

**The original documents are located in Box 37, folder “Ford, Betty - Equal Rights Amendment” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 6, 1975

TO: ALL WHITE HOUSE/EOB STAFF

FROM: MRS. FORD

I hope you will reserve a half hour tomorrow (Friday, February 7) at either 11:00 a.m. or 11:45 a.m. --and plan on joining me in the Family Theater of the White House for an update on what is happening with the Equal Rights Amendment.

An excellent slide presentation on the ERA has been made available to us. Two experts on the subject --John Deardourff and Doug Bailey--will bring us up to date on the Amendment's status and are well equipped to answer our questions.

I plan to be on hand to meet you and hope you will bring co-workers for this important briefing. The upcoming year is important to the ratification of the ERA, and I think it's vital to both the men and women who work here to have a clear understanding of the legislation.

DATE: Friday, February 7  
TIME: 11:00 a.m. or 11:45 a.m.  
PLACE: FAMILY THEATER, East Wing

*B.B.F.*

\*Note: If you're interested in coming, please call ~~ex~~2200 today.



# bailey, deardourff & eyre, inc.

Bailey, Deardourff & Eyre, Inc., is a political consulting and advertising firm based in Washington, D.C. It has worked for only Republican candidates since its inception in the mid-1960's.

CHAIRMAN: John D. Deardourff, 41.

Personal: Born -- Greenville Ohio; Married -- Elizabeth Griffiths, 1969.  
Education: A.B., Wabash College, 1955; A.M., The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, 1956.  
Previous: Administrative Assistant to Congressman MacGregor and Congresswoman Weis, 1957-1962.  
Deputy Director, domestic policy research, Rockefeller presidential campaign, 1964.  
Research Director, Lindsay for Mayor campaign, New York, 1965.  
Research Director, New York State Republican Committee, 1966.

PRESIDENT: Douglas L. Bailey, 41.

Personal: Born -- Cleveland, Ohio; Married -- Patricia Price, 1965.  
Education: A.B., Colgate University, 1954; A.M., M.A.L.D., Ph.D., The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, 1956-61.  
Previous: Assistant to Henry Kissinger, Harvard University, 1961-64.  
Deputy Director, foreign policy research, Rockefeller presidential campaign, 1964.  
Staff Director, Republican Wednesday Group, U.S. House of Representatives, 1965-1968.  
Author: One Continent, Two Voices, 1965;  
How to End the Draft, 1967.

## SOME RECENT CLIENTS:

<u>1972</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Governor Bond	Congressman duPont	The Equal Rights
Senator Brooke	Senator Mathias	Amendment
Congressman duPont	Governor Milliken	
Senator Percy	Governor Rhodes	
Senator Stafford	Senator Schweiker	

ADDRESS: Suite 1120, 733 Fifteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

TELEPHONE: [202] 347-9779.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*I support the Equal Rights Amendment because I feel that barriers to one person's freedoms in this country are impediments for all.*

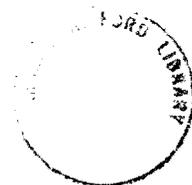
*As walls due to race or religion have fallen, freedom for all has expanded. And likewise, as women begin to be granted full opportunities to participate, our country's full potential can begin to be felt.*

*I see the ERA as a beginning. I see it as a base on which to build. I can't pretend it will be the overnight end to discrimination. But progress in the recognition of women as a force in our society needs legal roots, and the ERA will provide them.*

*I see the ERA as legislation that's as important to the housewife as to the career woman. Like many women, my husband and children are my first priority, though I recognize, that's not true for everyone. But my specific lifestyle or yours is not the issue; the issue is having the option to decide. The ERA does not ask us to change our priorities. It gives us the freedom to choose them.*

*This is the year to unite against the scare tactics which cloud the issues and threaten to block our chance for real equality in this country.*

*We've been given the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let's make those rights a reality. And let's do it as a most appropriate celebration of liberty in our Country's 200th year.*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Patti -

I have attached  
some information on  
ERA and religious papers.

I believe the Methodist  
also put out a paper.

The organization listed  
should have that.

Hope this helps.

Karen

Linda



Dear Betty and Friends:

Thank you very much for gathering here today on the concerns of the role of women in today's world. I am only sorry I can't be with you. However, I appreciate and share your interest in the emerging role for all women.

It is my personal opinion that ratification of the ERA is the single most important step that our nation can take to extend equal opportunity to all Americans. As a member of Congress, my husband voted affirmatively to place this 27th amendment as part of our federal constitution. As you are aware, this can only be accomplished by support of the several states. As a wife, mother and former businesswoman, I feel that this vital legislation should become law--it can only be accomplished by all of us working together.

Best wishes to all of you.

Betty Ford



WOMEN'S RIGHTS

*Jan*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1974

Dear *Dear Betty & Friends*

Thank you very much for ~~your letter to Mrs. Ford~~ *gathering here today on the* concerns *of* concerning the role of women in today's world. *I am only* ~~She appreciates and shares your interest in the~~ *sorry I* emerging role for all women. ~~It is contrary to~~ *can't be* policy and practice for the First Lady to become *with you* involved in pending legislation. ~~However, she is~~ *However* very enthusiastic about the Equal Rights Amendment and looking forward to its ratification.

Mrs. Ford is most grateful for the expression of your views. It means a lot to her when other women take the time to write, and you may be sure she will keep your concerns in mind.

