FEELING IT ALREADY.

ALL OVER AMERICA, YOU'RE FEELING IT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT BUYING A HOME OR STARTING A BUSINESS--AND FACE SKY-HIGH INTEREST RATES THAT MAKE YOUR DREAM IMPOSSIBLE.

YOU'RE FEELING IT WHEN YOU CAN'T GET GOVERNMENT AID TO YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH COLLEGE.

YOU'RE FEELING IT WHEN YOU READ ABOUT RECORD TRADE IMBALANCES THAT SEND AMERICAN JOBS SAILING ACROSS THE SEAS.

AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FEELING NOW, JUST IMAGINE WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE AFTER ANOTHER FOUR YEARS.

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THESE FEELINGS ARE NOTHING NEW TO THE PEOPLE OF EUGENE, AND PEOPLE ALL OVER THIS GREAT STATE. THEY KNOW WHAT DEFICITS MEAN. THEY KNOW THAT DEFICITS MEAN MURDEROUSLY HIGH INTEREST RATES, AND THAT HIGH INTEREST RATES HAVE CRIPPLED THE HOUSING INDUSTRY. AND THEY KNOW THAT A CUT IN THE HOUSING INDUSTRY MEANS A DISEASED LUMBER INDUSTRY.

LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS, MR. REAGAN....THE FACT IS: FEWER HOMES ARE BEING BUILT. IN JULY--IN JUST ONE MONTH--HOUSING STARTS FELL BY MORE THAN 6 PER CENT...THE FACT IS: INTEREST RATES FOR MORTGAGES CONTINUE TO CLIMB. AND THOSE RATES MEAN THAT FOUR OUR OF FIVE AMERICANS CANNOT EVEN THINK ABOUT OWNING A HOME....THE FACT IS: THE MIDDLE CLASS IS BEING SQUEEZED OUT. WHO CAN AFFORD TO BUY HOMES THESE DAYS? ONLY THE RICH, THAT'S WHO.

AND HERE IN EUGENE, MR. REAGAN, YOUR DEFICIT AND YOUR UNFAIR POLICIES MEAN A LOT MORE THAN ANOTHER BROKEN REAGAN PROMISE.

THEY MEAN VACANT LUMBER MILLS AND WOOD PRODUCT FACTORIES. COMPANIES THAT WILL NEVER AGAIN OPEN THEIR DOORS.

THEY MEAN AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WHICH HOVERS BETWEEN 10 AND 12 PER CENT. AND THAT MEANS HARD TIMES AND HUNGRY CHILDREN.

THEY MEAN A SEVERE DROP IN THE VALUE OF EUGENE'S HOMES. THEY MEAN THAT SOME OF YOU STANDING IN THIS COURTYARD ARE HOLDING MORTGAGES WORTH MORE THAN YOUR ~~HOMES~~.

THEY MEAN, IN SHORT, GRIM HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

FRITZ MONDALE AND I--AND THE PEOPLE OF EUGENE--KNOW THAT THE FUTURE NEED NOT BE THIS WAY. AND WE RESPECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ENOUGH TO TELL THEM WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BE LIKE, NOT TO KEEP OUR PLANS HIDDEN UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER 6. AND WE KNOW THAT, ON NOVEMBER 6, WE FACE A CHOICE ABOUT WHETHER WE WILL BE AN OPEN, FAIR SOCIETY. WILL THOSE WHO PLAY BY THE RULES BE RE~~AW~~ARDED? OR WILL SUCCESS REMAIN THE PROVINCE OF THE PRIVILEGED FEW?

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WHAT DO FRITZ MONDALE AND I WANT FOR THE AMERICAN FUTURE? WHAT DO AMERICANS WANT FOR OUR FUTURE?

WE WANT A SOCIETY WHERE NEW FAMILIES CAN ~~ACCORD~~ AFFORD MORTGAGE LOANS TO BUY HOMES, AND WHERE PEOPLE CAN STAND UP AND SAY, "I WANT TO START MY OWN BUSINESS"--AND THEN DO IT. FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE REPUBLICANS HAVE ~~BESTOWED~~ <sup>OWN THEIR HOMES</sup> A MONOPOLY ON THE AMERICAN DREAM ~~TO THEIR RICH FRIENDS~~. AND WE KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN DREAM BELONGS TO ALL OF US.

WE WANT AN ECONOMY UNBURDENED BY HUGE DEFICITS, FREE FROM THE SHACKLES OF HIGH INTEREST RATES. THOSE INTEREST RATES ARE KILLING US--IMPRISONING THE JOBLESS, TRAMPLING OUR FAMILIES, HARMING THE ELDERLY AND DRIVING THE YOUNG DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO DEBT. WE WANT INTEREST RATES THAT NOT ONLY THE RICH CAN AFFORD-- BUT INTEREST RATES IN THE INTEREST OF ALL.

