LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. CARTER'S REMARKS - SEPTEMBER 8

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I MAKE THE FIRST CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT EDUCATION PROJECT.

THE LEAGUE HAS FOR MANY YEARS PROVIDED OUR PEOPLE WITH FAIR, NON-PARTISAN INFORMATION ON CURRENT ISSUES AND CANDIDATES. IT IS SURELY FITTING FOR THE LEAGUE TO FOCUS ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, AN AMENDMENT WHICH CAN MEAN SO MUCH TO HOUSEWIVES AND WORKING WOMEN. SHRILL VOICES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE HAVE PREVENTED MANY OF US FROM UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WILL AND WILL NOT DO.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WILL GIVE WOMEN A CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE THAT FULL LEGAL RIGHTS WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN THEY NEED THEM. IT WILL NOT CHANGE THE LIVES OF WOMEN UNLESS THEY NEED THE RIGHTS IT OFFERS. THE 18 MILLION WOMEN WHO ARE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS, HOUSEWIVES WHO MUST GO TO WORK TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES, WOMEN WHO ARE WIDOWED OR DIVORCED AND WHO HAVE BEEN FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT ON THEIR HUSBANDS, AND SINGLE WOMEN, MUST HAVE ADEQUATE LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. THESE LEGAL RIGHTS WILL NOT CHANGE OUR ROLES AS WOMEN.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY AND RATIONALLY WHAT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT CAN MEAN TO US NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. THE RESPONSIBLE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WILL HELP US MAKE A CHOICE OUR DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTERS WILL BE PROUD WE MADE.