

REP.

TANGRETTI

REMARKS

Bozell for mtgs -

*Tony
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Pre-
District
member of
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TO SECRETARIES CONVENTION

MAY 19, 1990

(USUAL GREETINGS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

IT'S REALLY A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE
HERE AND QUITE AN HONOR AS WELL.

THIS IS TRULY A DISTINGUISHED GROUP
AND ONE THAT REPRESENTS THE FINEST OF A
FINE PROFESSION -- A PROFESSION WITHOUT
WHICH NO BUSINESS...NO OFFICE OF ANY
KIND...COULD FUNCTION FOR A SINGLE DAY.

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE
EXPRESSION, "BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN IS A
GREAT WOMAN."

LIKEWISE IT'S TRUE THAT BEHIND
EVERY GREAT BOSS IS A GREAT SECRETARY.

AND WHILE I DON'T CLAIM TO BE THE
WORLD'S GREATEST BOSS, I CAN ATTEST THAT I
HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO HAVE TWO OF THE
WORLD'S GREATEST SECRETARIES ON MY
STAFF -- CATHY IN MY HARRISBURG
OFFICE AND IN MY GREENSBURG
OFFICE.

IT'S A COINCIDENCE OF TIMING
PERHAPS THAT THIS CONVENTION TAKES PLACE
ALMOST A MONTH AFTER THE OBSERVANCE OF
PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIES WEEK IN APRIL
AND A WEEK AFTER OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OF MOTHER'S DAY.

TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE OBSERVANCES
CALL TO MIND THE ROLE MANY WOMEN FIND
THEMSELVES IN TODAY AS WORKING WIVES AND
MOTHERS.

WOMEN TODAY RIGHTFULLY RELISH AND TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR CAREERS WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, THEIR EMPLOYMENT IS OFTEN FINANCIALLY NECESSARY FOR THEIR HOUSEHOLD TO SURVIVE IN TODAY'S ECONOMY.

IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, WE RECOGNIZE THE REALITIES OF TODAY'S FAMILY LIFE AND ARE WORKING ON LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THOSE REALITIES -- PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE AND THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF DAY CARE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

YOU'VE PROBABLY READ OR HEARD ABOUT THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE BILL. MAYBE SOME OF YOUR EMPLOYERS...AND MAYBE SOME OF YOU...ARE NOT THAT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.

BUT THAT'S OK. THAT'S WHAT OUR DEMOCRACY IS ALL ABOUT. MANY OF YOU PROBABLY WORK FOR OPERATIONS THAT ALREADY PROVIDE GENEROUS LEAVE FOR BIRTH...FOR ADOPTION OF A NEWBORN...FOR THE CARE OF A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS SERIOUSLY ILL...OR FOR YOUR OWN ILLNESS OR INJURY.

THAT'S WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO. IT WOULD PROVIDE UNPAID LEAVE UP TO 18 WEEKS FOR EMPLOYEES OF COMPANIES THAT DON'T PROVIDE IT...AND THEREFORE PUT THEIR EMPLOYEES THROUGH THE AGONIZING CHOICE BETWEEN THEIR JOBS AND A CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER...WHETHER IT'S A NEWBORN CHILD OR AN AGED PARENT IN SERIOUS NEED OF ATTENTION.

WE'RE STILL WORKING ON THE FAMILY
AND MEDICAL LEAVE BILL...TRYING TO
FINE-TUNE IT...TRYING TO ADDRESS THE
CONCERNS OF MANY EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYER
ORGANIZATIONS.

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BUT IT'S ONE WAY THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IS TRYING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH
THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S WORKING WOMEN.

ANOTHER WAY IS DAY CARE. SOME
WOMEN WITH SMALL CHILDREN ARE FORTUNATE
ENOUGH TO HAVE A TRUSTED FRIEND OR FAMILY
MEMBER NEARBY WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF THEIR
SMALL CHILDREN.

MANY MORE WOMEN WHO ARE WORKING
FULL TIME IN THAT SITUATION HAVE TO RELY
ON SOME FORM OF DAY CARE SERVICE.

NATURALLY, THEY WANT TO BE SURE THEIR CHILDREN ARE IN THE CARE OF SOMEONE WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COMPETENT TO HANDLE A GROUP OF YOUNGSTERS AND PROVIDE A SAFE AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT.

TWO BILLS THAT THE HOUSE PASSED LAST YEAR ARE AIMED AT PROVIDING DAY CARE TRAINING AND DAY CARE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PARENTS AND HELP UPGRADE DAY CARE SERVICES.

WITH THE FIRST MEASURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE WOULD OFFER VOLUNTARY TRAINING FOR THOSE WHO PROVIDE DAY CARE SERVICES...TRAINING IN AREAS LIKE FIRST AID AND SAFETY...CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND NUTRITION...BASIC HEALTH CARE...CHILD DISCIPLINE...AND CREATIVE PROGRAMMING.

THE SECOND MEASURE WOULD SET UP DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS FOR DAY CARE REFERRAL SERVICE...THE IDEA BEING TO IMPROVE PARENTS' ACCESS TO QUALITY DAY CARE.

THE PROGRAMS WOULD PROVIDE INTERESTED PARENTS WITH INFORMATION ON SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THEIR AREA...AND ON EXISTING VACANCIES, COSTS AND STANDARDS AND TYPES OF CARE AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

WE'RE ALSO WORKING ON PROGRAMS OF RESPITE ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO MUST TAKE CARE OF FAMILY MEMBERS WITH DISEASES LIKE ALZHEIMER'S...AND FOR MORE AID TO SENIOR CITIZENS SO THEY CAN CONTINUE THEIR INDEPENDENCE WELL INTO THEIR OLD AGE.

MUCH OF THE IMPETUS FOR THESE
EFFORTS STEMS FROM THE NEEDS OF WOMEN TO
BALANCE THEIR CAREERS...THEIR CHILD
REARING RESPONSIBILITIES AND
...INCREASINGLY...THE CARE OF OLDER
FAMILY MEMBERS.

THERE'S A SAYING YOU MAY HAVE HEARD
THAT "TODAY'S WOMEN DO EVERYTHING, AND
MEN DO THE REST."

NATURALLY WE CAN'T...NOR WOULD WE
WANT TO...LEGISLATE EVERY ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN. SOME THINGS ARE
BEST LEFT TO BE WORKED OUT AMONG THE
PARTIES INVOLVED.

BUT FOR THOSE WOMEN WHO ARE DOING
EVERYTHING, I HOPE WE LEGISLATORS CAN
MAKE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD MAKING YOUR
LIVES A LITTLE EASIER.

THAT'S WHY I HOPE YOU GET A CHANCE
TO RELAX AND ENJOY SOME OF YOUR TIME
HERE AS I HAVE ENJOYED MY TIME WITH YOU.

YOU SURELY DESERVE IT.

THANK

YOU.