



President Clinton and the first lady admire the view as they leave the Chapel of Transfiguration in Grand Teton National Park after services on Sunday. Hillary Clinton stood in the limelight Saturday as she spoke at the observances for the 75th Anniversary of women's suffrage at Jackson Lake Lodge.

## First lady celebrates suffrage

■ President proclaims Aug. 26 "Women's Equality Day."

By Alison Gregor

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told a group of 400 in Jackson Hole that the U.N. conference in Beijing is about giving a voice to women.

In front of the crowd gathered to commemorate the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage at Jackson Lake Lodge Saturday, Mrs. Clinton spoke about the relevance of the U.N. World Conference on Women to women's suffrage.

The conference "incorporates many of the aspirations of the suffrage movement," Mrs. Clinton said against a backdrop of the Tetons.

"The conference is about investing in people, in their potential as human beings to make the world a better place. It is a celebration of women. It is a celebration of the family," she said.

President Clinton, who also spoke, said the conference has inspired him to establish a federal interagency council on women and to proclaim August 26 "Women's Equality Day."

Later, a White House spokesperson said the council will not receive federal funding.

In her speech, the first lady noted some of the individuals, such as Marjorie Margolis-Mezvinsky — former congresswoman and mother of 11 — in the bipartisan U.S. delegation to the conference.

The delegation will be led by Madeleine

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group held an "YKSON" — the horse barn had just been swept clean and was "aromatic." The conversation was casual and the subjects discussed covered the environmental spectrum.

The president said Tuesday evening that his two weeks in Jackson Hole have been inspiring. During a party at the Rancher, he told people who worked on his visit that he will return to

"The president thought it was important to meet with conservationists in the area to talk about the growing concerns facing our national parks, U.S. forests and our

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## Gulch land deal faces hard road

■ Armstrong warns convincing officials to spend money for swap won't be easy.

By Matt Testa

The price tag for a federal land swap to save Spring Gulch ranches will be foremost on the minds of government agencies reviewing the proposal, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bob Armstrong said.

"We need to know about money," he said. "There has to be some kind of horseback estimate someone can make."

"You've got a hard climate," he warned. "There are people [in the federal government] who are bound and determined not to buy more land, but I think that will pass."

Vacationing in Jackson Hole, Armstrong met with members of the Spring Gulch Preserve board to discuss their proposal to swap 5,000 acres of Gulch ranch land for federal mineral land of equivalent value.

Armstrong will take the idea back to Washington officials, but requested an accurate figure for the value of Spring Gulch. Bureau of Land Management administrators probably will be leery of the board's proposal to preserve Wyoming's mineral royalties for the swapped land, Armstrong told the group.

"I guess the federal viewpoint would be that I think the state could participate a little," he said. "[The swap] is in the state, I guess. The only reason I raise this [financial] question

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munities and nations won't flourish," she said, to widespread applause.

Mrs. Clinton will address the issues of education, health care, economic opportunity, political freedom and participation, and human rights at the U.N. conference.

She urged women to take advantage of their hard-won right to vote. Mrs. Clinton lauded the Equality State for its leading role in promoting women's suffrage. She mentioned Wyoming's Nellie Tayloe Ross, the country's first female governor.

She also spoke about Esther Hobart Morris, who "heard a speech by Susan B. Anthony, and was so inspired she began speaking about suffrage here in Wyoming." Morris eventually became the first woman to hold political office in the country.

Morris' record as the justice of the peace of South Pass inspired Mrs. Clinton, who said "not one of the 40 cases she handled was ever reversed by a higher court."

Mrs. Clinton pointed out that several descendants of Jackson's all-woman town council in 1920 were sitting in the audience, including Katherine Van Vleck Stewart, Rebecca Stewart Rooks, Virginia Deloney and Viola McCain.



The first lady joyfully joins in a photo with women who attended the Jackson Lake Lodge celebration.

conference as anti-family.

"The truth is [the conference] is true-blue to families — to supporting them, to conserving them, to valuing them," he said.

President Clinton relayed some of the contemporary problems women are facing worldwide, from female infanticide to impoverishment.

