

THANK YOU SO MUCH LILA. I HOPE I LIVE UP
TO MY INTRODUCTION.

I COME TO YOU OF COURSE WITH AN IMAGE THAT
I HAVE TO CORRECT IMMEDIATELY.

I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SAYING SOME VERY
TERRIBLE THINGS IN THIS NATION.

FOR INSTANCE, I WAS ACCUSED OF SAYING --
NOW MAYBE I DID -- I DO NOT REMEMBER THAT I DID
NOT MIND WORKING FOR A PRESIDENT WHO THOUGHT HE
WAS REBORN.

MY ONLY QUESTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN, "NOW WHY
WOULD HE WANT TO COME BACK AS HIMSELF?"

I -- HE'S NEVER ANSWERED THE QUESTION AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED ... I ALSO REMEMBER IT WAS NOT TOO LONG AGO THAT PEOPLE WERE BRINGING UP HIS PLAYBOY ARTICLE AGAIN. -- THAT INTERVIEW HE GAVE.

WELL, I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU. NOT YOU - THEM. I WAS THE WOMAN IN THE PLAYBOY ARTICLE.

VERY FRANKLY I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOWEVER I HAVE NEVER MESSED AROUND WITH THE PRESIDENT.

I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO MESS AROUND WITH SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT THE PLACE TO LUST WAS IN THE HEART.

I SAID TO HIM ONE DAY ... I SAID, " WITH ALL THIS LUSTING IN THE HEART, I SAID, YOU COULD BE THE

FIRST PRESIDENT IN HISTORY TO MAKE MEDICAL HISTORY
IN BELIEVING THAT HEARTBURN IS A VENEREAL DISEASE.

I REMEMBER THOSE GREAT AND GLAMOROUS STATE
DINNERS WHEN THE HEADS OF OTHER NATIONS WOULD COME
TO SEE US AND VISIT US IN WASHINGTON. BEING THE
ONLY ETHNIC, THE ONLY WOMAN, THE ONLY NORTHERNER ON
THE SENIOR STAFF -- I REALLY HAD ALOT OF ADVANTAGES.

I GOT INVITED TO ONE OF THOSE CLASSY STATE
DINNERS.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER COOKED FOR FIVE
HUNDRED PEOPLE.

BUT I FIXED THEM. I COOKED THEM LASAGNA AND
GRITS.

I'M TRYING TO GET MYSELF INTO THE MOOD.

ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN A COMMUNITY
CALLED ROCHESTER, NEW YORK - I DECIDED I WAS
GOING TO LIVE MY LIFE, AND NOT JUST EXIST THROUGH
IT.

THAT I WAS GOING TO RETURN TO A COMMUNITY
THAT HAD BEEN KIND TO ME SOME TIME SPENT ON THE
ISSUES WHICH CONCERNED THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM I LIVED
IN THAT COMMUNITY.

AND I LEARNED AT A VERY EARLY AGE THAT GOVERN-
MENT EFFECTS EVERY SINGLE MINUTE YOU LIVE. GOVERN-
MENT EFFECTS YOUR LIFE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

WHETHER IT'S THE STREETS YOU DRIVE ON, THE

SIDEWALKS YOU WALK ON, AIR, WATER, WAR, PRICES,
JOBS ... GOVERNMENT TOUCHES YOUR LIFE.

AND GOVERNMENT IS BORN FROM POLITICS AND SO
I CHOSE THE POLITICAL PARTY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK,
GOT ACTIVE IN THAT PARTY, I WORKED IN CIVIC AND
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IN MY COMMUNITY, AND BY
THE TIME 1973 ROLLED AROUND I HAD REACHED A RECOG-
NITION FACTOR IN MY COMMUNITY OF 98%. IT WAS THEN
THAT MY COUNTY CHAIRMAN CAME UP TO ME AND SAID, "HEY
HONEY, YOU'RE VERY BRIGHT. UHH, WE'RE GONNA LET YOU
RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL".

