

Archives Unbound: Women's Issues and Their Advocacy Within the White House, 1974-1977



Archives Unbound

Archives Unbound answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

Women's Issues and Their Advocacy Within the White House, 1974-1977

With meeting minutes, briefing papers, correspondence, talking points, draft presidential remarks, speeches, newsclippings and more this collection documents the evolution of The Special Assistant to the President for Women as it advised the President on women's issues, handled White House liaison with women's organizations and oversaw the work of the Office of Women's Programs (OWP). An intuitive platform makes it all cross-searchable by subject or collection. Sourced from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, this collection covers the years 1970-1977.



Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection

In February of 1973, Presidential Counselor Anne Armstrong created a small office in the Nixon White House and brought it into the Ford administration. The office provided liaison between the President and women as a special interest group, encouraged recruitment of women for top-level government positions and initiated and assisted in the development of programs, policies, legislation and regulations supporting women's civil rights. The Special Assistant to the President for Women advised the President on women's issues, handled White House liaison with women's organizations and oversaw the work of the Office of Women's Programs (OWP) headed by Karen Keesling. In addition, the office sponsored a number of meetings attended by Mrs. Ford and occasionally sent her briefings concerning women's issues.

When Counselor Armstrong resigned in December 1974, the OWP was transferred to the Office of Public Liaison. Patricia Lindh, Armstrong's assistant, was appointed to the new position of Special Assistant to the President for Women and headed the office during the United Nations' International Women's Year in 1975. Retired Major General Jeanne Holm succeeded Lindh when she resigned in March 1976.

The Lindh/Holm collection contains material from Armstrong, Lindh, Holm and Keesling from throughout the administration. Although the leadership changed, the purpose and substance of the office remained the same with only minor differences in style.

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The bulk of the collection is derived from liaison activities with over 300 women's organizations, agency women's groups and program units, advisory committees on women and women appointees. Topics include:

- Public policy
- Legislation and regulation of women's civil rights in the government
- The economy

One series is devoted entirely to the planning of White House meetings, some of which were attended by President or Mrs. Ford, in which women leaders exchanged views with administration officials. These were part of the "Tuesday" and "Wednesday" meeting series organized by all White House Public Liaison Office units. Several meetings generated follow-up meetings hosted by, for example, the Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor. Other meetings sought priorities for the OWP agenda and candidates for presidential appointment.

The files also contain material related to OWP outreach activities, including attendance at conventions, speeches and solicitation of organization background and printed materials. The OWP regularly provided the President and the White House staff with advice on legislation, regulations, proclamations and executive orders. Many documents were routinely staffed to the OWP for comment and review, as were large amounts of informational material. Substantial amounts of material are present related to:

- Sex and credit discrimination
- Affirmative action
- Education
- Child care

Additionally, the Office's role in overseeing national activities for International Women's Year provided interesting material related to its origin in 1972, and Armstrong's and Lindh's efforts in securing an executive order and agency funding for a National Commission to Observe International Women's Year. Files on the United Nations' International Conference in Mexico City, the U.S. delegation's role and efforts to begin a 10 year World Plan of Action also appear.

This collection includes:

Jeanne Holm Speeches, April-December 1976.

Copies of speeches given to women's organizations.

Karen Keesling Speeches, 1974-1976.

Correspondence, speeches, schedules, printed material, notes, lists, maps, travel requests related to speeches given to women's organizations.

International Women's Year Conference, Mexico City, June-July 1975.

Correspondence, reports, background materials, agenda items, draft resolutions and reports, statements, U.S. position book, an international bibliography, newsclippings and press releases. Topics include proceedings of the Conference, U.S. resolutions, the adjacent Tribune Conference and related events.