

7-31-1984

Remarks to the Urban League

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REMARKS BY REP. GERALDINE FERRARO TO THE URBAN LEAGUE - CLEVELAND,
OHIO - JULY 31, 1984

Thank you, David Kearns, and officers of the Urban League. The Urban League has spent 74 years teaching all of us that the rights of no American are safe until the rights of all Americans are secured. The Urban League has fought for economic and social justice for all Americans, not just a privileged few.

The Democratic Party has heard your words and learned your lessons. Let no one pretend that the lessons have been easy or that the process is complete. As a woman, I am honored that Fritz Mondale has chosen me to make history. But I also know something else. Until every American can dream of growing up to be President, the American Dream will not be fulfilled for any of us.

We have made a major breakthrough. But you and I and Fritz Mondale know that there are still millions of men and women who have not had access to the opportunities we have had. Millions who have been denied a decent education, a rewarding job, a fair share of political power.

There is a force in American society which is trying to reverse the course of history and undo the progress we have made

together.

~~They call our causes "special interests." They have tried to~~
~~set race against race, men against women, region against region. ~~We~~~~
^{We} cannot let them succeed. We must reunite these United States. /

To those who seek to reopen the debate over segregated schools. / and minority job opportunity. / and the right of every citizen to vote, / to them we say / those debates are over. / There can be no retreat in the continuing struggle for the Civil Rights of all Americans. / And there will be no retreat in a Mondale-Ferraro Administration. //

There is more at stake this November than just a Presidential election. / Our Supreme Court / - and the shape of American justice / - are on the line this Election Day. //

What kind of justices will President Mondale pick to replace the five men who may retire in the next four years? //

They will be justices who will uphold the laws which give women and minorities a fair chance to succeed in this society. /

In court case, after court case, / from Grove City, Pennsylvania to the State of Washington, / we have seen efforts made to make it

harder for minorities and women to overcome discrimination / in
education, / in hiring and promotion / in pay. //

After the Grove City decision / a decision which endangers
educational opportunity / an overwhelming number of ~~Congress~~ ^{Members of Congress}
~~Members~~ of both parties acted swiftly to introduce the Civil Rights
Act of 1984. //

Foes of this legislation say it would cost too much. / They say
it will intrude on the rights and powers of our state and local
governments. / Those are the same things segregationists said about
another piece of civil rights legislation / -- the Civil Rights Act of
1964.

A Mondale Administration would understand that the Civil Rights
Commission of the United States / was created to protect and defend
the rights of all Americans / -- not cover the tracks of any
Administration. /

We would restore the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to
the stature it achieved under the leadership of Eleanor Holmes
Norton. / EEOC will again vigorously root out discrimination, in all
its forms, / instead of looking the other way. //

Above all, / a Mondale Administration / would understand that our
democracy is only as strong as the number of our people who vote.
- - -

We say "this ticket offers a clear choice for the future and every vote will make a difference."

This ticket, the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, is committed to civil rights. Until each of us can offer our children a real chance to use their talents and hard work and ideas to build the future, they will not become all they are capable of being and our country will not be all it is capable of being. Until all Americans have an equal right to contribute productively to this economy and this society, America will not be as strong or secure as we know it can be.

Our Democratic Party platform, forged here in Cleveland and in six other great American cities, stands for that vision of the future and Fritz Mondale and I stand on that Platform.

We stand for full and fair employment. We believe in the training and retraining of the last hired and the first fired; single mothers without jobs and minority teenagers without hope.

We stand for educational excellence and opportunity. Our schools must give all our children the tools to shape their future, regardless of race, income or sex.

We stand for fair and decent housing. ~~When high interest rates, fueled by the largest federal deficit in history, put home mortgages out of reach of ordinary families, what we are really~~ We're going to bring the deficit down, so mortgage payments will be affordable. And we're going to enforce the Fair Housing laws, so people can have the homes they can afford.

~~mortgaging is our children's future.~~

We stand for political participation. *60* My campaign will involve the best minds *and* the best talents of this nation. And that means it will include everyone. I reach out to you, as I have reached out to groups all over this country, to ask you to help us assemble a team which reflects America's diversity and vast human resources. //

You know I've been competing in pure cash.

This campaign is about the future. It is about cooperation between Washington, D.C. and all the American people. It is about building an economy and a society which give each American an equal chance to contribute. It is about moving forward, not backward. It is about opening doors, not closing them. It is about enforcing the laws of this land and protecting the rights of all Americans. //

To build this future we need your help. It is time to invest our human capital in a better future. And it is time to see all the colors of the rainbow when we utter the words "We the People of the United States." Only then can we truly continue to build the more perfect union promised by our Constitution almost 200 years ago. Thank you. //