OH - I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN ETERNITY BEFORE
I COULD RAISE UP OFF MY KNEES IN GRATITUDE FOR THIS

MARVELOUS OPPORTUNITY THAT WAS BEING GRANTED TO ME.
AND SO WHAT THEY ADDED TO IT IS "WE'RE GONNA LET
YOU RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL BUT WE WANT YOU TO KNOW YA SEE
THAT YOU'RE UNMARRIED, A ROMAN CATHOLIC, ITALIAN-AMERICAN,
AND YOU'RE RUNNING IN THE CITY AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA
WIN.

I SET OUT ... I WENT TO EVERY HOUSE IN EVERY
DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER. I RAN -- AND
WE HAVE A CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN ROCHESTER
WHICH MEANS WE DO NOT DIRECTLY ELECT OUR MAYOR OR OUR
VICE-MAYOR.

YOU RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL AND THEN THE NINE
MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL SELECT THE MAYOR AND THE

VICE-MAYOR. NOW WE HAVE AN UNWRITTEN RULE AND IT SAYS "THE LEADING VOTE GETTER OF ANY CITY COUNCIL RACE AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES THE MAYOR OF THE CITY UNLESS YOU ARE THE FIRST WOMAN EVER TO DO THAT.

SO I BECAME THE VICE-MAYOR.

IT'S O.K. IT'S THE FIRST TIME THEY EVER HAD ANYBODY WITH EXPERIENCE.

I WAS ONLY KIDDING. DON'T GET EXCITED.

O.K. I'LL MEET YOU AFTER THE CONVENTION.

I BECAME THE VICE-MAYOR AND IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER THAT THAT I RAN FOR CONGRESS AGAINST THE FOURTH RANKING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, BARBER CONABLE.

I RAN AGAINST BARBER CONABLE - IT WAS DURING THIS CAMPAIGN THAT I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL.

ON THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE THERE WAS SOMEBODY SAYING, "HAH. MAH NAME IS JIMMIE CAHTEH. A'HM THE GUV'NUH OF GOGIA, AND A'HVE BEEN LOOKING OVER YOUR POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES AND AH FIND THAT YOU AND AH ARE COMPATIBLE". AND I COVERED THE PHONE AND I SAID "IT'S A NUT!"

"THIS IS THE GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA AND HE'S TALKING TO ME, A LIBERAL, AGGRESSIVE, AND EVEN BY MARKET ISLAND STANDARDS ... WIERD. AND HE'S TELLING ME THAT WE'RE COMPATIBLE ON THE ISSUES. AND I SAID

'LOOK, I'LL CALL YOU BACK."

WELL, I LOOKED UP THE BACKGROUND OF THIS MAN CALLED JIMMY CARTER OF GEORGIA, GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, AND I TELL YOU I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF THAT WAS VERY REVEALING. I DID NOT THINK THAT I DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ANYBODY OR ANYTHING, AND YET THERE WAS A SUBTLE FORM OF DISCRIMINATION THAT I WAS PRACTICING THAT I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF ... AND IT WAS AGAINST THE SOUTH.

AND IT WAS SOMETHING THAT I ... I JUST ... I SAID NOW WAIT A MINUTE. JIMMY CARTER REPRESENTS A WHOLE NEW POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE SOUTH AND FROM THE SOUTH. THAT INDEED PERHAPS NOT AS LIBERAL

OR AS PROGRESSIVE AS I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE, BUT
I WAS ONE OF THOSE NORTHEASTERNS THAT SOMEHOW
THOUGHT THAT WE HAD THE MARKET CORNERED ON HOW
PEOPLE SHOULD LIVE.

AND I WAS WRONG. SO I CALLED JIMMY BACK
AND I SAID I'D BE DELIGHTED IF YOU WOULD COME
CAMPAIGN FOR ME AND HE DID.

AND I LOST.

SO WHEN HE CALLED ME AND HE SAID "LOOK I'D
LIKE YOU TO BE MY CO-CHAIRPERSON OF MY NEW YORK
STATE CAMPAIGN" I SAID "WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
ME TO RETURN THE FAVOR!"

FORTUNATELY I WAS A BETTER CAMPAIGNER THAN

HE, AND HE WON.

ON DECEMBER 25, JIMMY CARTER CALLED ME AND
ASKED ME IF I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT.

