

9-14-1984

Elmira College Picnic Speech

Geraldine Ferraro

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Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Elmira College Picnic Speech" (1984). *Speeches*. 99.
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ELMIRA COLLEGE PICNIC

September 14, 1984

THANK YOU, STAN, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. IN STAN LUNDINE, THE PEOPLE OF THIS DISTRICT HAVE A CONGRESSMAN WHO NOT ONLY FIGHTS FOR THEIR BEST INTERESTS, BUT IS A LEADER FOR A STRONG AMERICA IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC COMPETITION. A TOP PRIORITY OF THE MONDALE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE TO PUT CITIES LIKE ELMIRA BACK TO WORK. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH STAN, SARAH SIBLEY LUNDINE, HIS WIFE...LEO KROWLAK, CHAIR OF THE CHEMUNG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY...AND DR. MARIE TARPY (TAR-pee), ACADEMIC DEAN OF ELMIRA COLLEGE AND ONE OF OUR HOSTS.

ELMIRA IS MY KIND OF PLACE. IT'S THE HOME OF THIS COLLEGE--WHOSE FOUNDERS CARED ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND ACTED ON THEIR BELIEFS. AND IT WAS THE HOME OF MARK TWAIN, ONE OF OUR GREAT AMERICAN AUTHORS.

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MARK TWAIN WROTE TOM SAWYER IN A HOUSE NOT FAR FROM HERE.
WE'VE ALL READ TOM SAWYER--OR AT LEAST WERE ASSIGNED IT--AND I'VE
ALWAYS HAD A FAVORITE PART. YOU KNOW THE SCENE WHERE TOM
CONVINCES ALL THE BOYS IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD TO TO PAINT A PART OF
THE FENCE FOR HIM.

WELL, I'M HERE TODAY WITH A JOB TO DO--AND I WANT TO TRY TO
GET YOU TO HELP ME. MY JOB IS TO GET PEOPLE TO CARE ABOUT THIS
ELECTION. AND SO I'D LIKE TO ASK EACH OF YOU HERE TO GET OFF THE
FENCE, TO REGISTER TO VOTE IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY AND TO
FOLLOW TOM SAWYER'S EXAMPLE AND GET A FRIEND TO DO THE SAME.

WITH ALL THAT'S AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION, IT SHOULDN'T BE
HARD TO GET PEOPLE TO CARE. PRESIDENT REAGAN SAYS THAT IN THIS
ELECTION THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FACE THE CLEAREST POLITICAL CHOICE
IN FIFTY YEARS. AND I AGREE WITH HIM.

I AGREE WITH HIM BECAUSE WHEN THE PEOPLE OF ELMIRA--AND

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PEOPLE ALL OVER AMERICA--VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6, THEY WILL FACE
CRITICAL CHOICES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. AND TODAY I'D LIKE TO TALK
ABOUT TWO OF THOSE CHOICES.

IT SEEMS ONLY FITTING, IN THIS SETTING, TO BEGIN WITH
EDUCATION. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE
FIGHTING FOR YOUR FUTURE--AND AT THE HEART OF OUR PROGRAM FOR
AMERICA LIES A NEW COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.

WE NEED THAT NEW COMMITMENT--AND WE NEED IT NOW. BECAUSE
OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TURNED ITS BACK
ON THIS COUNTRY'S HISTORIC BELIEF THAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE
THE KEYS TO SUCCESS.

THAT'S NOT JUST A MATTER OF RHETORIC -- IT'S A MATTER OF
RECORD.

WE NEED TO DEVELOP THE SCIENCE AND MATH SKILLS OF OUR

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CHILDREN TO MEET FOREIGN COMPETITION. BUT THE REAGAN
ADMINISTRATION HAS ELIMINATED THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S
PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN SCIENCE AND MATH.

