

## Elsie Hillman Remarks before PA Governor's Women's Conference

It is a bit scary to stand before our wonderful first lady, Midge Rendell, and 4,999 of the other best, brightest and prettiest women in Pennsylvania today. I thank you, Midge, for asking me to serve as the Honorary Chair because it was the easiest job I've ever had. Your organization working together were tireless in their efforts to make this the best! Too, I think I inherited a gene from my brother, who sometimes did unusual things like I am doing today! When I asked him why, he'd reply "give me enough people and I'll do anything!"

My remarks today must be brief, but I would like to share the most defining moment of my life. Although beautifully educated, I was an uneager student...much more interested in what went on outside the classroom – not in it! What gave me my life – and where I am today – was the encouragement and support of my family...parents and four brothers and sisters. They taught me what love was all about and what togetherness meant...and it led me to 61 years of marriage to Henry, whose encouragement and support has been priceless! I am blessed!

Today, when I asked him if he would join us , he quickly regretted but did not want to be forgotten...so he handed me a copy of a New Yorker cartoon, which I am delighted to show you on the screen! Let our chatter be heard across the land!!

This morning, there is one man brave enough to join us whom I'm delighted to introduce to you. Every once in a while a public servant, a leader, comes along that you can truly be proud of and really feel good about. I didn't know this gentlemen very well until two years ago when he was elected Chief Executive of Allegheny County. Since then, I...along with many in our county, region and state...have been impressed with his straightforward, open, honest and determined leadership style. He has set our county on a path of political and financial reform, and has focused like a laser on economic development, especially around the airport, and with the technology coming out of our universities.

He also understands the important and changing role women play in our society. Under his leadership, the number of women serving on key county boards and authorities have increased by 10% and a number of his top administrators are women, including the county's first female

Director of Budget and Finance. Earlier this week, the County and City names a joint Women's Commission to advance issues important to women in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. He has my thanks and congratulations on this effort.

Please welcome my friend and my leader, Allegheny County Chief Executive, Dan Onorato.