NOW SOME OF YOU MAY BE SITTING OUT THERE
WONDERING WELL WOW, YOU GET A CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT-
ELECT AND HE SAYS DO YOU WANT TO COME TO WASHINGTON
AND DO YOU WANT TO BE AN ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND THEN AT THAT MOMENT YOU SIEZE THE OPPORTUNITY
AND WITHOUT ANY HESITATION YOU SAY "YES". AND THAT'S
NOT TRUE.

I HAD WORKED HARD TO ACCOMPLISH A POSITION IN
CITY GOVERNMENT IN MY COMMUNITY, AND I LOVED LIVING

IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, I LOVED SERVING ON THE CITY COUNCIL. AND I HAD WORKED HARD TO BE THERE.

SO I WAS NOT SO EAGER TO JUST JUMP. I SAID TO HIM THAT I WOULD DO WHATEVER WAS BEST FOR HIM AND THROUGH HIM TWO-HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION AMERICANS IN THIS NATION.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE ME TO COME. AND SO I WENT.

AND ON JANUARY 20, WHILE JIMMY CARTER WAS WALKING DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I HAD SET FOOT IN A PLACE CALLED THE WHITE HOUSE. AND ON THAT DAY I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING. I THOUGHT OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD PRECEDED

ME AS ASSISTANTS TO THE PRESIDENT. I THOUGHT OF
THE MAN NAMED JOHN ERLICHMAN. I THOUGHT OF SOMEONE
NAMED HALDEMAN. I THOUGHT OF SOMEONE NAMED COLSON
WHOSE JOB BY THE WAY, I WAS GETTING.

AND I SAID I'M NOT GOING TO LET HAPPEN TO ME
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM
I CAN UNDERSTAND ALTHOUGH I CANNOT ACCEPT. BECAUSE
WHEN YOU GET INTO THIS PLACE CALLED THE WHITE HOUSE
THERE IS AN AWE ABOUT IT THAT OVERCOMES YOU.

IT WAS SIMPLE FOR THEM TO THINK THAT THE TITLE
OF ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT WAS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT THAT TITLE REPRESENTED,
AND I WAS NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN TO ME.

SO I WALKED THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE AND I WENT TO A PLACE CALLED THE ROOSEVELT ROOM WHICH WOULD BECOME THE PLACE THAT I WOULD MEET WITH OVER FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE AS I SERVED THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND I WENT TO A PLACE CALLED THE CABINET ROOM WHERE YOUR GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS EVERY MONDAY MORNING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. AND THEN I WENT TO THE MAIN PLACE. A PLACE CALLED THE OVAL OFFICE. AND I DON'T CARE HOW SOPHISTICATED YOU THINK YOU ARE, YOU WALK INTO THAT PLACE AND YOU ARE ABSORBED. I FELT AND I SENSED THE HISTORY OF THAT

OVAL OFFICE ... OF DECISIONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE
THERE BY PRESIDENTS I WAS PROUD OF ... AND OF
DECISIONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE THERE BY PRESIDENTS
WHO I WAS ASHAMED OF.

I LOOKED UP AT THE CEILING OF THAT OFFICE
AND SAW THE SEAL OF THE PRESIDENCY. AND I LOOKED
AT THE DESK THAT JIMMY CARTER HAD CHOSEN TO USE
DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

IT WAS THE SAME DESK USED BY JOHN F. KENNEDY
AND I SAW THE LITTLE DOOR THAT LITTLE JOHN JOHN
WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WALKING IN AND OUT OF. AND I WALKED
OVER TO THAT DESK. AND I TOUCHED IT. AND I WALKED
OVER TO THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR. AND I SAT IN IT.

AND IT FIT.

I MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND I SAID "WHAT IS
THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON?"

AND HE SAID TO ME, "MIDGE, IT IS THE PLACE
THROUGH WHICH I WANT YOU TO HELP ME KEEP MY COMMIT-
MENT OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE.

MY INTERPRETATION WAS THAT INDEED IT WOULD BE
THE PLACE THROUGH WHICH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
PEOPLE WOULD BE GUARANTEED. THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE
THE PLACE NOT WHERE WE WOULD ELIMINATE THE ACCESS
FROM THOSE GROUPS WHO ALWAYS HAD IT, BUT SIMPLY
TO EQUALIZE IT WITH THOSE WHO ALWAYS HAD IT WITH
THOSE WHO HAD NEVER HAD IT. AND SO I SET OUT TO

CARRY ON THE DUTIES OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS
SET OUT BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY MYSELF.

