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File - Women's Office

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Women's Office -- Activities Report
12/15/95

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

December 15, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO HAROLD ICKES
 ALEXIS HERMAN
 DOUG SOSNIK
 MAGGIE WILLIAMS
 MELANNE VERVEER
 ANN LEWIS
 KAREN HANCOX

CC: LEE SATTERFIELD
 CHRIS WAYNE

FROM: BETSY MYERS

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES REPORT - December 15

Below please find a summary of events, outreach and media activities by the Office of Women's Initiatives and Outreach from December 8 through December 15, 1995.

PULSE OF THE CONSTITUENCY

- o **Women still seem to feel the tide is turning and the Right is weakening.**
- o **Women constituents: Local women in *At The Table* outreach meetings this week were primarily concerned about reproductive choice and budget cuts. (Report and clips will follow.) Women say "We want to be involved," "We will do whatever you need us to do," and "Just tell us how we can help."**
- o **Women appointees continue to be grateful for an organized outreach strategy and sign up steadily for *At The Table*. Letters and e-mails are pouring in from appointees grateful for our events, briefings and agency visits which make them feel "included" and "respected." Latina appointees are pleased with regular communication.**

EVENTS

- o **Briefing with Don Baer, Mike McCurry, Evelyn Lieberman and Peggy Lewis on the White House Communications strategy and importance of amplification for 250 women appointees on December 13. Tony Lake briefed women on Bosnia -- with extensive Q&A. Women were grateful that the briefers knew their audience and directed remarks to them.**
- o **Organized luncheon and briefing for 64 women leaders from our most supportive women's organizations with First Lady, Alexis Herman and Betsy Myers on Dec. 13. The response was terrific.**

- o Organized meeting with **26 women state legislators** from across the country Dec. 14. Pulse: They hope to expand press for the White House and were pleased for opportunity to meet with Betsy Myers and give input.
- o Lunch for **60 Regional Women Political Appointees** Dec. 12. Presented *At The Table*.

OUTREACH

At The Table Grassroots Outreach

- o Over a dozen women appointees held *At The Tables* this week, including: **first teleconference At The Table** with Jamie Studley, Education General Counsel and Albuquerque women leaders through Senator Bingaman's office; **Gracia Hillman** (State Dept.'s women's issues and a senior African American appointee) with Boston human service advocates and businesswomen; **Ellen Haas** (USDA Undersecretary for Nutrition) with New Orleans women judges and advocates; **Shirley Watkins** (USDA Assistant Secretary for Regulation and a senior African American appointee) with St. Louis women leaders; **Ginger Lew** (Commerce) with Asian Pacifica American women regarding the Beijing conference; HUD's Deputy General Counsel (a latina woman) with New York City women of color leaders; and a Commerce senior advisor with Delaware's leading women elected and appointed officials as well as statewide women's leaders (organized by Lt. Gov).
- o Involved dozens of local community leaders across the country to set up *At The Table* outreach meetings for women appointees with local women, including Delaware's woman Lt. Governor, influential Democratic leaders (friends of Senator Kennedy), Rep. Gephardt, Sen. Bingaman and Rep. Jefferson, women of color leaders, state presidents of NOW and women's groups, legal services organizations, human services advocates, civil rights and gay/lesbian groups and DNC members.
- o Recruited *At The Table* Chairs for California and Iowa, as well as city chairs in New York, Florida, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia. Chairs are Democratic leaders, women's leaders and community leaders who agree to serve as points of contact to organize *At The Table*.
- o Assisted 150 upcoming *At The Tables* for the Christmas break across the country.

Constituency Outreach

- o Attended post-Beijing conference at Mt. Vernon College on Dec. 14. Spoke about Women's Office and *At The Table* to approximately 100 NGO's and women leaders (including Betty Friedan, Bella Abzug and Gertrude Mongella, secretary general of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women).

- o Attended **Women's Leadership Forum** annual Holiday reception with Mrs. Gore.
- o Worked with leading **Chicago Latina** group on *At The Table* and Latina outreach.
- o Assisted Museum of Women in the Arts with scheduling request to First Lady for "Brave Little Girls" series of children's books.
- o Organized meeting between full staff of Women's Office and full-staff of Office of President's **Interagency Council** on Women on Dec. 15.
- o Initiated outreach to **student groups** for *At The Table*.
- o Developed a **calendar of events** for White House Women's Office from January through April, 1996.
- o Met with **Joan Baggett** to discuss women's outreach strategy.
- o Met with **Nikki Heiderman** and **Joan Dunlop** regarding women's outreach.

