

March 24, 1997

cc: Druce R.

File - women's issues generally

MEMORANDUM TO ERSKINE BOWLES
MARIA ECHAVESTE

FROM: BETSY MYERS
LISA OSBORNE ROSS

RE: WOMEN'S MEETING FOLLOW-UP

cc: VICKI RADD
SYLVIA MATHEWS
ELENA KAGAN

Below is a summary of issues and proposed action items raised at your March 19 meeting with women leaders.

Pay Equity -- Susan Bianchi Sands proposed a round table discussion with working women and corporate leaders with one of the four principals to discuss ways to address pay inequity among men and women, particularly women of color. (The Women's Office is working with the Department of Labor to draft a scheduling request for the Vice President.)

Take Your Daughters to Work Day -- Marie Wilson would like the White House to formally acknowledge the MS. Foundation's flagship effort to increase girls' self esteem. Wilson and others noted that a special effort must be made to develop girls in science and math. (Wilson would like the President to officially proclaim April 24th "Take Your Daughters to Work Day" or to send a Presidential message and to host a White House event.)

Child care/Welfare -- Wilson and others suggested creating opportunities to put women to work in the child care industry. Wilson said she would submit a proposal to Erskine outlining her ideas and Maria suggested creating a small working group to explore the concept with Elena Kagan. The group also talked about the development of national standards for child care providers, the role of the federal government and small business, and the desire to expand the "care" discussion to include elder care including the possibility of a dependent care tax credit. (We will coordinate with Maria to develop the working group.)

Welfare -- In addition to child care, meeting participants identified education as a means of facilitating a woman's transition from welfare to work. Many supported Judy Lichtman's concern that these new workers are afforded the same worker protections such as FMLA, OSHA, overtime/comp pay and fair labor standards as

others who have been in the workforce longer and those who are not transitioning from welfare to work.

Telecommunications -- Terri Dickerson highlighted the correlation between ownership of media outlets and biased media coverage. Noting that the FCC currently does not collect data on the gender and race of broadcasts and television licensees, she asked that the White House support a study to determine the level of female ownership of radio and television stations. Regarding digital television, Dickerson maintains that the FCC must allocate and pack digital television channels to ensure an efficient use of spectrum for digital television and to provide viable opportunities for new competitors in the telecommunications market. (The Women's Office will apprise Larry Irving at NTIA of Dickerson's concerns.)

Procurement -- Amy Millman asked for support of the SBA's government-wide effort to increase procurement awards to small business particularly the cabinet-level effort SBA is initiating before the annual goaling season begins. (In a follow-up memo to our office she asked for help in securing 1. the formation of a task force co-sponsored by the SBA and the OFPP that focuses on the achievement of procurement goals. 2. a presidential memorandum or Executive Order indicating the Administration's commitment to meet or exceed all prime and subcontracting goals for small, small disadvantaged and women-owned business. 3. a commitment from Erskine to address the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise on management responsibility and accountability.)

Gender Impact -- Ellie Smeal would like a gender-impact budget statement. Ann Mosle said that the Inter American Development Bank had developed one that could be used as a model. (The Women's Office is obtaining a copy of the study and will forward to Gene Sperling for review and discussion.)

Education -- Marcia Greenberger asked that the DOL/DOE *School to Work* initiative be elevated and aggressively used as a tool to increase economic self-sufficiency. She also expressed concern about gender equity in developing educational testing standards. Greenberger and others would like the White House to host an event celebrating the 25th anniversary of Title IX. (The Women's Office will work with Cabinet Affairs to organize a meeting between DOE and DOL.)

Choice and Family Planning -- Vicki Saporta asks that the President dually classify abortion clinic violence as a civil rights violation and domestic terrorism. She also said that the President should clarify his reference to health in the context of late-term abortions as physical and mental. Margaret Conway suggests increased resources for domestic family planning. She also urged that the President talk about family planning - not just abstinence - as a means to prevent unwanted pregnancies.