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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/17

TO: MR. BAKER

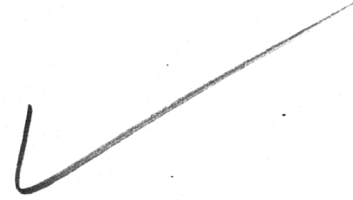
FROM: **WILLIAM HENKEL**
Deputy Assistant to the President
Director of Presidential Advance

Information

Action

ON THE LATE CHARLES SILVER
CHAIRMAN OF THE ALFRED E. SMITH FOUNDATION

cc: Mr. Baker
Mr. Shuman
Speakers



Charles Silver was one of the most beloved New Yorkers in the great tradition of Al Smith himself. Charlie Silver was a great leader in commerce, who early in his life turned his refined and generous mind to serving the people of this great city. For many years he guided the educational system of the City and then devoted himself to the love of his life, Beth Israel Hospital. And the roots of his goodness were deep and spiritual. Charles Silver was the longtime president of his synagogue where he worshipped faithfully and he deeply respected the perceptive goodness of Cardinal Spellman and Cardinal Cooke, a respect that found its perfect focus in this great Foundation.

FRITZ BAGGERS OUT OF SMITH DINNER *O'Connor furious over 'snub'*

Fritz to skip archdiocese fete

By TOM POSTER
and MARCIA KRAMER
With Bruce Drake
and Harrison Rainie

O'Connor 'furious' over 'snub'

Walter Mondale has notified Archbishop John O'Connor that he is backing out of his scheduled appearance with President Reagan at Thursday's Alfred E. Smith memorial dinner.

The Democratic presidential nominee offered yesterday to send his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, as his stand-in, but the archdiocese—which holds the annual dinner—turned

thumbs down on that idea.

The flap started when Mondale notified O'Connor by letter that he had decided to skip the \$300-a-plate dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria to prepare for Sunday's debate with President Reagan on foreign affairs in Kansas City.

A SOURCE at the archdiocese told the Daily News that the archbishop is "furious" with Mondale and believes he canceled out of the nonpartisan event because of O'Connor's outspoken position on abortion and the impression

it has left that he supports President Reagan.

Another source close to the archbishop said, "This is a real snub to O'Connor, and he's taking it that way, too. People are furious that he is snubbing the church. It looks like he is dismissing us. After all, what's two hours? Mr. Mondale could take a helicopter in and out from wherever he is."

A spokesman for the Reagan-Bush campaign said it was "clear that Mondale just chickened out."

"IT'S A snub to the

organization, and it's a snub to New York," said spokesman John Buckley. "It seems they are taking New York for granted. It's not often they hand something like this to you on a silver platter," he added.

Mondale campaign spokesman Dayton Duncan denied that the candidate's sudden decision to duck the dinner had political implications.

"We just want to use this time to prepare for the debate; we have no problems with the archbishop," he

said.

He pointed out that Mondale had decided to cancel all campaign appearances, beginning tomorrow, to prepare for the debate.

ACKNOWLEDGING the political importance of the dinner, the Mondale camp pleaded with the archdiocese to accept Ferraro as a stand-in.

But Rev. Robert Robbins, executive vice-president of the Alfred E. Smith Foundation, said he had polled the 12 members of the board of directors, and they decided to nix Ferraro.

William Hennessy, New York chairman of the Mon-

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dale campaign, said Robbins told him the board rejected Ferraro because of the tradition that there be no substitutions for presidential candidates.

"I told him that wasn't true, that Vice President Spiro Agnew substituted for President Nixon in 1972, but it didn't do any good," said Hennessy.

HE CHARGED that the archdiocese was being "un-

fair" because their decision would allow only the Republicans to be heard.

"It would have been more interesting if both sides were heard from," he said.

The Alfred E. Smith dinner is a political institution here, and there is always a large turnout of major politicians from both parties.

A record attendance of more than 2,000 is expected this year—so many people

that the church has had to take over two additional ballrooms, where patrons will view the proceedings on huge closed-circuit television screens.

According to Robbins, the practice of having the presidential candidates of both major parties began in 1960 with John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

WITH THE exception of Agnew, who apparently stood in for Nixon by prearrangement, that practice has been followed for the past 24 years.

Mondale notified O'Connor of his decision not to attend in a letter dated Oct. 12. Mondale expressed his gratitude to O'Connor for "your graciousness on Columbus Day" but said he could not be present because of the "immense importance of the upcoming debate."

O'Connor responded two days later, saying: "We were sincerely looking forward to your addressing us at the Alfred E. Smith dinner and are so very disappointed that you are unable to be with us."

Tuesday, October 16, 1984

AN ANALYSIS**Smith would smile
at dinner tempest**

San Francisco—Al Smith, the Happy Warrior, would have had a big chuckle at this one: A supposedly light-hearted dinner in his honor to help a charity in his name has become a political tempest.