Amplification

- o Faxed daily budget talking points to 150 women's groups.
- o Faxed talking points on Bosnia to 150 women's groups.

Women Political Appointees Outreach

- o Hosted **60 regional women political appointees** for lunch and *At The Table* **recruiting** at the Women's office on Dec. 12. Regional women said they appreciated the care and attention.
- o Hosted brown bag lunch agency visits with **women appointees** at **AID** and **Arms Control & Disarmament** on Dec. 14 and **Veterans Affairs** and **OPM** on Dec. 15. Women appointees love *At The Table* outreach.
- o Mailing of *At The Table* to **every woman political appointee** and **every White House woman** of appeal for home town outreach over the Holiday vacation and **materials** (how-to get press and how-to find local women).
- o Distribution of *At The Table* kits and memo to **Regional women appointees** and **Latina, Asian American** and **African American women appointees**, including at Hispanic appointee Holiday party.
- o One-on-one meetings with **Latina Regional women appointees** on *At The Table*.

- o **Pitched Mentoring Project for women appointees** to agency women liaisons and women appointees at AID, Arms Control, Veterans Affairs and OPM.

MEDIA

- o **Judy Mann** interview Dec. 15 on *At The Table* for *Washington Post* column.
- o Working with *Ms. Magazine* for upcoming story on *At The Table* and President's accomplishments and agenda for women and families.
- o Working with *Working Woman Magazine* for upcoming story on *At The Table* and President's accomplishments and agenda for women and families.
- o Working with *Village Voice* for upcoming story on *At The Table* and President's accomplishments and agenda for women and families.
- o Continued to assist women Presidential appointees with media placement on *At The Table* roundtables in New Orleans, Albuquerque, New York, California and elsewhere.
- o Scheduled interview with **Sarah McClendon** on Women's Office, *At The Table* and President's accomplishments and agenda for women and families.
- o Women's Office, *At The Table* and President's accomplishments and agenda featured in *Democrats Abroad France* Newsletter (attached).

UPCOMING

- o **President meeting with women leaders December 20.**
- o Christmas break home-town *At The Table* outreach meetings led by hundreds of women appointees.
- o Dec. 20 Women's Suffrage tour at Woodrow Wilson Museum for Clinton women appointees.
- o **Agency visits** to meet women appointees and pitch *At The Table*.
- o Printing and distribution of 12-page Administration accomplishments, "Supporting Women and Families: The Clinton Administration Accomplishments and Agenda."

DEMOCRATS ABROAD FRANCE

THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1995

GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The Clinton administration has taken a major positive step in its commitment to women. On June 5, 1995, President Clinton appointed Betsy Myers to head the first White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach. This office serves as a clearing house on women and family issues, publishing a bi-weekly newsletter, highlighting activities by the President, Vice-President and other administration officials working on these issues.

The Clinton administration and the Democratic Party are committed to women's issues and are ready to show their willingness to fight the Republican onslaught against women's acquired rights. Newt Gingrich and the Republican right have an avowed mission to keep women out of the public sphere in a deeply ideological battle to return to a mythical "golden age." The Democrats, on the other hand, are addressing the realities of the changing American social and economic scene, and the creation of this new executive office is one important step, among many, in that direction.

Clinton's record is outstandingly pro-women and pro-family, and it speaks for itself: the signing of the Family Medical Leave Act; expanding earned income tax credits by \$21 billion over five years; signing of the Violence Against Women Act; the increase by 86% of SBA loans to women; the highest level of women appointees of any administration (42%); the highest rate ever of women cabinet members; the nomination of the second woman to the Supreme Court; and more.

A Women's Leadership Forum of the Democratic National Committee was formed in 1993 and has created new opportunities for all women who are

leaders in law, medicine, community service, science, the arts and business to become active in the Democratic Party at the national level. The result is a new definition of power sharing, with a fresh infusion of women's ideas, energy, ability, and resources. Indeed, more and more women have gained a means to affect the political process in a direct and significant way through the WLF.

We want our leaders to recognize women's needs and employ women equally with men, and Clinton and the Democratic Party are right to focus on the contributions women have brought to the political and economic and social fabric of America.

