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## A D D R E S S

"The Value of the Volunteer"

"International Women's Year"

by

MRS. ROBERT LINDH

Special Presidential Assistant for Women's Affairs

Washington, D. C.

MRS. ROBERT LINDH: Thank you very much, Esther--a former Washingtonian. We have been comparing notes, and things have been happening a bit in the last few months.

Madam President and Jean Jackson, President Elect, and my friend from Baton Rouge, Ruth Vordenbaumen, who got me here--one way or the other--and my chaperone this morning, Lora Thomas, thank you very much for all of your help today, and members of the National Council and members and guests of Kappa Delta.

As you know, you just met my mother, and it is always a very-- very special for me to get a free trip to Arizona, paid for, I might add, by the White House, so it won't come out of the budget for this meeting.



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I came a day early to have a very quiet visit and sit by a very pretty swimming pool, something I don't have in Washington. And fortunately, your weather here was relatively cool. I was absolutely amazed. I thought it was just beautiful the last couple of days. Much cooler than Washington--in more ways than one. (Laughter)

I have spent about a year there now, and I have enjoyed it a great deal, learned a lot. I spent my first two months there memorizing a new alphabet and learning words I never knew existed before: ECKOSOC, facilitator, interface, ERTA.

You know, really, when you go to Washington you learn to speak English all over again--or you leave--because you can't understand what anybody is saying.

I think that probably one indication of just how much Washington is on the national consciousness right now is a story that happened about a year ago when we were moving from Baton Rouge.

I have three children, the youngest one at that point was eight years. His name is Robert. And Robert is at that "God bless" stage in his religious education. When he goes to bed at night his prayers are:

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"God bless," and I have a lot of relatives, and he goes down the list. At that time we were packing up, and I don't know how many of you all have moved, but you do know what a house looks like with everything out of it, and kind of dreary, and it was the last day. Nobody was happy, I might add, about leaving Louisiana.

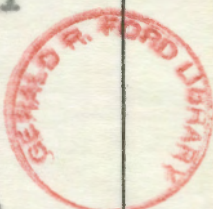
I went in to hear Robert's prayers, and when he got through his "God blesses" he stopped and said, "Well, goodbye, God; we are moving to Washington." (Laughter and applause)

Anyway, you know even kids think about Washington. They spend a lot of time in front of the TV set--watching Sam Ervin, I guess.

Anyway, I am happy to say that things have improved considerably in the last year and now we all enjoy it and we are all truly settled down.

Well, while I am not among those who believe that statistics give the complete picture of reality, it really is essential that we spend a few minutes today in the numbers game considering just who we all are.

First of all, we are more than half of the United States' population. There are 109 million





of us in this country. We are better educated than ever before. Half of the high school graduates in 1971 and more than half in 1973 were women. Almost 400,000 of us received bachelor's degrees. More of us than every before are working.

There are 38 million women in this country working now, about 40 percent of the total labor force of the United States. We work in offices and on construction sites. We work as doctors and policewomen and housekeepers.

Women's salaries, on an annual basis, amounts to about 160 billion dollars a year. That is quite a chunk of the gross national product.

More women head households than ever before. Six million American families are headed by women.

We do most of the day-to-day purchasing. It is said that non-employed housewives buy, bring home, use and throw away what accounts for one-quarter of the gross national product. We have a large stake in the economy in other ways, too. Women own 75 percent of the stocks and bonds, 70 percent of the insurance policies and 65 percent of the savings accounts in the country.

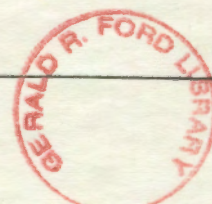
In sum, we're strong in numbers and we are

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strong in potential. We are involved greatly in the nation's economy. We contribute enormously to the nation's productivity, and we make the majority of the day-to-day purchasing decisions.

But our strength in numbers and our sheer diversity do not tell the whole story. We are more than half of the nation's population, but we are still treated, under the laws, as if we were a minority.

We contribute enormously to the nation's economy, but we earn less than men do and we are conspicuously absent from Board Rooms and Executive Suites. We make the majority of the purchasing decisions in this country, but our voices have yet to make a big impact on the marketplace.

We contribute much to our country's productivity, but we are just now beginning to mobilize and exercise our full talents.

