

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE DELIVERED
BY MARGARET "MIDGE" COSTANZA, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

ERA MARCH AND RALLY, JULY 9, 1978.

THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT ON HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT ON THE FULL PROTECTION OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR EVERY CITIZEN.

AND THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT ON THIS ADMINISTRATION'S
COMMITMENT TO EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

THIS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.
WE SUPPORT EXTENSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE FOR RATIFICATION.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAND TOGETHER WITH YOU
TO SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY WHEREVER THEY
ARE WEAK OR LACKING.

TOGETHER WE WILL IMPLEMENT THE PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON.

TOGETHER WE WILL ASSURE THAT THE VOICES OF WOMEN ARE HEARD THROUGH THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN, THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE FOR WOMEN, AND THROUGH MY OFFICE -- UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MARGARET "MIDGE" COSTANZA --- TO WHOM I HAVE ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN'S ISSUES, DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

TOGETHER WE WILL WORK TO STRENGTHEN AND BROADEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES WHEREVER NEEDED --- AS WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO DO IN OUR CIVIL SERVICE REFORM PROPOSAL WHICH WILL INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES.

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IN THIS EFFORT.

WE SEE THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AS THE FOUNDATION ---- THE BEDROCK ---- FOR THESE EFFORTS.

TODAY YOU MAKE IT CLEAR ...

YOU MAKE IT LOUD AND CLEAR ...

-- THAT OVER HALF OF THE POPULATION OF THIS NATION WILL
NOT BE DENIED INCLUSION IN THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ...

-- THAT OVER HALF OF THE POPULATION OF THIS NATION WILL NOT
BE DENIED OR DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS BECAUSE A MINORITY OF
PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO EXERCISE THEIRS ...

-- AND THAT THE WILL OF A MAJORITY OF THIS COUNTRY WILL
NOT BE DELAYED ... WILL NOT BE DENIED ...

IN THE IMMEDIATE AND FINAL RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.