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GREATER CLEVELAND IWY CONGRESS

October 25, 1975

It's a great privilege to be here today

Thank you for inviting me. I am here because I believe the best way to celebrate International Women's Year is to examine the very real problems women face today, not the progress of yesterday.

While many new opportunities are open to women, too many are available ~~only~~ to the lucky few. Many barriers continue to block the paths of most women, even on the most basic issue of equal pay for equal work. *(applause)* And the contributions of women as wives and mothers continue to be underrated. *(applause)*

This year is not the time to cheer the visible few, but to work for the invisible many, whose lives are still restricted by custom and code.

In ^{your} working sessions of this conference, you will explore many of the formal and informal restrictions that confine women.

Many of these restrictions spring directly from those emotional ideas about what women can do and should do. These



definitions of behavior and ability inhibit men and women alike, but the limits on women have been formalized into law and structured into social custom.

For that reason, the first important steps have been *made* to undo the laws that hem women in and lock them out of the mainstream of opportunities.

But my own support of the Equal Rights Amendment has shown what happens when a definition of proper behavior collides with the right of an individual to personal opinions. I do not believe that being First Lady should prevent me from expressing my views. *(laughter & applause)*

I spoke out on this important issue because of my deep personal convictions. Why should my husband's job or yours prevent us from being ourselves? *(applause)* Being ladylike does not require silence. *(applause / laughter)*

The Equal Rights amendment when ratified will not be an instant solution to women's problems. It will not alter the fabric of the Constitution -- or force women away from their families. It will help knock down those restrictions that have locked women in to old stereotypes of behavior and opportunity. It will help open up more options for women.



But it is only a beginning.

The debate over ERA has become too emotional, because of the fears of some -- both men and women -- about the changes already taking place in America.

And part of the job of those of us who support ERA is to help remove this cloud of fear and confusion.

Change by its very nature is threatening, but it is also often productive. And the fight of women to become more productive, accepted human beings is important to all people of either sex and whatever nationality.

I hope 1976 will be the year the remaining four states ratify the 27th Amendment. ^(applause) It will be an important symbolic event during our 200th birthday to show the American experiment in human freedom continues to expand.

But changing laws, more job opportunities, less financial discrimination and more possibilities for the use of our minds and bodies will only partially change the place of American women. *in this country.*

By themselves they will never be enough, because we must value our own talents before we can expect acceptance from others. The heart of the battle is within.



I have been distressed that one unfortunate outgrowth of the debate has been a lack of appreciation of the role of ~~women~~ ^{as} wives and mothers.

In trying to open up new choices and opportunities, women must not underestimate their accomplishments in the home.

Fortunately, I have had the best of two worlds -- that of a career woman earning my own living, and that of a homemaker and mother raising four individual and delightful youngsters. *who I find most unusual & delightful of those opportunities*
but I am equally proud of both periods in my life.

We have to take that "just" out of "just a housewife" ^{*applause*} and show our pride in having made the home and family our life's work.

Downgrading this work has been part of the pattern in our society that has undervalued women's talents in all areas.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go ^{*applause*}
and part of that distance is within our ^{*very*} own mind.

ERA will help open some doors, changing our own attitudes as women will open even more. But legal help and self-help will not be enough.

The long road to equality rests on achievements of women and men in altering how women are treated in every area of everyday life.



That is why this conference is so important, because you are looking at the patterns of discrimination which must be ended before women are truly free.

Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom American has been striving for ~~during~~ 200 years. As the barriers against freedom for Americans because of race or religion have fallen -- the freedom of all has expanded. The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom ~~for~~^{of} women.

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(Pullen)

October 17, 1975

1st draft

MRS. FORD'S SPEECH, GREATER CLEVELAND IWM CONGRESS,
OCTOBER 25, 1975

I am delighted to join you this morning. It's refreshing to
see so many women of varied interests and backgrounds together for
a common purpose.

It's so important for women to realize there is more than
unites us -- than divides us. Because in unity there can be a diversity,
but in division there can never be strength.

I would like to share some thoughts and experiences with you
about trying to be an individual instead of a stereotype.

And I believe this is what the women's movement is about.

All of us live with labels and stereotypes imposed on us by
others or by our own thinking. We categorize ourselves and others
and lock ourselves in to certain roles and attitudes.

These restrictions limit men as well as women, but the
major difference has been that the restrictions on women have been



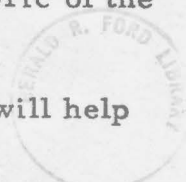
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For that reason, the first important steps have been to undo the laws that hem women in and locked them out of the mainstream of opportunities.

My own support of the Equal Rights Amendment has shown me what happens when a stereotype collides with the individual. I do not believe that being First Lady should prevent me from ^{expressing} ~~having~~ ^{my views} personal opinions.

