

Ferraro: Mondale's vp choice

From the Reuter News Report

ST. PAUL, Minn. Democrat Walter Mondale today named Rep. Geraldine Ferraro of New York as his Vice Presidential running-mate in a historic move that broke a major sex barrier in American politics. Mondale, expected to be named the Democratic presidential candidate next week in San Francisco, announced that he had chosen the 48-year-old congresswoman at a joint news conference here in the capital of his home state, Minnesota.

"I looked for the best Vice-President and I found her," Mondale said.

Ferraro, a three-term congresswoman from a working-class New York City district, mother of three and daughter of an Italian immigrant, thus became the first American woman ever placed on a major party presidential ticket.

"The choice says a lot about him (Mondale), about how far the country has come and where we want to lead it," Ferraro said.

Of her historic selection, Ferraro said, "American history is about doors being opened. There's an electricity in the air."

While women have had their names put in nomination as a symbolic gesture at some conventions, none has ever been the choice of any party's presidential nominee.

Democrats hoped it would help them win the lion's share of the women's vote, which is about 53 percent of the electorate, although polling data on that issue has been mixed.

President Reagan currently leads Mondale by margins ranging from seven to 19 points in opinion polls.

Asked whether he considered Mondale's running-mate choice historic, Reagan told reporters during a visit to Kentucky, "Yes, like (my) appointing Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court."

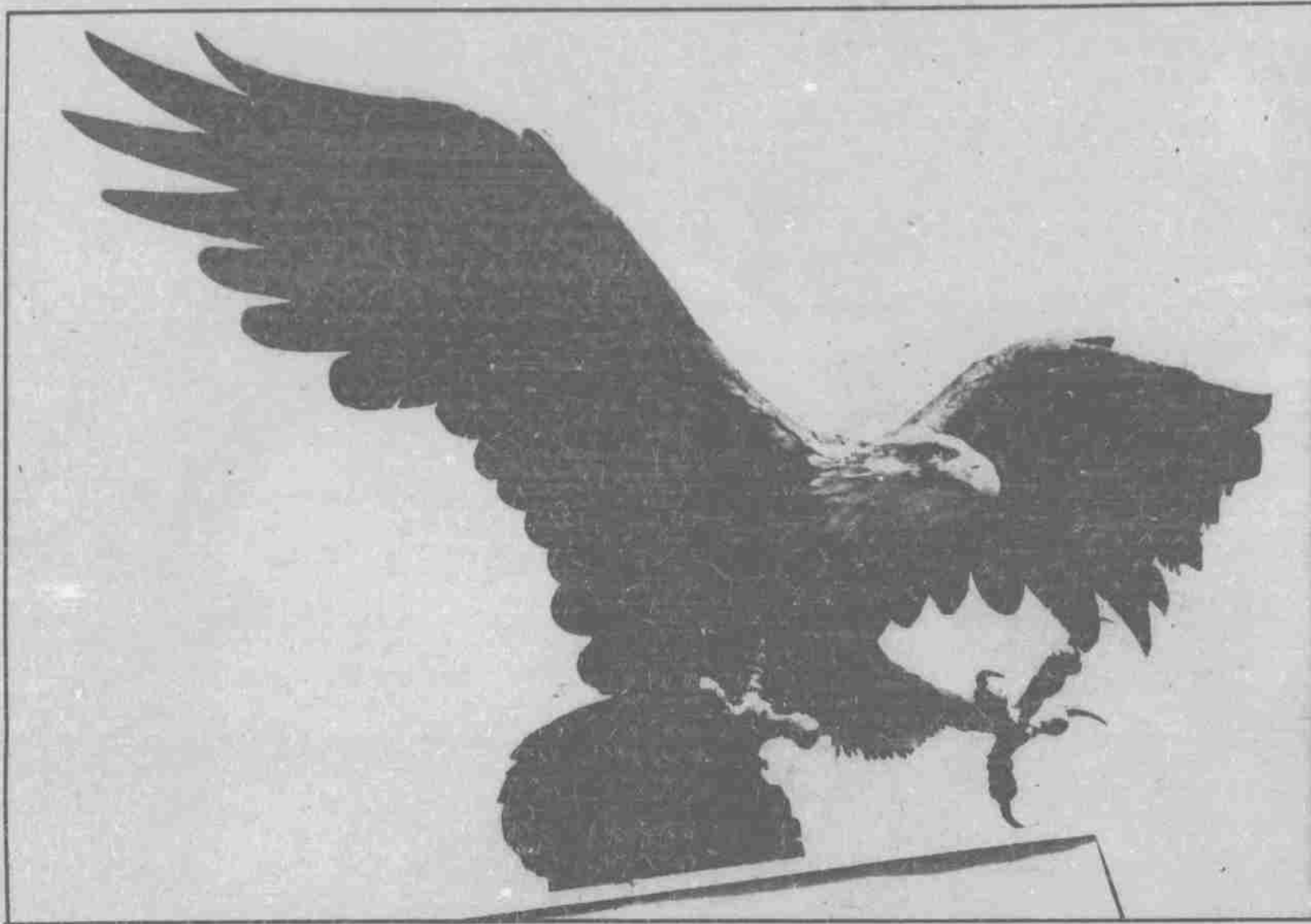
O'Connor is the first woman on the high court. As to whether it might encourage women to vote Democratic, Reagan declined comment.

Mondale said the choice had been "difficult at first." But after he had interviewed seven prospective candidates, including three women and two blacks, he said, "The choice became clear."

He said his campaign would stress basic American values such as equality, adding, "We must go into the future together as one indivisible community."

Mondale said Ferraro has proven an excellent and effective member of Congress, has won tough elections and knows law-and-order issues firsthand as a former prosecutor.

