

# Emphasis

## Ferraro brings campaign to Greensboro

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Editor

Geraldine Ferraro looked tired.

The Democratic vice-presidential nominee who has been on the campaign trail almost constantly since her nomination in July, made her only appearance in North Carolina last Monday.

Under overcast skies, a crowd of several thousand cheered enthusiastically along with a Dixieland band that was playing "Happy Days are Here Again," as Ferraro's motorcade approached the Governmental Plaza.

A rush of excitement spread through the crowd as one spectator caught a distant glimpse of Ferraro. "She's here!" cried the crowd, as they waved flags and posters to welcome the Queens congresswoman.

Spectators had to lean forward and concentrate hard to penetrate the wall of Secret Service agents. A large group of men in three-piece suits formed a safe circle around Ferraro. Though wide-eyed and flashing her tireless smile to the cheering crowd, her face showed some strain; a sort of travel-weary fatigue.

As Ferraro made her way to the speaker's platform, the audience was rewarded with a better view and began to grow restless for her address. "Gerry, tell it like it is," shouted one spectator. That sent the crowd into shouts and emotional outbursts as the moment they had waited for arrived.

Wearing a turtleneck dress and a brown blazer, she made her way across the stage to shake hands with local organizers of the rally, which was held in the Governmental Plaza of downtown Greensboro.

This appearance in Greensboro was accompanied by an afternoon jaunt to Raleigh, where Ferraro made several appearances. Though the visit

to Greensboro was brief, it was well executed. Strategically positioned to watch the crowd were Greensboro police with binoculars on top of various buildings surrounding the plaza. Members of the Secret Service surrounded the speaker's platform.

Did local Democratic officials fear special interest hecklers that have previously harassed Ferraro on the campaign trail? Maybe. Anti-abortion apponents carried large signs in protest to Ferraro's pro-abortion stance, though as a Catholic, she says she would personally oppose an abortion.

Acting as counterattackers to the Right of Life organization were groups that supported Ferraro: the Alamance Women's Political Caucus, Catholics, and the National

Organization for Women (NOW), the moving force behind today's women's liberation, were on hand to give Ferraro their support.

Despite all the special interest groups, there was no heckling. Behind the stage was draped a giant American flag, blowing gently in the cool October breeze.

The press turned out in massive proportions as television camera crews, photographers and reporters crowded the makeshift podium built to accommodate their expected appearance at the rally. Network cameras scanned the crowd and microphones hovered everywhere to listen to the candidate for the vice-presidency.

All of the state Democratic candidates for re-election were present: Gov. Jim Hunt,



gubernatorial candidate Rufus Edmisten, and U.S. Rep. Robin Britt, among others, made opening comments.

Gov. Hunt's remarks emphasized the purpose of the Democratic party as not being a party to fight for those who've "already got it made," but a party that is "fighting for people who are trying to make it. There's room in the Democratic party for everybody. There's room for farmers and taxpayers, not just the wealthy and special interest groups."

Ferraro took the podium without hesitation. She looked composed, but her quick delivery proclaimed her a serious team player. She began by disregarding pollsters who say the Democrats are floundering.

She predicted that this January, voters would send President Ronald Reagan back to the ranch and that Sen. Jesse Helms would be unemployed.

"I've been to every part of the country," she said, "and I sense excitement in the air. It's time to make changes." Her New York accent coupled with animated expressions and gestures and straightforward approach stirred the crowd.

Ferraro went on to cite the state senatorial race as one where "the entire country is watching."

With Hunt on stage with her, she fiercely attacked Helms by accusing him of trying to "smear the good name" of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., whose national holi-

day Helms has long opposed. While she endorsed the election of Jim Hunt as a "moderate leader who is in touch with the people of North Carolina," she proclaimed Helms as a "right-wing ideologist" who was "totally out of touch line and eventually out of a job."

On the national level, Ferraro addressed the issues of deficit spending by the Reagan administration and what she called his "anti-education, anti-environment and anti-elderly" policies. "When it comes to cutting the budget, the poor and the elderly are first. Social Security is a contract and the elderly have a right to live in dignity."

Her voice ringing clear through the plaza, Ferraro went to relate an anecdote about Vice-President George H. W. Bush, who recently asked an audience what wins elections. He in turn pulled out his wallet, and said it was "who puts into it and who takes out of it."

Ferraro grinned, "Of course we care about money, but this is an election, not an auction and the U.S. government is not up for sale to the highest bidder."

"There's nothing in the wallet that says to search for peace or stop the arms race. Leadership is not just telling people what they want to hear, but what they need to know."

After thanking the crowd, she faded in the swarm of security as the shock hand along a path of listeners. Eagerly, the most faithful of the lot pushed forward, hoping for a closer look, or maybe contact.

Smiling and thanking the crowd, she walked along a line of people who endlessly called to her. Her face seemed weary and happy with the expression she came in on—smiling, glad to be there, but tired.