BAD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Recently the House of Representatives passed a House Bill 1833, otherwise known as The Partial Birth Abortion Bill. This bill proposes to prohibit a particular medical abortion procedure used only in 1-2% of all abortions performed. This procedure is chosen only for those cases involving a threat to the mother's life or involving extreme fetal abnormality. Republicans object to this procedure because it is used solely in the last three months of pregnancy. Not only does this bill manifest the contempt Republicans have for the life of the mother, but it is also the first time Congress has legislated in the realm of medical abortion procedures. At present HB183 is in the Senate and has a strong likelihood of being passed. You must write to your Senator to oppose it (writing letters works!). We're including a form letter for Americans; if you have any questions about how to go about this, call Jennifer Merchant 47.36.47.12, Meredith Le Goff 42.93.15.60, Connie Borde 45.43.14.70 or Sheila Malovany-Chevallier 43.25.09.24

FLASH

Congratulations to the CAMS (Comité Anti-Mutilation Sexuelle, presided over by Linda Weil-Curiel) who were awarded a special humanitarian award from the French government for their fight against female genital mutilation. Julia Pimsleur and Kirsten Johnson made a moving and pertinent film, "Le Pari de Bintou," to be used in the field for the prevention of this practice. The Women's Caucus is proud of its support, however modest. We maintain our commitment to this issue and encourage our members to do so as well.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR WOMEN APPOINTEES

FROM: BETSY MYERS
Deputy Assistant to the President and Director for
Women's Initiatives and Outreach

RE: THIS HOLIDAY, WOMEN'S OUTREACH - *AT THE TABLE*

The holidays are nearly upon us and I know many of you are planning trips to your home towns. **This holiday, please consider setting aside an hour to meet with local women as part of our nationwide women's outreach initiative, *At The Table*.**

Women across America are eager to share their concerns with the President. **The President needs you to serve as his ambassador to local women.** Women appointees are the President's best representatives for listening to women and carrying their voices to the policy table. You can help local women have access to the President and you can empower them with the information you share about the President's work for women and families. **We will compile a monthly report to the President and White House policy-makers outlining women's concerns.**

We are asking each woman appointee to host at least one *At The Table* roundtable discussion with small groups of local women outside the Beltway -- during your regular official travel or when you are home for the holidays -- and then to report back to my office what women said.

You can be any level of appointee, from Schedule C to PAS. You do not need to be an expert on domestic policy. You merely need to be willing to spend some time listening to local women. If you have not yet received a simple "how-to" kit with all the materials you need, including a report form, please call us at (202) 456-7300.

It can be as easy as sitting down for an hour with former community colleagues to ask what's on their minds. **Attached is a list of some local resources you could call.** My office also has some contacts across the country who may be able to help. We will include you in our White House kick-off event at which we hope to announce that women appointees have successfully held hundreds of *At The Table* roundtables. You will join the ranks of the President, Vice President, First Lady, Mrs. Gore, Secretary Shalala and the Attorney General -- all of whom have gathered local women to hear their input. To date, dozens of women appointees have reached out to local women across the country, from advocates in Massachusetts, to businesswomen in New York, to single mom's whose voices are not usually heard at the policy table.

We must stress that *At The Table* is not a political activity and may not be used as such; rather, it is part of the Administration's efforts to include women in government policy and to share women's input with the President. This is about giving women the opportunity to talk to a listening ear about issues important to them.

Please help us keep track of your plans by faxing the attached sign-up sheet to us and also to your agency women's liaison. Please also tell us of any local women leaders you know whom we can ask to serve as contacts for helping set up *At The Table* meetings.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

**SUGGESTED LOCAL RESOURCES for
AT THE TABLE OUTREACH MEETINGS**

- o Your neighbors and family friends (e.g., your mother's bridge club).
- o Your high school and college acquaintances.
- o Local chapters of women's organizations, such as: League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, National Organization of Women (NOW), Women's Political Caucus, Junior League, Garden Clubs, Society of Women Engineers, Business & Professional Women's Club, Eastern Star, Council of Jewish Women, etc. (Think of organizations in which you, your mom or your grandmothers have participated.)
- o Other local organizations: Parent-Teacher Association, Chamber of Commerce, Jay Cees, Urban League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the women's section of state or local bar associations, medical societies, NAACP, Anti-Defamation League, labor unions, groups of educators, schools, etc.
- o Churches or synagogues and religious organizations for women, including women's "circles" and groups of women with young children. Churches and synagogues may have their own day care programs or community centers where/through which local mothers and elderly women may be contacted.
- o Neighborhood groups, like Neighborhood Watch and neighborhood associations.
- o Mayor and/or Governor's Women's Office or Women's Commission.
- o Women elected officials and women appointed officials.
- o Women's newspapers or press.
- o Nursing homes, retirement homes or other institutions where many women live and have trouble getting out.
- o Colleges/Universities in your area or your Alma Mater: Contact the Dean's Office, the student government association or the college women's center.
- o Government-related groups of women: government-employees organization, WIC, Head Start, etc. You may be able to locate these sources by calling the local welfare office, i.e., AFDC, the local school superintendent's office, etc.