The President joins with Mrs. Ford in sending warm regards.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Howe  
Special Assistant  
to Mrs. Ford

*Handwritten notes and signatures on the right side of the page, including a large signature that appears to be 'Betty' and other illegible scribbles.*

*Best wishes to all of you in the future and let's stand together on this very important issue.*

*Mr. Betty Gron, Area Chrm.  
for ERA  
Oakley Road  
Mt. Vernon, Ill. 62864*



Thank you very much for contacting Mrs. Ford regarding her recent action on the Equal Rights Amendment. She appreciates your sharing your views with her.

It is <sup>my</sup> Mrs. Ford's personal opinion that ratification of the ERA is the single most important step that our nation~~s~~ can take to extend equal opportunity to all Americans. As a member of Congress <sup>my husband</sup> President Ford voted affirmatively to place this 27th amendment as part of our federal constitution. As you are aware, this can only be accomplished by support of the several states. It is a matter of the highest personal priority to Mrs. Ford, and as a wife, mother and former business woman <sup>she</sup> feels that this ~~important~~ vital legislation should become law. / To this end she now addresses herself by working within the legislative process. Please know that Mrs. Ford is grateful for your comments and send her best wishes.



April 17, 1975

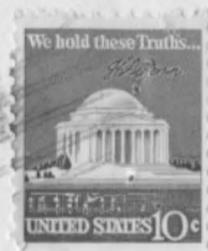
Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld,

I live in New Jersey, and am a student at Ramapo State College. I am writing a sociology paper on the religious influence on the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

I know of Mrs. Ford's supportive efforts for ratification. Would your office have any information that would be of assistance to me. I would appreciate any information that you could send me. Of particular interest would be the names and addresses of the lobby for the Catholic and Lutheran churches, and state roles for and against ratification.

Thank you,  
Linda Dubinsky  
172 N. Van Hien Ave.  
Ridgewood, N.J. 07450





Shelia Rabb Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary, Mrs. G. Ford  
White House  
Washington, D. C.



ALWAYS USE  
ZIP CODE

L Dubinsky  
172 N. Van Housen Ave.  
Bridgwood, N.J.  
07450



South  
Carolina  
Christians  
Support  
the  
Equal  
Rights  
Amendment

Because of the religious heritage of our State, prominent church men and women were asked for their thoughts on the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Their responses are published here.

\*\*\*\*\*

As a Christian, I feel that God has a plan for the life of every individual. We, as human beings, have no right to define or limit the opportunities of other human beings to find the best course for their lives. Men and women should be free to discover, with God's help, their own best way to develop and use their talents. The Equal Rights Amendment will assure that sex will be no basis for denying this freedom to any American.

Mrs. Edward L. Byrd  
Former President  
Women's Missionary Union  
S.C. Baptist Convention

I support the ERA because as a Christian I cannot accept any form of discrimination, whether because of race, sex, age, religion, or station in life. The Apostle Paul put it simply: "In Christ there is neither male nor female."

The Rev. L. D. Johnson  
Chaplain, Furman University

The Gospel portrays through the words and actions of Jesus Christ His belief in the equal dignity of women, the proper intellectual life of women, and the responsibility of women to develop their potential capabilities as they respond to society as Christians. I encourage all Christians to do no less than Jesus Christ who promoted the equality of women, and urge you to support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Mrs. W. Roy Parker  
ERA Support Project, S.C.  
The United Methodist Church

I heartily support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and trust that our State will shortly give approval to this amendment to the Constitution. The time for discrimination has long passed in South Carolina and we need the contribution our women can make to our society. This amendment is not only good religion, it's good sense.

The Rt. Rev. Gray Temple  
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of S.C.

The goal of equal rights for all citizens is deeply ingrained in the very fiber of American principles and ideals. The Equal Rights Amendment is not only consistent with those ideals and principles; it is, in fact, a part of our basic heritage of human fairness and dignity. As Governor--and as a concerned citizen of South Carolina--I am committed to the passage of this most important amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The Hon. John C. West  
Governor of S.C., 1971-1975  
Presbyterian Elder

Although I have in my mind still some reservations about the possible implications of the Equal Rights Amendment, I feel free, nevertheless, to support the Bill because of the worthwhile things I see in it. I hope, therefore, that it will pass the legislature in South Carolina and that this State will stand with those which have already ratified the Amendment.

The Rt. Rev. George M. Alexander  
Bishop  
Episcopal Diocese of Upper S.C.

Vatican II, under Pope John XXIII, called for an end to all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sex. We Catholic Women for the ERA see our support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment as a major way of responding to that call here in the United States.

Ruthann Fox Hines  
Acting Coordinator  
S.C. Catholic Women for the ERA

At last the New Testament vision of women's potential is coming true! The Equal Rights Amendment recognizes a God-given fact--that women have gifts and rights which are in all respects equal to those given men. The Amendment will guarantee recognition of this vast potential and remind us all of the richness of creation. I am pleased that the Lutheran Church Women is among the organizations seeking to gain ratification in South Carolina of this act of Congress.

The Rev. H. George Anderson  
President  
Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary

A Biblical-grounded principle is that no group should be exploited and that every member of all groups should have full opportunity for growth and participation in society. There have been conflicting views, reflected in the Scriptures and historically in the church, as to just who should be "full citizens." The time has now come, as it can through the ERA, to remove any lingering restrictions on the legal rights of women.