Why?

Two reasons: Democrat Walter Mondale has decided not to attend the dinner Thursday and New York Archbishop John O'Connor has supposedly thrown a fit over it.

Smith would not at all have liked the implications of this—his church having a problem with the presidential candidate of his party.

But it is hard to see what the big problem is.

Mondale decided last week that he wanted to clear his schedule at the end of this week to prepare for his foreign-policy debate against President Reagan Sunday in Kansas City. He was criticized before their first debate for spending too much time preparing for it.

But it's hard to argue with the results—the studying paid off and he beat Reagan handily. As Mondale and his aides see it, no dinner speech—no matter how grand the tradition or how important the event—transcends the importance of his

See ANALYSIS Page 17.



**Harrison
Rainie**

ANALYSIS

FROM PAGE THREE

doing well in the next debate. Mondale turned down many invitations for the end of this week, and all of them were probably seen by their sponsors as absolutely crucial to the campaign.

Why couldn't Mondale take a few hours off for a nonpartisan event that draws a lot of local and national attention? There is no good answer to that and New Yorkers will have to draw their own conclusions about whether that is a snub and whether that should influence their votes.

STILL, THE CHURCH OFFICIALS who hint darkly that Mondale is afraid of confronting O'Connor over the abortion issue are way off base. It's a red herring that brings the archdiocese much too close to politicizing an event that is not supposed to be political.

The format of the dinner—which calls for nonpolitical, funny speeches from the candidates of both parties—leaves no room for confrontation.

Mondale has already faced O'Connor, when he marched in

tradition of the affair by airing differences over an issue such as abortion that has already generated great passions in this campaign.

AND IT CANNOT BE SAID that Mondale is afraid of appearing on the same platform as Reagan. They not only debated, but they also appeared together at an Italian-American dinner in Washington last month.

It is also baffling why church officials will not accept Mondale's running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, as a stand-in—that is, unless O'Connor and his aides have decided to go public with their seemingly private yearnings to help Reagan get reelected. Church officials, after all, were happy to accept Spiro Agnew as a substitute for Richard Nixon in 1972.

So, in addition to asking why Mondale cannot find the time to do what every other Democratic presidential candidate since 1960 has done, it should also be asked why church officials tell reporters that there is some grand political issue at stake in a dinner that is supposed to raise money for children.

Al Smith would be chuckling at all this. He, too, would wonder if Mondale is sending a negative message to Smith's beloved New Yorkers. But he would certainly tell anyone

SINATRA STUMPS 4 STATES FOR PAL RON

Frank Sinatra puts his golden voice on the line for President Reagan this week as he stumps through four states and the District of Columbia for the Reagan-Bush ticket as part of the campaign's "Victory '84" tour.

But Ol' Blue Eyes will sing nary a note during appearances in Illinois, Ohio, Connecticut, New York and D.C. Instead, Frank will make a pitch for the GOP ticket and shake hands with fat cats who will pay anywhere between \$500 to \$1,000 for the privilege of sipping cocktails with him.

Today, Sinatra is in his kind of town—Chicago. Then, it's off to Cincinnati and Cleveland tomorrow and the Nutmeg State on Thursday. On Friday, Frank hooks up with First Lady Nancy Reagan for a cocktail reception at the Rye Town Hilton before coming to the Big Apple in the late afternoon for a bash at the Waldorf.

Nancy, who will accompany the President to the annual Al Smith Dinner here on Thursday, is staying over so that she can go with Sinatra to Westchester.

"We have several victory tours going on all over the United States," said Joseph Canzeri, the Washington public relations consultant who put the whole thing together. Canzeri was once in Nelson Rockefeller's stable of top aides.

"We have Henry Kissinger on a similar stop out West, and we hope to raise a total of \$500,000," he said. "But that money will stay in each state to help register voters and get out the vote in November."

Gee. Couldn't you allow Frankie to sing at least one song?

MASSIVE SNUB FOR FERRARO

Rejected as speaker at Catholic dinner of ye

Archbishop John J. O'Connor warmly greets the legendary Mother Teresa at Cathedral High School yesterday before delivering his most forceful attack on abortion yet. During the address it was learned that Walter Mondale had canceled out of this week's Al Smith Dinner, hosted by the archbishop, and that a request for Geraldine Ferraro to speak in his place had been rejected: Stories P. 3.



TUESDAY, 10/16/84

FERRARO NIXED BY O'CONNOR DINNER

By FREDRIC DICKER and DEBORAH ORIN
GERALDINE Ferraro has been rejected as a substitute speaker for Walter Mondale at a major Catholic dinner here Thursday hosted by Archbishop John O'Connor. It was announced last night.

