

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Margaret Costanza

I strongly recommend that you include remarks about the Equal Rights Amendment when you speak in Illinois next week, and particularly in your appearance before the General Assembly on Thursday, May 25.

Here is some language suggested by ERAmerica:

- There's one thing I want to ask for, something that only the men and women in this room can bring about, and that's the ratification of the ERA amendment in Illinois.
- Surely, the land of Lincoln cannot fail to do what 35 other states have already done.
- Surely, the State that first ratified the amendment that gave women the vote cannot fail to act now to give them the constitutional rights that other Americans enjoy.
- All the women of America are asking for is language that you already have in your own Illinois constitution.
- All they are asking for is to be recognized as equal to men, under law as they are before God.
- If we are to be a unified nation, we must grant that equality quickly, without further divisive debate.
- You and I know that there is in this room the power to end that debate and give women the simple equality they are asking for.
- I ask that of you, confident that you can, and will, do it.