HIGH INTEREST RATES AND THE RECESSION THREATEN A
FAMILY'S ABILITY TO FINANCE A COLLEGE EDUCATION. BUT THE REAGAN
ADMINISTRATION CUTS STUDENT AID -- AND WOULD HAVE GUTTED IT
COMPLETELY IF CONGRESS HADN'T STOOD IN THE WAY.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE READY TO RETURN TO A NEW QUEST
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. BUT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
DECIDED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE A PARTNER IN THAT
QUEST, AND CUT THE FEDERAL SHARE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL FINANCING.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM AMERICAN
EDUCATION FACES, NOR SHOULD IT TRY. IN OUR NATION, EDUCATION HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND STATE

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GOVERNMENTS, AND IT MUST REMAIN SO.

BUT A PRESIDENT WHO IS COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE CAN SET A TONE, THROUGH FEDERAL POLICY, THAT WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN, AMERICA WILL NEVER SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST.

WHAT MY CANDIDACY IS ALL ABOUT IS OPENING DOORS. WE ARE TEARING OLD BARRIERS DOWN, AND MAKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE AVAILABLE TO ALL AMERICA. IT'S THE SAME SPIRIT THAT LED THOSE FAR-SIGHTED MEN TO FOUND THIS COLLEGE ALMOST 130 YEARS AGO.

EDUCATION LIGHTS OUR WAY TO THE FUTURE. BUT THERE IS A HUGE SHADOW DARKENING OUR PATH. IT IS THE SHADOW CAST BY THE GROWING STOCKPILES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS HELD BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS.

THERE IS NO ISSUE IN THIS CAMPAIGN ON WHICH THE CHOICE IS CLEARER THAN HOW THE TWO CANDIDATES WILL APPROACH ARMS CONTROL.

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THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, FRITZ MONDALE HAS FOUGHT TO CURB THE ARMS
RACE BY WORKING FOR TOUGH, SENSIBLE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WITH
THE SOVIET UNION. AND YOU CAN LOOK IT UP.

RONALD REAGAN HAS A VERY DIFFERENT RECORD. THE FACT IS, THE
PRESIDENT HAS OPPOSED EVERY SINGLE NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT
THAT HAS EVER BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE SOVIETS.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S TEST BAN TREATY.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT NIXON'S SALT I AND ABM TREATIES.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT FORD'S AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS AT
VLADIVOSTOCK.

HE OPPOSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SALT II AGREEMENT.

LOOKING AT THAT RECORD, YOU WOULD EXPECT THAT, AS PRESIDENT,

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RONALD REAGAN WOULD PRESIDE OVER THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF ALL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

NOW, WITH 50 DAYS TO GO BEFORE THE ELECTION, THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS FOR THE FIRST TIME. BUT IT'S ALL FOR SHOW, AND WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO BE FOOLED. PRESIDENT REAGAN IS NOT A BORN-AGAIN ARMS CONTROLLER. HE HASN'T FOUND RELIGION ON THE NEED FOR STOPPING THE ARMS RACE, HE'S JUST HAD THE FEAR OF GOD PUT INTO HIM BECAUSE THERE'S AN ELECTION COMING UP.

IN A MONDALE ADMINISTRATION, ARMS CONTROL WILL BE A FIRST THOUGHT, NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT. WE'RE GOING TO START WORKING TO MAKE THIS A SAFER WORLD ON THE FIRST DAY WE TAKE OFFICE, AND NOT ON THE FIRST DAY WE START RUNNING FOR REELECTION.

THOSE ARE THE CHOICES WE FACE ON NOVEMBER 6. FOR THE NEXT SEVEN WEEKS, FRITZ MONDALE AND I, AND PRESIDENT REAGAN AND GEORGE

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BUSH, WILL BE TRAVELING AROUND THIS COUNTRY, TALKING ABOUT THESE
ISSUES. WHAT I'M ASKING EACH OF YOU TO DO IS LISTEN TO WHAT THE
CANDIDATES HAVE TO SAY, THINK CAREFULLY, AND MAKE YOUR OWN
DECISION. YOUR VOTE COUNTS. I URGE YOU TO CAST IT CAREFULLY.

THANK YOU.