The Rev. Howard G. McClain  
Executive Minister  
Christian Action Council

I have been in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment since I first heard about it because I believe that our nation's strength depends upon the defense of the rights of every citizen of our country. I believe that God is not a respecter of persons: that in His sight it does not matter whether we are Gentile or Jew, slave or free, male or female. In view of this, as a priest and a citizen of the United States, I endorse the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The Rev. Thomas R. Duffy  
Vicar General  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

The 1972 General Conference of the United Methodist Church in session in Atlanta, Georgia, clearly endorsed the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. It did so for Biblical and theological reasons. The Conference stated: "The Gospel makes clear that Jesus regarded women, men, and children equally. In contrast to the contemporary male-centered society, Jesus related to women with respect and sensitivity, as individual persons." I urge all United Methodists to study the ERA carefully and to work through appropriate structures for ratification.

Edward L. Tullis  
Bishop  
United Methodist Church, S.C.

As a Christian, I support the Equal Rights Amendment because it will free men and women from artificial barriers and enable each person to develop the potential which God has placed within us. Let the power of the Spirit direct what we shall be and not the laws of men.

Dr. C. M. Johnson  
Pastor, Majority Baptist Church

Historically, Black women have borne the burden of double discrimination. As opportunities for Black men are gradually becoming available, the same opportunities are being denied Black women on the basis of sex. St. Paul reminds us of the moral truth that when one member of our society suffers, then all of us suffer together. I heartily endorse the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as a positive step in the struggle for justice for all.

*Dr. Benjamin J. Glover*  
*President*  
*Allen University*

One of the unique concepts of Christianity is the worth and dignity of each individual. We cannot overlook this concern for the basic rights of women in the United States. The ratification of the ERA will help insure these rights. Won't you join me in supporting this important Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution?

*Mary Ann Shealy (Mrs. James B.)*  
*President*  
*Lutheran Church Women*

Human liberation is central to the Christian faith. Oppression and enslavement are contrary to God's promise. ERA is one attempt to do something tangible about the oppression of women. It is an attempt to enhance the relationships between men and women and to make possible the growth and achievement of full personhood for the women of America. I affirm and support the ERA. Jesus Christ promoted the dignity and quality of women. As a follower of Him, I can do no less.

*Marian A. Jones*  
*Associate Director*  
*Council on Ministries*  
*The United Methodist Church, S.C.*

Implementation of ERA will mean virtually wiping out discriminatory practices which have crippled the development and productiveness of a few. ERA is another example that once the people of this nation are certain that action is necessary, they act. Therefore, this amendment should be approved in keeping with our Christian way of life.

*Eunice W. Ponder*  
*Baptist Laywoman*

The goal of Church Women United is one of a "Journey Toward Wholeness." We must carry out our intentions to become whole persons by discerning that our Christian Faith and experience permeates the whole and cannot be a departmentalized feature in our lives. A preferred world has to do with justice in all its dimensions. We cannot think of any better guarantee of this justice than to support the ERA. The rights of women to livelihood and fulfillment of their aspirations as citizens, wives, mothers, and children of God must be safeguarded.

*Marie Toner*  
*President*  
*Church Women United, S.C.*

This publication was made possible with the assistance of the Columbia Young Women's Christian Association and The Commission on the Status and Role of Women of The United Methodist Church in South Carolina.

Additional copies are available for \$3/100.  
Bulk prices on request.

S.C. Coalition for the Equal Rights Amendment  
1517 Hampton Street, Suite 307  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
(803)-256-1962

January, 1975

# EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT RATIFICATION COUNCIL

Suite 1101, 1730 K St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036

Mary Gereau, Chairman  
(202) 785-4411

Marguerite Rawalt, Vice Chairman  
Washington Forum  
(703) 521-7385

Elizabeth Chittick, Treasurer  
National Chairman, National Woman's Party  
(202) 546-1210

Anna Rankin Harris, Secretary  
National Association of Women  
Deans and Counselors  
(202) 966-4634

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1975

1:30 P. M.

BOARD ROOM\*  
(Eighth Floor)

National Education Association  
1201 16th Street, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

\*16th Street Elevator

## MINUTES OF MEETING

January 22, 1975

### OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Mary C. Gereau (NTEU) presided at the meeting in the Allan Room of the National Education Association Center.

The minutes of the meeting of November 20, 1974, were approved as printed.

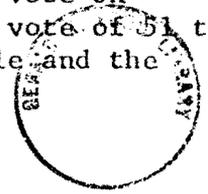
Elizabeth Chittick (NWP) presented the Treasurer's Report (see Appendix A) which was approved as read. The balance on hand as of December 31, 1974, was \$1,768.64.

### BPW's WORK OF COORDINATION

At the request of the chairman, Mariwyn D. Heath, National ERA Coordinator for BPW, reported on the meeting held on December 10 at the BPW Headquarters on Massachusetts Avenue. Representatives of the other endorsing organizations were invited to this meeting. Also present were members of the firm of Baily, Deardourff & Eyre, Inc., which has been employed by BPW to assist in the efforts to coordinate the expenditure of funds raised by BPW for the promotion of ERA. Raising an additional \$100,000 and avoiding duplication of effort are two main objectives of the firm and BPW.

### ERA DEFEATED IN OKLAHOMA HOUSE

In Oklahoma, some ERA sponsors insisted on a floor vote on January 21, against advice. ERA was defeated by a vote of 51 to 45. BPW has issued a strong statement to the people and the legislators of Oklahoma (see Appendix B).



FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE  
TO SEVEN  
STATES

There is a need for funds in all of the above.

It was MOVED by Elizabeth Chittick and SECONDED by Catherine EAST (CACSW) that ERARC send \$100 to each of the following state coalitions: Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Virginia; and that \$100 be sent to each of the two working coalitions in Illinois. PASSED

NEW  
PUBLICATIONS  
ABOUT ERA

AFSCME distributed a striking folder, SEX - It's No Reason To Discriminate Against More Than Half of All Americans, which it had prepared.