Please also tell us of any local women leaders you know whom we can ask to serve as contacts for helping set up *At The Table* meetings for other appointees.

TIPS ON GETTING MEDIA COVERAGE FOR YOUR *AT THE TABLE* OUTREACH MEETINGS

- o If you have not worked closely with the media before, please call Mary Dixon in the Women's Office at 202-456-7300. We will give you media contacts and discuss how to get coverage.
- o Consider sending out a news release announcing your roundtable to all local media: television, radio, newspapers, specialty and trade press. See the sample news release in your **At the Table** kit.
- o If you are not comfortable having the roundtable covered by a reporter, call a weekly newspaper to come take a photograph or maybe take your own photograph of the participants at the table and submit it later to a local newspaper.
- o Always reach out to the local weekly newspapers, the specialty press (i.e. African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American) and the trade press. If you have business women at your table, call the local business publication. In many cities, there are women business publications you should contact. As Peggy Lewis in White House Media Affairs reminds us: **Think inclusive and not exclusive when contacting the media.**
- o When deciding what reporter to call at a newspaper, find out who covers women and family issues. They may be your best bet.
- o Consider calling a columnist at the local newspaper. They are always looking for column ideas and this will give them an opportunity to come hear the concerns of the local women in their community.
- o Most large metropolitan newspapers have suburban editions. If you are holding a roundtable in a suburban area, see if the larger newspaper in the area has a suburban bureau there. Call the main number of the newspaper and ask for the bureau number. Then call the reporters in that bureau and ask them to cover your roundtable.
- o Contact a local talk radio show host, especially if there is a woman talk show host in the area. See if you can get an interview before or after the roundtable. **Remember interviews are not pop quizzes.** You don't have to know all the answers. Simply answer the questions you know and say you will get back to them with the answers you don't know.
- o If your roundtable is on a specific topic, like domestic violence, find out the reporters in your area who cover that topic usually and target them.

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Media Suggestions

- o If you want television coverage, contact the local television stations by calling and asking for the assignment editor. Tell the editor that the White House is holding a roundtable with local women to discuss their concerns. Tell them who will be there and give them a little background on the **At the Table** initiative.
- o Emphasize the local angle while giving the national angle, too. Simply: To convince a reporter to cover the roundtable, explain that **local women are participating in a national initiative.**
- o Whenever calling the media to come cover your roundtable, have a news release ready to fax to them. They will always want to see the information on paper. In addition to what the sample news release suggests that you include, add the name of the participants if you have them. If not -- just tell the editor or reporter the time, date and place. Emphasize that this is a White House initiative.
- o Always emphasize that a report will be sent from your roundtable to the White House and monthly reports are being sent to the President and other policy-makers throughout the White House.
- o If you have questions you can't answer about the **At the Table** initiative, call Mary Dixon in the Women's Office at 202-456-7300 or have the reporter call her directly.
- o The bottom line -- as a Presidential appointee always remember that you are representing the President.

**PLEASE ALWAYS FAX OR MAIL ANY NEWS CLIPS FROM YOUR ROUNDTABLE
TO THE WOMEN'S OFFICE: FAX: 202-456-7311.**

**THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH
708 JACKSON PLACE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**



A National Trust
Historic Site

Universal suffrage is the foundation of every evil in this country...
Woodrow Wilson as a Princeton student, 1879.

My own mind is in the midst of the debate [on suffrage]. I do not feel I am ready to utter any confident judgement about it....
WW, New Jersey Governor, 1912.

...the movement for woman suffrage is becoming irresistible..
WW during the 1916 re-election campaign.

I regard the concurrence of the Senate in the constitutional amendment proposing the extension of suffrage to women as vitally essential to the successful prosecution of the great war of humanity in which we are now engaged...
WW speaking before the U.S. Senate, 1918.

I shall be interested to find out if women are rallying to our [the Democratic Party's] cause. I shall be very much disappointed if they do not and think that they have forgotten that they are chiefly indebted to me for the suffrage...
WW in retirement, commenting upon the upcoming Congressional elections, 1922.