WE WANT OUR TAX SYSTEM TO BE FAIR. NEVER AGAIN SHOULD THERE BE A TAX CUT THAT GIVES THOSE EARNING \$200,000 ENOUGH TO BUY ~~TWO~~ <sup>A PAIR OF</sup> LINCOLN CONTINENTALS WHILE ~~THE~~ MILL WORKERS AND TEACHERS GET BARELY ENOUGH TO BUY A HUB-CAP. FRITZ MONDALE AND I PLEDGE THAT AVERAGE FAMILIES WON'T PAY MORE WHILE THE RICH PAY LESS.

WE WANT OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM TO BE OPEN TO BE ALL. HERE IN EUGENE, YOUR CITY LEADERS ARE INVOLVED IN AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM TO BRING NEW INDUSTRY TO OREGON, COMPANIES WHICH CAN WORK HAND IN HAND WITH THE RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS <sup>AT</sup> ~~THE~~ YOUR GREAT UNIVERSITY. BUT LET'S BE HONEST: THAT WON'T HAPPEN UNDER AN ADMINISTRATION THAT BEGRUDGES FULL SUPPORT FOR OUR SCHOOLS, WHILE LOBBYING FOR TAX BREAKS FOR SEGREGATED ACADEMIES. FRITZ MONDALE AND I KNOW THAT WE WILL NEVER HAVE A TRULY STRONG ECONOMY IF WE DON'T EDUCATE THE PEOPLE OUR NATION NEEDS TO DESIGN, BUILT AND RUN IT.

AND WE WANT A SOCIETY FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO CHANGE--NOT JUST FOR TODAY, BUT FOR THE FUTURE. IN OREGON, AND ALL OVER THIS NATION, THE TALK IS OF SILICON

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FORESTS AND SILICON VALLEYS AND MICROCHIPS AND FIBER-OPTICS. THESE NEW TECHNOLOGIES HOLD THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN. BUT WHILE WE SEEK OUT THAT FUTURE, WE MUST KEEP OUR AIR CLEAN, AND OUR EARTH GREEN. AND WHILE WE RUSH TOWARD THAT FUTURE, WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT NOBODY GETS LEFT IN THE PAST.

THAT IS WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ALL ABOUT. THE QUESTIONS WE RAISE--THE CHOICES YOU FACE--ARE CRITICAL. WILL WE CONTINUE OUR BACKWARD SLIDE, OUR DESCENT INTO A WORLD WHERE SUCCESS IS RESERVED FOR A PRIVILEGED FEW, WHERE RECOVERY IS THE PROVINCE OF THE ELITE, WHERE SURVIVAL OF THE RICHEST IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY? OR WILL WE MARCH FORWARD INTO A FUTURE OF SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR ALL, OF OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE, A WORLD WHERE YOU NEEDN'T BE RICH TO BE HEARD?

THE CHALLENGES ARE GREAT. BUT THE HISTORY OF AMERICA IS THE HISTORY OF GREAT CHALLENGES MET, AND GREAT CHALLENGES CONQUERED. AND FRITZ MONDALE AND I BELIEVE THAT, WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN--AND WILL--PREVAIL.

IT WON'T BE DONE WITH BLUE SMOKE AND MIRRORS, WITH CUTE ANECDOTES AND AN "AW, SHUCKS" SMILE. IT'S GOING TO TAKE STRONG LEADERSHIP AND STRAIGHT TALK. THIS ADMINISTRATION HASN'T GIVE US EITHER. THEY HAVEN'T LEVELED WITH US.

SO LET'S QUIT DANCING AROUND. WE WILL TELL IT LIKE IT IS--HERE IN EUGENE AND ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY. DEFICITS ARE BAD FOR INTEREST RATES. SO LET'S REDUCE THEM. TAXES MUST GO UP. SO LET'S RAISE THEM FAIRLY. OUR LEADERS WON'T LEVEL WITH US. SO LET'S <sup>§</sup> REPLACE THEM.

MR. REAGAN AND HIS CONSERVATIVES PREACH LOVE OF COUNTRY, AND I AGREE. BUT I SAY, LET'S LOVE OUR COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN, TOO. AND LET'S HELP ALL OF THEM--FARMERS, STUDENTS, JOBLESS, WORKERS, YOUNG AND OLD--TO FIND A BETTER FUTURE.

IN <sup>C.R.</sup> ~~THAT~~ AMERICAN <sup>W</sup> FUTURE, OWNING A HOME WILL BE A REALITY, NOT JUST A DREAM.

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IN <sup>OUR</sup> ~~THE~~ AMERICAN FUTURE, A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE A REALITY, NOT JUST  
A ~~MEMORY~~ SLOGAN.

IN OUR AMERICAN FUTURE, ARMS CONTROL WILL BE A REALITY, NOT AN ENEMY.

AND IN OUR AMERICAN FUTURE, OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL WILL BE  
A REALITY, NOT JUST A MEMORY.

JOIN WITH US NOW--AND JOIN WITH US ON NOVEMBER 6. TOGETHER WE CAN  
BUILD A PROSPEROUS, JUST AND STRONG AMERICAN FUTURE.