But this is changing, and I predict it will continue to change, because we are changing. Women have new ideas about who we are, new dreams of who we should be and new aspirations to participate in all facets of American life.

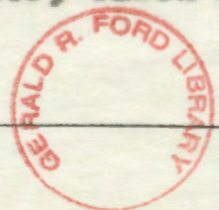
So young and old, rich and poor, black and

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white, married and single, we still rock the cradle--but we are now beginning to rock the marketplace.

Woman's growing confidence in herself, her new aspirations, and her clout in the marketplace are closely intertwined. And they are here to stay.

One of my favorite women politicians, Charlotte Wilson, former mayor of Montreal, has said that, "A woman must be twice as good as a man to get half the credit -- fortunately," she said, "this is not difficult." (Laughter)

That is probably why she got to be the mayor of Montreal.

Your government has been profoundly involved with women far longer than all of you may think. It goes back exactly 202 years ago to 1773, when a woman was appointed postmistress of a little post office near Baltimore, Maryland.

So our participation in the federal system is older than the United States Constitution.

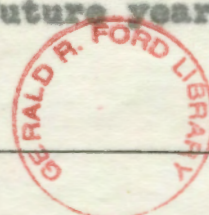
Where are we moving now? What is happening now? In government we are going very rapidly forward. The emphasis this year is most assuredly on women. The emphasis most specifically in future years

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will be most assuredly on all of you.

For the first time in history, three women are chairing regulatory agencies in Washington. This is a big plus. Helen Delich Bently is Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission; Catherine May Bedell is Chairman of the Federal Tariff Commission and Betty Murphy, in a most recent appointment of President Ford, is Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, the first woman to sit on a mediation board of labor and management, the first woman designated as a chairman. You all know Carla Hills has been appointed the first Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

But there are other firsts that are even more interesting. There are six Ambassadors now; there are six generals in the army and there is only one admiral in the navy, but we are working on that. (Laughter)

But all kinds of other jobs are opening up already: patent examiners, air traffic control chiefs and sky marshalls. And last week--I really wasn't going to go into this, but the first six women were graduated from the Border Patrol Academy. I didn't know they had one, but these women are going to be riding their horses down the Rio Grande and do whatever the people do on the



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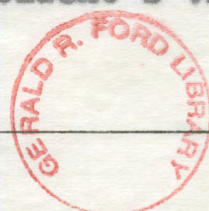
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border patrol. ~~They~~ carry guns and they ride on their horses up and down the river. It is the first women to do something like that.

The President has on his staff the first advance woman in history, people who go ahead of the President into a city, and if any of you have ever worked with any of the former Presidents, when a President comes into your city it can sure mess things up, and the advance people, they say, do most of the messing up. But Mary Fisher is there now, and hopefully this will straighten it out. We have the deputy press secretary, Margarita White, an absolutely marvelous person, who is in charge of the press relations throughout the country.

And then, of course, there is my job, and essentially I am ~~Affairs as well as~~ the first Special Assistant to a President for Women, and my job simply is to act as the liaison person between the President of the United States and all of the women, the women's organizations in the United States, all 109 million of you. (Laughter) From NOW to DAR, from the National Women's Political Caucus to the National Catholic Conference, the whole gamut of women's organizations, and my job is essentially to reflect the President's views,





aspirations and concerns about women to women; and the other side of the coin, which is far more important, to reflect your views and aspirations and concerns back to Washington and back to the Executive Branch of our government, and reflect what you want to do, make sure that in fact it gets done. And that's the first time anything like this has ever happened before.

There are a number of other things that we certainly try to do in my office. We try to facilitate the entry of women from all the organizations in this country into the White House, into policy-making, policy decision meetings, and I think in the last six months there have been more women in the White House for decision making kinds of meetings than in the last 60 years all put together.

So there has been some action, believe me, going on there.

I work with the other departments and agencies of government, to make sure that any legislation or regulations that are coming out are fair to women, that represent women's interest and represent women's goals and concerns, and most specifically, that they do not reflect any sex discrimination. We work to





encourage qualified women to seek jobs within the government, and particularly at the very highest levels of government.

There are two other things I do, and that is probably what I am going to talk most about today. One is "International Women's Year."