I spoke out on this important issue, because of my deep personal convictions. Why should my husband's job or yours prevent ^{us} ~~you~~ from being ^{myself} ~~yourself~~. ^{Being lady like}

The Equal Rights Amendment when ratified will not be an instant solution to women's problems. It will not alter the fabric of the Constitution -- or force women away from their families. It will help



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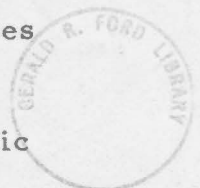
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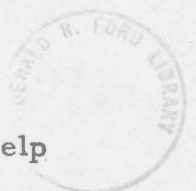
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Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom America has been striving for during 200 years. As the barriers against freedom for Americans because



of race or religion have fallen -- the freedom of all has expanded.

The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom for women.

By the end of this century, I hope this Nation will be a place where men and women can freely choose their life's work without restrictions or ridicule.

On the eve of the Nation's third century, let us work to end the laws and remove the labels that limit the imaginations and the options of men and women alike.

Success will open hearts and minds to new possibilities for all people. Much has been done. Much remains. But we are moving along.

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MRS FORD'S REMARKS

GREATER CLEVELAND IWY CONGRESS

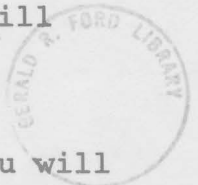
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(Pullen)

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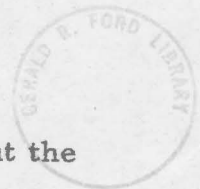
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#

January 22, 1976

Dear Mr. Meissner:

Thank you for your letter to Mrs. Ford and your thoughts. I appreciate the concern which prompts you to write.

Mrs. Ford decided to address the Cleveland group on the general subject of women's rights--what has been done, and what is left to do. She did not get into all the specific issues that involve women and their family or working life.

Prior to the speech, Mrs. Ford went to the auditorium with the idea of going to several different booths. As anyone there would confirm, the large crowd of both press and public that very quickly gathered turned the "tour" into something less than orderly; and frankly, there was not much of an opportunity to visit with anyone at any booth. It was unfortunate. Mrs. Ford did, however, enjoy the visit to Cleveland very much.

I enclose a copy of her speech, which might be helpful in seeing the types of things she addressed herself to.

Again, Mr. Meissner, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mr. Joseph P. Meissner
Attorneys at Law
Ohio Right to Life Society
3555 Northvale Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44112

Enclosure

PM/saq/Central File/EWPress:cron/subject/alpha



Cleveland
FIRST LADY

January 19, 1976

Dear Bill:

Thanks so much for the article on my visit to Cleveland. The trip was especially interesting, and I enjoyed reading Margaret Josten's observations on the conference. As you know, it's sometimes hard to gauge reaction from the podium, so the audience comments in the article were especially interesting to me.

I hope you are enjoying your new career and getting a chance to spend more time with your family. But I want you to know -- you are missed in Congress.

The very best to you from both Jerry and me.

Sincerely,

BF

Honorable William J. Keating
President, The Cincinnati Enquirer
Cincinnati, Ohio

SRW/fp



THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME.

I AM HERE BECAUSE I BELIEVE

THE BEST WAY TO CELEBRATE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

IS TO EXAMINE THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS

WOMEN FACE TODAY,

NOT THE IMPORTANT PROGRESS OF YESTERDAY.

WHILE MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES

ARE OPEN TO WOMEN,

TOO MANY ARE AVAILABLE

ONLY TO THE LUCKY FEW.

MANY BARRIERS CONTINUE TO BLOCK
THE PATHS OF MOST WOMEN,
EVEN ON THE MOST BASIC ISSUE
OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.
AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN
AS WIVES AND MOTHERS
CONTINUE TO BE UNDERRATED.

THIS YEAR IS NOT THE TIME
TO CHEER THE VISIBLE FEW,
BUT TO WORK FOR THE INVISIBLE MANY,
WHOSE LIVES ARE STILL RESTRICTED
BY CUSTOM AND CODE.

IN THE WORKING SESSIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE,
YOU WILL EXPLORE
MANY OF THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL RESTRICTIONS
THAT CONFINE WOMEN.

MANY OF THESE RESTRICTIONS
SPRING DIRECTLY FROM THOSE EMOTIONAL IDEAS
ABOUT WHAT WOMEN CAN AND SHOULD DO.
THESE DEFINITIONS OF BEHAVIOR AND ABILITY
INHIBIT MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE,
BUT THE LIMITS ON WOMEN
HAVE BEEN FORMALIZED INTO LAW
AND STRUCTURED INTO SOCIAL CUSTOM.

FOR THAT REASON,
THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEPS
HAVE BEEN TO UNDO THE LAWS
THAT HEM WOMEN IN AND LOCK THEM OUT
OF THE MAINSTREAM OF OPPORTUNITIES.

BUT MY OWN SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
HAS SHOWN WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN A DEFINITION OF PROPER BEHAVIOR
COLLIDES WITH THE RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL
TO PERSONAL OPINIONS.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT BEING FIRST LADY
SHOULD PREVENT ME
FROM EXPRESSING MY VIEWS.

