

The original documents are located in Box 47, folder “Women - Equal Rights Amendment - Samples of Public Mail” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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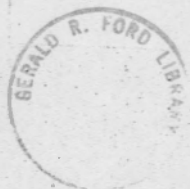
4602 S.E. 108 Pl.

Portland, Oregon

97266

My dear Mrs. Ford —

at a "Feminist '75" convention yesterday at Marylhurst college in Lake Oswego, Oregon it was announced that "Mrs. Betty Ford," President Ford's wife had taken a stand on women's Equality and made a public announcement to that effect. This announcement was most heartwarming and being a woman in your age bracket and of the middle class am fully aware of what something like this means. God bless you, Mrs. Ford. It will interest you to know, you received



a standing ovation from over 700 women when the announcement was made.

Our heartfelt prayers are also with you and will make a personal novena to the Blessed Mother for improvement in your health. I, too, have had a radical mastectomy of the left breast and had it not been for the prayers of many people could very well have not pulled through due to complications after the operation. As, first lady, of the land, yours is a difficult position at best. Rest assured you have won the hearts of millions of American women with your democratic attitudes.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Phelma M. Olsen



MAR 14 PM 2 26 915

March 17, 1975

Dear Ms. Greene:

I'm sorry I'm late in telling you that Mrs. Ford asked that I send her appreciation and best wishes to the Miami women participating in the "Get in the Picture for ERA" event.

She's looking forward to receiving the picture.

If there's any way I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Ms. Estelle J. M. Greene
President, The Miami Branch
American Association of University Women
5450 S. W. 63 Court
Miami, Florida 33155

SRW:ncc





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

March 10, 1975



NOT FOR PRIOR RELEASE

Mrs. Gerald Ford and Mrs. Reubin Askew, who have been supportive of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, will be thanked by advocates of the ERA in a picture, Saturday, March 15th, 9:30 a.m., at the Y.W.C.A., 100 S. E. Fourth Street, Miami.

The Miami Branch of the American Association of University Women is sponsoring a "Get in The Picture for ERA" event by convening individuals and representatives of pre-ERA organizations in a group picture which will be sent to both Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Askew. A banner will carry the message "Thank You Mrs. Ford & Mrs. Askew," and ERA supporters will carry placards identifying the organizations they represent. Thank you messages will be signed to be forwarded with the pictures.

Approximately 100 persons representing organizations such as the AAUW, Women in Communication, Women's Committee of One Hundred, Business & Professional Women, the Dade County League of Women Voters, Young Democrats, Herstory, the National Council of Negro Women, the Y.W.C.A., the Dade County Women's Political Caucus, National Organization for Women, and others, are expected to be present, as well as individuals prominent in the cause of ERA.

Contact:

Estelle J. M. Greene

Estelle J. M. Greene, President,

The Miami Branch, American Association of University Women,
5450 S. W. 63 Court, Miami, Fla. 33155

Phone: (305) 667-2433



ANTI-ERA (short) (1)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1975

Dear :

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your disagreement with Mrs. Ford on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your comments on to Mrs. Ford. Such criticism is helpful, and we both appreciate your taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1975

Dear :

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your recent letter expressing disagreement with her opinions on the Equal Rights Amendment.

While Mrs. Ford made a careful study of the issue and answered to her satisfaction many of the issues you raised, she appreciates criticism. She also evaluates her opinion in light of any new information she receives.

Although you are in disagreement on this issue, Mrs. Ford is certain there are many values you share and hopes by example and expression to advocate those values in the future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford



PRO ERA

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1975

Dear :

Thank you so much for your recent letter expressing support for Mrs. Ford and her stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I've added your letter to our "support" mail which now outnumbers the "anti" ERA mail by almost three-to-one!

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing. We hope you maintain your interest in the ERA.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford



Three machine-readable cards were not digitized. Please contact the Gerald R.
Ford Presidential Library for more information.

0712



Benjamin West



American artist
10 cents U.S. postage

Mrs. Betty Ford,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

att. Sheila Waidonoff



Dave
Fran
Helen

38

|||||

4

Anonymous Feb 27
Riv

What's so mat Betty

Have you let being "first lady"
go to your head?

Why not stick to the gracious
position as "first lady" and forget
ERA and politics?

Do you realize the full impact
if ERA becomes law?

Why not count to 10 before you
pick up the phone again?

Just a Friend

Jodie



3/13/75

Ms. Jan Franklin Dahlin
Uptown Village, #29
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Mrs. Ford,

I saw your picture on the front page of our local paper the other day wearing an enormous ERA button. I want to tell you how tickled I was to see that picture and how proud I am that you are my First Lady.

I also read recently that you personally called several legislators who were voting on the ERA in their particular state and urged them to vote for the ERA. After so many First Ladies who wouldn't go near anything but furniture and gardens, it is truly gratifying to find a woman who is interested in doing a little more for her country. I greatly admire you Mrs. Ford, and think you are very fortunate to be married to such a wonderful man as the President. His integrity and dedication to trying to improve this country are readily apparant. It is comforting to know that when our government reached a crisis, the system worked so

- Over



1600 Pennsylvania A

effectively that Mr. Ford became President.

Again, thank you for your strong support of the ERA, and I hope you will enjoy four more years as First Lady.

Yours most sincerely,

Jan Dahlia



Feb. 24, 1975

Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld
The White House
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

Please relate to Mrs. Betty Ford that she is making herself very unpopular in Republican womens' ranks in Indiana due to her activities on behalf of E R A and also she is losing votes for her husband right and left. I know whereof I speak; I am a Precinct Committeeman of long standing and President of a Republican Women's Club.

It is really too bad that she should involve herself in a cause so dear to the hearts of liberal Democrats, Women's Libbers, the Ms. organization and individuals of that cult. Count me as

Sick at heart,

Handwritten signature of Aretta Hartman.

Aretta Hartman (Mrs. J.H.)
2916 N. Talbott
Precinct Committeeman
4th Ward, 8th Precinct.
President Fourth Ward
Women's Republican Club
Indianapolis, Ind. 46205



March 19, 1975

Dear Mrs. Hartman:

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your recent letter expressing disagreement with her opinions on the Equal Rights Amendment.

While Mrs. Ford made a careful study of the issue and answered to her satisfaction many of the issues you raised, she appreciates criticism. She also evaluates her opinion in light of any new information she receives.

Although you are in disagreement on this issue, Mrs. Ford is certain there are many values you share and hopes by example and expression to advocate those values in the future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. J. H. Hartman
2916 North Talbot Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

SRW:mcc



2

Fourth Ward Women's
Republican Club
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205
March 4, 1975



Mrs. Sheila Weidenford
Press Secretary to Mrs. Betty Ford
White House
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Mrs. Weidenford:

We, of the Fourth Ward Women's Republican Club, one of the oldest in the City of Indianapolis, are 100 per cent vitally opposed to the activities of Mrs. Betty Ford with regard to the E.R.A. Amendment.

The members of our club wish to protest her actions in this matter. It is our belief that Mrs. Ford is erroneously using her influence as First Lady of the United States. It is not one of her duties to persuade the state legislators to vote in favor of ratifying the E.R.A. Amendment. This is a State issue, rather than a Federal one.

Sincerely,
Aretta Hartman (Mrs.)

Mrs. Aretta Hartman, President
2916 North Talbot Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205



March 10, 1975

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Dear Representative Deuster,

Your thoughtful letter to Mrs. Ford regarding her stand on the Equal Rights Amendment and telephone calls to State Legislators is greatly appreciated. I am sure Mrs. Ford would want me to convey her respect for your views and her appreciation for your taking the time to express them to her. You were also most kind to invite her to testify on this matter before the Illinois State Legislature. Although Mrs. Ford does not have plans at this time to testify, she does plan to continue making telephone calls as she sees fit. She was indeed interested, however, to have your views on this matter.

With gratitude for your letter and all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

The Honorable Donald E. Deuster
Member of the House of Representatives
of the State of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

SP/sr



c: Pat Lindh with copy of incoming
Sheila Weidenfeld with copy of incoming

change to "she'll continue to take an active interest in the ERA"

32ND DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
510 NORTH LAKE STREET
MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS 60060

TELEPHONE (312) 566-1972



2038 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

TELEPHONE (217) 782-6507

ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DONALD E. DEUSTER

February 6, 1975

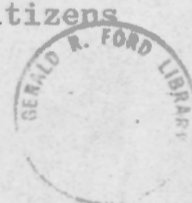
Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
First Lady
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mrs. Ford:

As a Member of the Illinois General Assembly, it came to my attention yesterday that you have been making long-distance telephone calls from the White House to some selected Illinois State Senators urging that they vote in favor of the proposed Amendment to the United States Constitution on the subject of Sex Equality which happens to be pending in our Illinois State Legislature at this moment.

If this is so, I hope you will accept my respectful request that you immediately desist in your long-distance telephone lobbying campaign, and that you refrain from using the prestige of the White House and your position as First Lady of the Land to promote adoption of this extremely controversial, comprehensive and emotionally charged Amendment which has been rejected by our General Assembly on four separate occasions.

As it happens, I am a loyal Republican, the father of four daughters, a member of the Illinois Advisory Committee on Sexism in Schools, the sponsor of legislation to eliminate sex discrimination in our Illinois School System, and no one is more committed than I to the just goal that all Americans without respect to their gender deserve to be afforded equal opportunity to fulfill their potential as equal citizens in this wonderful Nation.



Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
February 6, 1975
Page 2

Likewise, I am fully conscious that our Constitution guarantees the equal protection of the law to all persons, and that you, as a female, and I, as a male, enjoy a Constitutional right to fully express our views on all subjects, including the challenging matter of how to best eliminate sex discrimination.