HOUSEWIVES FOR ERA, 1108 South Boulevard, Evanston, Illinois 60202, has published three interesting pieces of literature which may be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope.

NOTE: Catherine East recommended adding the following information on legal sources to the folder entitled Homemakers Need the Equal Rights Amendment:

"Family Support Laws and the Equal Rights Amendment in Missouri", by Joan M. Krauskopf, professor of law, University of Missouri Law School, in Citizen's Voice, Journal of Missouri Association for Social Welfare (Vol. 1, No. 2, November - December 1973).

"Partnership Marriage: The Solution to an Ineffective and Inequitable Law of Support" by Joan M. Krauskopf and Rhonda C. Thomas, in the Ohio State Law Journal, Vol. 35, No. 3).

Irene Murphy, who formerly represented the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women on the ERARC, is the author of Public Policy on the Status of Women: Agenda and Strategy for the Seventies, published by Lexington Books, Lexington, Massachusetts, 1973 (price \$12).

Network has published a flyer called Catholics and the ERA. A copy is enclosed with these minutes. *Attached*

The ERA Support Project of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society has produced a filmstrip on ERA. A complimentary copy will be made available to ERARC members who are interested. The enclosed yellow order form may be used to order your copy. *Attached*

Attached to these minutes is the fact sheet and lesson plan which was prepared and published by ERARC for distribution to homemakers clubs through home demonstration agents (see Appendix D).



# Catholics and the Equal Rights Amendment

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Pope John XIII noted in *Pacem in Terris* that "women are now taking a part in public life" and that "since women are becoming more conscious of their dignity, they will not tolerate being treated as mere material instruments, but demand rights befitting a human person both in domestic and in public life."

In this context, the many Catholics who support the Equal Rights Amendment want to clarify their positions for citizens and legislators in states that have not yet ratified the amendment.

No official Catholic position exists on the ERA.

Individual Catholics and some Catholic organizations have taken a broad range of positions on the ERA.

This brochure represents the views of the growing number of Catholics who support passage of the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

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## What the Catholic Church says about women's rights

"There is therefore in the Church no inequality on the basis of race or nationality, social condition or sex because there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor freeman, *there is neither male nor female*. For you are all one in Jesus Christ' [Galatians 3/28, emphasis added]."

#32 Constitution on the Church  
Vatican II

"With respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language, or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent [emphasis added]."

#29 Constitution on the Church in the Modern World  
Vatican II

## The purpose of the ERA

The purpose of the amendment is to provide constitutional protection for both men and women against laws which discriminate on the basis of sex. It will ensure that both men and women will be treated as individuals under the law.

## Why we need the ERA

The necessary changes in our legal structures can be brought about most effectively by a constitutional amendment. Other routes to reform have not been working well:

- Women should not have to try to achieve legal rights on a case-by-case basis.
- The Fourteenth Amendment has not been adequate in achieving legal equality for women.
- Piecemeal legislative revisions, touted by some as the cure-all, have been slow and uncertain.

## What the ERA will—and will not—do

The Catholic Church, and Catholics as individuals, are vitally concerned with responsible parenthood . . . home . . . family. We rightly ask, about new laws, What will they do to these cherished values?

The ERA will enable women—and men—to do what Pope John talks about: assert rights befitting a human person, in domestic life. It will not impose any adverse changes that affect children, home and family.

The Catholic Church, and Catholics as individuals, are also vitally concerned with human dignity . . . with the equality of all persons . . . with justice in laws and administration of laws . . . with fair working conditions . . . with a government that makes all these possible. We rightly ask, about new laws, What will they do to these cherished values?

**The ERA supports these values.**

**That's why so many Catholics support the ERA.**

## How the ERA will affect the family

The ERA will allow women more options about how to contribute to the quality of life. NETWORK, a national organization of Catholic sisters working for social justice through legislation, points out that this opening up of possibilities does not threaten the essential dignity of women. **Sister Carol Coston, O.P., NETWORK**, adds, "As women who have embraced an alternative life style that has long been honored in the Church, we are keenly aware of the need to sustain and support the rights of women to make choices without arbitrary legal impediments based on sex."

**James Jennings**, an instructor with the Washington Theological Consortium, bases his support of the ERA in part on his belief that the ERA can actually help family life. "I support the ERA because it will be an important and necessary step in allowing both women and men to achieve their full potential. The growth and development on the part of both husband and wife can only have good effects on family life."

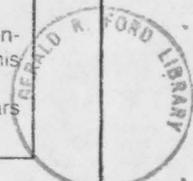
**Msgr. John J. Egan**, director of the Institute of Pastoral Ministry, Notre Dame University, is not worried about the ERA's effect on families. He says, "I believe that the ERA will allow women complete legal equality without infringing on their private lives or family relationships. I think our country needs the resources of women and therefore should not inhibit their potential by any legal discrimination."

### Wording of proposed Equal Rights Amendment

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.



The arrangements that husbands and wives choose to work out between themselves, about family matters—child rearing, money management, job decisions, whether to have a new baby or buy a new car on credit—will, under the ERA, remain their own decisions. Such choices will surely be conditioned by a couple's cultural, religious and family backgrounds—but not by the ERA.

In cases of separation or divorce

□ the ERA would strengthen the trend toward making the good of the child the chief yardstick in custody decisions—a trend that most Catholics would regard as desirable;

□ women who need support would be awarded that support, as in the past.

