

MEMORANDUM

John

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO: MARGARET COSTANZA
From: Jane Wales *Jane*
Subject: Meeting with NOW representatives

On Monday, January 30, you met with Ellie Smeal and Arlie Scott of the National Organization for Women to discuss ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the possible extension for ratification.

The following topics were covered:

1) Report on South Carolina trip

You reported on your trip to Columbus, South Carolina, stating that

- there is a public referendum on ERA which is opposed by supporters of the Amendment
- there has been sudden participation on the part of black community leaders
- State Representative Turpinseed indicated an interest in showing that industry is opposed to ratification because it would mandate equal pay for equal work

2) Strategy of NOW and other interest groups

Ellie reported that NOW is working closely with ERAmerica in the states; that NOW has been responsible for field organization while ERAmerica is concentrating on funding.

- NOW has nine caravans in the states responsible for field organizing; they try to get press attention and recruit workers

- National campaigns spearheaded by the NOW organization include the boycott of states that rescind and work for the extension of the time for ratification

3) Susan B. Anthony's Birthday -- ERA strategy session

-options were laid out for possible celebration of Susan B. Anthony's birthday including:

- a)reception at the White House
- b)strategy session at White House for ERA
- c)White House meeting for interest groups which have not previously been active in lobbying for the ERA