**Woodrow Wilson House
Commemorates
Women's Voting Rights
Now through January 8, 1996**

WOODROW

WILSON HOUSE

2340 S Street, Northwest

Washington.

District of Columbia 20008

202 387-4062

***The Woodrow Wilson House
Invites You to Celebrate Women's Right to Vote
and View the Exhibit
"An Act of Right and Justice:
Woodrow Wilson and Women's Suffrage"***

The Woodrow Wilson House is pleased to offer a group tour of this special exhibit for the women appointees of the Clinton Administration. The tours will be held on the evening of Wednesday, December 20, 1995. Open house hours are 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$ 4.00 per person, payable at the door.

"An Act of Right and Justice: Woodrow Wilson and Women's Suffrage," honors the 75th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment. On August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment passed into law granting *all adult women citizens* the right to vote in America. In November, 1920, women participated at the national level in their first Presidential election.

An Act of Right and Justice captures the spirit of the final years of the suffrage campaign with original memorabilia, including a suffragist marching costume, banners, pins, books, handbills, and photographs of suffrage activities. On view is the official pardon of 16 imprisoned suffragists, signed by President Wilson in 1917. Featured in the exhibit are audio recordings of interviews with suffragists Alice Paul and Laura Ellsworth Seiller and suffrage songs of the era.

Notes, letters, and speeches of President Wilson illustrate his turnaround from noncommittal bystander to suffrage advocate. Visitors may see copies of ratification documents from a few of the thirty-six states that ratified the amendment.

The exhibit also explores the depth to which the suffrage controversy penetrated American popular culture. On display are "Votes for Women" playing cards, suffrage Valentines, postcards, and birth announcements, and novelty items such as a suffrage thimble, fan, and calendar. Also on view is sheet music for popular pro-suffrage songs of the day, including "She's Good Enough to be Your Baby's Mother...and She's Good Enough to Vote With You."

The Wilson House is located at 2340 S Street, NW, off embassy Row, near the corner of 24th Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, in the District. Limited on-street parking is available. The museum is within walking distance of Metro, DuPont Circle Station (Red Line). Parking and access for persons with disabilities is available.

Please RSVP to the answering machine number (202) 234-6162.



YOUR PAST WILL AMAZE YOU

CHRISTMAS ON S STREET...

In addition to viewing the exhibit, *"An Act of Right and Justice: Woodrow Wilson and Women's Suffrage,"* on the evening of Wednesday, December 20, 1995, visitors are invited to tour the Wilson House. The Woodrow Wilson House is the only Presidential museum in the nation's capital. The house is decorated in historic style for the Christmas season. Here remain the trophies, souvenirs and keepsakes of a President, exactly as they were when he was in residence. Describing the Wilsons' selection of this home for their retirement, Edith Wilson stated the house on S Street was *"comfortable, dignified, unpretentious, and suited to the needs of a gentleman..."*

Woodrow Wilson began his long and varied career as a university professor, writing nine books, and more than thirty-five articles on politics and history. After serving as President of Princeton University (1902-1910), he was elected governor of New Jersey. In 1912, he was elected President of the United States, winning re-election to a second term in 1916.

In 1921, after leading the nation through the first World War, President Woodrow Wilson moved to this elegant Washington home, in the heart of today's Embassy Row. The museum provides a glimpse into the life of an educator, scholar and world statesman. The house was designed in the Georgian Revival architectural style by Washington architect Waddy Butler Wood. Here the Wilsons entertained prominent visitors including David Lloyd George, and Georges Clemenceau, Prime Ministers of England and France during World War I. King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians visited the Wilsons in retirement in this home. Wilson spent his days visiting with friends and family in the comfort of his Library and taking long chauffeured drives through the Virginia countryside. In the evenings the Wilsons watched silent films on his "Graphoscope" movie projector, a gift of screen star Douglas Fairbanks.

After Wilson's death in 1924, his widow Edith Bolling Wilson, continued to live in the house on S Street until her death at age 89 in 1961. She left the home to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to be operated as a museum dedicated to Wilson's legacy. The museum has been open to the public since 1963.

Wilson House staff will be stationed in the historic rooms to answer visitor questions. Rooms on view include the Drawing Room, Library, Morning Room, Dining Room, home office affectionately called, "The Dug-out" along with the cooking kitchen, full of early 1920's cooking items. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the historic private bedrooms.

*Don't miss this opportunity to tour one of the Capital's truly unique historic houses!
Your past will amaze you!*