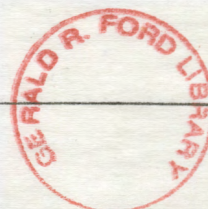
I am leaving right after this for Mexico for the United Nations Conference on International Women's Year, which starts tomorrow morning. I think you all ought to know, if you don't know now, a little bit about what we hope will come out of this and what we would most like to see you all do about it.

In 1972 the United Nations passed a resolution to make 1975 International Women's Year. This means that all of the countries who belong to the United Nations--and there are 138--will be committed during this year to make a national effort in support of the activities planned for this year.

The goals of International Women's Year are related to its theme:

"To promote equality between men and women."

"To insure the full integration of women in the total development effort of the country."





"To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the strengthening of world peace."

Now, there has been a lot of publicity and a lot of action throughout the world on this. I think our country is a little slow on picking some of it up. There is a lot of action in Washington, but I am not so sure it has gotten west of the Appalachian mountains where it should be moving now.

The Conference, sponsored by the United Nations, will be held at the Conference Center of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City. It will be the first time in the history of the world that the women of the world have sat down together in one room and discussed what their problems, issues and concerns are all about. As such, it will be a very historic meeting.

Women are coming from all over the world: three women who are Presidents of countries, Mrs. Gannike, Mrs. Peron and Mrs. Ghandi, maybe, depending on how things shape up in India; Mrs. Rabin from Israel and Mrs. Sadat from Egypt. We may solve that problem while we are there.  
(Laughter)



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Mrs. Marcos, Mrs. Manley and the first Russian woman cosmonaut will be leading the delegation from Russia, Yamada Gorean; Secretary of State for Women's Affairs from France.

In short, the most illustrious women in the world will be sitting together tomorrow morning in Mexico City. What an interesting two weeks we are going to have.

In mud houses in Zaire, women will discuss how to change traditions that forbid their men to walk to the well to obtain the family water supply, that forbids men from working in the farm fields and confine them to hunting and politics.

In communist party meeting halls in rural Poland, women might ask why the district leader is nearly always a man. In women's clubs in Australia, women may discuss what laws Parliament should pass to assure fair employment practices.

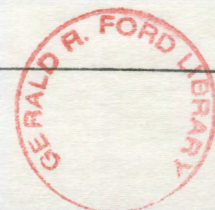
Top leaders in Cairo, Egypt, may discuss the need for more nutrition courses in high school, and high school students in Cairo, Illinois, may discuss why so few girls run for top high school offices.

There are all sorts of things that can be

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done, and we are encouraging all existing organizations the Junior League, Kappa Delta, BPW, General Federation, the Women's League of Voters, to get involved and find a program for yourselves that would support International Women's Year.

Here are just a few ideas that you, as a group, could do:

Investigate the prospects for new careers for women, for example, medicine, dentistry, engineering-- and that is a career for a woman right now, and then work with college and high school staffs to inform girls of these possibilities, and the need for planning their courses in preparation for them. Math courses, for instance, so that when they go on to college they will have the basic courses so that they can expand in college.

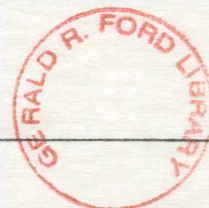
Look into the situation of women in local prisons, and see what can be done to provide counselling, guidance and help to them.

Work with local business groups to plan internships for students so they can gain work experience and have a record of employment when they graduate from college and go to work, that they will have a record of work experience.

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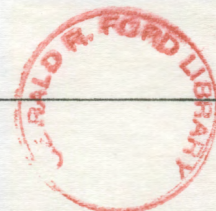
Work with local art groups to insure that women are adequately represented on the Boards of Trustees of local museums and see that more women artists' works are displayed and that more women musicians have a chance to play.

Encourage lawyer's associations to identify and help remove any discrimination in local laws and regulations affecting women in such areas as eligibility for credit, leases, loans, licenses, pensions and so forth.

Arrange for local women with successful careers in various lines of work to "adopt" a student in a local school or a high school or college who are training for these careers, so as to provide encouragement and advice to stay in there and get that education.

Perhaps International Women's Year will encourage us to stretch our wings. Perhaps the example of women around the world, many with so few advantages, many with a history of repression, will serve to heighten our own awareness of ourselves and what we can accomplish here in this great country of ours. We are indeed the land of milk and honey, and for most of us, the problems of bare existence have no relevance.