Although I respect your Constitutional right to express yourself, I question the propriety and wisdom of your using the stature and respect of your position as First Lady of the Land to place long-distance telephone calls, from the White House, presumably at taxpayers expense, to lobby and agitate for specific action by our State Legislature or to promote passage of specific bills in any of the Legislatures of the other Sovereign States.

In my opinion, this lobbying activity is demeaning to your position as First Lady, and in a sense sullies the integrity and respectability of the White House, as well as the Presidency.

If you are anxious that your views on the Equal Rights Amendment be made known to Members of the Illinois General Assembly, and if you are fervent in this desire to enlighten us on this comprehensive subject, then I would suggest that you come to Springfield and testify before the Illinois State Legislature so that all Members may hear your words.

Our Legislature would be honored, I am sure, to have your attendance with us, and if you are interested in journeying to Springfield to testify on this matter, please let us know. All Members may then have an opportunity to question you so that we may fully understand the depth of your thoughts and convictions on this significant subject.

As it happens, I am conscious that the distinguished Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives, where your devoted husband served so ably and so long, studied this Sex Equality Constitution



Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
February 6, 1975
Page 3

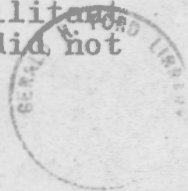
Amendment long and hard, heard much testimony, and prepared House Report No. 92-359 which concluded that the language of this proposed Federal Amendment "would create a substantial amount of confusion for our Courts," would "create a substantial amount of judicial chaos," could "sweep away all statutory sex distinctions per se," and could mean that "not only would women, including mothers, be subject to the draft, but the military would be compelled to place them in combat units alongside of men."

Furthermore, the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives determined that this Amendment would deprive Congress of the ability to exempt women and mothers from compulsory military service and military combat duty as well as deprive Congress and our various State Legislatures from adopting statutes which reasonably reflect the differences between the sexes.

Accordingly, it is perplexing and astounding indeed to me, that the First Lady of our Nation who is a wife and mother, would be engaging in a long-distance telephone lobbying campaign to secure a change in our Nation's Constitution which would mandate our military forces to be composed equally of men and women, husbands and wives, and fathers and mothers.

Perhaps it is, Mrs. Ford, that you have been pressured by the militant feminists and professional proponents of this Amendment, and perhaps some of them have threatened to picket the White House or embarrass our good President if you do not actively join forces with them and lobby for ratification.

Only yesterday at Springfield some of my colleagues in the Illinois Senate mentioned at the public hearing that you had called them on this matter. Furthermore, a leader of a major Illinois Labor Union testified that he was there speaking partly because the militant women had threatened to picket his house if he did not testify.



Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
February 6, 1975
Page 4

Naturally, I recognize that you and the President and all of us in the public service receive threats and pressures and some citizens endeavor to intimidate us, but, of course, all of us try to do what is right and it is sometimes necessary to resist such pressures and tactics.

Accordingly, as one who believes that sex discrimination should be eliminated, but as one who desires to accomplish this lofty social goal without causing irreparable harm at the same time, I would respectfully urge that you place no more telephone calls to Members of the Illinois General Assembly but that if you sincerely wish to make an influence and impact upon our deliberations, that you come to Springfield to explain your thinking.

Because I am anxious that our Illinois General Assembly deliberate carefully, thoughtfully and judiciously on this matter of making a change in the Constitution which might have profound social effects, I introduced yesterday House Joint Resolution 4, a copy of which is enclosed for your information, which calls for the development of a thorough and comprehensive study of all legal aspects of the Equal Rights Amendment and also calls for the assembling of an Advisory Task Force of outstanding teachers and practitioners of law to give our General Assembly advice relating to the legal consequences of the Equal Rights Amendment.

As you may know, the Commonwealth of Virginia the State of Arkansas and the United States Congress conducted such thorough and comprehensive studies of this matter, and I believe that the Illinois State Legislature should do likewise, if we are to enhance the integrity and respectability of our deliberative body.

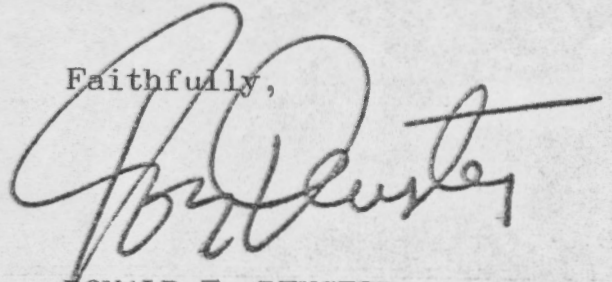
Surely you would agree that public decisions by our Senators and Representatives out her in the Land of Lincoln should be freely and openly made on the basis of such factual foundation and not simply because some Members of the Senate or House received secret telephone calls from the First Lady of the Land at the White House.



Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
February 6, 1975.
Page 5

With the most profound respect for the conscientious way in which you and President Ford are endeavoring to serve our Nation, I look forward to hearing from you and remain

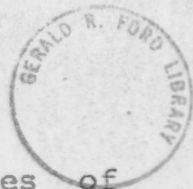
Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald E. Deuster". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

DONALD E. DEUSTER
State Representative

DED: mh
Enc.





HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
No. 4

WHEREAS, the 92nd Congress of the United States of America has submitted to the several States for ratification a proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which provides that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied nor abridged by the United States nor by any State on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Illinois provides in Article I, Section 2, that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor be denied the equal protection of the laws"; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Illinois provides in Article I, Section 17, that "All persons shall have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national ancestry and sex in the hiring and promotion practices of any employer or in the sale or rental of property and that these rights are enforceable without action by the General Assembly, but the General Assembly by law may establish reasonable exemptions relating to these rights and provide additional remedies for their violation"; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Illinois provides in Article I, Section 18, that "The equal protection of the laws shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex by the State or its units of local government and school districts"; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States provides in Section 1, of Amendment XIV, that no State shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"; and

WHEREAS, such proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the United States appears to be virtually identical in

language and legal significance to the existing provisions in the Constitution of the State of Illinois and in particular appears to be virtually identical in legal consequence with Article I, Section 18, of the Constitution of the State of Illinois which provides that "The equal protection of the laws shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment to the United States Constitution would appear to be a duplication of the existing provisions in the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the proposed Federal Amendment would appear to have its principal legal effect on the Federal Government and in limiting the rights of State Legislatures to adopt statutes which differentiate between the sexes; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the United States Congress prepared House Report No. 92-359 which concluded that the proposed Federal Amendment "would create a substantial amount of confusion for our Courts", would "create a substantial danger of judicial chaos", could "sweep away all statutory sex distinction per se", and could mean that "not only would women, including mothers, would be subject to the draft, but the military would be compelled to place them in combat units alongside of men", and the Amendment could produce a number of other very "undesirable results"; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives recommended an Amendment to the proposed Constitutional Amendment, which would allow women to be exempted from compulsory military service and which would also allow the Congress and State Legislatures to reflect differences between the sexes in statutes so long as they reasonably promote the health and safety of the people; and

WHEREAS, the proposed qualifying Amendment was not

finally adopted by the United States Congress, and therefore the Constitutional ability of Congress to exempt women and mothers from compulsory military service and military combat duty as well as the Constitutional ability of Congress and State Legislatures to adopt statutes which reasonably reflect differences between the sexes would be doubtful and unclear if the Amendment to the Federal Constitution were ratified; and

WHEREAS, ratification of the proposed Amendment to the United States Constitution is a matter of great controversy and deep concern because it might possibly deprive women of needed protection under the laws which have been enacted for their financial well-being, health and safety; it might deprive women of the protection of laws that recognize their special role as mothers and homemakers, and it might expose women to being drafted for dangerous military service under circumstances that might be harmful, embarrassing, degrading or in violation of the rights of women to privacy and not generally beneficial for the welfare of women; therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the respective Executive Committees of the House and the Senate appoint a joint subcommittee as follows: 2 members of the House appointed by the Chairman of the House Executive Committee, and 2 members of the House appointed by the minority spokesman of such committee; 2 members of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Executive Committee and 2 members of the Senate appointed by the minority spokesman of such Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this subcommittee conduct a thorough and comprehensive study of all aspects, including legal,

practical and equitable, of the Equal Rights Amendment and that such subcommittee assemble an advisory task force of outstanding teachers and practitioners of law to give professional advise relating to the legal consequences of the Equal Rights Amendment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the subcommittee hold public hearings and prepare a comprehensive report; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the subcommittee submit its report to the 2 Houses of the 79th General Assembly by April 15, 1975.

March 19, 1975

Dear Miss Cabot:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your disagreement with Mrs. Ford on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your comments on to Mrs. Ford. Such criticism is helpful, and we both appreciate your taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Miss Gloria M. Cabot
Winchester, Massachusetts 01890

SRB:ncc



(b)
Winchester, Massachusetts

February 26, 1975

Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

If Mrs. Ford had bothered to find out what the Equal Rights Amendment involves, I'm sure she would not wish to inflict it upon America's women.

Her intervention on the voting of E.R.A. is an atrocity.

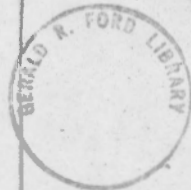
Happiness is stopping E.R.A.!