I SPOKE OUT ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE,
BECAUSE OF MY DEEP PERSONAL CONVICTIONS.
WHY SHOULD MY HUSBAND'S JOB OR YOURS
PREVENT US FROM BEING OURSELVES?
BEING LADYLIKE DOES NOT REQUIRE SILENCE.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WHEN RATIFIED
WILL NOT BE AN INSTANT SOLUTION
TO WOMEN'S PROBLEMS.
IT WILL NOT ALTER THE FABRIC
OF THE CONSTITUTION --
OR FORCE WOMEN AWAY
FROM THEIR FAMILIES.

IT WILL HELP KNOCK DOWN THOSE RESTRICTIONS
THAT HAVE LOCKED WOMEN IN
TO OLD STEREOTYPES
OF BEHAVIOR AND OPPORTUNITY.
IT WILL HELP OPEN UP
MORE OPTIONS FOR WOMEN.

BUT IT IS ONLY A BEGINNING.

THE DEBATE OVER ERA
HAS BECOME TOO EMOTIONAL,
BECAUSE OF THE FEARS OF SOME --
BOTH MEN AND WOMEN --
ABOUT THE CHANGES
ALREADY TAKING PLACE IN AMERICA,

AND PART OF THE JOB
OF THOSE OF US WHO SUPPORT ERA
IS TO HELP REMOVE THIS CLOUD
OF FEAR AND CONFUSION.

CHANGE BY ITS VERY NATURE IS THREATENING,
BUT IT IS ALSO OFTEN PRODUCTIVE.
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TO BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE,
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I HOPE 1976 WILL BE THE YEAR

THE REMAINING FOUR STATES

RATIFY THE 27TH AMENDMENT.

IT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC EVENT

DURING OUR 200TH BIRTHDAY

TO SHOW THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

IN HUMAN FREEDOM CONTINUES TO EXPAND.

BUT CHANGING LAWS,

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES,

LESS FINANCIAL DISCRIMINATION

AND MORE POSSIBILITIES

FOR THE USE OF OUR MINDS AND BODIES

WILL ONLY PARTIALLY CHANGE THE PLACE OF AMERICAN WOMEN.

BY THEMSELVES THEY WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH,
BECAUSE WE MUST VALUE OUR OWN TALENTS
BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT ACCEPTANCE FROM OTHERS.
THE HEART OF THE BATTLE IS WITHIN.

I HAVE BEEN DISTRESSED
THAT ONE UNFORTUNATE OUTGROWTH OF THE DEBATE
HAS BEEN AN UNDERVALUATION
OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS WIVES AND MOTHERS.

IN TRYING TO OPEN UP
NEW CHOICES AND OPPORTUNITIES.
WOMEN MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE
THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE HOME.

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE HAD THE BEST OF
OF TWO WORLDS --

THAT OF A CAREER WOMEN EARNING MY OWN LIVING,
AND THAT OF A HOMEMAKER AND MOTHER
RAISING FOUR INDIVIDUAL AND
DELIGHTFUL YOUNGSTERS,

I AM PROUD OF BOTH PERIODS IN MY LIFE,

WE HAVE TO TAKE THAT "JUST"
OUT OF "JUST A HOUSEWIFE"
AND SHOW OUR PRIDE
IN HAVING MADE THE HOME AND FAMILY
OUR LIFE'S WORK.

DOWNGRADING THIS WORK
HAS BEEN PART OF THE PATTERN IN OUR SOCIETY
THAT HAS UNDERVALUED WOMEN'S TALENTS IN ALL AREAS.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY,
BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO --
PART OF THAT DISTANCE IS WITHIN OUR OWN MIND.

ERA WILL HELP OPEN SOME DOORS.

CHANGING OUR OWN ATTITUDES AS WOMEN

WILL OPEN EVEN MORE.

BUT LEGAL HELP AND SELF-HELP

WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.

THE LONG ROAD TO EQUALITY

RESTS ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN AND MEN

IN ALTERING HOW WOMEN ARE TREATED

IN EVERY AREA OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

THAT IS WHY THIS CONFERENCE IS SO IMPORTANT,

BECAUSE YOU ARE LOOKING AT

THE PATTERNS OF DISCRIMINATION

WHICH MUST BE ENDED BEFORE WOMEN ARE TRULY FREE.

FREEDOM FOR WOMEN

TO BE WHAT THEY WANT TO BE

WILL HELP COMPLETE THE CIRCLE OF FREEDOM

AMERICA HAS BEEN STRIVING FOR DURING 200 YEARS.

AS THE BARRIERS AGAINST FREEDOM FOR AMERICANS

BECAUSE OF RACE OR RELIGION HAVE FALLEN --

THE FREEDOM OF ALL HAS EXPANDED.

THE SEARCH FOR HUMAN FREEDOM

CAN NEVER BE COMPLETE

WITHOUT FREEDOM FOR WOMEN.

BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY,

I HOPE THIS NATION WILL BE A PLACE

WHERE MEN AND WOMEN CAN FREELY CHOOSE THEIR LIFE'S WORK

WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS OR RIDICULE.

ON THE EVE OF THE NATION'S THIRD CENTURY,

LET US WORK TO END THE LAWS

AND REMOVE THE LABELS THAT LIMIT THE IMAGINATIONS

AND THE OPTIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE.

SUCCESS WILL OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS
TO NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE.
MUCH HAS BEEN DONE.
MUCH REMAINS.
BUT WE ARE MOVING ALONG.

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human freedom continues to expand.

But changing laws, more job opportunities, less financial discrimination and more possibilities for the use of our minds and bodies will only partially change the place of American women.

By themselves they will never be enough, because we must value our own talents before we can expect acceptance from others.

The heart of the battle is within.

I have been distressed that one unfortunate outgrowth of the debate has been an undervaluation of the role of women as wives and mothers.

In trying to open up new choices and opportunities, women must not underestimate their accomplishments in the home.

We have to take that "just" out of "just a housewife" and show our pride in having made the home and family our life's work.

Downgrading this work has been part of the pattern in our Society that has undervalued women's talents in all areas.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go -- part of that distance is within our own mind.

ERA will help open some doors. Changing our own attitudes as women will open even more. But legal help and self-help will not be enough.

The long road to equality rests on achievements of women and men in altering how women are treated in every area of everyday life.

That is why this Conference is so important, because you are looking at the patterns of discrimination which must be ended before women are truly free.

Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom America has been striving for during 200 years. As the barriers against freedom for Americans because

of race or religion have fallen -- the freedom of all has expanded.

The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom for women.

By the end of this century, I hope this Nation will be a place where men and women can freely choose their life's work without restrictions or ridicule.

On the eve of the Nation's third century, let us work to amend the laws and remove the labels that limit the imaginations and the options of men and women alike.

Success will open hearts and minds to new possibilities for all people. Much has been done. Much remains. But we are moving along.

#

GREATER CLEVELAND IWY CONGRESS

October 25, 1975

Thank you for inviting me. I am here because I believe the best way to celebrate International Women's Year is to examine the very real problems women face today, not the progress of yesterday.

While many new opportunities are open to women, too many are available only to the lucky few. Many barriers continue to block the paths of most women, even on the most basic issue of equal pay for equal work. And the contributions of women as wives and mothers continue to be underrated.

This year is not the time to cheer the visible few, but to work for the invisible many, whose lives are still restricted by custom and code.

In working sessions of this conference, you will explore many of the formal and informal restrictions that confine women.

Many of these restrictions spring directly from those emotional ideas about what women can do and should do. These

definitions of behavior and ability inhibit men and women alike, but the limits on women have been formalized into law and structured into social custom.

For that reason, the first important steps have been to undo the laws that hem women in and lock them out of the mainstream of opportunities.

But my own support of the Equal Rights Amendment has shown what happens when a definition of proper behavior collides with the right of an individual to personal opinions. I do not believe that being First Lady should prevent me from expressing my views.

I spoke out on this important issue because of my deep personal convictions. Why should my husband's job or yours prevent us from being ourselves? Being ladylike does not require silence.

The Equal Rights amendment when ratified will not be an instant solution to women's problems. It will not alter the fabric of the Constitution -- or force women away from their families. It will help knock down those restrictions that have locked women in to old stereotypes of behavior and opportunity. It will help open up more options for women.

But it is only a beginning.

The debate over ERA has become too emotional, because of the fears of some -- both men and women -- about the changes already taking place in America.

And part of the job of those of us who support ERA is to help remove this cloud of fear and confusion.

Change by its very nature is threatening, but it is also often productive. And the fight of women to become more productive, accepted human beings is important to all people of either sex and whatever nationality.

I hope 1976 will be the year the remaining four states ratify the 27th Amendment. It will be an important symbolic event during our 200th birthday to show the American experiment in human freedom continues to expand.

But changing laws, more job opportunities, less financial discrimination and more possibilities for the use of our minds and bodies will only partially change the place of American women.

By themselves they will never be enough, because we must value our own talents before we can expect acceptance from others. The heart of the battle is within.



I have been distressed that one unfortunate outgrowth of the debate has been a lack of appreciation of the role of women as wives and mothers.

In trying to open up new choices and opportunities, women must not underestimate their accomplishments in the home.

Fortunately, I have had the best of two worlds -- that of a career woman earning my own living, and that of a homemaker and mother raising four individual and delightful youngsters. I am equally proud of both periods in my life.

We have to take that "just" out of "just a housewife" and show our pride in having made the home and family our life's work.

Downgrading this work has been part of the pattern in our society that has undervalued women's talents in all areas.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go -- part of that distance is within our own mind.

ERA will help open some doors, changing our own attitudes as women will open even more. But legal help and self-help will not be enough.

The long road to equality rests on achievements of women and men in altering how women are treated in every area of everyday life.

That is why this conference is so important, because you are looking at the patterns of discrimination which must be ended before women are truly free.

Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom American has been striving for during 200 years. As the barriers against freedom for Americans because of race or religion have fallen -- the freedom of all has expanded. The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom for women.

#

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME.

I AM HERE BECAUSE I BELIEVE

THE BEST WAY TO CELEBRATE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

IS TO EXAMINE THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS

WOMEN FACE TODAY,

NOT THE PROGRESS OF YESTERDAY.

WHILE MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES

ARE OPEN TO WOMEN,

TOO MANY ARE AVAILABLE ~~ONLY~~

TO THE LUCKY FEW.

*It is a st.
privilege to
be here to
have to*

*Statement as
given
Cleveland Dist
October 25, 1975*



MANY BARRIERS CONTINUE TO BLOCK

(2)

THE PATHS OF MOST WOMEN,

EVEN ON THE MOST BASIC ISSUE

OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

applause

AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN

AS WIVES AND MOTHERS

CONTINUE TO BE UNDERRATED.

applause

THIS YEAR IS NOT THE TIME

TO CHEER THE VISIBLE FEW,

BUT TO WORK FOR THE INVISIBLE MANY,

WHOSE LIVES ARE STILL RESTRICTED

BY CUSTOM AND CODE.

IN ^{your} WORKING SESSIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE, (3

YOU WILL EXPLORE

MANY OF THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL RESTRICTIONS
THAT CONFINE WOMEN ,

MANY OF THESE RESTRICTIONS

SPRING DIRECTLY FROM THOSE EMOTIONAL IDEAS
ABOUT WHAT WOMEN CAN DO AND SHOULD DO.

THESE DEFINITIONS OF BEHAVIOR AND ABILITY
INHIBIT MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE,

BUT THE LIMITS ON WOMEN

HAVE BEEN FORMALIZED INTO LAW

AND STRUCTURED INTO SOCIAL CUSTOM.



FOR THAT REASON,

(4)

THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEPS

HAVE BEEN ~~TO~~ UNDO THE LAWS

THAT HEM WOMEN IN AND LOCK THEM OUT OF

THE MAINSTREAM OF OPPORTUNITIES.

BUT MY OWN SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HAS SHOWN WHAT HAPPENS

WHEN A DEFINITION OF PROPER BEHAVIOR

COLLIDES WITH THE RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL

TO PERSONAL OPINIONS.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT BEING FIRST LADY 62-54

SHOULD PREVENT ME

FROM EXPRESSING MY VIEWS.

Cond^l applause -

I SPOKE OUT ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE,

(5

BECAUSE OF MY DEEP PERSONAL CONVICTIONS.

WHY SHOULD MY HUSBAND'S JOB OR YOURS

PREVENT US FROM BEING OURSELVES? *applause -*

BEING LADYLIKE DOES NOT REQUIRE SILENCE. *applause /*
laughter.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WHEN RATIFIED

WILL NOT BE AN INSTANT SOLUTION

TO WOMEN'S PROBLEMS.

IT WILL NOT ALTER THE FABRIC

OF THE CONSTITUTION --

OR FORCE WOMEN AWAY

FROM THEIR FAMILIES.

*Stop End; cutbacks of
Food stamps, social services*

Women demand jobs -

IT WILL HELP KNOCK DOWN THOSE RESTRICTIONS

(6.

THAT HAVE LOCKED WOMEN IN

TO OLD STEREOTYPES

OF BEHAVIOR AND OPPORTUNITY.

IT WILL HELP OPEN UP

MORE OPTIONS FOR WOMEN.

BUT IT IS ONLY A BEGINNING.

THE DEBATE OVER ERA

HAS BECOME TOO EMOTIONAL,

BECAUSE OF THE FEARS OF SOME --

BOTH MEN AND WOMEN --

ABOUT THE CHANGES

ALREADY TAKING PLACE IN AMERICA,

AND PART OF THE JOB

(7)

OF THOSE OF US WHO SUPPORT ERA

IS TO HELP REMOVE THIS CLOUD

OF FEAR AND CONFUSION.

CHANGE BY ITS VERY NATURE IS THREATENING,

BUT IT IS ALSO OFTEN PRODUCTIVE.

AND THE FIGHT OF WOMEN

TO BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE,

ACCEPTED HUMAN BEINGS

IS IMPORTANT TO ALL PEOPLE

OF EITHER SEX AND WHATEVER NATIONALITY.

I HOPE 1976 WILL BE THE YEAR

(8)

THE REMAINING FOUR STATES

RATIFY THE 27TH AMENDMENT. *APPLAUSE,*

IT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC EVENT

DURING OUR 200TH BIRTHDAY

TO SHOW THAT THE GREAT AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

IN HUMAN FREEDOM CONTINUES TO EXPAND.

BUT CHANGING LAWS,

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

LESS FINANCIAL DISCRIMINATION

AND MORE POSSIBILITIES

FOR THE USE OF OUR MINDS AND BODIES

WILL ONLY PARTIALLY CHANGE THE PLACE OF AMERICAN WOMEN,

in this country.

