

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Homemaking and Identity Conference, White House, September 26, 1975” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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~~MRESX~~

MRS. FORD'S REMARKS BEFORE PARTICIPANTS IN  
HOMEMAKING AND IDENTITY CONFERENCE  
*September 26, 1975*

I'm delighted to see all of you  
I THINK ALL OF YOU ARE JUST GREAT  
here today - because this  
TO COME OUT IN THIS WEATHER - - -  
morning I was a bit dubious  
AND I'M SO GLAD YOU DID  
about the weather and was afraid  
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.  
Some of you might get washed out -  
So Welcome to the White House

I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF YOUR CONFERENCE .

EACH OF US IN THIS ROOM

HAVE OUR OWN CONCEPT OF WHAT "IDENTITY" IS .

BUT TO ME IT'S AS FUNDAMENTAL

AS GETTING TO KNOW YOURSELF .

AND THAT'S THE BASIS FOR ANYTHING )

WE DECIDE TO DO WITH OUR LIVES .

WHEN I WAS YOUNG

I CHOSE A CAREER AS A DANCER

AND LOVED EVERY MINUTE.

I LATER GAVE THAT UP FOR MARRIAGE AND A FAMILY.

I FOUND THIS SECOND CAREER EVERY BIT AS CHALLENGING.

*and even more self satisfying*

LET'S FACE IT ---

BEING A HOMEMAKER IS A PROFESSION.

AND JUST AS A CAREER WOMAN FINDS AN IDENTITY THROUGH HER JOB,  
THE HOMEMAKER NEEDS TO FIND THAT SAME SENSE OF AWARENESS---  
THAT SAME SENSE OF SELF---  
THROUGH HER JOB.

THAT'S WHY THIS WHOLE SUBJECT OF IDENTITY  
IS SO IMPORTANT TO THOSE OF US  
WHO HAVE CHOSEN OUR PROFESSIONS IN THE HOME.

AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHY THE SUBJECT OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN  
IS EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT  
TO THE HOMEMAKER AS TO THE "CAREER" WOMAN.

I'M IN FAVOR OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

*Handwritten mark*  
NOT ONLY FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK,

BUT BECAUSE I FEEL EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO DECIDE THE DIRECTION OF HER LIFE.

WHETHER A WOMAN CHOOSES A CAREER

IN THE HOME OR OUTSIDE THE HOME,

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT SHE MAKE THAT DECISION HERSELF --

WITHOUT ~~THE~~ <sup>any</sup> PRESSURES <sup>to</sup> ~~THAT~~ RESTRICT HER CHOICE.

THIS IS WHAT REAL LIBERATION IS ALL ABOUT!



A LIBERATED WOMAN IS ONE

WHO FEELS CONFIDENT IN HERSELF

AND IS HAPPY IN WHAT SHE'S DOING.

SHE'S A PERSON WHO HAS A SENSE OF SELF.

SO WHAT'S ALL THIS

ABOUT LIBERATED WOMEN BEING CAREER WOMEN??

ANYONE WHO FEELS GOOD ABOUT WHAT SHE'S DOING IN THE HOME

SHOULD HAVE THE SAME SENSE OF LIBERATION.

I THINK IT ALL COMES WITH THIS FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

AND I HOPE THAT WITH THE NEW EMPHASIS ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE,

THE RESPECT AND STATURE HOMEMAKERS DESERVE

•  
WILL BE RECOGNIZED.

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