MY FIRST MEETING WAS WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE
WHO SUPPORTED FULL AMNESTY, WHILE THE PRESIDENT
WAS SUPPORTING A PARDON. AND AMONGST THE PEOPLE
WHO CAME TO THE WHITE HOUSE WAS A WOMAN NAMED
CORA WEISS. I FOUND IT ABSOLUTELY TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS
THAT A WOMAN WHO HAD SPENT SO MUCH OF HER TIME
FIGHTING AGAINST A WAR THAT SHE BELIEVED TO BE
IMMORAL IN VIET NAM HAD NEVER ONCE SET FOOT INSIDE
THE WHITE HOUSE.

I MET WITH THE WOMAN'S STRIKE FOR PEACE --
A GROUP OF WOMAN IN THIS NATION WHO HAVE FOUGHT

AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE ARMS RACE.

I MET WITH SENIOR CITIZENS. SENIOR CITIZENS
IN THIS NATION ... OH LADIES AND GENTLEMAN ... I'LL
TELL YOU THE MESSAGE THAT OUR OLDER AMERICANS ARE
GETTING IN THIS NATION SEEMS TO BE "HEY SENIOR
CITIZEN! HEY SIXTY-FIVE OR OLDER PERSON. WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU. YOU SEE YOU HAVE BECOME
A BURDEN UPON THIS NATION ... A BURDEN. OH, NOT
ENOUGH THAT YOU'VE MAINTAINED YOUR HOMES AND
COMMUNITIES ONLY TO FIND THAT LOCAL TAXES ARE
FORCING YOU OUT OF THOSE HOMES, AND THEN IN THE
GOODNESS OF OUR HEARTS IN THIS NATION, WE PLUCK
PEOPLE OUT OF FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS PUT THEM

IN A CONCRETE MAUSOLEUM, AND AT A TIME WHEN THEY SHOULD BE ENJOYING THEIR LIVES, WE FORCE THEM TO MAKE NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND NOT BY MY MORAL STANDARDS, AND MAYBE NOT BY YOURS, BUT BY THEIR MORAL STANDARDS WE FORCE THEM TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE - THEY ADMIT - BECAUSE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYS OFF BETTER IF YOU'RE NOT MARRIED.

PEOPLE WHO GAVE THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN IN DEFENSE OF THIS NATION IN TIME OF WAR, ONLY TO GET A MESSAGE, YOU'RE A BURDEN.

I MET WITH MINORITIES. THE QUESTION AND THE ANSWER PROVIDED IN A MEETING WITH MANY GROUPS.

"HEY MIDGE, YOU GO TELL JIMMY CARTER THAT FOR THE

PEOPLE OF THIS NATION WHO ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT
HAVING TO PAY FOR FEDERAL WELFARE PROGRAMS ... MEET
WITH HIM AND YOU TELL HIM TO TELL THEM WE'RE AS
SICK TO GET THOSE FEDERAL WELFARE PROGRAMS AS THEY
ARE TO PAY FOR THEM. BECAUSE YOU SEE MIDGE, WE
HAVE LIVED THROUGH GENERATION AFTER GENERATION AFTER
GENERATION OF NOT EVER HAVING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE
HUMAN DIGNITY OF A JOB.

AND I MET WITH WOMEN. OH WOW.

SIMPLE. I AM A PERSON!!! A PERSON WHO JUST
HAPPENS TO BE A WOMAN. I DO NOT MAKE THAT STATEMENT
IN CONFRONTATION WITH MEN. I WANT TO BE LEGALIZED

IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

NO BIG DEAL!!!!!!

AND THAT GREAT FEMALE IMPERSONATOR, PHYLLIS
SCHLAFLEY, WHO TELLS HER FOLLOWERS "YOU STAY HOME
IN THE KITCHEN WHERE YOU BELONG WHERE YOU'LL BE
COMFORTABLE, AND I PHYLLIS SCHLAFLEY WILL GO
THROUGHOUT THIS NATION --- DOING MY THING.

