

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “National Congress of PTA Legislative Conference, White House, February 18, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

REMARKS OF
MRS. GERALD R. FORD
BEFORE THE
PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
February 18, 1976

I'M DELIGHTED YOU COULD COME TO THE WHITE HOUSE,
AND I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY BROWSING AROUND
THESE BEAUTIFUL ROOMS
AS MUCH AS I DO.

NOT LONG AGO, I WAS VISITING WITH SOME CHILDREN.
School
THEY WANTED TO KNOW
IF I HAD SEEN ANY WHITE HOUSE GHOST.

WELL, I HAVEN'T,

BUT I DO FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THE HISTORY

THAT HAS BEEN MADE HERE.

HISTORY REALLY

IS JUST THE STORY OF PEOPLE,

AND SO MANY OF THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE

OF OUR PAST

HAVE LIVED OR VISITED HERE.

I HOPE YOU HAVE THAT FEELING TOO,
BECAUSE THIS HOUSE BELONGS
TO YOU AND ALL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I DON'T KNOW MANY OF YOU PERSONALLY,

BUT I FEEL LIKE I DO.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE

WE SHARE A LOVE OF CHILDREN

AND A CONCERN ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION.

I'VE MET SO MANY PARENTS

IN MY MANY YEARS IN THE PTA.

AT ONE POINT,

I BELONGED TO THREE SEPARATE PTAs,

AND I KNEW MANY DEDICATED PARENTS AND TEACHERS

WORKING TO MAKE THEIR SCHOOLS

GOOD AND HAPPY LEARNING PLACES FOR CHILDREN.

I'VE KNOWN MANY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS
WHO BELIEVED THAT PARENT INVOLVEMENT
WAS THE SECRET TO A GOOD SCHOOL.●

THE PTA GIVES PARENTS A WAY
TO VOICE THEIR INTEREST
IN THEIR CHILD'S SCHOOL.●

I FEEL ~~VERY~~ STRONGLY

THE PTA IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE CHILDREN

AS WELL AS THE SCHOOL.

I BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE PTA IN 1958

WHEN MIKE WAS IN THE FIRST GRADE

AND CONTINUED UNTIL SUSAN GRADUATED LAST YEAR.

DURING THOSE YEARS,
I FOUND THE PTA INVALUABLE TO ME AS A MOTHER,
BECAUSE IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY
TO MEET AND WORK WITH
THE MOTHERS OF THE CHILDREN *with whom*
were attending
MY CHILDREN WERE ~~GOING TO~~ SCHOOL ~~WITH~~.

MY HUSBAND OFTEN SPOKE AT THE PTA meetings

ON LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS THAT DEALT WITH SCHOOLS, AND Education

through the school
AND HE ARRANGED ~~EDUCATIONAL~~ TRIPS for the students

TO THE CAPITOL ANNUALLY.

WE BOTH BENEFITED FROM THE PTA,
BECAUSE WE BELIEVE
YOU DON'T JUST SEND CHILDREN OFF TO SCHOOL,
YOU HAVE TO GO WITH THEM
AND SHARE THEIR WORLD.

WE ARE A FAMILY THAT GETS INVOLVED
IN EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES,
AND WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE IN SCHOOL,
THE PTA HELPED US SHARE
THEIR SCHOOL EXPERIENCES.

MY CHILDREN'S FRIENDS

CAME FROM EVERY RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND,

AND BY BEING ACTIVE IN BOOK FAIRS, *bake sales,*

AND AS ROOM MOTHER,

I GOT TO KNOW THEIR FRIENDS.

THIS WAS SO IMPORTANT TO ME.

WITH MY CHILDREN AND IN TEACHING DANCE,

I FOUND LEARNING

CAN BE ~~SO~~ EXCITING,

BUT THE ATMOSPHERE

HAS TO BE ~~JUST~~ RIGHT.

TO ME, THIS IS WHAT THE PTA IS ALL ABOUT----

PROVIDING THAT ATMOSPHERE.

EVEN THOUGH MY HUSBAND AND I
HAVE OFFICIALLY RETIRED FROM THE PTA,
WE ARE STILL VERY CONCERNED
ABOUT GOOD SCHOOLS.

OUR NATION'S FUTURE
DEPENDS UPON A SOUND EDUCATION
FOR OUR CHILDREN.

WE COMMEND YOUR WORK
IN STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS
AND THROUGH THEM OUR CHILDREN.

AND WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN
ABOUT SEEING THAT OUR SCHOOLS
ARE GOOD, SAFE PLACES
FOR OUR CHILDREN TO LEARN AND GROW.

Thank you very ^{END} much —