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Letter from Donald D. Storms to Ann Hopkins, September 9, 1989

Donald D. Storms

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1280 Sheep Bridge Rd
York, PA 17402

9 Sept 89

My dear Ms. Hopkins -

I hope this letter reaches you! As I write it, I have only a very general address. It is personal, not on official business, sparked by the inclusion of the story of your experience with Price Waterhouse & Co. in this month's AARP Bulletin.

I am impelled to write because, aside from favoring advancement-in-jobs for capable women, I have had a (very) little experience of P.W. - my stepfather worked for them for many years, before and during W.W.II. He became what I believe they termed a Senior Accountant, being in complete charge of "task forces," and in 1941 or '42 was placed in charge of the then newly opened Atlanta Branch, entailing a move from South Orange, NJ, to the Atlanta vicinity. At or about that time he was offered a Partnership, but declined because of his deteriorating health, which he felt might considerably shorten his working life and therefore his value to P.W.

He was right - he had to retire about, or shortly after, the end of the War, and move to St. Petersburg, Fla, where he kept going only by heavy medication, toward the end being supplied by his doctor with Morphine, for self-administration, in such amount that after his death in about '61 I found, in the refrigerator a half-bottle plus an unopened one.

From what he said, from time to time, P.W. at that time had few if any female employees in upper-grade positions. He was never very

habitative, even less so about business, but from
the old remark I gathered that he did not approve
of that situation, at all. -- he knew women who were
top-class business stars, and could not see what grounds
had to be with the use of their abilities.

I may say that he was so well-regarded by
MY that he did not, in fact, retire. (I know that,
with MY, there was no such thing -- one would write
one no longer could) would he, then quit, with no
Pension, etc.) When he tried to do so, MY would not
accept his resignation, but kept him on "stand-by"
status, subject to short-period recall if the need for
his services arose, in their estimation. I understand
that this was next-to-derivative of, in that firm.

If you got to where you did, you had to be
down good, and then was no acceptable reason for
MY to refuse you further advancement, and I am
glad the Supreme Court, especially with its present
composition, eagerly and I hope you will, in the
end, be awarded suitable recompense.

While, I rather feel that with the World Bank
you will be -- if given the opportunity there -- of a
great deal more benefit to the U.S. and to the world
than of even a top position with Price Waterhouse,
which, however good they may be in their field --
very good -- are still a business-minded, profit-
making organization.

He -- he wishes to you in your present
employment, and for your advancement, and
more power to you, and the World Bank in
attempts to get the financial condition of this
mixed-up world into some sort of reasonable,

worst case, condition. That is pretty well Pie in the
Sky, but keep trying.

There is little real purpose to this letter, other
than letting off steam in my part, at 77, and a most
harmless connection with you.

Sincerely, and with
venerable fond wishes,

Donald B. Starns
(STARN'S)