I FIND IT TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS THAT THE OPPONENTS
OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WOULD DARE INSULT THE
MOTHERS OF THIS NATION BY SAYING TO THEM, "WE KNOW
YOU'RE SITTING HOME. AND IF A WAR SHOULD OCCUR, THAT
WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY IS "PLEASE DON'T TAKE MY
DAUGHTER ... BY ALL MEANS TAKE MY SON."

I THINK THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS.

YOU SEE, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OF THE BELIEF THAT
IT IS NOT WHAT YOU CHOOSE, WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO BE
AN ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OR A HOUSEWIFE AND
MOTHER. IT IS NOT WHAT YOU CHOOSE THAT MERITS RESPECT.
IT IS THE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT CHOICE! THE RIGHT TO
CHOOSE YOUR OWN DESTINY.

THAT'S WHAT THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IS ALL ABOUT.
THAT'S WHAT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IS ALL ABOUT.
NOT A CHALLENGE TO WHAT YOU CHOOSE, BUT A WIDER
TO CHOOSE FROM.

I FIND IT ALSO OUTRAGEOUS ... I HAPPEN TO BE
SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN THE RIGHT TO CHOICE ON THE

ISSUE OF ABORTION. I'M A ROMAN CATHOLIC. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS SHOULD BE IMPOSED UPON THE OTHER PEOPLE OF THIS NATION THAT WOULD EXCLUDE THEIR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

AND I FEEL THAT VERY STRONGLY.

AND ON THE ISSUE OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ABORTION, IT IS NOT THE ISSUE OF ABORTION THAT IS AT QUESTION AT ALL.

IT IS WHETHER OR NOT POOR WOMEN ARE GOING TO HAVE EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW AND THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE AS YOU DO AND AS I DO.

I MET WITH THE HANDICAPPED. THE HANDICAPPED WHO SEEM, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, TO UNDERSTAND AND TO

MAKE THE DEMAND OF THEIR SHARE OF HUMAN DIGNITY.
THE SIMPLE GESTURE OF A WOODEN RAMP THAT WOULD TAKE
A WHEELCHAIR FROM A STREET AND OVER A CURBSTONE -
AND FROM A SIDEWALK AND OVER A STEP INTO A PUBLIC
BUILDING SO THAT THEY COULD CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS
IN A PUBLIC BUILDING AND TO FUNCTION AS A TOTAL
HUMAN BEING FOR JUST ONE DAY.

A SIMPLE WOODEN RAMP.

WHILE I MET WITH ALMOST FOUR-HUNDRED THOUSAND
PEOPLE IN A POSITION CALLED ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON, LEST YOU THINK THAT ALL I DID
WAS TO VOICE WHAT I BELIEVED IN AND THAT SOMEHOW THAT
I DISREGARDED THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER OPINION OUT

THERE, I DID MEET WITH PEOPLE WHO OPPOSED ABORTION,
WITH PEOPLE WHO OPPOSED E R A, PEOPLE WHOSE VIEWS
DIFFERED FROM THE ADMINISTRATION ... BECAUSE YOU SEE
I HAPPEN TO HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR SOMEONE WHO FORMS
AN OPINION - EVEN IF IT IS IN OPPOSITION TO MINE -
THAN I DO FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO SIT OUT THERE AND WHO
NEVER HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT ANYTHING THAT TOUCHES
THEIR LIVES.

SEE I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE WE DON'T HAVE TO HATE
EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO DISAGREE.

THERE ARE PEOPLE SITTING RIGHT HERE TODAY WHO
MAYBE DON'T AGREE WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT I DO, BUT
AT LEAST YOU HAVE FORMED AN OPINION.

THERE ARE ALOT OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED
WHEN I WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAT WERE VERY
CONTROVERSIAL. OH GOD ... I REMEMBER MARCH 26.

MY MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE.
WELL LET ME PLEASE PUT THIS IN IT'S PROPER
PERSPECTIVE. NOBODY CAME INTO THE WHITE HOUSE
FROM THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE TO ASK THE PRESIDENT
TO APPROVE HOMOSEXUALITY. WHAT THEY DID COME AND
SAY WAS THIS: "WE HELPED SELECT THIS GOVERNMENT,
WE HELP PAY FOR THIS GOVERNMENT, AND WHEN A CANDIDATE
IS SEEKING PUBLIC OFFICE - OH HOW EAGER THEY ARE
TO MEET WITH JUST ABOUT ANYBODY WHO WILL LISTEN!