He said the problems of women in third-world countries will affect the United States as it moves toward a global economy.

"If we want to trade with the rest of the world and promote democracy and freedom ... we need to be working with people who are trying to unleash the potential of every citizen," he said, echoing Mrs. Clinton.

The president mentioned some of his administration's achievements for women, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, deficit reduction, Small Business Administration loans and, on the education front, the National Service Program.

"I think maintaining what you see behind me is a family-values issue, and making it available for all the American people," he said, gesturing to the Tetons.

The Clinton administration's programs were often condemned by nay-sayers, he said. He compared this to the resistance women got to their demand for enfranchisement.

"The opponents said that allowing women the vote would mean a disaster for our nation; it would destroy our families; it would end all distinctions between the sexes," he said. "Happily they were wrong on all counts."

Notably absent from Saturday's gathering were Gov. Jim Geringer and all of Wyoming's congressional delegation. U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson was in Istanbul, Turkey, while Geringer, Sen. Craig Thomas and Rep. Barbara Cubin instead planned to attend the state fair, or had other commitments.

But the best example of Wyoming's ongoing focus on women's rights is the fact that there are so many women in public positions," Maggie Scarlett said. "In Teton County, we are so well-represented on all fronts."

Scarlett cited huge growth in the number of women on the Teton County Republican party's mailing list.

"I am encouraged by the number of women who seem to want to be active in politics," she said.

When it comes to women in politics, Wyoming is fifth among the states, according to the Center for Policy Alternatives, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

This is due in part to its sole congressional representative — Barbara Cubin — being a woman. She missed Saturday's celebration.

Scarlett believes that Wyoming women should not rest on their laurels.

"I wouldn't want to give anyone the impression that there should not be continued emphasis and watchfulness on women's issues, such as issues in the workplace, abuse issues and discrimination," Scarlett said.

Gladys Jones, founder of Wyoming's League of Women Voters, said she "didn't neglect my kids for my issues."

She founded the group in 1951 while she taught school, helped out in her husband's soil-conservation business, and cared for her children. Due to the efforts of women like her, 54 percent of the registered voters in the United States are women.

Back then, Jones found the state legislature less than responsive when it came to issues such as food and health. "They made all kinds of fun of us women," she said.

Asked if the Wyoming state legislators — with only one woman in the Senate — have gotten any more receptive, Jones said "I think they have."