What is relevant is the use we make of the





gifts God has given us. The gift of soul and mind, the freedom to choose and order our own lives and to contribute to the well-being and growth of those around us. These are precious gifts and should be used accordingly.

And that brings me to a few thoughts on my private project in the White House, and that is the value of the volunteer.

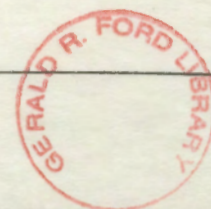
For 19 years--and probably longer--that is what I was. I was strictly a volunteer. I discovered, like many volunteers going back to work, that it really doesn't count for all that much, even if it was important. And I would like somehow--and we are working on this--to give some kind of value to the services performed by we who serve others for nothing but love or affection, for concern for our fellow citizens. I certainly don't mean pay. I am talking about the wonderful word "value."

There is a story from another decade about a jury that had vainly deliberated for 36 hours. Finally, the jury returned to the courtroom and the judge solemnly asked the foreman:

"Has the jury reached a decision?"

The foreman said: "Yes, your honor. We have decided that we'd rather not get involved."

(Laughter)





I say it is a story from another decade because I am convinced that the seventies period is a period when just about everyone will want to become involved in something, particularly something to do with the improving of the quality of life in our country. The day of what John Gardner calls "The Sophisticated Dropout" is over.

I can say that in the seventies, it has become increasingly unpopular to get so wrapped up in one's personal life that there isn't any time for the larger problems of the day; to immerse oneself so deeply in a specialized professional field that the larger community virtually ceases to exist; to assert that the whole society is so corrupt that nothing can save it; and to tell oneself that society has fallen into the hands of the unworthy, and that virtuous, clear-eyed spirits--like yourself--haven't a chance.

In short, I think the "in thing" of the 1970s will be personal involvement in making an imperfect society work better.

A survey taken less than a year ago identified the following rather amazing facts:

Thirty-seven million Americans volunteered





their time and talents for the public good during the one-year period from May, 1973 to April 1974. Of the population surveyed--those 14 years and over--nearly one out of every four persons, 24 percent, were involved in voluntary activities, with more than one-third serving at least once a week.

During the week preceding the polling, for example, more than fifteen million people contributed 140 million hours of volunteer work--an average of nine hours per person--to such organizations as hospitals, schools and religious, civic, political and community groups. That comes to, if you think of the minimum wage in this country, \$2.00 an hour--it is more than that, but I can multiply it easier--it is \$2.20--that comes to \$280,000,000 a week, or about 1.5 billion dollars a year in salaries and wages that are given to this country by volunteers. That is quite a figure.

One of the most interesting findings was the high frequency with which people volunteered their services. Sixty percent were active at least once a month and thirty-six percent at least once a week or more.

And I think, for instance, the statistics

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show that volunteerism is greater among those with more education and higher incomes, and most amazingly, that although women account for fifty-nine percent of the volunteers, men are forty-one percent, so a very high total of the whole are men.

Your government recognizes the need for effective use of volunteer programs, and the private sector also recognizes this as well.

In order that a person may find satisfactory identification with volunteer work, agencies must realize and recognize their responsibility to organize, train and coordinate their volunteers. The wage of a volunteer, after all, is interaction with others and a knowledge that the time they give is needed and appreciated. It is important to remember that citizen awareness and citizen concern cannot be hired.

Before the end of the 1970s, I think we will see degrees offered in Volunteer Administration. We shall see, too, the birth of a society or a guild of volunteers. We also have the basis for this in Washington, in the National Center for Voluntary Action.

The purpose will be to demand a meaningful role for volunteers from reluctant agencies, and to lobby





for support for volunteers and volunteer programs, and to provide a medium of exchange among all of our organizations to find out what we all are doing and how we are accomplishing our goals.

Lack of funds for coordinators and training may slow the volunteer movement. Resistance of paid staff may retard the use of volunteers. But there is no force great enough to stop the concern of our citizens for their fellowman.

And so, as a service organization and a philanthropic organization and an educational organization, the basis of these other two, I really want to commend to you all and particularly to your <sup>colleagues</sup> collegiates, the useful use of our own lives, having a job, raising a family-- whatever it may be--are imperative. But there is the other imperative, too. Your service, the gift of yourself to others, to make your community one of the finest in the world.

I think Albert Schweitzer put it best. He said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

