SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Ken -





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Memorandum



Subject

Date

Task Force On Legal Equity for Women

August 4, 1982

To The Attorney General

From John

John Roberts &

In light of recent media attention to the subject, you may find it useful to have a short status report on activities in connection with the Task Force on Legal Equity President Reagan established the Task Force, which for Women. is chaired by Carol Dinkins, on December 21, 1981, in Executive Order 12336. In addition to establishing the Task Force, that Executive Order also established a procedure for a government-wide review of statutes and regulations to determine those which discriminate on the basis of gender. The Executive Order directed you to review federal laws, regulations, policies, and practices which contain unjustifiable discrimination on the You or your designee (Brad Reynolds) are to basis of sex. report your findings to the President on a quarterly basis through the Cabinet Council on Human Resources (since changed to the Cabinet Council on Legal Policy). The Task Force on Legal Equity for Women is to report periodically to the President on the implementation of any directives which result from this process of identifying discriminatory statutes and regulations.

The first quarterly report by Brad Reynolds was completed and submitted to the Cabinet Council on Legal Policy on June 28, 1982. This was the report about which Sara McClendon questioned the President at the recent press conference. The Cabinet Council on Legal Policy has not yet taken up the report, as it eventually must under Executive Order 12336, so the President was correct in responding to Ms. McClendon's question by stating that the matter had not yet reached his desk.

The Task Force on Legal Equity itself has not yet had a meeting. Since its charter is to report on and aid the President in implementing those reforms which he directs in response to the Cabinet Council recommendations, there simply has been no reason for the Task Force to meet.

Primarily because the Executive Order was so ill-designed, the entire process it mandates is like a game of "hot potato" within the Department of Justice. Brad Reynolds has completed the initial report and submitted it to the Cabinet Council on

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Legal Policy, whose activities are coordinated by Jon Rose. When the Cabinet Council has completed its work and made recommendations to the President, the matter will come under the jurisdiction of Carol Dinkins, in her capacity as Chairman of the Task Force itself.

cc: Ken Starr Hank Habicht

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