Besides her appeal to the female vote, Ferraro adds to Mondale's ticket ethnic appeal to Italian Catholics, a considerable voting force.



David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Frozen . . .

This eagle isn't the only thing that is frozen at State Securities Savings, 14th and N. All of the firm's 5,000 to 6,000 depositors' assets were frozen when the company temporarily closed its doors last Monday afternoon.

While still solvent, with an estimated \$4 million in capital and surplus accounts, State Securities, the state's second largest industrial bank, has filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. Commonwealth Savings Co., which was taken over by the state Nov. 1 of last year, is the state's largest industrial bank.

Between the two closings, about \$102 million of Lincoln's depositor's savings have been frozen.

Science equipment in short supply

By Jana Dahlman Bouma

Shortages in research and laboratory equipment are a problem in science and engineering departments across the country, according to UNL professor Alexander Peters.

A report by the National Science Foundation estimates that one-fourth of the equipment in engineering, computer science and physical science department in major research universities is outdated. Peters, chairman of the UNL mechanical engineering department, said at least one-fourth of UNL's mechanical engineering equipment is probably obsolete.

Oldest equipment

The department's oldest equipment dates back to 1950, he said.

"When anything gets more than ten or fifteen years old, it isn't worth much" because of changes in technology and instrumentation, Peters said.

Peters said modern equipment is important to engineering departments because "students need to be exposed to instrumentation and apparatus that's available to them when they go out in the field."

Research hampered

Also, Peters said, faculty members gain promotions by performing research. But that research is often hampered by a lack of modern equipment.

Increasing numbers of engineering departments have failed to gain accreditation in recent years,

Peters said. One of the major reasons for the decline has been a lack of adequate equipment, he said.

Most UNL departments do not receive funds for undergraduate equipment purchases in their permanent budgets, Peters said. Instead, money comes from special funds, such as energy savings and excess tuition payments.

Funding from outside grants

Funds for faculty research equipment come from outside grants which support a specific research

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project, he said.

Peters said the mechanical engineering department received \$60,000 in special funds this year. The department, he said, is purchasing lab equipment and replacing many of its classroom televisions, which date back to 1972.

Richard Gilbert, a chemical engineering professor, said his department received \$39,000 to buy a sophisticated chemical reactor for their undergraduate labs. To completely upgrade the labs, however, would take four or five times that amount, he said.

Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Nine people killed in plane crash

CATANIA, Sicily — A U.S. Air Force cargo plane crashed and burst into flames shortly after takeoff from a NATO air base Thursday, killing all nine people on board. A U.S. military spokesman said eight crew members and one passenger were killed in the crash, which occurred after the C-141 Starlifter left the Sigonella Base. The spokesman said the plane had been on a "routine airlift mission" when it crashed. He said the aircraft had refueled at Sigonella after arriving from Torrejon in Spain and was bound for the British Indian Ocean Island of Diego Garcia, site of a British-U.S. military base. Italian Air Force sources said the pilot had radioed that one of his engines was on fire and tried to turn back, but the maneuver failed and the plane crashed into farmland. It exploded and burst into flames. One Italian fireman said: "When we arrived, there wasn't much to do. We worked to stop the flames spreading to cultivated areas nearby." Rescue workers sealed off the crash site.

Judge drops one charge

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge Thursday dropped one of nine drug charges against carmaker John De Lorean — reducing his possible maximum prison sentence from 72 to 67 years — but refused a defense request to dismiss the case. Defense lawyer Donald Re declared it a "great victory" after Judge Robert Takasugi announced his decision. De Lorean is accused of conspiring to import 220 pounds of cocaine, estimated by the prosecution to have a street value of \$24 million. The prosecution alleges De Lorean, who was arrested in Los Angeles on October 19, 1982, was trying to finance a drug deal to save his sports car factory in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The factory was eventually taken over by a British receiver. The defense called for the dismissal of all counts against De Lorean after the prosecution had completed a 47-day presentation of its case. In a 14-page motion, the defense said the prosecution had failed miserably to prove its case. The main charges against De Lorean remain, but Takasugi dismissed the count alleging that on or about July 11, 1982, De Lorean travelled between New York and Orange County, Calif., "with intent to promote, manage, establish, carry on and facilitate an unlawful activity, namely narcotics trafficking."

Thatcher faces crisis

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher faced a rapidly worsening crisis today as trade unions tightened a blockade of seaports and coal miners' leaders voted unanimously to continue a four-month-old national strike. Thatcher told Parliament the strikes had caused a rise in interest rates from 10 to 12 percent Wednesday. The Transport Workers' Union called out its 35,000 dockers on Monday because contract workers are handling iron ore that its own men, in sympathy with the miners, will not load. Thatcher has refused to mediate in the dispute over pit closures, but businessmen view the dock strike with more alarm. The strike at first involved only ports registered in a national dock labor plan, but meetings Thursday and Friday at about 80 others, mostly small, were spreading the stoppage.

In the first votes, at Shoreham and Poole, both in southern England, dockers decided today to join the strike. About 4,000 members of the National Union of Railwaymen were refusing today to cross dockers' picket lines at ports, and 1,500 men of a third union were under orders to walk off the job. Dockers at Southampton announced they would prevent the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2, arriving from New York, from docking Friday and the liner Canberra from docking Sunday, forcing both to divert to Cherbourg, France. The National Union of Seamen appeared to cut off the main escape route for exporters when it announced last night that, in a separate dispute with the government, it would ban all freight trucks from ferries for mainland Europe from midnight tomorrow.

In the miners' dispute, a special delegate conference endorsed the strike by a unanimous vote, including all delegates from non-striking areas. About 20 percent of Britain's 180,000 miners have refused to strike, and Arthur Scargill, militant leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, described today's vote as remarkable.