## The ERA and protective legislation

Some supporters of women's rights oppose the ERA out of well-intentioned but groundless fears that it might threaten the legal protections for women that have been built up over the years, especially in labor laws and welfare.

NOT SO. It *will* extend to men some benefits women now enjoy, but it will not rob women of any genuine protections. Rather, it will unmask some "protective" laws for what they have proven to be: thin disguises for excluding women from parts of the job market.

Under the ERA, employment would be based on a person's capacity to do a job, not on arbitrary rules that presume that no women can do what *any* man can do—laws restricting women's hours of work, for example.

Few would argue against genuinely protective labor laws—and the ERA will assure that such laws protect men as well as women. Meanwhile, many Catholics agree with **Sister Mary Luke Tobin, S.L.**, associate director of Church Women United and former president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, who supports the ERA because "it would help provide equal pay for ever larger numbers of women who are heads of families."

**Barbara Brown** et al, writing in *The Yale Law Journal*, concludes that under the Equal Rights Amendment, courts are "not likely to find any justification for the continuance of laws which exclude women from certain occupations. Legislatures which are concerned with real hazards in certain jobs will have to enact sex-neutral protections (April 1971, p. 929)."

**Dr. Nancy Campbell**, visiting professor of law at Catholic University, affirms that "ERA has no provisions that might be harmful to people on welfare.

Welfare laws do not contain sex discriminations. Insofar as it would have any effect at all, it would be helpful, because some provisions of the Social Security Act are at present discriminatory." For example, today if a woman dies or retires, her widower is not automatically entitled as a dependent to his wife's benefits. Under ERA he would be.

## Perspectives on the ERA from Catholic leaders

### Constitutional principles

"We hold that the constitutional principle of equality for women is just as important as those principles upholding rights against discrimination because of religion and race."

National Coalition of American Nuns

"Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would demonstrate that we are a Nation truly committed to equality. Ratification would go far toward ensuring that sex, like other immutable and irrelevant characteristics, plays no part in determining individual worth or opportunity."

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

President, University of Notre Dame

Former Chairman, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Chairman of the Board, Overseas

Development Council

### The Church's social teaching

"The passage of the Equal Rights Amendment forms one of the basic steps toward that equality of opportunity which makes the just society."

Rev. William Ryan, S.J.

Jesuit economist and religious writer

Peritus, 1971 Synod of Bishops

Member, U.S. Bishops' Committee on Social

Development and World Peace

"It seems to me that the passage of the Equal Rights amendment is a matter of simple justice. Arguments against it ignore the facts: that experience proves that current legislation is insufficient to provide redress against the inequities at present built into our economic system by history and custom; that the poorest of the poor are women kept indigent by these inequities; that a large proportion of working women are single heads of households; that most women living today will spend 25 years or more in the labor force, etc. It is unthinkable that these women should continue to be treated as secondary citizens."

Abigail McCarthy, author

"The issue of promoting women's rights is basically an issue of structural social justice. The consistent social teaching of the Catholic Church calls for the opening up of all structures which inhibit freedom of individuals to lead full human lives. The passage of the ERA would open up the legal structures which now discriminate against women."

Rev. Peter Henriot, S.J.  
Jesuit political scientist and theological writer  
Member, planning group for U.S. Bishops'  
Bicentennial Justice Celebration

### **Basic human rights**

"The United States, as one of the nations which feels most sophisticated and is listed first among the developed countries of the world, has yet to offer equality before the law to half its citizens. This principle has been declared a basic human right by the United Nations. I strongly urge that all citizens support the passage and implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment."

Jane Blewett, Catholic laywoman  
Press representative, Bucharest  
Conference on Population  
Rome Conference on World Food

"I support the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment because the present dual system of legal rights discriminates against half the population of America."

Rev. Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D.  
President, Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Provincial, Society of the Divine Word

"As Catholic women we respond to the biblical injunction to justice. The Church is expressing its zeal for justice in working for a new fundamental law. For citizens of the U.S.A., the Equal Rights Amendment is our fundamental law."

Sister Thomas Aquinas Carroll, R.S.M.  
Former President, Leadership Conference  
of Women Religious  
Delegate, International Union of Superior  
Generals of Religious Women

### **World needs and human potential**

"The challenges and solution to the world's problems and wounds require the full strength and dedication of all persons—male and female. The ERA is an essential condition and prerequisite to allow women, as well as men, to utilize the full measure of their personal resources."

Sister Margaret Brennan, I.H.M.  
Consultant to U.S. Bishops' Committee on  
Women in Society and the Church

### **Legal opinion in support of the ERA**

Both proponents and opponents of ERA quote from the April, 1971, Yale Law Journal issue on "The

*Equal Rights Amendment: A Constitutional Basis for Equal Rights for Women.* Anti-ERA literature has often quoted this source out of context." For the record, the conclusion of The Yale Law Journal's scholarly report strongly favors passage of ERA:

"The transformation of our legal system to one which establishes equal rights for women under the law is long overdue. Our present dual system of legal rights has resulted, and can only result, in relegating half of the population to second class status in our society. What was begun in the Nineteenth Amendment, extending to women the right of franchise, should now be completed by guaranteeing equal treatment to women in all areas of legal rights and responsibilities. We believe that the necessary changes in our legal structure can be accomplished effectively only by a constitutional amendment."

---

"The Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women has a documented report on the misleading quotes."