BUT ONCE THEY GET ELECTED, THE VERY GROUPS THAT

ELECTED THEM BECOME TOO CONTROVERSIAL TO DEAL WITH.

ALL WE ASK IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT STOP DISCRIMINATING AGAINST US, MIDGE, THAT'S OUR MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT.

NOT APPROVAL.

I REMEMBER DURING THAT TIME THAT I MADE THE STATEMENT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE BOOKENDS OUT OF ANITA BRYANT AND PHYLLIS SCHLAFLEY I HAD OFFERED THAT THE BOOK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE BETWEEN THEM WOULD BE 'MEIN KAMPH'.

YOU SEE, EVEN ANITA BRYANT WHO DIFFERS - HER OPINION DIFFERS FROM MINE ON ALOT OF ISSUES - IT'S NOT HER DISAGREEMENT WITH ME ON THE ISSUES THAT

FRIGHTENS ME ABOUT ANITA BRYANT ...WHAT FRIGHTENS ME ABOUT ANITA BRYANT AND PEOPLE LIKE HER IS THAT THEY RUN ALL OVER THIS NATION WITH A BIBLE IN ONE HAND AND THEY TALK ABOUT HATE AND THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OTHER.

MY MESSAGE TO PEOPLE LIKE ANITA IS ... THAT HUMAN DIGNITY IS NOT A PRIVILEGE ... IT IS A RIGHT. AND THAT IF ANYBODY'S RIGHTS ARE CHALLENGED, THEN NOBODY'S RIGHTS ARE SECURE.

AND I TRULY BELIEVE THAT WHEN THE VOTE IN DADE COUNTY TOOK PLACE THAT IT WAS A VOTE SUPPORTING AN OPPOSITION BY A GROUP IN THIS NATION THAT SEEMS TO BE MAKING MORE AND MORE HEADWAY. IT'S CALLED THE

RIGHT WING... WHO IF THEY HAD THEIR WAY, WOULD TURN
BACK EVERY SOCIAL CHANGE THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED
IN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS. AND AS I HAVE BEEN THROUGH-
OUT THIS NATION I HAVE TRIED TO TELL THE PEOPLE
"PERHAPS YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE RIGHT WING.
BUT IF YOU'RE JEWISH, IF YOU ARE A WOMAN, IF YOU
ARE A MINORITY ... IF YOU HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED ...
IF YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ON ANY LEVEL
IN YOUR LIFE ... THEN YOU BETTER START WORRYING ABOUT
THE RIGHT WING.

AND I AM DEFINITELY OPPOSED TO A CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION THAT WOULD OPEN UP OUR CONSTITUTION TO
THE CHANGES THAT I THINK THE RIGHT WING SUPPORTS

AND REPRESENTS.

BACK IN MARCH, I MET WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE ASKED ME IF I WOULD TAKE SPECIFICALLY THE ISSUES OF WOMEN'S ISSUES AND DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT I WAS BEING SPREAD TOO THIN ... AND THAT PERHAPS I SHOULD CONCENTRATE IN THE AREAS OF DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S ISSUES.

I AGREED TO ACCEPT THAT RESPONSIBILITY. IT WAS THEREAFTER THAT I FELT THAT I WAS DEALING INCREASINGLY WITH WHERE MY OFFICE WAS LOCATED, WHETHER OR NOT I GOT ALONG WITH HAMILTON JORDAN, SHOULD I HAVE ASKED BERT LANCE TO RESIGN ... I STOPPED ... AND I SAID TO MYSELF - FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MY LIFE

I HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST POLITICIANS WHO THINK THAT THE ONLY PURPOSE FOR THEIR ELECTION IS TO GET REELECTED, AND THAT IN BETWEEN GOD FORBID THEY SHOULD EVER STAND UP FOR SOMETHING THEY BELIEVED IN AND HAVE THE COURAGE AND CONVICTION EVEN IF WASN'T POPULAR ... EVEN IF IT MEANT THEY WOULDN'T GET REELECTED ... AND SO HERE WAS MY OPPORTUNITY.

