

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “1976/08/27 - Equal Rights Amendment Vigil Telegram” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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August 27, 1976

Dear Friends,

I wanted you to know I'm "shoulder to shoulder" with you in spirit. I admire your diligent vigil for the Equal Rights Amendment. As your vigil outside the White House ends, I assure you mine inside the White House continues.

I join you in hoping that soon we will have a great rally to celebrate ERA ratification. The fight for equal rights and responsibilities for women is really just beginning, and your dedication gives courage to me and others who share our hopes.

Keep up the good work for ERA, which will open new doors for women and men.

Sincerely,

ERA Vigil

c/o Ms. Carol Pullner-Sweeney

BF/KAYE/tkh

Please type immediately and autopen. Then return to me.

Thanks,

Kaye

Dear Friends,

I wanted you to know ~~z~~ I'm "shoulder to shoulder" with you in spirit. I admire your diligent ~~vix~~ vigil for the Equal Rights Amendment. As your vigil outside the White House ends, I assure you mine ~~inside~~ inside the White House continues.

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Keep up the good work for ERA, which will open new doors for women and men.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Ford

ERA Vigil
c/o Ms. Carol Podliner-Sweeny



Telegram should be sent to

Mrs. Carol Pudliner-Sweeny
1129 20th Street NW Suite 511
Washington, DC. 20036

(OFFICE)

or

~~Ms.~~

Ms. Carol Pudliner-Sweeny
5005 South 10th St. # 3
Arlington, Va. 22204

BACKUP COPY WILL BE PICKED UP TOMORROW AT EAST

~~XXXXXX~~ GATE.....

TELEGRAM AS DICTATED TO SHEILA:

Dear Friends,

I wanted you to know & I'm "shoulder to shoulder" with you in spirit. I admire your diligent ~~vix~~ vigil for the Equal Rights Amendment. As your vigil outside the White House ends, I assure you mine ~~inside~~ inside the White House continues.

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Keep up the good work for ERA, which will open new doors for women and men.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Ford

833-9880

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Carol Pudliner - Sweeney
ERA - ending Vigil of
Sat. at Noon. Rallying
in Pres. Park.

Should like statement
from Mrs. F.

Action Line
425-13 St. N.W.
Suite 1001
Wash. D.C.
20004

era vigil
ends Sat
noon -

Pres Park

frs zwbs Ode
Col Pike &
~~schs~~



Dear Ms. Paul,

I know this day holds special memories for you, and ~~I wanted you to know~~ how much your work for the 19th Amendment means to all Americans. Your foresight in working for the Equal ~~Rights~~ Rights Amendment after women got the vote shows..

The ERA fight has not yet been won, but I believe the day of victory will ~~come~~ come soon. When ratification comes, that will be another turning point in the ~~fight~~ your efforts

I salute you for your ~~dedication~~ dedication to women's rights and the impact you have had on the lives of all Americans. Those of us who have joined ~~the~~ the ERA fight owe a great debt to you and the other fearless women who secured the right to vote. ~~Women~~ *and then* in American and around the ~~world~~ world are just beginning to made their votes and voices ~~count~~ count, but much progress has been made.

Remarkable women like you give courage to all who hope to expand the rights and responsibilities of women. My personal good wishes to you on this ~~45th~~ 46th

Anniversary of women's sufferage and my hopes that another year will find us with an ERA victory to celebrate.

Sincerely,

BF

> *Dr.*
Mrs. Alice Paul
Altne Craig Nursing Home
Ridgefield, Conn.

April 1, 1974

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL --- MISS ALICE PAUL

Miss Alice Paul, born January 11, 1885, daughter of William Mickle and Tacy (Parry) Paul. Education: Private school, Moorestown, New Jersey; Swarthmore College, University of Pennsylvania, University of Birmingham (England), University of London (England). Degrees: B.A. 1905 Swarthmore; M.A. 1907 Pennsylvania; Ph.D. 1912 Pennsylvania; graduate of New York School of Social Work 1906; LL.B. American University; 1922 (Washington College of Law) ; LL.M. 1921, D.C.L. 1928 (American University). Member: Phi Beta Kappa; Pi Gamma Mu; Society of Friends (Quaker).

Miss Paul was an active social worker in New York from 1905 - 1907. Resident worker, New York Coll. Settlement, New York City. Visitor for New York Charity Org. Soc. Worker at Summer Lane Social Settlement, Birmingham, England, Assistant Secretary, Dalston Branch of London (England) Charity Org. Society 1908; Worker at Peel Institute for Social Work, Clerkenwell, England, 1909. She went to England in 1907 to study and participate in suffrage campaigns there. She was imprisoned twice in England and once in Scotland for her connection with suffrage campaigns there. She was on the executive board Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association 1911. Past Women's Consultative on Nationality of League of Nations; Research Foundation; Chairman, National Committee of Inter-American Committee of Women; worker in International feminist movement.