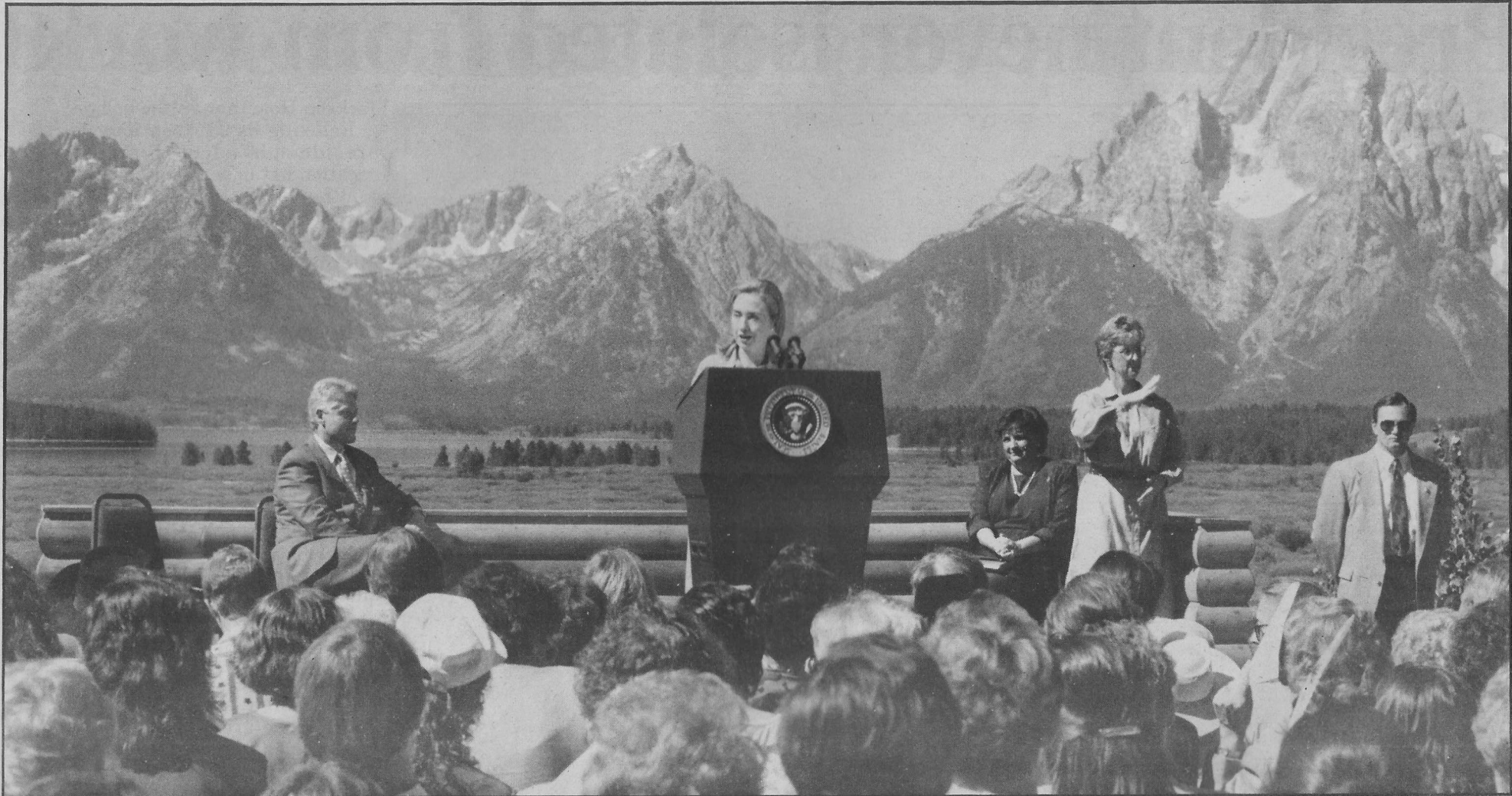
Perhaps that is because a third of the members in Wyoming's House of Representatives are women — placing Wyoming ninth among states.

Jones was preparing to leave for a trip to the Scandinavian countries, where women "are so active in suffrage issues, holding jobs, and are so well-represented in Parliament," Jones said.

Scandinavian women constitute more than 30 percent of their countries' elected bodies. In the United States, women hold only 10 percent of the seats in Congress.

As for the abysmal voting record of American women, Jones said "Scandinavian women probably appreciate the vote more, and we take it for granted."





NEWS PHOTOS / GARTH DOWLING

Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses the crowd gathered at Jackson Lake Lodge to celebrate the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage.

## First lady

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Albright, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., and Mrs. Clinton will be the honorary chairwoman.

Education, health care, minimum wage and domestic violence have been labeled "soft" women's issues, but "these 'women's issues' are crucial to progress wherever we live," Mrs. Clinton said.

"If women and girls don't flourish, families won't flourish. And if families don't flourish, communities and nations won't flourish," she said, to

"It's an exciting time to be an American; it's an exciting time to be a woman; and it's very exciting to be here in Wyoming with all of you," Mrs. Clinton said.

The president agreed that Wyoming is a special place. It was "the first democracy anywhere in the world to give women the right to vote," he said.

"Maybe it's because the men here were more secure," he said to laughter and some disagreement from the audience.

The president expressed support for Mrs. Clinton's decision to attend the U.N. conference, and lambasted conservatives for portraying the conference as anti-family.

"The truth is [the conference] is true-blue to

## Wyoming still Equality State?

The chairwoman of the Teton County Republican Party said Saturday's ceremony commemorating suffrage displayed the importance of women in Wyoming.

"But the best example of Wyoming's ongoing focus on women's rights is the fact that there are so