---

### **For further information**

League of Women Voters of the United States  
1730 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Common Cause  
2030 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

National Federation of Business and Professional  
Women's Clubs, Inc.  
2012 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women  
Room 1336  
Department of Labor Building  
Washington, D.C. 20210

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### **Catholic organizations which have endorsed the ERA**

Catholic Women for the ERA  
Catholic Caucus of the Ecumenical Task Force on Women  
and Religion  
Las Hermanas  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
National Assembly of Women Religious  
National Coalition of American Nuns  
NETWORK  
St. Joan's International Alliance (American Section)

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NETWORK  
224 D St., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
(202) 832-1914





#### AN AUDIOVISUAL ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

This short filmstrip is designed as a discussion starter, adaptable to different groups and settings. The contents focus on the history of the amendment, why it is needed, who supports it, what effect the amendment will have on certain laws. Resources and a script are included.

The filmstrip is produced and distributed by the ERA Support Project (a joint project of the Women's Division, Board of Global Ministries and the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church) 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Order Form on back



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Order Form

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ filmstrip set(s) Order No. W3000. \$1.00 each. (Orders cannot be processed without payment)

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Mail to: Service Department, 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

### Pamphlets

(The following list is a sampling of some of the available brochures which can be obtained in quantity.)

The Equal Rights Amendment - What It Will and Won't Do, Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Rm. 4211, Washington, D.C. 20210 CACSW Item No. 10 - N., April 28, 1970.

The Equal Rights Amendment and Alimony and Alimony and Child Support Laws, same source as above, CACSW Item No. 23 - N, January 1972.

The Equal Rights Amendment -- Senator Ervin's Minority Report and the Yale Law Journal same source as above, CACSW Item No. 29 - N, July 1972.

ERA: A Bread And Butter Issue, American Assoc. of University Women, Sales Office, 2401 Virginia Ave. N.W., Wash. D.C. 20037, Contributions to cover costs requested.

What ERA Will Do For Men, Nat'l. Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, 2012 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Wash. D.C. 20036.

Women in the 70's: Black Women and the ERA, League of Women Voters, U.S., 1730 M. St. N.W. Wash., D.C. 20036. Pub. No. 527. Cost: \$3.00 for 100.

Answers to Questions About the Equal Rights Amendment, National Woman's Party, 144 Constitution Ave. N.E., Wash. D.C. 20002. Contributions to cover costs requested.

The Church, Religion, and the ERA, ERA Support Project, United Methodists. Write to Service Dept., 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Wash. D.C. 20002, Order No. W6000, Contributions to cover costs requested.

### Bibliography

(For additional information on the Equal Rights Amendment and related topics the following sources of information may be found in a local library.)

Brown, Barbara, et al, "The Equal Rights Amendment: A Constitutional Basis for Equal Rights for Women", The Yale Law Journal, vol. 80, No. 5, April, 1971.

Daly, Margaret, "What Do Women Get for Social Security," Better Homes and Gardens, November, 1973.

Gager, Nancy, ed., Women's Rights Almanac: 1974, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Publishing Co., Bethesda, Md., 1974.

Galbraith, John Kenneth, "The Economics of the American Housewife," The Atlantic Monthly, August, 1973.

Ménnear, Susan, "What You Should Know About the Equal Rights Amendment," Good House-keeping, February, 1974 (forthcoming).

Safran, Claire, "What You Should Know About the Equal Rights Amendment," Redbook, June, 1973.

Stimpson, Catharine, R, ed., Women and the "Equal Rights" Amendment: Senate Subcommittee Hearings on the Constitutional Amendment, 91st Congress. R.R. Bowker, Co., New York, 1972.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 10, 1977

TO: Sheila

FROM: Karen Kiesling via telephone call today  
RE: ERA/Indiana

Talked to Jo McCarty in Indiana

Background: Sent telegram to Mrs. Ford requesting her to come to Indiana

Was told she couldn't. Sent another telegram, which evidently did not arrive, requesting her to urge Ray Richards to support in Committee

ERA Ratification passed House Committee 10-3 day before yesterday. Has not been scheduled for floor action yet.

13 out of 52 Republicans in House support ERA  
Republicans Control House (They are fairly sure about the Senate)

REQUEST is that Mrs. Ford call Governor Bowen, who supports ERA, asking him to urge ratification in his State of the State Message to be given tomorrow. Telephone Number 317/633-4567.

For Your Information: The big issue seems to be the anti-ERA forces' argument that "you can tear up your Social Security card if ERA passes."

Also, Senator Dick Lugar supports ERA but hasn't been very helpful, nor has the Republican State Chairman Milligan.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

NANCY HOWE  
MARBA PERROTT  
NANCY RUWE  
SHEILA WEIDENFELD ✓

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN *T.W.B.*

In view of the interest of the press and public demonstrators in the First Lady's activities to support the proposed Women's Rights Constitutional Amendment, I am reminded to caution each of you about use of White House staff or facilities for activities not in the ordinary course of official operations.

? The activities related to the Women's Rights Amendment were intended to influence the votes of State Legislators and are in no way restricted by any Federal legislation. However, if there were to be activities intended to influence the public on legislation before the Congress, my office should be consulted before any steps are taken.

Also, on any functions which are related to fund raising projects or which might appear to pose conflict-of-interest problems with persons doing substantial business with the Government or having a major interest in the outcome of particular Federal legislative proposals, I would suggest advance consultation with my office.

Another way in which we may be helpful to you is in proposing how to answer correspondence to the First Lady or press questions which touch upon legal matters or the propriety of particular activities.

There is no thought that problems have already arisen which should have been avoided, but in order to maintain the good record, I am suggesting that caution should be exercised in the matters described so as to avoid any possible future problems.



TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

March 2, 1975

FROM: Doug Bailey  
John Deardourff

REQUEST: ERA Telephone Call to Illinois State Senator John Nimrod on Monday, March 3rd.

1. The Illinois Senate Vote is now scheduled for late Tuesday afternoon, March 4th. The expected ruling will be for a 51% majority (30 votes). ERA will have 30 votes or more, unless some nervous Senators "take a walk". Senator Nimrod is under some pressure to do just that.

2. Senator John Nimrod is a middle-of-the-road Republican, in his second Senate term, from the suburban Chicago Cook County District covering Maine Township. He voted against ERA in 1973; he voted for ERA in 1974; and until the last few days has been considered a sure pro-ERA vote this year. His constituency is heavily Jewish -- and he recognizes their strong support of ERA.

But he is getting very heavy pressure from the Republican organization in Cook County and his District to vote "No" or to "take a walk". The Cook County GOP Chairman (who is currently under federal indictment) is strongly anti-ERA. And Nimrod's District GOP Chairman is also.

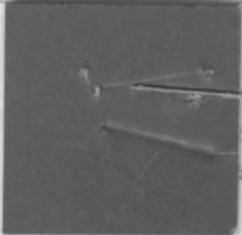
Senator Nimrod knows he should vote for it, and a call would probably give him the confidence to do so.

3. Purpose of call: To assure that Senator Nimrod will be present and will vote for ERA on Tuesday.

4. Some suggested points for the call:

- a. Indicate that the call is confidential unless he wishes otherwise.
- b. Indicate that this is your only call -- that you had called Senator Harris a few weeks ago -- but that this time you wanted to talk with a strong ERA supporter.
- c. Inquire as to how he thinks the vote will go. Ask whether there have been any Republican defections on the issue.
- d. Indicate how important continued GOP backing for ERA is, for the Party in Illinois and nationally.
- e. Ask whether all the pro-ERA votes will be there. Say that you had heard that Senator Roe (R, pro-ERA) was in the hospital and that you hoped he could make the vote -- that with a set number of votes needed, an absence is just as much a vote against as an actual "no" vote.
- f. Ask him to call Sheila Weidenfeld after the vote -- to let you know what happened.

5. Timing of the call: Monday, March 3rd.



File [ca 1975]  
Women's  
File

WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 10/5

MEMO TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

FROM: JEANNE M. HOLM

For Appropriate handling \_\_\_\_\_

For your information \_\_\_\_\_

Per your request \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Ellen Goodman's editorial on "The Patrons of Betty Ford" is a strange combination of misrepresentation of the President's position on women's equality (and ERA) and misreading of the relationship between the President and his wife Betty. It is also a put-down of the important role that a wife plays in the life of a man who is in a position to make national policy which touches all of our lives. That it should have come from a woman journalist of Ms. Goodman's stature is an especially low blow to the feminist movement.

As we look at the campaign poster with Betty Ford standing at her husband's side we should wonder why it hasn't been done before.

In the confusion of an election we tend to forget that when we elect a President in this country we also catapult an entire family into the White House. Like it or not, each member assumes the stature of a public figure and role model to millions. The attempt to belittle Betty Ford's role is a put-down of someone who has become universally admired for her spirit and for what she represents to millions of women who have chosen to be wives and mothers at the sacrifice of their own careers but who refuse to give up their own identities in the process.

While the public's interest in the family of a President (or a candidate) has a certain element of voyeurism, is more fundamental than that. To know the family, especially the wife, is to know much about the man. The fact is that President Ford not only tolerates but also respects the right of his wife to express her own views in public even when they may not agree



with his own. This reveals much about his own sense of identity and his maturity. Most public men would be threatened by such independence on the part of their wives.

The implication that the President merely indulges her views on women's issues but has no sincere convictions of his own and that, while she has been fighting for the ERA, he "has been tolerant of it", simply does not square with the facts.

President Ford has been an active supporter of women's rights for many years. As a Member of Congress he was instrumental in securing passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, a fact acknowledged by the "mother" of the Amendment, Martha Griffiths.

In 1970, when she was attempting to obtain the signatures needed for a discharge petition to force the Amendment from <sup>the</sup> committee where it had languished for 47 years, it was Minority Leader Gerald Ford who supplied the additional signatures she needed. In Martha Griffiths words: "(he) supplied some real moxie too; He lined up 15 or 16 names right at the end."

On August 10, 1970 in his remarks on the floor prior to casting his vote in favor of the Amendment Mr. Ford said: "... (the Amendment's) time has come just as surely as did the 19th Amendment to the Constitution 50 years ago, giving women the right to vote..."

Since becoming President, Mr. Ford has repeatedly urged ratification of the ERA in interviews and official statements. On February 4, 1976, he told the New Hampshire Times: "I support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and I have urged the adoption of it by the states. The Nation cannot afford discrimination against



any individual based solely upon race, creed, sex or national origin. As we enter our third century as a Nation, it is particularly important that we reaffirm our commitment to equal opportunities for all our citizens."

In his proclamations declaring Women's Equality Day for each of the last three years, he has called up the states "who have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to give serious consideration to its ratification and the upholding of our Nation's heritage."

On July 1 this year, before a group of 900 women leaders and members of the press, he reiterated his support: "I have long favored, voted for ERA, and I hope to see it a part of our Constitution before too long." He went on to point out that "injustice cannot wait upon politics, nor upon the lengthy public discussion which has already delayed ratification of this constitutional amendment. The time to act is now."