The Inter-American Committee of Women, which is now an international organization of women representatives from South American and Caribbean countries under the State Department, was formed because of the persistence of the National Woman's Party, under Miss Paul's leadership, to obtain recognition of their delegation to the meeting in Cuba. This delegation presented a resolution written by Miss Paul which was adopted. This was the beginning of the Inter-American Commission of Women. The State Department has appointed a woman Delegate to the Committee under an Ambassador to Latin-American Countries. The establishment of this committee was one of Miss Paul's great accomplishments.

In 1938 Miss Paul founded the World Woman's Party for equal rights, which later sent delegates to the convention drafting the United Nations Charter. They successfully pressured for an equal rights pledge in the charter.

When she first came to Washington, in 1913, Miss Paul brought new life to the ebbing suffrage movement in the United States. The National American Woman Suffrage Association (N.A.W.S.A.) was at an all-time low. Miss Paul asked the N.A.W.S.A. for authority to set up a headquarters in Washington, and did so. She immediately felt the need for some sanction stronger than a local committee. Therefore, she formed the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the sole purpose of which was to work toward the Amendment. A rift grew between the parent body (N.A.W.S.A.) and the new

organization stemming from Miss Paul's and the Congressional Union's decision to hold "the party in power" responsible for the passage of the Amendment and the N.A.W.S.A.'s decision to work through the States. Subsequently, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage became the National Woman's Party and Miss Paul served as its National Chairman until the conclusion of the suffrage campaign in 1921.

Miss Paul was an activist with a flair for the dramatic. She and several of her followers were jailed in 1917. Miss Paul went on a hunger strike that lasted for over three weeks and was force-fed. The severe treatment of the ladies imprisoned drew angry public response and national recognition of the suffrage issue.

Miss Paul organized White House demonstrations. A parade of some 5,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue the night before President Wilson's inauguration. There were more hunger strikes, and unceasing political pressure was brought to bear just before the 1920 election, for the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment guaranteeing equal suffrage - giving women the right to vote.

After winning this struggle for the right to vote in 1920, Miss Paul and the National Woman's Party drafted, in 1922, the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. (Which Miss Paul called the Lucretia Mott Amendment.) " Men and Women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and in every place subject to its jurisdiction." Under her leadership, the valiant and courageous women of the National Woman's Party had introduced in Congress in 1923 the first Equal Rights Amendment bill ever proposed for women. For 49 years, this Party has had this Amendment introduced in every Congress, obtaining more and more sponsors each year. Over the years, Miss Paul, through the National Woman's Party diligently kept the fires burning for the Amendment, educating other organizations, publishing bulletins and maintaining an instant information bureau where anyone interested in the Equal Rights Amendment could obtain the exact status of its progress and sponsors day or night.

Miss Paul worked relentlessly for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. There was much opposition, not only from expected sources, but also from other women's organizations who felt satisfied with the victory that had been won with the right to vote and felt that the Equal Rights Amendment would render invalid all of the protective State laws governing the rights of women.

As 33 States have already ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, passage appears imminent. This Amendment will guarantee the legal rights of women in every respect. The women of the United States should certainly feel indebted to Miss Paul for her foresight and self-sacrifice dedicating her whole life to the cause of women and their rights.

Dear Dr. Paul,

I know this day holds special memories for you, and I wanted you to know how much your ^{contribution} dedication to women's rights means to all Americans. ~~Those of us who~~ ^{are} ~~Supporters of~~ support the ~~19th~~ Equal Rights Amendment owe a great debt to you and the other fearless women who won the right to vote. Your foresight in ^{proposing} ~~continuing the fight for~~ ERA ~~equal rights~~ after securing ~~women~~ the vote has paved the way for today's ~~efforts~~ ^{hopes for ratification.}

Remarkable women like you give courage to all who work to expand the rights and ~~responsibilities~~ responsibilities of women. My personal good wishes on this 46th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and my hopes that another year will find us with an ERA victory to celebrate.

Sincerely,

BF

AUGUST 25, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 1976

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

During this Bicentennial Year we celebrate a dynamic history which began with that inspirational declaration that all individuals are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

To give substance and form to those self-evident truths, "We the People of the United States" created a constitutional republic to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

However, it was not until August 26, 1920, that the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution unambiguously secured for each of us, regardless of sex, that precious mark of liberty -- the right to vote.

In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States proposed a new amendment for our consideration -- an amendment, completing the process begun by the Nineteenth, which would secure "equality of rights under the law" regardless of sex, for men and women.

Several more States need to ratify that Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished as we begin our third century. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, to remind all Americans that it is fitting and just to secure legal equality for all women and men, do hereby designate and proclaim August 26, 1976, as Women's Equality Day.

I call upon all the citizens of the United States to mark this day with appropriate activities, and I call upon those States who have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to give serious consideration to its ratification and the upholding of our Nation's heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

GERALD R. FORD

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