BY THEMSELVES THEY WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH, (9)
BECAUSE WE MUST VALUE OUR OWN TALENTS
BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT ACCEPTANCE FROM OTHERS.
THE HEART OF THE BATTLE IS WITHIN.

I HAVE BEEN DISTRESSED
THAT ONE UNFORTUNATE OUTGROWTH OF THE DEBATE
HAS BEEN A LACK OF APPRECIATION
OF THE ROLE OF ~~WOMEN~~ AS WIVES AND MOTHERS.

IN TRYING TO OPEN UP
NEW CHOICES AND OPPORTUNITIES,
WOMEN MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE
THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE HOME.

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE HAD THE BEST

(10)

OF TWO WORLDS --

THAT OF A CAREER WOMAN EARNING MY OWN LIVING,

AND THAT OF A HOMEMAKER AND MOTHER

RAISING FOUR INDIVIDUAL

AND ~~DELIGHTFUL~~ YOUNGSTERS, *who I find most unusual & delightful*

but

I AM EQUALLY PROUD OF BOTH ~~PERIODS IN MY LIFE~~

of these opportunities

WE HAVE TO TAKE THAT "JUST"

(1

OUT OF "JUST A HOUSEWIFE" *Apple use -*

AND SHOW OUR PRIDE

IN HAVING MADE THE HOME AND FAMILY

OUR LIFE'S WORK.

DOWNGRADING THIS WORK

HAS BEEN PART OF THE PATTERN IN OUR SOCIETY

THAT HAS UNDERVALUED WOMEN'S TALENTS IN ALL AREAS.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY,

BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO --

Apple use -

And PART OF THAT DISTANCE IS WITHIN OUR ^{own} MIND.

ERA WILL HELP OPEN SOME DOORS.

(12

CHANGING OUR OWN ATTITUDES AS WOMEN

WILL OPEN EVEN MORE.

BUT LEGAL HELP AND SELF-HELP

WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.

THE LONG ROAD TO EQUALITY

RESTS ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN AND MEN

IN ALTERING HOW WOMEN ARE TREATED

IN EVERY AREA OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

THAT IS WHY THIS CONFERENCE IS SO IMPORTANT,

BECAUSE YOU ARE LOOKING AT

THE PATTERNS OF DISCRIMINATION

WHICH MUST BE ENDED BEFORE WOMEN ARE TRULY FREE.

FREEDOM FOR WOMEN

(13)

TO BE WHAT THEY WANT TO BE

WILL HELP COMPLETE THE CIRCLE OF FREEDOM

AMERICA HAS BEEN STRIVING FOR ~~DURING~~ 200 YEARS.

AS THE BARRIERS AGAINST FREEDOM FOR AMERICANS

BECAUSE OF RACE OR RELIGION HAVE FALLEN --

THE FREEDOM OF ALL HAS EXPANDED.

THE SEARCH FOR HUMAN FREEDOM

CAN NEVER BE COMPLETE

WITHOUT FREEDOM ^{OF} ~~FOR~~ WOMEN.

By the end of the century
I hope to will be
be a country -

Much has been done - much
remains but we must keep
moving on.

(Pullen)

October 22, 1975

MRS. FORD'S SPEECH, GREATER CLEVELAND HWY CONGRESS,
OCTOBER 25, 1975

Card 1

Thank you for inviting me. / I am here because I believe /
the best way to celebrate / international Women's year / is to examine
the very real problems / women face today, / not the important progress
of yesterday. /

Card 2

While many new opportunities / are open to women, / too
many are available / only to the lucky few. / ^{Card 3} Many barriers continue to
block / the paths of most women, / even on the most basic issue / of equal
pay for equal work. / And the contributions of
women / as wives & mothers / continue to be
~~undervalued~~ / This year is not the time / to cheer the visible few, / but to work
for the invisible many, / whose lives are still restricted / by custom and
code. /

Card 4

In the working sessions of this conference, / you will explore /
many of the formal and informal restrictions / that confine women. /



Card 5 Many of these restrictions /spring directly from those emotional ideas /about what women can and should do. / These definitions of behavior ~~and~~ and ability /inhibit men and women alike, /but the limits on women /have been formalized into law /and structured into social custom. /

Card 6 For that reason, /the first important steps /have been to undo the laws /that hem women in and lock them out /of the mainstream of opportunities.

Card 7 But my own support of the Equal Rights Amendment /has shown what happens /when a definition of proper behavior /collides with the right of an individual /to personal opinions. I do not believe that being First Lady /should prevent me /from expressing my views.

Card 8 I spoke out on this important issue, /because of my deep personal convictions. / Why should my husband's job ~~or~~ yours ~~or~~ prevent us from being ourselves? / Being ladylike does not require silence. /

Card 9 The Equal Rights Amendment ~~when~~ when ratified /will not be an instant solution /to women's problems. / It will not alter the fabric /of the Constitution -- /or force women away /from their families. / It will help

Card 10



knock down ~~the~~ those restrictions that have locked women in to old
of behavior and opportunity/
stereotypes. It will help open up more options for women.

