

The original documents are located in Box 134, folder “June 8, 1974 - Betty Ford Speech, Women's Center for Life Long Learning, Utah State University, Logan, UT” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WOMEN'S CENTER FOR LONG LIFE LEARNING
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

And all you

PRESIDENT TAGGART, DEAN LUNDSTROM, VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE
MADE THIS CENTER POSSIBLE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INTRODUCTION AND WARM WELCOME TO
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU TODAY, AND
TO HELP OFFICIALLY OPEN THE WOMEN'S CENTER FOR LONG LIFE LEARNING.
THIS IS TRULY AN IMPORTANT OCCASION BECAUSE THIS CENTER PROPOSES
TO DIRECTLY ATTACK ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S BIGGEST PROBLEMS.



NINE OUT OF TEN OF TODAY'S YOUNG WOMEN WILL WORK SOMETIME DURING THEIR LIVES; MOST OF THEM WILL WORK AT LEAST 25 YEARS OUTSIDE THEIR HOME. TODAY'S 30 MILLION FEMALE WORKERS MAKE UP 43% OF THE WORK FORCE, AND A THIRD OF THEM ARE THE SOLE WAGE EARNERS IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD. THIS IS A REAL REVOLUTION.



WHILE FEDERAL LAWS PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION, WOMEN ARE STILL
AT A DISADVANTAGE IN PURSUING MEANINGFUL CAREERS. BUSINESS FIRMS
OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HESITATE TO TRAIN OR PROMOTE A GIFTED
YOUNG WOMAN WHO MAY MOVE AWAY WITH HER HUSBAND OR LEAVE THE WORK
FORCE TO RAISE A FAMILY. WOMEN ARE INADEQUATELY REPRESENTED TODAY
IN THE PROFESSIONS; INSTEAD, 75% OF THEM ARE IN ROUTINE JOBS, AS
CLERICAL, FACTORY OR DOMESTIC WORKERS. AS A RESULT FULL TIME WOMEN
WORKERS EARN ONLY 60% OF WHAT MEN EARN. EVEN IN A FIELD WHERE THEY
SHOULD BE ALMOST EQUAL--COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TEACHING--WOMEN ARE
PAID 17% LESS THAN THEIR MALE COLLEAGUES.



REMARKS BY MRS. GERALD R. FORD
WOMEN'S CENTER FOR LONG LIFE LEARNING
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
JUNE 8, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

President Taggart, Dean Lundstrom, Volunteers who have made this Center possible, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your kind introduction and warm welcome to Utah State University. It is a privilege to be with you today, and to help officially open the Women's Center for Long Life Learning. This is truly an important occasion because this center proposes to attack one of our country's biggest problems directly.

Nine out of ten of today's young women will work sometime during their lives; most of them will work at least 25 years outside their home. Today's 30 million female workers make up 43% of the work force, and a third of them are the sole wage earners in their household. This is a real revolution.

While Federal laws prohibit discrimination, women are still at a disadvantage in pursuing meaningful careers. Business firms or educational institutions hesitate to train or promote a gifted young woman who may move away with her husband or leave the work force to raise a family. Women are inadequately represented today in the professions; instead, 75% of them are in routine jobs, as clerical, factory or domestic workers. As a result full time women workers earn only 60% of what men earn. Even in a field where they should be almost equal -- college and university teaching -- women are paid 17% less than their male colleagues.

This is a problem for our whole society; not just for the individual woman. She should not be required to choose either marriage and motherhood or a professional career. And if she decides to retire from her job for 10 or 15 years to raise her children she should not be expected to start over again at the bottom.

The opening today of the Women's Center for Long Life Learning is a continuation of your state's tradition of equality for women. Over a hundred years ago, in 1870, Utah became the first territory in which women could vote (although the law was later set aside by the Congress). Women have had a voice in Mormon Church affairs since its founding in 1830. I am certain the Women's Center will make a real and permanent contribution as it helps women prepare for meaningful careers, richer lives, and greater equality.

Thank you again for inviting me here today.

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