From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 3, 2012 7:04 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: NYT: Fighting for Economic Equality

From: Kornbluh, Karen F
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 06:51 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: NYT: Fighting for Economic Equality

Dear Secretary Clinton,
I'm delighted the NYT appreciates the value of the Gender Initiative we launched at the OECD Ministerial you Chaired!
Thank you for encouraging my writing years ago, as well as for championing work-family issues before they were front page news (especially child care and the FMLA), and your continued leadership as Secretary. It's been a true pleasure collaborating with your team on important issues like this over the last three years.
Warm regards, Karen

FEMALE FACTOR
Fighting for Economic Equality

By NICOLA CLARK

Published: June 29, 2012

PARIS — Karen Kornbluh remembers the moment in 2004 when she realized that she was helping to steer a shift in the conversation about women.
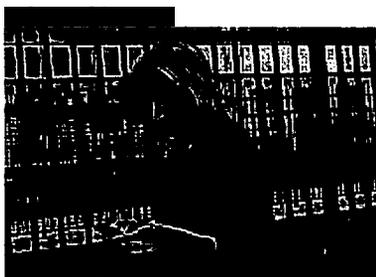
Agnes Dherbeys for the International Herald Tribune

Karen Kornbluh, the U.S. ambassador to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. "Even if all you care about is economic growth, you have to care about gender issues," Ms. Kornbluh said.

As a Harvard-trained economist and newly hired policy director for then-Senator Barack Obama, she had been writing for years about the need to update U.S. economic policies and social institutions — rooted in the post-World War II boom — for a digital, globalized economy where half the U.S. work force is female and more than 70 percent of mothers work at least part time. But most debate — "Mommy Wars: Episode I" — was still framed as one of lifestyle choices, not economic necessity.

Until George W. Bush, seeking re-election, spoke at the Republican National Convention. "The workers of our parents' generation typically had one job, one skill, one career, often with one company that provided

health care and a pension. And most of those workers were men," he said. "Many of our most fundamental systems — the tax code, health coverage, pension plans, worker training — were created for the world of yesterday, not tomorrow."

Ms. Kornbluh, watching on television, was stunned: A conservative president was embracing her arguments on a national stage. "I dropped a glass on my kitchen floor," she confessed in a recent interview.

The Bush administration ultimately delivered few big policy initiatives aimed at women and "juggler families" — a term for two-career parents that Ms. Kornbluh coined a decade before Anne-Marie Slaughter, a former high-level State Department aide under Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, raised it in last week's much-discussed Atlantic magazine article.

As chief architect of the Democratic Party platform in 2008, Ms. Kornbluh said she pressed her "obsession" with the gender dimension in discussions ranging from pay discrimination to education and health care reform.

Four years later, Ms. Kornbluh, 49, is U.S. ambassador to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development — and as passionate as ever that women's issues are fundamentally about economics. Her approach, she said, has been to persuade (mostly male) fellow ambassadors that championing women is ultimately in their national self-interest.

"Even if all you care about is economic growth, you have to care about gender issues," said Ms. Kornbluh, whose priorities at the 34-member body include fighting corruption, promoting sustainable development and nurturing Internet commerce. "Women are not a separate issue from the economy. Women are half the economy."

As a mother who struggles herself to balance career with family needs, Ms. Kornbluh said she had chafed most of her working life against the "antiquated options" available to most women — the very constraints that Ms. Slaughter argues fly in the face of the post-1970s myth that they can "have it all."

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/29/us/fighting-for-economic-equality.html?pagewanted=all