



SECTION
8

Chicago Tribune

WN

WOMANNEWS

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 27, 2002

If women ruled the world ...

WASHINGTON—If women had run Enron, it might never have collapsed and put its shareholders at financial risk. That's because women "bring a sense of corporate duty and the larger picture" to business, Sherron Watkins, the Enron vice president and whistleblower, said to a panel here last week.

Convened to discuss a PBS documentary, "If Women Ruled the World: A Washington Dinner Party," the five panelists said that women would rule things differently. They would focus more attention on affordable child care and increasing pay in professions like nursing and teaching.

Bringing about such changes requires "fearlessness," said Lt. Gen. Claudia J. Kennedy, who two years ago retired as the Army's highest-ranking woman. In politics, she said, "we think that if one woman loses, it dooms all women. It doesn't." Only when women reach the "tipping point" of 20 to 25 percent representation in government will policies and attitudes begin to change, said Newsweek's Eleanor Clift. Women now make up about 13 percent of Congress.

As women seek more power, they also should attempt to redefine the word, said Betty Friedan, author of "The Feminine Mystique." "Our movement for equality was within the confines of the male-dominated world and values."

Now, she said, women should think about gaining power as a means of improving the quality of life. But first, women need to become comfortable with the concept of power.

"I don't think we need to apologize for wanting a seat at the table," Clift said. "Until we feel entitled to be there and have our share, we're not going to demand it or go for it."

The five-member panel also included Mamphela Ramphele, managing director of the World Bank. It was sponsored by American University's Women & Politics Institute. The documentary will air on PBS stations this spring.

—Mary Lynn F. Jones