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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. . .

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1975

I WANT TO THANK MY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FOR JOINING  
ME TODAY.

SINCE MOST EXECUTIVE ORDERS ARE HANDLED IN A ROUTINE  
MANNER, IT IS SOMETIMES EASY TO OVERLOOK THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.  
BUT THIS ONE IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT.

THIS ORDER CREATES A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO OBSERVE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN 1975. THE ACTIVITIES GENERATED  
BY THIS COMMISSION WILL REINFORCE OUR CONTINUING NATIONAL  
COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

THIS EVENT OFFICIALLY MARKS ANOTHER STEP IN OUR NATION'S EFFORTS AND EFFORTS AROUND THE WORLD, FOR THAT MATTER, TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN.

THE DRAMATIC ADVANCES WOMEN HAVE MADE -- IN POLITICS, SPORTS, BUSINESS AND SCIENCE, AND OTHER AREAS OF ENDEAVOR -- ARE FINALLY RECEIVING THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE. THE GAINS DEMONSTRATE REAL PROGRESS.

BUT HEADLINES DO NOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL BARRIERS  
ARE DOWN. THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, WHICH I  
WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE, HAS NOT YET BEEN RATIFIED BY THE  
NUMBER OF STATES NECESSARY TO MAKE IT A PART OF THE  
CONSTITUTION. LET 1975, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR,  
BE THE YEAR THAT ERA IS RATIFIED.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE LEGAL  
INEQUITIES BETWEEN SEXES THAT CAN BE CHANGED BY LEGISLATION.  
THE GAINS OF THE PAST MUST BE CONSOLIDATED, BUT WE MUST  
ALSO BREAK NEW GROUND.

BREAKING SUCH GROUND MEANS MORE THAN HEADLINE  
NEWS OF THE FIRST WOMAN TO CHAIR A NATIONAL POLITICAL  
PARTY . . . OR THE FIRST WOMAN AIRLINE PILOT. IT MEANS  
EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK FOR THE ONE WOMAN OF EVERY  
THREE WORKERS IN THE WORLD LABOR MARKET. IT MEANS  
EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN OF ALL  
NATIONALITIES.

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IS ONE OBJECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. ANOTHER IS INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ALL NATIONS, AND THIRD, RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD PEACE.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE IMPROVED ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE IS CLEAR. WHERE WOMEN ARE HELD BACK, THEIR FAMILIES ARE HELD BACK.

THE VAST POTENTIAL OF WOMEN HAS ONLY BEEN PARTIALLY  
EXPLORED. OPENING UP NEW DOORS TO APPROXIMATELY HALF  
THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS VITAL TO SOLVING MANY OF OUR  
INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

WHEN WE DISCUSS WOMEN'S PROBLEMS, WE ARE TALKING  
ABOUT PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS. WOMEN'S LIBERATION IS TRULY  
THE LIBERATION OF ALL PEOPLE.



ROBERT FROST ONCE DESCRIBED FAILURE AS "NOTHING TO  
LOOK BACKWARD TO WITH PRIDE, AND NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD  
TO WITH HOPE." WOMEN WHO ARE PRESSING FOR THEIR RIGHTFUL  
PLACE IN SOCIETY CAN DO BOTH . . . LOOK BACK IN PRIDE AND  
FORWARD IN HOPE.

AMERICA'S WOMEN ARE NOW IN THE FRONT LINES OF OUR  
NATIONAL EFFORT TO REKINDLE THE SPIRIT OF OUR REVOLUTION --  
A SPIRIT THAT JUST ONE YEAR SHORT OF OUR TWO HUNDREDTH  
BIRTHDAY AS A NATION STILL SAYS ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED EQUAL --  
A SPIRIT CONCERNED ABOUT THE REALITY OF THOSE WORDS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IS NOT JUST FOR WOMEN.

IT IS FOR ALL PEOPLE DEDICATED TO SEEING <sup>THAT</sup> THE HIGHEST POTENTIAL  
^  
OF EACH HUMAN BEING IS ACHIEVED.

I HOPE THE COMMISSION, WHICH I WILL NAME, TOGETHER  
WITH LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS, WILL INFUSE THE DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE WITH NEW MEANING AND PROMISE FOR WOMEN HERE  
AND AROUND THE WORLD.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT *RHA*  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PAT*  
SUBJECT: Draft Remarks for Signing of Executive  
Order for International Women's Year

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 2:00 p.m.,  
Thursday, January 9, 1975, Cabinet Room, White House

SPEECHWRITER: Pullen

EDITED BY: Casserly/Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:     

Bill Nicholson

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