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### "International Women's Year," Congressional Record, September 24, 1974

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United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 93<sup>d</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 120

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

No. 143

September 24, 1974

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S 17349

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Mr. PERCY. Mr. President, I take great pleasure in sharing good news with those who have become disheartened that poor financing and official apathy might reduce International Women's Year to a hollow celebration of high-sounding platitudes to women. Recent actions by the State Department and the Agency for International Development, with strong support from the administration, indicate that help is on the way.

The United Nations designated 1975 as International Women's Year to stimulate world initiative and action to promote equality between men and women; integrate women into the total development effort; and recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the strengthening of world peace. Such designations are reserved for issues which the United Nations considers of utmost importance. Thus, 1968 was Human Rights Year, and 1974 World Population Year. Usually, such designations automatically mean adequate, if not substantial, financial support. Approximately \$2 million was spent on the international conference for Human Rights Years, and some \$3 million was used for the recent World Population Conference. The International Women's Year Conference, on the other hand, has up to this time been allocated only \$300,000.

Such obvious inequities, if not corrected, make a mockery of the principle of equality of men and women, so clearly stated in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Because I care for women and for the United Nations, I recently spoke out before the Population Tribune in Bucharest urging that the U.N. give International Women's Year the priority that it deserves. Women, after all, are half of humanity, and their integration into all walks of life, on an equal basis with men, must become a reality if the world is to achieve full and complete economic and social development.

International Women's Year can only be successful if the United Nations and its member states the resources necessary to make 1975 not only a year of celebration but also a year of intense action committed to the improvement of the status of women all over the world. I am, therefore, very happy to report that the State Department has commit-

ted \$50,000 in fiscal 1975 and \$75,000 in fiscal 1976 as its share of the support necessary for the issuance of an Executive order to establish a Presidential Advisory Commission for International Women's Year and a secretariat to serve that Commission.

Moreover, AID will make a voluntary contribution of \$100,000 to the IWY conference to be held in Bogotá, Colombia. The State Department, particularly its Bureau of International Organization Affairs, and AID deserve our commendation for their leadership on this issue. However, more money is needed if the Commission and the secretariat are to become realities. I, therefore, petition all other agencies to emulate the fine example set by State and AID and embrace the spirit of International Women's Year by making their much needed contributions so that the IWY program in this country will be both effective and meaningful.

International Women's Year is worthy of all our support. I know that both the previous administration and this administration have given it strong endorsement. Former President Nixon, in his proclamation designating International Women's Year for the United States, commented on the significant contributions that women have made in this country and suggested the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by 1975 as a fitting tribute to America's women. President Ford, in his proclamation of Women's Equality Day, reaffirmed his commitment to the ratification of the equal rights amendment and mentioned International Women's Year.

With adequate support at the highest levels of Government, International Women's Year will hopefully launch a new era in international history. I look forward to a time when women are fully integrated into all walks of life, on an equal basis with men, so that the views and concerns of half of humanity may truly be reflected in all our plans, policies, and priorities.

I request unanimous consent that a statement by Mrs. Anne Armstrong on International Women's Year be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

(Statement by Anne Armstrong, Counsellor to the President)

1975 has been designated as International Women's Year by the U.N. General Assembly through adoption of Resolution 3010 in December, 1972. The United States through Presidential Proclamation in January, 1974, was the first member nation to recognize 1975 as International Women's Year.

The theme for the Year: Equality, Development and Peace offers us a unique opportunity to emphasize the accomplishments women have made throughout the country and to intensify the efforts already underway in our nation to advance the status of women.

Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is necessary for the achievement of legal equality for all men and women. Nations of the world look to the United States for leadership in this area.

Emphasized in the second goal is the role of women in the economy, in the arts and humanities, and in government. These are crucial to national development. Education and training are important aspects of the development of women's full potential to insure their effective participation in the life of their country.

The third goal is to recognize the contribution and potential of women in the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among nations in building a structure of peace. Here in the United States, foreign policy has now become of concern and interest to all our citizens as we are daily more aware of the interdependence of the nations of the world.

The United States Proclamation calls upon Congress and the people of the United States to begin now to plan practical and constructive measures for the advancement of the status of women. President Ford in his Women's Equality Day message urged Americans to deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our nation's life.

I look forward to working with Congress and State Department officials to assist in the success of this government's participation in International Women's Year. I, too, add my encouragement for the full participation of not only the government sector but also the private sector as we implement the principles outlined by the goals of IWY.



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