Card 10 But it is only a beginning.

The debate over ERA has become too emotional because
of the fears of some -- both men and women -- about the changes
already taking place in America.

Card 11 And part of the job of those of us who support ERA is to
help remove this cloud of fear and confusion.

Card 12 Change by its very nature is threatening, but it is also often
productive. And the fight of women to become more productive,
accepted human beings is important to all people of either sex and
whatever nationality.

Card 13 I hope 1976 will be the year the remaining four states
ratify the ~~27th~~ 27th Amendment. It will be an important symbolic
event during our 200th birthday to show the American experiment in

ERNEST R. FORD 1976

human freedom continues to expand./

Card 14 But changing laws./ more job opportunities./ less financial
discrimination./ and more possibilities./ for the use of our minds and
bodies./ will only partially change the place of American women.

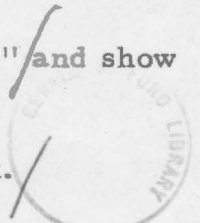
Card 15 By themselves they will never be enough,./ because we must
value our own talents./ before we can expect acceptance./ from others. /

The heart of the battle is within. /

Card 16 I have been distressed./ that one unfortunate outgrowth of the
a lack of appreciation
deflate
debate./ has been an undervaluation./ of the role of women as wives and
mothers. /

Card 17 In trying to open up./ new choices and opportunities,./ women
must not underestimate./ their accomplishments in the home. /

Card 18 We have to take that "just" out of "just a housewife" and show
our pride./ in having made the home and family./ our life's work. /



Card 19 Downgrading this work has been part of the pattern in our Society that has undervalued women's talents in all areas.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go -- part of that distance is within our own mind.

Card 20 ERA will help open some doors. Changing our own attitudes as women will open even more. But legal help and self-help will not be enough.

Card 21 The long road to equality rests on achievements of women and men in altering how women are treated in every area of everyday life.

Card 22 That is why this Conference is so important, because you are looking at the patterns of discrimination which must be ended before women are truly free.

Card 23 Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom America has been striving for during 200 years. As the barriers against freedom for Americans because



of race or religion have fallen -- the freedom of all has expanded.

The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom for women.

Card 24 By the end of this century, I hope this Nation will be a place where men and women can freely choose their life's work without restrictions or ridicule.

Card 25 On the eve of the Nation's third century, let us work to end the laws and remove the labels that limit the imaginations and the options of men and women alike.

Card 26 Success will open hearts and minds to new possibilities for all people. Much has been done. Much remains. But we are moving along.

#



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Friday

Sheila,

Will be at work in
the morning - Home rest
of weekend - Call me when
you have time for more
work on this - (R)

(Pullen)

October 17, 1975

MRS. FORD'S SPEECH, GREATER CLEVELAND IWM CONGRESS,
OCTOBER 25, 1975

I am delighted to join you this morning. It's refreshing to see so many women of varied interests and backgrounds together for a common purpose.

It's so important for women to realize there is more than unites us -- than divides us. Because in unity there can be a diversity, but in division there can never be strength.

I would like to share some thoughts and experiences with you about trying to be an individual instead of a stereotype.

And I believe this is what the women's movement is about.

All of us live with labels and stereotypes imposed on us by others or by our own thinking. We categorize ourselves and others and lock ourselves in to certain roles and attitudes.

These restrictions limit men as well as women, but the major difference has been that the restrictions on women have been

formalized into laws and strengthened by custom.

For that reason, the first important steps have been to undo the laws that hem women in and locked them out of the mainstream of opportunities.

My own support of the Equal Rights Amendment has shown me what happens when a stereotype collides with the individual. I do not believe that being First Lady should prevent me from having personal opinions.

I spoke out on this important issue, because of my deep personal convictions. Why should my husband's job or yours prevent

us *ourselves?*
~~you~~ from being ~~yourself~~.

The Equal Rights Amendment when ratified will not be an instant solution to women's problems. It will not alter the fabric of the Constitution -- or force women away from their families. It will help



knock down those restrictions that have locked women in to old stereotypes. It will help open up more options for women.

But it is only a beginning.

The debate over ERA has become too emotional, because of the fears of some -- both men and women -- about the changes already taking place in America.

And part of the job of those of us who support ERA is to help remove this cloud of fear and confusion.

Change by its very nature is threatening, but it is also productive. And the fight of women to become more productive, accepted human beings is important to all people of either sex and whatever nationality.

I hope 1976 will be the year the remaining four states ratify the _____ Amendment. It will be an important symbolic event during our 200th birthday to show the American experiment in

human freedom continues to expand.

But changing laws, more job opportunities, less financial discrimination and more possibilities for the use of our minds and bodies will only partially change the place of American women.

By themselves they will never be enough, because we must value our own talents before we can expect acceptance from others.

The heart of the battle is within.

I have been distressed that one unfortunate outgrowth of the debate has been an undervaluation of the role of women as wives and mothers.

In trying to open up new choices and opportunities, women must not underestimate their accomplishments in the home.

We have to take that "just" out of "just a housewife" and show our pride in having made the home and family our life's work.

Downgrading this work has been part of the pattern in our Society that has undervalued women's talents in all areas.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go -- part of that distance is within our own mind.

ERA will help open some doors. Changing our own attitudes as women will open even more. But legal help and self-help will not be enough.

The long road to equality rests on achievements of women and men in altering how women are treated in every area of everyday life.

That is why this Conference is so important, because you are looking at the patterns of discrimination which must be ended before women are truly free.

Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom America has been striving for during 200 years. As the barriers against freedom for Americans because

of race or religion have fallen -- the freedom of all has expanded.

The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom for women.

By the end of this century, I hope this Nation will be a place where men and women can freely choose their life's work without restrictions or ridicule.

On the eve of the Nation's third century, let us work to end the laws and remove the labels that limit the imaginations and the options of men and women alike.

Success will open hearts and minds to new possibilities for all people. Much has been done. Much remains. But we are moving along.

#

October 25, 1975

REMARKS OF THE FIRST LADY
AT THE
GREATER CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL WOMENS YEAR CONGRESS

CLEVELAND, OHIO

It is a great privilege and a great delight to be here and have this opportunity to say a few words to all of you wonderful people who are making this Conference such a successful Conference.

I really thank you for inviting me, and I am here because I believe the best way to celebrate International Womens Year is to examine the very real problems women face today -- not the progress of yesterday.

While many new opportunities are open to women, too many are available to the lucky few. Many barriers continue to block the paths of most women, even on the most basic issue of equal pay for equal work, and the contributions of women as wives and mothers continue to be underrated.

This year is not the time to cheer the visible few but to work for the invisible many whose lives are still restricted by custom and code. In your working sessions of this Conference you will explore many of the formal and informal restrictions that confine women. Many of these restrictions spring directly from those emotional ideas about what women can do and should do. These definitions of behavior and ability inhibit men and women alike, but the limits on women have been formalized into law and structured into social custom.

For that reason the first important steps have been made to undo the laws that hem women in and lock them out of the mainstream of opportunities. But my own support of the Equal Rights Amendment has shown what happens when a definition of proper behavior collides with the right of an individual to personal opinions.

I do not believe that being First Lady should prevent me from expressing my ideas. I spoke out on this important issue because of my deep personal convictions. Why should my husband's job, or yours, prevent us from being ourselves. Being ladylike does not require silence.

The Equal Rights Amendment, when ratified, will not be an instant solution to women's problems, will not alter the fabric of the Constitution or force women away from their families. It will help knock down those restrictions that have locked women into the old stereotypes of behavior and opportunity. It will help open up more options for women. But it is only a beginning. The debate over ERA has become too emotional because of the fears of some, both men and women, about the changes already taking place in America. And part of the job of those of us who support ERA is to help remove this cloud of fear and confusion.

Change, by its very nature, is threatening but it is also often productive. And the fight of women to become more productive, accepted human beings is important to all people of either sex and nationality. I hope 1976 will be the year the remaining four States ratify the 27th Amendment.

It will be an important symbolic event during our 200th Birthday to show that the great American experiment in human freedom continues to expand.

But changing laws, more job opportunities, less financial discrimination, and more possibilities for the use of our minds and bodies will only partially change the place of women in this country. By themselves, they will never be enough because we must value our own talents before we can expect acceptance from others. The heart of the battle is within.

I have been distressed that one unfortunate outgrowth of the debate has been a lack of appreciation of the role of wives and mothers. In trying to open up new choices and opportunities, women must not understate their accomplishments in the home. Fortunately, I have had the best of two worlds -- that of a career woman earning my own living, and that of a homemaker and a mother raising four individual youngsters who I find most unusual and delightful, but I am equally proud of both of these opportunities.

We have to take that "just" out of "just a housewife." We have to show our pride in having the home and family our life's work. Downgrading this work has been part of the pattern in our society that has undervalued women's talents in all areas.

We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go, and part of that distance is in our very own mind. ERA will help open some doors, changing our own attitudes as women will open more, but legal help and self-help will not be enough. The long road to equality rests on achievement of women and men in altering how women are treated in every area of every day life.

That is why this Conference is so important. Because you are looking at the pattern of discrimination which must be ended before women are truly free.

Freedom for women to be what they want to be will help complete the circle of freedom America has been striving for for 200 years.

As the barriers against freedom for Americans because of race or religion have fallen, the freedom of all has expanded. The search for human freedom can never be complete without freedom of women.

By the end of this century, I hope this Nation will be a place where men and women can freely choose their life's work without restrictions and without ridicule.

On the eve of the Nation's third century, let us work to end the laws and remove the labels that limit the imaginations and the operation of men and women alike.

Success will open our hearts and minds to new possibilities for all people. Much has been done -- much remains, but we must keep moving on.

Thank you very much.

END