Very truly yours,

Gloria M. Cabot

(Miss) Gloria M. Cabot

01890



March 19, 1975

Dear Miss Kearfott:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your disagreement with Mrs. Ford on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your comments on to Mrs. Ford. Such criticism is helpful, and we both appreciate your taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Miss Mary T. Kearfott
Hotel Patrick Henry
Roanoke, Virginia 24011

SRW:ncc



(B)

The Patrick Henry
Roanoke, Virginia 24011
March 9, 1975

(1)

Ms Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Dean M. Weidenfeld:

You issue so many stupid statements in the name of Ms Betty Ford that I'm wondering if you are taking advantage of her ignorance and indifference. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. Quite apart from the external trappings of the Presidential endorsement of E.R.A. Gerald and Betty Ford are clearly out of order in presuming to tell State Legislators whether they should or should not ratify a constitutional amendment. The amending process is the only part of our entire governmental system in which the Executive Branch has no part. He can not sign the amendment, and he can not veto it. The same is true for the Governor of each of the States. To put it bluntly, a constitutional amendment is none of their business. Will you please remind Ms Ford of the facts of life? Thank you. Before going in recitation of the horror plans for all women, lets enjoy a lighter note which contains a great deal of common sense - uncommon though it be in political circles and among pressure groups.

"Two career girls in the Ukraine,
While digging a ditch in the rain
Said, ' To forfeit this right
And to suffer the plight
Of Capitalist Women's our aim."

Ms Weidenfeld, wasn't Jerry ter Horst a warm and confidential friend of The President? Mr ter Horst has labored long to make men feel guilty for not fighting to make their mothers, wives and daughters equal to every hod carrier and ditch digger. While his approach is juvenile, he reaches the nadir in the making the naked demand that E.R.A. be approved so "our mothers" wives and daughters may be sent "to help fight wars that men get themselves into. Though Richard Nixon had a "wiser" idea, he made certain that his son-in-law David get a soft birth and not be sent to dangerous Vietnam.

The Tallahassee Democrat asserted that "chances are that mothers might not be drafted at all." And so on with consoling assurances, but what the author of that speculation pointly ignores is that the Amendment would compel the government into combat, and any tests of strength that would discriminate against women would be illegal under the E.R.A.

Report 92-359, issued in 1972 by the House Judiciary Committee says: "Not only would women, including mothers, be subject to the draft, but the military would be compelled to place them in combat units alongside men." Ms Weidenfeld, perhaps some aggressive and masculine females may really like bloody conflict, the mutilations that can happen in war. They may have the death wish. Let them volunteer. Let them fulfill their death wish - but these types of unnatural women must not fasten their aggressive ferocity on 80% of women, who prefer to be homemakers and do not feel unequal to their husbands. Most women are repelled by the homosexual male.

It seems most likely that the real objective of the E.R.A. crowd is degradation of women as part of the assault on the traditional American family. Ms Ford studied under Martha Graham. Miss Graham was in the employ of the Rothschilds. So once again we have those horrid zionists mingling in our internal affairs. Can you find any justification for their continued existence?

Very truly,

May J. Kearfott

cc. Patsy Mink, Bella Abzug, Martha Griffith and concerned American women.

K. FORD LIBRARY

March 19, 1975

Dear Ms. Ross:

Thank you so much for your recent letter expressing support for Mrs. Ford and her stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I've added your letter to our "support" mail which now outnumbers the "anti" ERA mail by almost three-to-one!

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing. We hope you maintain your interest in the ERA.

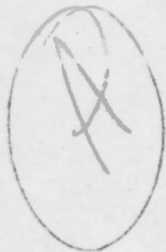
Sincerely,

Shella Rabb Veldenzfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Ms. Pamela L. Ross
11755 Dorothy Street
Los Angeles, California 90049

SRW:nee





11755 Dorothy Street
Los Angeles, California 90049

February 22, 1975

Ms. Sheila Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Ms. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Weidenfeld:

Have just read the attached article from today's Los Angeles Times. Absolutely right! That's exactly what I myself said -- "Good for her.!" I'd like to repeat it, and also to offer a big thank-you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Ross

Pamela L. Ross



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

March 19, 1975

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your disagreement with Mrs. Ford on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your comments on to Mrs. Ford. Such criticism is helpful, and we both appreciate your taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mr. Ralph Wallace
823 Southeast 1st Street
Washington, Indiana 47501

SRW:ncc



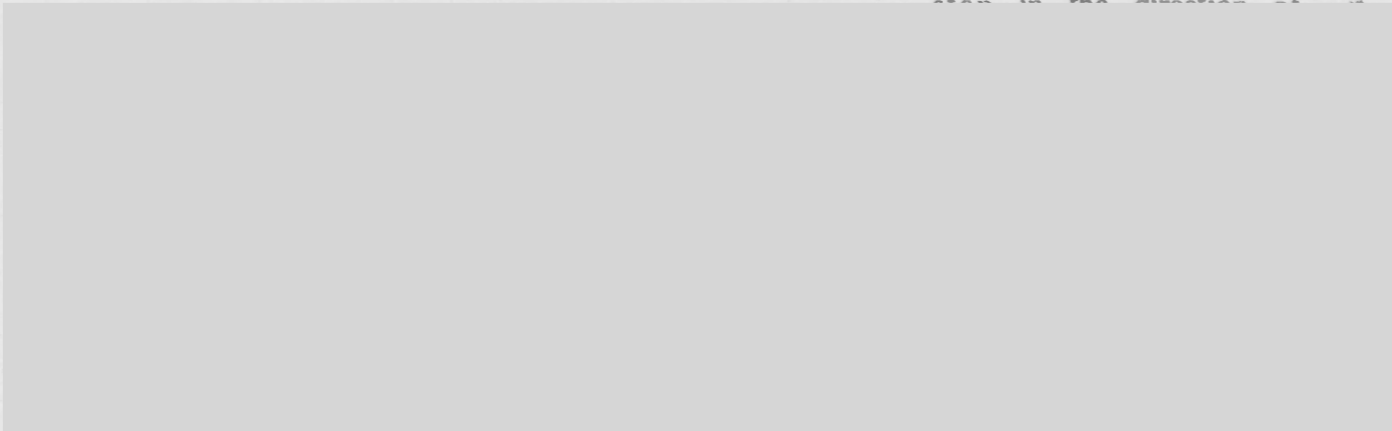
A threat of sanctions

Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment has been placed in jeopardy by the actions of two states,

states which haven't ratified the ERA yet. Maybe we should say we won't go to conventions or take vacations

the change introduced by the ERA would mean goodbye to womanhood as we have known it. Hundreds of laws on the statute books of the States would have to be rewritten. It would mean a

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sanctions" against those it means improvement, but me."

For Gods sake Dont let it Pass

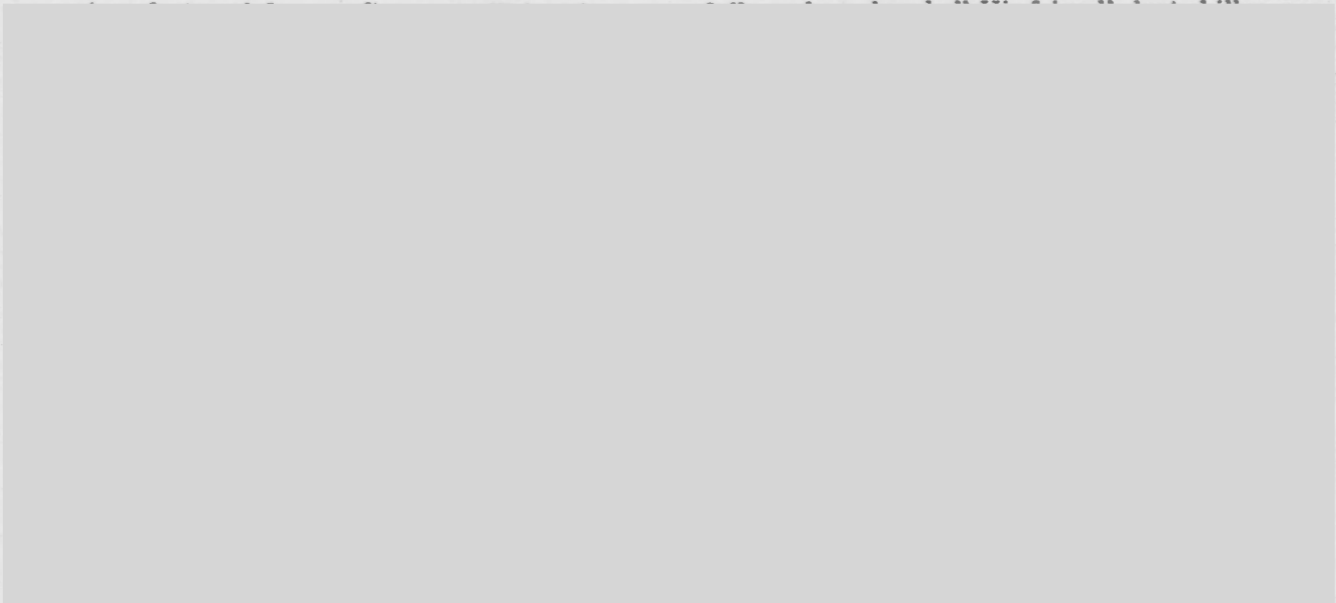
The Story of the "Praying Hands"



The famous "Praying Hands" picture was created by Albrecht Durer, the son of a Hungarian goldsmith. He was born in Germany in 1471 and died in 1528. As is the case with nearly all men of

support while Durer would continue his studies. The friend was pleased with the plan, except that he insisted that he be the first to go to work, and that Albert continue his studies.

room he heard his friend praying, and saw his hands held in a reverent attitude of prayer. At this moment Albert received the inspiration to create the picture of those "praying



then go to work to provide when he returned to their

-The Circuit Rider

Reprint from Christian Paper.

March 19, 1975

Dear Mrs. Wood:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your disagreement with Mrs. Ford on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your comments on to Mrs. Ford. Such criticism is helpful, and we both appreciate your taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Norman Wood
15552 Stonehouse Circle
Livonia, Michigan 48154

SRW:ncc



March 3, 1972

Dear Mrs. Ford,

My opinion on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), is that women have more to lose, than they will gain.

Please put me down as a no vote for the ERA.

B

01

Sincerely,

Gun Wood



March 19, 1975

Dear Mrs. Baldwin:

Thank you so much for your recent letter expressing support for Mrs. Ford and her stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I've added your letter to our "support" mail which now outnumbers the "anti" ERA mail by almost three-to-one!

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing. We hope you maintain your interest in the ERA.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weldenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Robert G. Baldwin
Fallbrook, California 92028

SRW:ncc



A vote for ERA, and our thanks
for Mrs. Ford's support for its passage.

Jane Baldwin



Mrs Robert S. Baldwin
Fallbrook, CA 92028



March 19, 1975

Dear Ms. Parsons:

Thank you so much for your recent letter expressing support for Mrs. Ford and her stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I've added your letter to our "support" mail which now outnumbers the "anti" ERA mail by almost three-to-one!

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing. We hope you maintain your interest in the ERA.

Sincerely,

Shella Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Ms. Sara Perry Parsons
44 Hyland
Bayside, California 95524

SRW:ncc



Sara Perry Parsons
44 Hyland
Bayside, Calif. 95524



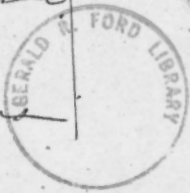
Feb. 21, 75

Dear Mrs. Widenfeld,

I have convey to Mrs. Ford my appreciation for her support of E.R.A. I read this morning in the San Francisco Chronicle that she had received more against mail than for. I wanted to help change that!

I am originally a Georgian so I know about the strong opposition women there have manifested against the bill. They overwhelmed the other side unbelievable in the year 1975 -

Sincerely, Sara Parsons



March 24, 1975

Dear Mrs. Rhoton:

I have been asked to respond to your letter to Mrs. Ford, and to let you know how much Mrs. Ford appreciates your words of support for her work on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Thanks, also, for your suggestion pertaining to the call to Mrs. Quarles. The calls she has been making have come from suggestions such as yours, and we appreciate your interest more than we can say.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Joyce W. Rhoton
Route 3, Box 439
Pell City, Alabama 35125

SRW:pjm:ncc



Route 3, Box 439
Pell City, Ala. 35125
February 22, 1975

Mrs. Betty Ford
First Lady of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20027

Dear Mrs. Ford:

As spokeswoman for the Pell City Business and Professional Woman's Club, I gratefully applaud your efforts to encourage various State Legislators to vote in favor of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

Pell City is located in the House District (No. 56) represented by Mrs. Marilyn Quarles, who has the distinction of being the only female Representative in the state of Alabama. As of this date, Mrs. Quarles has not committed herself as to her feelings concerning ratification.

We urge you - in behalf of all thinking women in this State - to make a special effort to telephone Mrs. Quarles before this matter comes before the Alabama Legislature. Her telephone number at her residence is Area Code 205 467-6347.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. Joyce W. Rhoton
Joyce W. Rhoton





Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

P. O. BOX 890
124 E. FIRST ST
LONG BEACH, CALIF. 90801
HEmlock 7-0941

March 15, 1975

COMMUNISM, THE FAMILY, AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

To suggest that the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment would contribute to the success of the communist program to conquer the U.S.A. is to invite scorn and ridicule. The response to the suggestion that there is such a link is likely to be, "So now you are suggesting that the President's wife, Betty Ford, is a communist." Most people, who consider themselves informed and intelligent, tend to regard even the suggestion of any link between communism and the ERA as irrational fanaticism.

Nevertheless, there is a link and it can be convincingly demonstrated to those who are not blinded by their own prejudices. To state this is not to suggest that those who are advocating the passage of the ERA are either procommunist or stupid. It is often difficult for the most intelligent to discern the long-range consequences of their activities. Those who discovered the life-saving drugs such as penicillin and the sulphas, which have conquered infectious diseases, were brilliant men. Nevertheless, I doubt very much that they were aware that their discovery would ultimately lead to the population explosion and the pollution problem which, in the opinion of many, threaten the very existence of mankind. They were so concerned with finding a solution to existing grievous problems that they gave little attention to long-range consequences. Similarly, those who are working for the "liberation" of women from real or alleged injustices, pay little attention to the long-range consequences of the programs they propose and support.

The Communist View of the Family

One of the long-range objectives of communism is the abolition of the family. This is made lucidly clear in the "Communist Manifesto" of Marx and Engels:

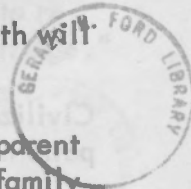
"Abolition of the family! Even the most radical flare up at this infamous proposal of the Communists.

"On what foundation is the present family, the bourgeois family, based? On capital, on private gain. In its completely developed form this family exists only among the bourgeoisie. But this state of things finds its complement in the practical absence of the family among the proletarians, and in public prostitution.

"The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital. (Page 68)

"The bourgeois clap-trap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child, becomes all the more disgusting, the more, by the action of Modern Industry, all family ties among the proletarians are torn asunder, and their children transformed into simple articles of commerce and instruments of labour." (Page 70)

The family is the supreme institution for the liberation of women. It liberates women from the necessity to forsake the care and nurture of their babies and young children and to go forth into the market place to sell their labor to obtain the money needed to obtain food and other necessities to sustain their children. The husband and father has the responsibility of providing the wherewithal to feed and clothe his family.



Those women who cannot devote themselves to the nurture of their babies and young children are enslaved, not liberated. Most women have a biological need to nurture the babies which their bodies produce. This is proved by the survival of the human race. Considering the qualities a new-born baby possesses, the survival of the human race is miraculous indeed. Few living things are as helpless as a newborn baby. Unless it receives constant attention for several years, it will die. In primitive societies, where the struggle for survival is fierce, it must be incredibly difficult to provide this needed care. The temptation to the mother to simply cast aside the small object which is demanding the sustenance she needs for herself must be overwhelming. To counteract this temptation, the biological need to care for the child must be even stronger. The observable fact is that even in the most difficult primitive conditions, children have survived. This has not been due to culture or morality but to the nature of motherhood.

At present the mother and father have unequal rights. The father is legally obligated to go to work to provide for his wife and children whereas the mother is not. If the Equal Rights Amendment became law, it is quite conceivable that some judge would rule that it is impermissible to compel the father to go out to work unless the mother is likewise compelled. This would force her to forsake the care of her babies and young children and to leave them in the hands of others. It would force her to deny fulfillment to one of her own basic biological needs. It would deliver a crippling blow to the entire family structure.

The Equal Rights Amendment could be better named "The Extra Rights for Men Amendment".

Strong evidence that the attack on the family is an attack on civilization itself and that the destruction of the family will lead to the destruction of civilization is presented by a prominent psychiatrist, George Gilder, in his book entitled "Sexual Suicide", first published in 1973 and presently appearing in a paperback edition published by Bantam Books. The arguments presented in this book are particularly interesting to those who uphold the Christian concept of marriage and the family because he bases his arguments on anthropology and reaches conclusions concerning the family which are almost identical with traditional Christian views.

Gilder begins from the universally accepted premise that in primitive societies the men are hunters and fighters while the women are the bearers and nurturers of the children, the tillers of the ground and the homemakers. These qualities are enshrined in the biological natures of men and women. Thus men are by nature mobile and aggressive whereas women by nature are committed to stability, permanence, and futurity. Since it is women who carry the child within their bodies for 9 months and nurture them after birth for many years, it is vital for them to have a stable life that provides for the future of themselves and their children as well as the needs of the present.

Thus, men's sexual nature tends towards transience whereas women's sexual nature demands permanence.

The Nature of Civilization

Civilization requires the dominance of female sexual nature. It requires the male to submit to the female pattern. It depends upon what Gilder terms the "socialization" of men.

The Unsocialized Male

Most of the problems of society occur when the basic sexual patterns of men dominate. Gilder states that the chief problems of society such as crime, family breakdown, and violence are due to the actions of men. He says:

"The chief perpetrators of these problems are men: Men commit over 90 percent of major crimes

of violence, 100 percent of the rapes, 95 percent of our drunken drivers, 70 percent of suicides, 91 percent of offenses against family and children. More specifically, the chief perpetrators are single men. Single men comprise between 80 and 90 percent of most of the categories of social pathology, and on the average they make less money than any other group in the society--yes, less than single women or working women. As any insurance actuary will tell you, single men are also less responsible about their bills, their driving, and other personal conduct. Together with the disintegration of the family, they constitute our leading social problem. For there has emerged no institution that can replace the family in turning children into civilized human beings or in retrieving the wreckage of our current disorder." (Pages 5 and 6)

The Role of the Family

The only institution that has successfully "socialized" men is the family. This enables the male to affirm his masculine identity by being the provider and defender of his wife and children. In this role, he feels important and needed, and he submits his sexual nature to that of his wife. Concerning the manner in which the family socializes the male, Gilder states:

"As we are increasingly discovering in our schools, prisons, mental hospital and psychiatric offices, the family is the only agency that can be depended upon to induce truly profound and enduring changes in its members. The family is the only institution that works on the deep interior formations of human character and commitment. Thus, it is the only uncoercive way to transform individuals, loose in social time and space--in the O'Neill idiom, lost in the 'nowness of self'--into voluntary participants in the nurture of society.

"The family is effective because it is steeped in the blood, sexuality, flesh, and flow of our unconscious lives, where true changes in character and commitment can take root.

"Single men all too often remain egocentric vagrants, following the episodic currents of their sexuality. They fail to mature into social beings, part of history and committed to the future. Without the institution of marriage and the commitment of women to it, the men are exiles from the natural chain of being, their sexual experience reduced to the short circuits of copulation. They often become enemies of society and of the larger horizons of female sexuality: The cycles of procreation and nurture that necessarily dictate to women a concern for stability, community, and future.

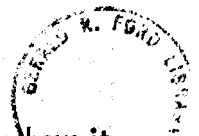
"Societies through history have recognized how difficult it is to secure these commitments from males... Women have had to use all their ingenuity, all their powers of sexual attraction and restraint to induce men to become providers. Society has had to invest marriage with all the ceremonial sanctity of religion and law. This did not happen as a way to promote intimacy and companionship. It happened to ensure civilized society.

"The first and most important step in restoring a sense of order and purpose and community is to re-establish the social pressures and cultural biases in favor of durable monogamous love and marriage." (Pages 77 and 78)

Concerning the relationship of the family to society, he states:

"Once again we may find that the success and durability of a society is less dependent on how it organizes its money and resources on a grand scale, or how it produces its goods, than on how it arranges its sexual patterns: specifically how it induces men to subordinate their sexual rhythms to extended female perspectives." (Page 89)

"It is objectively sound, therefore, to define the society as chiefly an assemblage of families, family aspirants, and unmarried units within the familial order." (Page 151)



The Women's Liberation Movement

Gilder believes that the Women's Liberation Movement is the enemy of society in general and the enemy of the blacks and the poor in particular. He states:

"The women's liberationists have no valid answer to this problem of how to induce males to pursue families and careers.

"The usual response, of course, is more money for everyone, better jobs, more time with the children--a cornucopia of benefits. Close examination, however, indicates that the chief beneficiaries of the women's program will be upper-class white women, and the chief victims will be upwardly mobile lower-class men, black and white. Among the psychological victims will be most men of insecure sexual identity and thus the American family.

"As painful as it is to say it, only a small proportion of Americans can hold interesting and remunerative jobs. Most jobs are boring, performed by men in order to maintain their role as provider. If large numbers of women move into the job force in important professional capacities, large numbers of men will be frustrated in their careers. Increasing numbers of men will find themselves subordinate to women at work and faced with wives who are earning substantial salaries. Under such unbearable pressures on their sexual identities, many of these men will leave their jobs or families. A significant proportion of them will be blacks, since blacks are just now moving into the official, managerial, and professional roles that the highly educated women are now seeking on the basis of their superior education and 'credentials.'" (Pages 130 and 131)

Sexual Love Versus Free Sex

To sustain the family, sexual love is essential. This is quite different from free sex. Concerning love, he states:

"Love thus is optimistic: an investment of faith in the future of the family, the society, and mankind. It is sexual energy that makes love so powerful; and it is love that makes sexual energy a vital force for psychological, ethical, and communal affirmation; for the long time horizons of civilization (and femininity) rather than the short-term horizons of primitive society (and masculinity). Love for women and children becomes love for the community that supports them and faith in the future in which one's offspring will live.

"It is apparent that this kind of love can best be fulfilled in families, since by definition it aspires to create them." (Page 38)

Concerning free love and sexual permissiveness, he says:

"The fact is that there is no sexual gratification more durably intense than loving genital intercourse. The fact is that oral and anal novelties are only briefly titillating, a cul-de-sac. The fact is that there hasn't been a thrilling new erogenous zone discovered since de Sade. The fact is that promiscuity is ultimately a bore and pornography a stultification. The fact is that homosexuality, though related to the separatist forms of sexuality, is worse, because it is usually a more irrevocable flight from identity and love. In addition, since it is not a sickness confined to a few congenital victims but an escape from sexual responsibility open to all, gay liberation and display is a threat to millions of young men who have precarious masculine identities. Moreover, the androgynous ideal of women's liberation--with its polymorphously copulating 'human beings'--is a destructive fantasy. There are no human beings; there are just men and women, and when they deny their divergent sexuality, they reject the deepest sources of identity and love. They commit sexual suicide." (Pages 45 and 46)

The Black Ghetto--Prototype of Future Society

Gilder proceeds to show how most of the policies currently in vogue weaken the family, lead to the dropout of males, and advance the dissolution of society, and he states that unless these programs are reversed, we are doomed. He believes the policies of the Women's Liberation Movement will create generally the conditions that presently exist in the black ghettos. Describing conditions there, he says:

"The most severe effects of constitutional breakdown come in the ghetto. Beyond the pyrotechnic riots, nearly half of our violent crimes--murders, robberies, rapes, and other felonies--are done by and against ghetto residents. In proportion to their numbers, young ghetto males commit seven times more homicides and 30 percent more suicides than young white males. Perhaps half of our addict population--and a similar proportion of our prisoners--comes from the ghetto. Desertions by ghetto husbands produce a community of female-led families and illegitimate children in far higher proportions than are found elsewhere in the society. Although such statistics are not fully reliable, it is not prejudice or paranoia that defines the ghetto, in Moynihan's words, as a 'tangle of pathology' or as perhaps the epitome of all our domestic malignancies.

"At the same time it is a profound mistake to treat the ghetto chiefly as a racial problem. The syndrome of the ghetto--theft, violence, addiction, demoralization, familial breakdown, and educational failure--is expanding in many parts of society. Some indices of crime and social disintegration, in fact, are rising more rapidly in white suburbs than in the central slums. Similar patterns of malignancy can be found among poor whites in the street-slums of dropouts and runaways." (Pages 115 and 116)

"A response to the ghetto crisis in focusing on racial bias will raise unrealistic expectations, promote racial tensions, and slander low- and middle-income whites, hardly a privileged class in our society.

"The ghetto crisis is merely a particular, severe manifestation of our general sexual disorder. If we cannot rectify it, our society is doomed to years of demoralization and anarchy, possibly ending in a police state." (Pages 117 and 118)

Gilder shows how most of the programs designed to alleviate community problems such as welfare, day-care centers, and affirmative action or preferential hiring of women diminish the role of the male as a provider and weaken the bond that ties him to the family. They thus promote the dissolution of society and increase the prevalence of robbery, rape, child abuse, and murder. They demand an ever larger and stronger police force to control the criminal elements and lead to the police state.

The Police State

Gilder does not discuss the precise nature of the police state that will probably result. However, this state must be considered in relation to the objective conditions that prevail in the world. In this world there exists a communist movement that has already imposed a police state upon 1-1/4 billion people and plans to impose one upon the remainder. In the communist police states a puritanical morality is promoted to temporarily strengthen the family structure to strengthen the nation to achieve the final objective--a socialist world.

The communist plan to impose a police state in the U.S.A. is expressed by the formula, "External encirclement, plus internal demoralization, leads to Progressive Surrender." The societal disintegration promoted by permissive sex, pornography, the Gay Liberation Movement, abortion on demand, the Women's Liberation Movement and, yes, the ERA contributes to the success of the communist program. There is therefore a link between the ERA and the victory of communism.

OMINOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

The situation in Portugal bears an uncanny resemblance to the situation in Russia between February and November, 1917.

In February, 1917, the disillusionment, privation and exhaustion caused by a long war led to a revolution in Russia which overthrew the Czarist government. A provisional government was established which was supported by Soviets, which were committees including Socialists, Communists, and sundry democratic forces.

During the reign of the Provisional Government, quarrels developed between the Socialists and the Communists. The final outcome was that the Communists seized complete power and eliminated the Socialists.

In Portugal the disillusionment, privation and exhaustion caused by a long colonial war led to a revolution led by officers of the Armed Forces known as the Armed Forces Movement. The Armed Forces Movement established a Provisional Government supported by the Communists, Socialists and sundry democratic groups.

Bitter quarreling has now broken out between the Communists and Socialists, and the Communists are maneuvering to seize complete power.

If the lessons of history are learned, it may not be necessary to repeat them.

The situation in Portugal is described in the following article published in the GUARDIAN, February 12:

Portuguese alliance crumbles as CP, SP split

Portugal's continuing political crisis last week produced an open break in the antifascist alliance, with the Communist and Socialist parties now on opposite sides of the "barricades."

NATO fleet for maneuvers off Portugal's shores. Military jets flew low over the Portuguese countryside and practiced air strikes on Portuguese target ranges.

Rumors immediately circulated that 11,000 NATO

Portuguese Alliance (Cont'd.)

to avoid public displays, a few thousand demonstrators marched in defiance of the ban, chanting anti-NATO slogans. The protest was organized by the Movement for the Reconstitution of the Proletarian Party (MRPP), a group that describes itself as following Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung thought. No clashes between the demonstrators and troops were reported.

The NATO maneuvers involved 29 warships including the U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga, as well as U.S. air force planes based in Portugal's Azores islands and in neighboring Spain. West Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, France and Canada were the other countries participating—at least formally—in the large-scale exercises. NATO headquarters, denying any intent to menace Portugal—a denial that few Portuguese believed—claimed the maneuvers, called "Locked Gate," were aimed at protecting the Straits of Gibraltar against hypothetical enemy attempts to block access to the Mediterranean.

NATO forces have been holding exercises in Western Europe for several years aimed at suppressing factory seizures, urban insurrections, peasant revolts and similar domestic uprisings.

The NATO exercises and the reports of an alleged Soviet request for fishing base rights in Portugal sharpened the public dispute between the Socialist and the Communist parties.

Sources close to the Communist party charged that the Socialist party had planted the "Soviet base request" story in the press in an effort to discredit Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist party leader, whose pro-Soviet views are public knowledge. The Soviet news agency Tass charged that the story was part of a "provocative campaign" by NATO to mislead the Portuguese public at the time of the maneuvers.

Soares, in a Feb. 3 speech, hit back by accusing the Communist party of floating the story as a "trial balloon" to test public reaction. The Foreign Ministry, which Soares heads, had earlier issued an official denial that a Soviet request for a fishing base had been received.

Soares' speech left the implication, however, that the Soviet Union had sought fishing facilities unofficially or intended to do so. This interpretation was lent weight by the Tass denial, which rebutted charges that a military facility was being sought, but noted that Soviet fishing fleets "use the services of many foreign ports, including those of Western countries, to replenish their fresh-water and food supplies and sometimes make repairs. This is a generally accepted practice of long standing and it has never occurred to anyone to make a sensation out of this."

Portugal's Communist party, on the other side, has implicitly accused Soares' Socialists of lining up with NATO and with the U.S. and West Germany in particular. Soares' Jan. 31 criticism of the NATO action as "inopportune" in its "timing" struck many for its mildness.

Thus, an aspect of the split between the two parties is now that each is in effect accusing the other of being the instrument of a superpower that may seek to meddle in Portugal's internal affairs.

Soares has also been reported exploring an alliance with Gen. Spínola, who was forced to resign during the crisis of last Sept. 28. Soares' recent warning that Portugal was headed for a new (Communist) dictatorship and possibly civil war are being read by many as an echo of similar charges made since the September crisis by the retired Spínola. There were fears that the Socialists' scheduled

Jan. 31 rally would be joined by the "silent majority" forces whose attempted demonstration last September was to have served as cover for a fascist comeback attempt. **SETBACKS FOR SOCIALIST PARTY**

In the split between the Socialist and the Communist parties, which broke open over the question of forming a single trade union federation and widened over the question of the proposed Emergency Economic Law, the Socialist party has had the worst of the conflict. It threatened to resign from the government if the trade union bill was passed—but it was passed and its ministers stayed at their posts. The cancellation of its Jan. 31 rally—coming after the CP had called a rally of its own the same day—was interpreted as another defeat for Soares. The political crisis did succeed in momentarily delaying passage of the economic law, which the Socialists oppose, but it is likely to be passed anyway if the political situation is allowed to return to normal.

Most significant, the internal cohesion of the Socialist party has suffered some blows. Its left wing, led by the veteran antifascist Manuel Serra, left the party last month after being beaten 2-1 by Soares at the party's congress in December. Serra took about 30 percent of the Socialist cadre with him to form a new group, the Socialist Popular Front, which supports the Communist party on the trade union bill and advocates a united Socialist-Communist slate for the upcoming elections.

The Socialist party's youth wing also criticized Soares' anti-CP stand and a section of it took part in the Oporto antifascist demonstration of Jan. 25-26, in defiance of party instructions. The day before the scheduled Jan. 31 rally, eight leading Socialist party members published an open criticism of the project, calling it "an act of hostility against the country's revolutionary forces."

Clearly Soares' line, which opposes electoral alliance with the CP, is having difficulty holding the allegiance of the party militants.

So far the Communist party, not the Socialists, has had the support of the Armed Forces Movement, and this is likely to prove decisive in the weeks ahead. The role that the AFM will play after the upcoming elections is still a matter of debate. Soares has more and more openly called on the AFM to "return to the barracks" and retire from active politics—also a point on which Soares is echoing Spínola—while Cunhal has come out for a still-to-be-defined form of ongoing participation by the AFM in government—the course the AFM itself appears to favor.

March 5 has been set as the official opening of the electoral campaign for the constituent assembly. According to the program of the Armed Forces Movement, elections should be held before April 25, the first anniversary of last year's coup that overthrew the fascist regime.

On a related matter, it is reported that Soares as foreign minister has given assurances to the U.S. that in the event of another Mideast war, Portugal will "turn a blind eye"—as the West Germans did—to U.S. use of the Lajes air base in the Azores for resupply operations. The Portuguese government has refused to renew the Azores treaty because it wants a secret clause in the old agreement dropped, by which the U.S. may use the base for any purpose at all without consulting the Portuguese government. Portugal is prepared to renew the official part of the agreement, provided the base is used for Atlantic operations only. But the AFM is opposed squarely to the secret clause. **M.N.**

THE BLINDING OF THE U. S. A.

The campaign to destroy the organizations that shed light on the doctrines and activities of the communists, anarchists, urban guerrillas and their ilk continues. The attackers are currently waging a twin offensive. On the one hand there is the campaign to paralyze or destroy the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. while on the other the attack on the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of the Justice Department gathers momentum.

Typical of the attack on the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is the statement from an article by Walter Pincus, Executive Editor of THE NEW REPUBLIC in the February 22 edition of that magazine:

"Along with payroll chicanery the Senate also must soon own up to its practice of keeping alive subcommittees whose functions have long since atrophied. A prime example is the \$400,000-a-year Senate Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee. Established originally in the 1950s during the Joe McCarthy days, this relic of the Cold War has been plodding along with an aging staff and almost no visible output of work. Two years ago it held only eight hearings. Then, spurred by some criticism, it last year did a comprehensive study of marijuana--hardly relevant to internal security, its prime jurisdiction. When last spring the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, through Sen. Mark Hatfield, asked about the subcommittee, its 66-year-old, \$36,000 a year chief counsel, Jay Sourwine, was called into an executive hearing. Sourwine, who has held his job for nearly 18 years, rambled on about the subcommittee's job and his own travels around the country to speak to unpaid informers and local police who aid in keeping up internal security's files. Many of the 23 individuals on the subcommittee have, like Sourwine, served for years--people such as Dorothy Baker, wife of former aide Bobby Baker (remember Bobby Baker?), and David Martin, who was the late Sen. Thomas Dodd's man handling the Communist menace. In recent years the Internal Security Subcommittee has been moved to the Senate Office Building basement and the Rules Committee is expected shortly to deny it any funds to continue operation. Perhaps in a last ditch effort to stay alive, the subcommittee held a 10-minute hearing on February 10. Its chief investigator was the witness and he told Sourwine and subcommittee member J. Strom Thurmond, who presided, that 'the Weatherman underground organization I feel is responsible for the bombing at the State Department.' At that pitiful session the committee released a 136-page report on 'The Weather Underground.'"

A careful reading of the above statement will reveal its partisanship and dishonesty. The writer states that the subcommittee "held a 10-minute hearing on February 10." It goes on to add that, "At that pitiful session the committee released a 136-page report on 'The Weather Underground'." On superficial reading the impression is gained that the report is the product of a 10-minute hearing. In actuality the report discusses a subject of the greatest importance and is the result of extensive investigation and research.

One consistent feature of the attacks on the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is the "ad hominem" nature of the criticism. The critics seek to ridicule the committee personnel as well as to misrepresent the quality and quantity of their work. When critics resort to such "ad hominem" arguments, it is a fair presumption that their case is weak.

WHY DO THEY FLEE?

The U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT states in its March 10 edition that a poll taken by the communist authorities in East Germany reveals that 9 out of 10 young people would flee to West Germany if the Berlin Wall did not prevent them.

Could anything reveal more clearly that Communism is an illegitimate system that enslaves?

Dr. Fred Schwarz, Editor

If you desire to be placed on the mailing list to receive this free newsletter, write to:
CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNISM CRUSADE, P. O. Box 890, Long Beach, California 90801

March 24, 1975

Dear Ms. Hjorth:

On behalf of Mrs. Ford, I want to thank you for your very kind words of support for her stand on the ERA, and for your thoughtfulness in sending along the section of the Oakland Tribune.

I've added your letter to our "support" mail which now outnumberes the "anti" ERA mail by almost three-to-one!

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Ms. Doris Hjorth
Fashion Editor
Oakland Tribune
Post Office Box 24304
Oakland, California 94623

SRW:pjm:ncc





Oakland Tribune

401 THIRTEENTH STREET, OAKLAND. PHONE: (415) 645-2000
MAILING ADDRESS: POST OFFICE BOX 24304, OAKLAND, CA. 94623

February 21, 1975

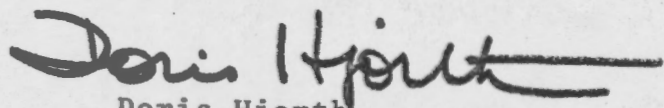
Dear Mrs. Ford,

On behalf of ALL the female staff members of the Oakland Tribune, I express admiration and gratitude for your forthright stand on the Equal Rights Amendment. If your stand helps the Amendment pass you have done more for women of America and the future of women than anyone.

I think you will be interested in the enclosed Fashion Section story re: the mastectomy model who wears a bikini. This is something our readers responded to greatly. I also enclose a Centennial Fashion Section in which I tried to make women aware of how far we have come---particularly in the back, a small article on sorority sheep and in praise of women finally being allowed to wear pants.

Our best wishes for your success with the ERA and continued good health. You are greatly admired.

Sincerely,



Doris Hjorth
Tribune Fashion Editor



Go Tribune . . . more than a newspaper

March 11, 1975

Dear Mrs. Browne:

Thank you for your letter of March 2d expressing your opinion on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your sentiments along to Mrs. Ford, and I thank you for taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Joseph Browne
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

SRW:ncc



Patti

Stone Mountain, Ga.
March 2, 1975.

Ms. Sheila Weidenfeld,
Press Secretary to Ms. Ford,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Weidenfeld-

Since Ms. Ford apparently has no scruples about using tax dollars in her personal promotion of the Equal Rights Amendment, why in the world do you think the American public for one second believes that she has any scruples about accurately reporting pro and con mail on ERA.

If there is anything we learn from Watergate, it is that Republicans are not to be trusted and that includes Ms. Ford and her appointed to office husband.

Like untold thousands who resent Ms. Ford's attempt to dictate to State Legislatures, it is going to be a genuine joy to vote against any and every Republican that I am privileged to.

One day Ms. Ford says that mail is anti-ERA and the next she says that it is pro ERA. Does the woman know her own mind?

Yours truly,

Joseph H. Browne
(MRS.) Joseph Browne



March 21, 1975

Mr. Ron Nesson
Presidential Press Secretary
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D. C.

MAR 25 1975

Dear Mr. Nesson:

As members so far of the GOP, who voted for the former President, Richard M. Nixon, we ask that you inform President Ford that we protest the effort and actions of his wife, Betty, toward the ratification of the so called Equal Rights Amendment. Such an amendment to the Constitution is strictly, under the Constitution, a state legislative matter, and the executive branches of our government, both federal and state, should be neutral on the matter, instead of lobbying for it as Mrs. Ford is doing, and as Gov. Tom Judge did here in Montana.

How any person could support such an amendment which could take away more rights from women than it would grant to them is beyond us.

If we hear that such lobbying by the executive branch should continue, we will be forced to re-evaluate our political stand and would more likely start support for a new third political party -- a truly conservative party!

Sincerely,

Betty J. Super
Wm. J. Super, M.D.
Dr./Mrs. Wm. J. Super

1406 Tompy
Miles City, Montana 59301



★ The Equal Rights Amendment ~~was dealt~~ a major setback last week when the Illinois state senate approved a rules change requiring a three-fifths affirmative vote to ratify constitutional amend-

ments. The amendment was passed 31 to 26.

Super, William J.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1975

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Super:

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your recent letter expressing disagreement with her opinions on the Equal Rights Amendment.

While Mrs. Ford made a careful study of the issue and answered to her satisfaction many of the issues you raised, she appreciates criticism. She also evaluates her opinion in light of any new information she receives.

Although you are in disagreement on this issue, Mrs. Ford is certain there are many values you share and hopes by example and expression to advocate those values in the future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Weidenfeld

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Dr. and Mrs. William J. Super
1406 Tompy
Miles City, Montana 59301

Ms. Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld:

Please bring to the attention of the President's wife, Mrs. Betty Ford, the enclosed, for her careful study prior to her reply to us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Super



DR. WM J SUPER
1406 TONPY
MILES CITY MT 59301

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
RECEPTION & SECURITY

APR 14 1975

Processed by:



Ms. Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Super, Dr. & Mrs. William J.

April 8, 1975

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Super:

Mrs. Ford asked that I thank you for your recent letter expressing disagreement with her opinions on the Equal Rights Amendment.

While Mrs. Ford made a careful study of the issue and answered to her satisfaction many of the issues you raised, she appreciates criticism. She also evaluates her opinion in light of any new information she receives.

Although you are in disagreement on this issue, Mrs. Ford is certain there are many values you share and hopes by example and expression to advocate those values in the future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Dr. and Mrs. William J. Super
1406 Tompy
Miles City, Montana 59301

SNW:ncc



April 17, 1975

Dear Mrs. Bald:

Thank you so much for your recent letter to Mrs. Ford and for your interest in the Equal Rights Amendment.

Your suggestions concerning the situation in Florida are much appreciated. Mrs. Ford generally waits until the final few days before the vote to try to get a feel for the situation and tries to help in whatever way she might be the most effective. It's important to have input from a number of sources, and we appreciate your letter and ideas very much.

Again, thanks. We're with you and will be working with you when the vote comes up.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ralph D. Bald
5354 Whitney Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

SRW:pjm:ncc

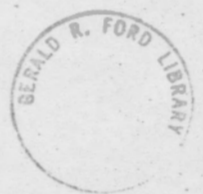


Mar. 19, 1975 Pat

Dear Mrs. Ford,

The whole nation is so sorry that your arthritis is causing you pain again. You were so brave after your operation. It's just a shame you are having more troubles.

I hate to bother you with this request but it's really necessary. The Florida Legislature will meet April 14th. Again they will be taking up consideration of the E.P.A. For some reason most, if not all, of the Republican state senators are against it. If you could possibly



call them and urge their support
as you did in several other
states, it might help. In the
last election, the three senators
who opposed ERA were defeated
of the Republican party in Florida
is ever going to grow and become
really influential. They must get
a base of citizens who vote. The
anti-ERA forces are interested in
this issue but really are not
workers so far as politics every
year is concerned.

Thank you so very much. May
God grant you better health in
1975. Sincerely
Barbara Jean Bald



April 24, 1975

Dear Miss Schindler:

Your recent letter to Mr. Messen has been referred to me for handling.

I will pass your comments on to Mrs. Ford. Such criticism is helpful, and we both appreciate your taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Miss Juanita L. Schindler
11723 - 136th Avenue East
Puyallup, Washington 98371

SRW:ncc



11723 - 136th Ave. E.

Bellevue, Wash. 98004

April 17, 1975

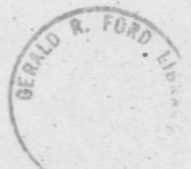
APR 21 1975

Dear Mr. Messer:

I am writing to you because I know it is useless to write to Mrs. Betty Ford. I have been very upset over her using her position as First Lady to call legislators in several states to put pressure on them to vote for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Since the Equal Rights Amendment is not necessary to guarantee Equal Rights for women, then what is behind it? I'm a little frightened of the motives of some of the people who are pushing for this amendment.

You could do us all a favor and see that Mrs. Ford would have the opportunity to read



another side to this question.

Regardless of which side she
is on however, it is pure
unethical to use her office
to promote something so
controversial. The Lords
have never been elected, so
really do not represent
anyone.

Sincerely yours,
Juanita L. Schindler



March 17, 1975

Dear Mrs. Corender:

Thank you for your letter expressing your opinion on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your sentiments along to Mrs. Ford, and I thank you for taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Frances M. Corender
309 North Prairie Street
Batavia, Illinois 60510

SN:pjm:acc



Dear Sheila,

First-why is it necessary to prop up Betty Ford's image at the expense of \$6,000 a year?

Secondly- I protest Mrs Ford using the taxpayers money - (I mean) Federal money, calls to legislators, etc on the issue of the ERA.

Mrs Ford - as first lady should not be allowed to take any stand pro or con in regards to ERA.

She would do more good if she would persuade the President not to treat us so badly - wanting to give our citizens only 5% percent for per raise the 1st of July. We too need to live - prices go up for us too. We must have the prop suggested - she may be able to take this up with the President.

A 75 year old

Senior Citizen

Francis M. Conover

309 N. Prairie St

Peotone Ill



Phyllis Schlafly

Betty Ford

People

An Illinois gadfly stings the First Lady

The unsinkable Phyllis Schlafly, the Alton, Ill. housewife and conservative gadfly who regards the Equal Rights Amendment as the Armageddon of women, is taking on First Lady Betty Ford in the battle to stop the ERA. She has said she favors

This will break ... 7/1

March 19, 1975

Dear Mrs. Maddox:

Your recent letter to Mr. Wessen has been referred to me for handling.

While Mrs. Ford made a careful study of the issue and answered to her satisfaction many of the issues you raised, she appreciates criticism. She also evaluates her opinion in light of any new information she receives.

Although you are in disagreement on this issue, Mrs. Ford is certain there are many values you share and hopes by example and expression to advocate those values in the future.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Arthur Maddox
2544 East 18th
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104

SRW:ncc



Many of us are opposed to this amendment because;

- 1-- THE AMENDMENT IS NOT NEEDED. Legal discrimination in State Laws will be changed as fast as women in that State want them changed. The vote gives them that power. Innumerable changes in State laws would be required, not all of them desirable.
- 2 -- COURTS WOULD BE OVERBURDENED TRYING TO WORK OUT "RIGHTS AND DUTIES". It is undemocratic to take from the legislature and give to the courts the power to decide questions of social policy.
- 3-- Women already have equal pay for equal work. Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended by the 1972 Equal Employment Opportunity act bars discrimination across the board. Not only pay, but want ads, promotions, training programs seniority rules, pension plans and other fringe benefits are included. This has been tested in court and a major company has had to pay millions in back pay.
- 4-- THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WILL NOT NECESSARILY EXTEND TO MEN ALL THE PRIVILEGES NOW EXTENDED TO WOMEN. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, in the wording of the amendment that will guarantee this.. Every privilege will be subject to judicial interpretation, and is just as likely to be taken from both.
- 5-- NATURE CANNOT BE AMENDED. There are real differences, both physical and social, between men and women. Absolutely legal equality is impossible. Where there are real physical or social differences identical treatment is itself a form of discrimination.

THE STATES ARE NOT RATIFYING LEGISLATIVE DEBATES.

THEY ARE RATIFYING THE LANGUAGE SUBMITTED TO THEM IN THE TEXT OF THE AMENDMENT

"The language of ERA admits of no exception".

Professor Paul Freund
Harvard Law School.

- 6-- IT WILL WORK MUCH MISCHIEF IN ACTUAL PRACTICE. To admit this is not the imagination of the "lunatic fringe", but rather the refusal of the stable citizen to face the facts. There is an element in our society determined to alter the American social structure, and some of them are in positions of power. (Please read newspaper clipping, "Bill Frees Some Groups ---", on the attached sheet.) The U. S. Congress is already spending hours trying to correct moves made possible by this law. Channel 11, on one of it's regular discussion forums, had a well attended debate on "Should homosexuals and lisbians be allowed to marry". You are not being realistic if you refuse to face the fact that a serious attempt for legalization will be made in this direction, based on the ERA amendment.
- 7-- The "Right to privacy" argument used by pro-ERA groups is based on the Supreme Court Decision in the case of Griswold V. Connecticut. This decision was limited to marital relations and the marital home. At present, any right to privacy exception to ERA is, at best, a legal hypothesis.

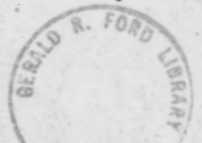
For these many reasons, please VOTE NO on ERA.

Sincerely,

Lorene Maddox
(Mrs. Arthur) Lorene Maddox

Dear: Mr. Nissen, -

Please urge Ms. Ford to not pass her stand





Dear _____

Thank you so much for your recent letter ~~applauding~~ *expressing support for*
Mrs. Ford and her stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I've added your letter to our 'support' mail, which now
outnumbers the anti-ERA mail by almost three to one!

I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing.

Sincerely,



March 13, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford,

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment. This is certainly a much needed revision in our Constitution. Here in California, women are not quite as equal as men. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Jean S. Hawley



Dear Mrs Ford,

3-15-75

Congratulations on all the good
work you're doing for E.R.A. and
many thanks, too. If there's anything
we can do from Ohio, please let
us know. In fact, a year ago, our
Lake/Geauga Coalition for Ratification of ERA
(after successful Ohio ratification) voted to give
our treasury balance to another state - Any
suggestions of where we should send it (which
state needs it most)? Jan Oakley

Janice E. Oakley
27500 Bishop Park Dr. Apt. 812
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44092

March 13, 1975

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thanks for your recent letter and recommendations regarding the possible comments Mrs. Ford could make on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I appreciate your suggestions and your taking the time to write them down. I will discuss them with Mrs. Ford.

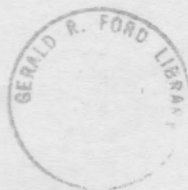
Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Ms. Virginia Harris
665½ Rose Street
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701

SRW:ncc:pjm



Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld
Secretary to First Lady

Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

Please allow me to suggest regarding the Women Rights Amendment that Mrs. Ford could be more effective if she cited specifics, For example cite a wife's dilemma in the instance of a husband's mental incapacity, a widow's inability to enter into any business or other legal contract without signature of her nearest relative, a impeached father, say. (Whom she may be supporting.)

Or, just an unmarried daughter, or a divorcee. (Which of course, is beyond the pale)

The antis, among (at present) in the heap of bonafide husbands, are blinkered blinded, but in some states this limiting law just might happen to them.

Respect fully
Virginia Harris



14 Mar 1975

~~Mrs~~
Betty Ford
The White House
Washington DC.

Dear Mrs Ford:

How wonderful of you to
come out so strongly for the
Equal Rights Amendment. It is
women in places of prominence
that need to be vocal for what
needs to be an actuality in
this country which claims
to be "the land of the free
and the home of the brave".

I do hope you are feeling
better. We have all been concerned



for you thru your operations, and trouble with arthritis. Either would have been bad enough. It doesn't seem fair for you to have both.

As a member of National Secretaries Association, International, I want you to know you have our wholehearted support.

Sincerely
Mrs A. H. (Vera) Ferguson
50 Burlington Ave.
Rockledge, Fla. 32955

Mar. 13, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your efforts on behalf of all American women for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Your courage and dedication makes us all very proud of our "First Lady."

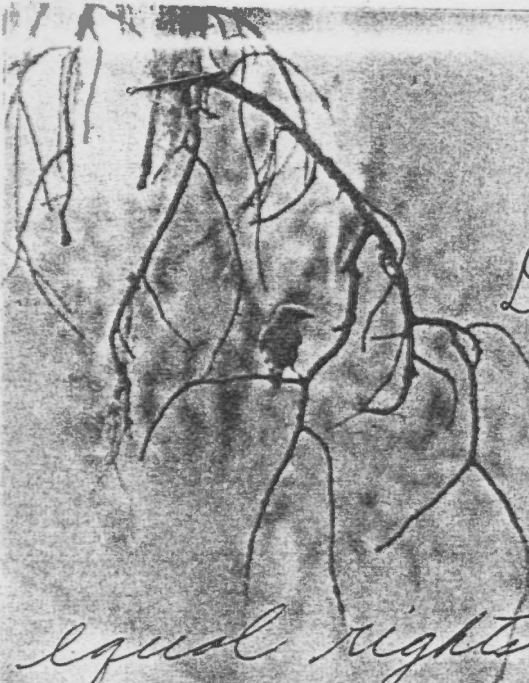
So continue in your efforts on our behalf!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Evelyn Wilson
2647 S. Mayflower Ave.
Arcadia, Ca. 91006



"Only she who attempts the absurd can achieve the impossible."





2536 Weard
Klamath Falls
Oregon

Dear Betty Ford,
Thank you
for your
efforts in the

equal rights amendment.
We all surely appreciate
your efforts and love you
for it. We of the "Silent
Majority" wish you were
the President.

Very sincerely,
Mrs. Goldie Peterson
and Family



7 Hillside Court
Northfield, MN 55057
March 13, 1975

Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Having read several weeks ago that you were receiving large amounts of mail opposing your activities in favor of ERA, I should like to add one letter giving you enthusiastic encouragement.

There are obviously important differences between men and women, but legally we must all be considered human. The women whom I have known who have entered into jobs and government areas (here on the local level) have clearly demonstrated dedication and responsibility, in many cases to a much higher degree than their male counterparts. Many of us believe we have far more to contribute to society than we have been able to in the past.

Yours truly,

Marie Jensen

Marie Jensen (Mrs. Paul)

Please conserve paper, energy and time by not acknowledging this letter!



213 East 88 Street
New York, N. Y. 10028

March 17, 1975

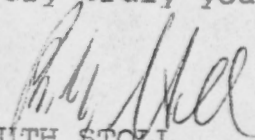
Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Your active support in favor of passage of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment is a delight to all of us women who feel that sexism is incompatible with true democracy.

Counting on your continued support, I am

Very truly yours,


RUTH STOLL



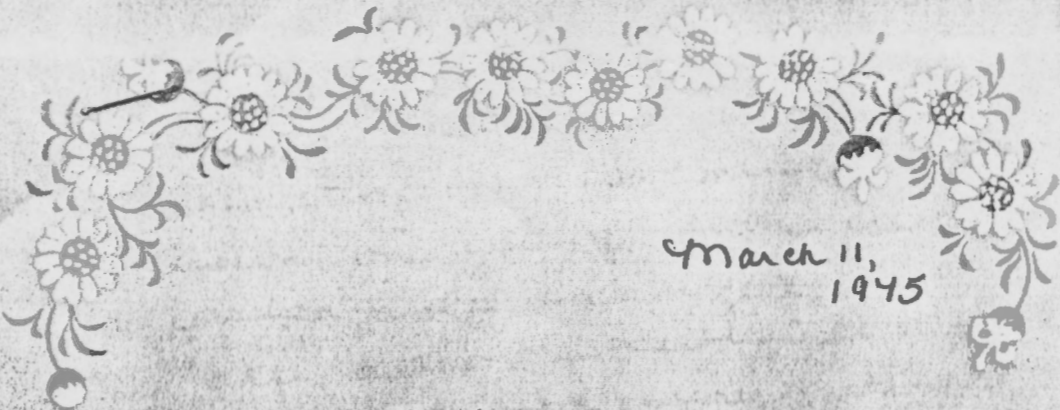
Nancy:

I thought you might
like to see this one
ERA letter. Note
last page.

Margaret

Patti





March 11,
1945

Dear Mrs. Ford,

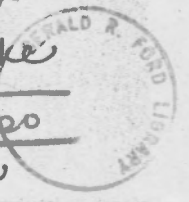
I am writing you to tell you how much it means to me that you are supporting the ERA with such vigor. I went on the Bell System management training program after college, and I spent over two years being discriminated against in pay and in promotions. I am now a stockbroker with a large national house. Since I compete every single day in what is still essentially a "man's world," I do appreciate your efforts in behalf of us women who deserve equal and fair treatment. My husband is a physician (and is also a real ERA supporter),



and tonight I attended a physicians' wives meeting on rape control. At its conclusion, one young lady gave out propaganda and urged us to take "all action possible" to defeat the bill. I returned her material and thanked her, but I also said I wanted to be a full-class citizen. She patted me on the shoulder and told me that "it's all in the Bible." I am a Christian, Mrs. Ford, as I am sure you are. However, I refuse to believe that Jesus was a male chauvinist pig!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and to let you know that there are many of us behind you and the ERA. I went to Wake Forest with Mike and Gayle, so please tell them hello for me when you see them.

Sincerely,
Sherry Greenleaf LeBlanc



M. Heblang
New South Village
apt. E-2
Spartanburg, S.C. 29301



Mrs. Gerald Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.





Dear Mrs. Height:

expressing your opinion

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 21 ~~regarding~~

~~My own and my position on the~~ on the Equal Rights Amendment.

I will pass your sentiments along to Mrs. Ford, and

I thank you for taking the time to let us know how you feel.

Sincerely,

SRW

I had planned to run for presidency but since Mrs Ford has run out for ERA I'm not