The rejection of Ferraro came after Mondale suddenly canceled out of the dinner yesterday, saying he needed time to prepare for his all-important second debate with President Reagan on Sunday in Kansas City.

But Reagan still plans to attend the Al Smith dinner, so he apparently will have the solo spotlight at the event, always a prime forum for wooing Catholic voters close to election time.



GERALDINE FERRARO
She's voted down.

"She will not be speaking — I polled the board of directors and their decision was no," Rev. Robert Robbins, chairman of the dinner, told The Post.

He said the decision was based on "precedent" and had nothing to do with Ferraro's views on abortion, an issue on

which she has tangled with the archbishop.

The vice presidential candidate says she is opposed to abortion for herself, but believes other women should be allowed to choose.

Ferraro, through press secretary Francis O'Brien, said last night she was "disappointed" by the dinner decision.

"She would have liked to have gone — it's our understanding that this is a bipartisan event and she doesn't know what it [the rejection] means," O'Brien added.

The Al Smith dinner is billed widely as the most political "non-political" dinner in the country, and a showcase for political wit.

The dinner raises money for 20 hospitals,

Continued on Page 20

Gerry nixed by O'Connor dinner

Continued from Page 3
...ic and nondenomi-
...al, and it has been
...event in presiden-
...olitics since John
...dy and Richard
...dueled for laughs

When Mondale cancelled out, he asked that Ferraro be allowed to represent him and speak at the dinner.

Members of the archbishop's inner circle said they were "furi-

ous" at Mondale's last-minute cancellation, noting that Reagan also needs debate preparation time, but is coming.

Robbins said the 14-member board (five

Catholic churchmen and nine philanthropists) voted unanimously against letting Ferraro speak when he polled them by telephone yesterday.

"In a presidential

year, we only have the presidential candidates," Robbins said in explaining the decision.

But newspaper reports show that in 1972 Spiro Agnew, the incumbent vice president, substi-

tuted for President Nixon and appeared with Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern at the Al Smith dinner.

Asked about that, Robbins replied: "I didn't

know that. I just took over this dinner. The list I have shows [UN Secretary General] Kurt Waldheim and Spiro Agnew as speakers."

Asked whether the board of directors might reconsider letting Ferraro speak because Agnew was allowed to substitute in 1972 and appear with the other party's presidential candidate, he replied:

"Probably not. I'd have to get back to you."

O'Connor, who is host of the dinner and has accused Ferraro of "misrepresenting" Catholic teachings on abortion, declined to say whether or not he favored letting Ferraro speak.

When The Post asked O'Connor, prior to the board's decision, whether she should be allowed to substitute, he replied: "The dinner's board of governors decides these things."

"I welcome anyone who the board thinks is a good replacement."

Members of the board who voted against allowing Ferraro to replace Mondale included Sonny Werblin, president of Madison Square Garden, stockbroker Alfred E. Smith 4th, descendant of the first Catholic to run for President, and Spiros Skouras, president of Prudential Grace Lines, according to Father Robbins.

Also: John Burke, chairman of B. Altman; John M. Joyce, retired businessman; Mary Roebling, vice president of a New Jersey bank; Mrs. Henry Galman, a philanthropist; and Raymond Reisa, a New Jersey businessman and philanthropist.

The Catholic churchmen on the board are Robbins; Monsignor Eugene Clark, formerly affiliated with the New York Archdiocese and now pastor of a Tuckahoe church; Monsignor Patrick Raftery of The Bronx; Bishop Joseph O'Keefe, the vicar-general; and Monsignor Joseph Murphy.

The only member of the board who did not vote — because she could not be reached — was Clare Booth Luce, who is in Hawaii, Robbins said.

Gov. Cuomo said he will attend the dinner in any case, but the head of the Mondale-Ferraro campaign here, state Democratic chairman William Hennessey, voiced dismay at the board's decision.

Hennessey, speaking for the Mondale-Ferraro campaign, told The Post:

"I don't see any reason why Gerry should not be allowed to present the views of our side. I think the Al Smith dinner would be better off if she had been allowed to be there."

TUESDAY, 10/16/84

Reagan aides blast no-show Fritz

PRESIDENT Reagan's aides last night criticized Walter Mondale for bowing out of the Al Smith dinner and accused him of snubbing New Yorkers and the Catholic Church.

Reagan-Bush campaign spokesman John Buckley noted that every presidential candidate from both parties has made appearances at the dinner since 1960.

"It is quite apparent that he just chickened out. It also seems to show a certain callousness to the organizers of the event and to New Yorkers," Buckley said.

Asked whether he meant callousness toward Catholics, Buckley said: "Yes. But let's leave it with the organ-

izers."

He noted that Reagan also has to spend a good deal of time preparing for Sunday's debate.

"But the President has deep respect for Archbishop O'Connor and for the Al Smith dinner and would not dream of missing it."