I HAD SAID REPEATEDLY THAT I WOULD NEVER PAY ANY PRICE TO KEEP ANY JOB INCLUDING THAT OF ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT. AND INDEED THE FACT THAT MY STYLE WAS DIFFERENT FROM MOST OTHERS AROUND THE PRESIDENT, MY APPROACH WAS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OTHERS AROUND THE PRESIDENT. --- I'M AN ADVOCATE.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN ADVOCATE.

AND IT'S NOT EASY BEING AN ADVOCATE WHEN YOU
ARE AN ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

NOT THAT THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T LIKE IT. THOSE
RESTRICTIONS ARE INHERENT IN THE JOB.

THE PRESIDENT MUST BE THE ADVOCATE. AND SO,
WITH ALL THIS CONTROVERSY SWIRLING AROUND ME I KNEW
THAT THE THINGS I CARED ABOUT WOULD BE EFFECTED
BECAUSE AS YOUR CREDIBILITY GETS WORN AROUND THE
WHITE HOUSE, SO DOES YOUR ABILITY TO DO SOME OF THE
THINGS YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT THE THINGS YOU CARE ABOUT.

AND SO I WALKED INTO THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE AND
SAID THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR ME TO CHOOSE ANOTHER

FORUM AND ANOTHER STRUCTURE THROUGH WHICH I COULD
STILL SAY THE THINGS THAT I BELIEVED IN AND DO THE
THINGS THAT I WANTED TO DO WITHOUT THE TITLE OF
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

AND SO WHEN I RESIGNED ON AUGUST FIRST THE
PRESIDENT EXTENDED MY RESIGNATION TO SEPTEMBER FIRST
AND ASKED ME TO STAY ON TO HELP CHOOSE MY REPLACEMENT
IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

I GUESS WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU IS THAT I HAVE
ABSOLUTELY NO REGRETS.

I DON'T HATE ANYBODY.

I HAD THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY OF MY LIFE TO DO
SOMETHING THAT WOULD TOUCH ON THE LIVES OF TWO-HUNDRED

AND TWENTY MILLION AMERICANS IN THIS NATION, AND
I DID IT WITHOUT EVER ONCE EVERY HAVING TO DEBATE
MY INTEGRITY OR PRINCIPLES.

I FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY I HAD OF
WORKING IN A PLACE CALLED THE WHITE HOUSE.

I NEVER WENT TO COLLEGE.

WHEN I TOOK THAT JOB WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES I WAS CONCERNED THAT THAT SOMEHOW
WOULD NOT ENABLE ME TO CARRY ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES
OF THAT OFFICE.

IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THE RESPONSIBILITY,
NOT THE TITLE, OF ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I RECEIVED DURING
THAT EXPERIENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE WAS THE GREATEST
SATISFACTION ... OH I WISH ALL OF YOU COULD HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN THE ONE MAJOR PAYOFF THAT COMES
FROM A JOB LIKE THAT. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET WITH THE GREATEST SINGLE RESOURCE THAT THIS
NATION HAS EVERY SINGLE DAY WHEN I WENT INTO WORK:
THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION.

YOU.

SO, WHEN I WAS CALLED AND ASKED IF I WOULD
COME TO MARKEL ISLAND INSPITE OF THE FACT THAT I
KNEW THAT MERLE WOULD BE HERE IN WHITE, I CAME
ANYWAY.

DON'T MESS AROUND WITH ME ... I GOT FRIENDS
IN HIGH PLACES ... YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

AMY CALLS ME EVERY WEEK.

WHEN I GOT A CALL AND THEY ASKED ME TO COME
TO MARKEL ISLAND, I THOUGHT HEY GREAT ... BECAUSE
THROUGH THE PUBLIC LECTURE CIRCUIT I AM ABLE TO
CONTINUE EXPERIENCING THAT GREAT SATISFACTION I HAD
IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH YOUR LIFE AND HAVE
YOU TOUCH MINE.

AND FOR THAT, I THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH.