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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

THE STATE DINING ROOM

10:52 A.M. EDT

It is nice to see you all this morning. I just came from giving a speech over at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I like the intimate kind of meetings rather than the big, massive audiences like we had over there. It gives me a chance to speak without any notes and to not have to read a text.

So, let me just say a few words in general without benefit of any text or written comments.

First, I want to congratulate each and every one of you for having achieved an outstanding position in our Federal Government. I am very, very pleased as I look around the room to see the number as well as the quality.

I was noticing the other day that this Administration has 14 percent of the top jobs filled by women, which I am told is an all-time high as far as Administrations are concerned. So, it wasn't done other than on the basis of quality and I congratulate each and every one of you for having earned that opportunity to serve your Government and to serve our people.

I was meeting last week with the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. I had a little trouble getting that series of words together, but anyhow -- I read their report, which does indicate that we have made substantial progress. But, I think on the other hand it likewise points out that we have a great deal more area or target of opportunity.

There have been substantial increases among women serving in elective office, appointive office in the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial Branches, but we have a long way to go and I pledge to you that I will continue what we have tried to do, which is to appoint, to nominate more and more women because the performance that you have all given to this Government certainly deserves that others should be following in your footsteps.

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I look with great pride that we have Carla Hills in the Cabinet and Betty Murphy in the NLRB and Anne Armstrong and a number of others in the Diplomatic Corps, and a number of you, as I see, in the military and other civilian capacity.

You are doing an outstanding job, and by the fact that you are, it gives us good reason to see that opportunities for others are multiplied. What it really does, I think, is open the door, the door that was hard to open in the first instance. It opens a door that in effect invites other talented people like yourselves to move in and help us in the many tough and difficult jobs we have both here at home as well as abroad.

You have shown us that it can be done. The door is open for literally hundreds and hundreds of others to follow and I am sure, as we move ahead, we will do this in the way that it should be done, which means more and more jobs for those like you.

Congratulations, thank you, and the very best to you.

END (AT 10:57 A.M. EDT)