

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 13, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO: MARGARET COSTANZA

From: Jane Wales

Subject: ERA Planning Meeting - February 13, 1978

On Monday, February 13, at 10:00 a.m., you met with Arlie Scott of the National Organization for Women; Mildred Jeffreys, Women's Political Caucus; Irma Finn Brosseau, Business and Professional Women; Nancy Neuman of the League of Women Voters; and Kathleen Currie of ERAmerica to discuss the following:

- 1) The failure of South Carolina and Virginia to ratify the ERA

There was discussion of the coalition efforts for ratification in these two states. There was agreement that failure to ratify was a result of blackmail and, at least in one case, the offer of a judgeship.

- 2) Press surrounding the ERA effort

You pointed out a Washington Star article of February 12 describing anti-ERA efforts in Kentucky involving the dissemination of obscene literature. You noted also that Shana Alexander had presented good pro-ERA arguments on CBS' 60 Minutes, also on February 12.

- 3) Status of legislation to extend the ERA ratification date

Arlie Scott reported that the House subcommittee will probably act favorably on the extension bill; she noted that in the full committee, 12 members are undecided.

- 4) Marvella Bayh v. Phyllis Schlafly debate

You reported that Marvella Bayh may be debating Phyllis Schlafly in Virginia. Mrs. Bayh will be reaching a decision by Wednesday of this week.

5) Presidential involvement in White House ERA meeting set for February 15

Mildred Jeffreys and Arlie Scott stressed the importance of the President's involvement in Wednesday's meeting noting that there is some bitterness amongst ERA supporters who feel that the President has not done enough in the ERA effort.

You told the group that you would see Tim Kraft today and request that the President make a drop-by.

6) Agenda for February 15 ERA meeting

It was agreed that Wednesday's meeting would have the following format:

- a) Discussion of Extension for Ratification -- Rep. Holtzman, Fenwick or Heckler
- b) Discussion of Fundraising -- (1) BPW representative - strategy; (2) NWPC representative - campaigns; (3) LWV representative - miscellaneous spending
- c) The National Boycott -- NOW representative
- d) Working with coalitions -- ERAmerica representative

If the President attends, the groups would hope for reiteration of his commitment and a call for commitments from all those interest groups present.

7) Possible Presidential Statement

Regardless of whether the President attends Wednesday's meeting, you indicated that you would explore the possibility of his making a pro-ERA statement on the occasion of Susan B. Anthony's birthday.

8) Presidential meeting with pro-Era groups

Arlie noted that the President has never met with pro-ERA groups and asked that there be a change in what appears to be a policy on the part of Presidential Scheduling to disapprove Presidential meetings with women's rights groups.