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 FUNDraisERS, 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
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.

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