

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “National Association of Commissions for Women, Executive Office Building, September 12, 1975” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Mrs. Ford's Remarks Before --  
National Association of Commissions for Women  
September 12, 1975

I AM SO HAPPY TO BE HERE  
AND TO TELL YOU  
HOW MUCH I SUPPORT THE THINGS YOU ARE DOING.

BY NOW, I GUESS  
NO ONE WONDERS WHERE I STAND ON WOMEN'S ISSUES.  
AT LEAST, NO ONE'S COMPLAINED LATELY  
ABOUT MY BEING SHY ON THE SUBJECT.

1A

I KNOW MANY OF YOU GIVE YOUR TIME ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS,  
AND THE REST OF YOU, WHO ARE IN STAFF POSITIONS,  
WORK WITH MINIMAL BUDGETS-----OFTEN ON MINIMAL SALARIES.

THE SHORT TERM EFFECT OF WHAT YOU <sup>ARE</sup> DOING  
MAY BE HARD TO MEASURE  
BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE LONG TERM.

YOU ARE HAVING AN INFLUENCE ON LEGISLATION  
AND HOW IT IS ADMINISTERED IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES.

EVENTUALLY, THIS WILL TRANSLATE  
INTO WHAT WOMEN ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE --  
INTO WHAT THEY THINK OF THEMSELVES --  
AND INTO WHAT THEY ARE ABLE TO GIVE BACK  
TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THIS COUNTRY.

BY THIS, EACH OF YOU, IN THE PROCESS  
ARE GAINING EXPERTISE IN MANY AREAS, ~~AND~~  
~~I'M SURE, YOU NEVER EXPECTED.~~

YOU'RE BECOMING PLATFORM SPEAKERS,  
IN STUMPING FOR A CAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN.

EDUCATORS, IN GETTING MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITIES THINKING  
IN A NEW DIRECTION ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT WOMEN.

YOU'RE GAINING LEGAL AND POLITICAL EXPERTISE  
AND A GREAT DEAL MORE UNDERSTANDING  
OF HOW OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WORKS.

I EXPECT YOU'RE BECOMING VERY IMAGINATIVE  
IN THINKING OF NEW WAYS  
TO GET FUNDING FOR YOUR PROGRAMS.

AND, I EXPECT  
YOU ARE ALSO GAINING GREAT EXPERTISE  
IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COUNSELLING AS WELL.



I ALSO WANT TO SAY  
HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE DOING  
FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

YOU'VE MADE IT YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY,  
AND THAT'S IMPORTANT.  
IT SHOULD BE A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR ANY YEAR,  
BUT, IT'S ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ON THIS OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

THE PURPOSE OF EACH OF YOUR COMMISSIONS  
REVOLVES AROUND THAT PHRASE  
"EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW."

THE E.R.A IS THE FOUNDATION  
FOR EVERYTHING YOU ARE TRYING TO DO,  
AND, I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU  
TO HELP MAKE IT A REALITY NEXT YEAR.

~~REDACTED~~ LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING.

YOUR WORK BUILDS ON ITSELF AND IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF LEGACY

I KNOW EACH OF US WOULD WANT TO LEAVE

FOR THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW ~~REDACTED~~