

The original documents are located in Box 24, “3/4/76 - Remarks for Drop-by Visit to Legislative Conference of National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS FOR DROP-BY AT THE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB LEGISLATIVE

CONFERENCE, MARCH 4, 1976

IT'S GOOD TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE THIS

EVENING●

I'M HAPPY TO SEE ONE OF YOUR PAST NATIONAL

PRESIDENTS, VIRGINIA ALLAN, WHO IS NOW DEPUTY ASSISTANT

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS● SHE ALSO COMES

FROM MICHIGAN●

SHE HAS BEEN A MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE U.S. OBSERVANCE
OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, AND I'M SURE WE ALL THANK
HER FOR THE EXCELLENT JOB SHE HAS DONE●

I'M ALSO HAPPY TO SEE KAREN KEESLING, WHO
AS YOU KNOW, IS DIRECTOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS. SHE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF
YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SERVED AS YOUR NATIONAL YOUNG
CAREERIST CHAIRMAN. WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD THAT SHE WAS
NAMED ONE OF THE TEN OUTSTANDING YOUNG WOMEN OF AMERICA
THIS PAST YEAR.

YESTERDAY, I STOPPED IN AT A MEETING
IN THE WHITE HOUSE ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS, ATTENDED BY
YOUR PRESIDENT, MAXINE HAYS.

IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF
SMALL BUSINESS IN OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY -- AND ESPECIALLY
THE INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS●

THE PROJECT WAS INITIATED BY PAT LINDH AND KAREN KEESLING,
AND I HOPE THAT B-P-W WILL REMAIN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN IT●

LET ME SAY, I THINK THE PURPOSE OF YOUR
CONFERENCE HERE IS EXCELLENT. I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS YOURS,
ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

ONE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL WHICH IS OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO BOTH WOMEN AND MEN IN THIS COUNTRY IS
REVENUE SHARING. I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD TO GET ITS
RENEWAL. ITS BASIC PURPOSE, AS YOU KNOW, IS TO
RETURN SOME OF THE DECISION-MAKING POWER OF GOVERNMENT
TO THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL.

I HOPE TO HAVE YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT AS WE TRY TO GET
THE CONGRESS TO RE-ENACT THIS PROGRAM -- INCLUDING MY
NEW LANGUAGE TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL RIGHTS PROVISIONS
PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND MINORITIES.

•

I KNOW B-P-W HAS A LONG HISTORY OF WORKING
FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT,
IN EDUCATION, AND MOST PARTICULARLY, IN WORKING FOR
RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

AS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS, I WORKED WITH
A GOOD FRIEND OF YOURS AND MINE, MARTHA GRIFFITHS,
TO SECURE ENOUGH SIGNATURES ON A DISCHARGE PETITION TO
GET THE E-R-A TO THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE●

I'M CONFIDENT THAT WITH YOUR CONTINUED EFFORTS, DEDICATION,
AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
WILL BE RATIFIED AS THE 27TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S.
CONSTITUTION●

LET ME JUST ADD ONE THOUGHT● IT IS VERY

IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN TO BECOME POLITICALLY ACTIVE AS

CANDIDATES, AS CAMPAIGN MANAGERS, AS FUND RAISERS,

AND AS DELEGATES TO YOUR PARTY CONVENTIONS●

I AM CONVINCED THAT EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN CAN BE BEST
ASSURED WHEN WOMEN ATTAIN THE POLITICAL POWER NEEDED
TO MAKE POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM.●

END OF TEXT

- MRS HAYS - NATIONAL PRESIDENT

- MRS SHRIVER - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- MRS CULBRETH - PRESIDENT-ELECT

TALKING POINTS: DROP-BY AT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS' LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1976

It's good to see all of you here this evening.

I'm happy to see one of your Past National Presidents, Virginia

Allan, who is now Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs.

She also comes from Michigan. She has been a moving force behind the

U.S. observance of International Women's Year, and I'm sure we all thank

her for the excellent job she has done.

I'm also happy to see Karen Keesling, who as you know, is

Director of the White House Office of Women's Programs. She has been

an active member of your Board of Directors and served as your National

Young Careerist Chairman. We are all very proud that she was named

one of the Ten Outstanding Young Women of America this past year.

Yesterday, I stopped in at a meeting in the White House on

women in business, attended by your President, Maxine Hays. It was a

very important discussion of the importance of small business in our

national economy -- and especially the increased participation of women in business. The project was initiated by Pat Lindh and Karen Keesling, and I hope that B. P. W. will remain actively involved in it.

Let me say, I think the purpose of your Conference here is excellent. I am delighted to see non-governmental organizations, such as yours, actively involved in our legislative process.

One legislative proposal which is of great importance to both women and men in this country is revenue sharing. I've been working hard to get its renewal. Its basic purpose, as you know, is to return some of the decision-making power of government to the State and local level. I hope to have your active support as we try to get the Congress to re-enact this program -- including my new language to strengthen civil rights provisions prohibiting discrimination against women and minorities.

I know B. P. W. has a long history of working for equality of opportunity for women in employment, in education, and most particularly, in working for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

As a Member of the Congress, I worked with a good friend of yours and mine, Martha Griffiths, to secure enough signatures on a discharge petition to get the E. R. A. to the floor of the House. I'm confident that with your continued efforts, dedication, and financial support, the Equal Rights Amendment will be ratified as the 27th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Let me just add one thought. It is very important for women to become politically active as candidates, as campaign managers, as fund raisers, and as delegates to your party conventions. I am convinced that equal rights for women can best be assured when women attain the political power needed to make positive, constructive changes in the system.

#