He announced that he had directed the Attorney General to plan a review of all Federal laws and regulations identifying those that discriminate on the basis of sex and to make recommendations for change. He also encouraged the Governors of all the States "to initiate a similar review of all State laws to bring them into harmony with our American philosophy of absolute equality under the law."

Since taking office, he has supported and signed legislation eliminating discrimination based on sex in housing, credit, education and appointments to service academies. Earlier this year he recommended to the Congress that the estate and gift



taxes on transfers between spouses be eliminated altogether since in effect they constitute a "widow's tax." Unfortunately the Congress did not see fit to include this provision in their tax bill.

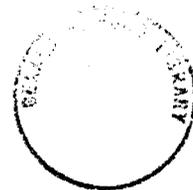
Moreover, the President's confidence in women's capabilities as decision and policy makers is reflected in the fact that he has appointed more women to top level jobs on his staff and throughout this Administration than any President in history. And he has pledged to do more if he is given the opportunity to put together his own Administration next year.

This is hardly the record of a President who is merely "tolerant" of the ERA or in anyway lukewarm to women's equality.

That his wife Betty may have been a major influence on his attitudes toward women is highly probable and in no way denegrates the fact. It is, rather, a mark of his respect for her and for women in general.

Jeanne M. Holm

Special Assistant to the President for Women



Mrs. Ford has asked me to thank you for sharing your views on the Equal Rights Amendment.

Unlike most issues before the state legislatures, the ~~K~~ ERA will affect all citizens of the United States and is therefore national in scope. Because the First Lady feels it would be inappropriate if persons (in the White House or) any place in our country were prohibited from taking part in the discussion of what should or should not be the law of the land, she exercised ~~her Constitutional right of~~ freedom of speech in, as you did, conveying her personal opinion.

Please know that Mrs. Ford admires your commitment and involvement and would encourage your further participation in the legislative process.

With best wishes,



Unlike any other matter under consideration by a state legislature, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States is, of course, national legislation. Mrs. Ford believes that it is entirely appropriate for national leaders to participate in the discussion of what should or should not be the supreme law of the land.

or

Unlike any other matter under ~~the~~ consideration by a state legislature, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States is, of course, national legislation. Therefore, Mrs. Ford feels that her role in the issue has been entirely ~~appropriate~~ proper. In fact, Mrs. Ford believes it would be highly inappropriate if persons in the White House <sup>or any place in our</sup> were <sup>country</sup> prohibited from participating in the discussion of what should or should not be the supreme law of the land.

one sentence: (at heart of issue)

" Should the White House be prohibited from discussing what should or should not be the supreme law of the land?"



Requested by Sheila Weidenfeld, press secretary to Mrs. Ford  
2/10/75 Night telegrams to go as soon as possible  
Total: two telegrams

The Honorable Sue Wagner  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

#1  
Congratulations on the vote on ERA in the Judiciary Committee today and for your early ~~leadership~~ leadership and support. I feel strongly that ~~the ERA~~ ratification of the ERA is the single most important step our nation can take to assure equal opportunity for all Americans. Again, I thank you for your help and wish you the best of luck in the upcoming vote this week.

(signed) Betty Ford

The Honorable Selvin D. Loman  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

#2  
Many thanks from Washington and from across the country for your support in the Judiciary Committee today. The Equal Rights Amendment is <sup>as</sup> important to men as <sup>it is to</sup> women if we are to continue in the fight for equal opportunity for all. Again, I thank you for your support today and hope you will do whatever you can for passage ~~this week~~ in the Assembly this week.

(signed) Betty Ford



room  
87 EOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Ann Glennon - List of groups who support  
Mrs. Ford's stand on ERA*

*Virginia State League of Women Voters'*

*Alexandria League of Women Voters'*

*Alexandria Commission on the Status of Women*

*Catholid Women For ERA*



Sally -  
Can you handle  
like the  
bicentennial  
message?

I support the Equal Rights Amendment because I feel that barriers to one person's freedoms in this country are impediments for all.

As walls due to race or religion have fallen, freedom for all has expanded. And likewise, as women begin to be granted full opportunities to participate, our country's full potential can begin to be felt.

I see the ERA as a beginning. I see it as a base on which to build. I can't pretend it will be the overnight end to discrimination. But progress in the recognition of women as a force in our society needs legal roots, and the ERA will provide them.

I see the ERA as legislation that's as important to the housewife as to the career woman. Like many women, my husband and children are my first priority, ~~though I recognize that's not true for everyone. The point is that it's not just my lifestyle~~ <sup>but yours</sup> ~~or yours~~. The ERA does not ask us to change our priorities. It gives us the freedom to choose them. ] in script

is not the  
the option to choose, know, select our lifestyle is.

This is the year to unite against the scare tactics which cloud the issues and threaten to block our chance for real equality in this country.

We've been given the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let's make those rights a reality. And let's do it <sup>Country's</sup> as a most appropriate celebration of liberty in our 200<sup>th</sup> year.

Like many women, my husband & children are my first priority, though I ~~recognize~~ <sup>now recognize</sup> that's not true for everyone. But my <sup>specific</sup> lifestyle or yours is not the issue; the ~~option to select the lifestyle is~~ issue is ~~the option to~~ having the option to decide.

(Ital)



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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We've been given the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let's make those rights a reality. And let's do it as a most appropriate celebration of liberty in our Country's 200th year.





*Ratification of the ERA is the single most important  
step our nation can take to extend equal  
opportunity to all Americans,*

*Betty Ford*



*The Second National Women's Political Caucus Convention  
June 26-29, 1975  
Boston, Massachusetts*