



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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L.D. MM
H.B. ✓ J.J.
E.E. P.L.

Legislature asked to rescind approval

Coalition says ERA will destroy family

By PEGGY O'KEEFE
Catholic Bulletin Reporter

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

der the 14th amendment," she said. "Education is an integral part of ERA and women's lives. Women with no children are trying to indoctrinate

work for implementation of legislation that now sounds ridiculous," Mrs. Reid said, adding that more than 200 Minnesota statutes which made distinctions

difference," said Ellen Pekarna, ACCW president. "Nature cannot be amended. The basic differences between men and women can never be legislated."



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H B

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

July 11, 1975

The League of Women Voters
11313 Frederick Avenue
Beltsville, MN 20705

Ladies:

Enclosed please find our check #4000, dated July 11, 1975 in the amount of \$750.00 for 300 ERA bracelets which we will be selling at the Minnesota State Fair on Women's Day, August 26. Please send the bracelets to:

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, MN 55102.

If, for some reason, the bracelets do not sell as well as we expect they will, would it be possible for us to return some? We are aware that it is the LWVUS policy not to accept returns nor to offer refunds - this is also the policy of the LWVMN for the majority of the orders received - but this is somewhat of an unusual circumstance. We would hope that you would approve our request for the possibility of returning unsold bracelets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb

Harriett Herb, office manager



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 Wabasha Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102 - 612/224-5445

July 11, 1975

Verna Mikesh
1192 California Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Ms. Mikesh:

At the request of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, we are sending you our check #4001, dated July 11, 1975, payable to the Minnesota Coalition to Support the ERA in the amount of \$25.00.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb, office manager



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

July 11, 1975

ERA Support Project
United Methodist Church
Service Department
100 Maryland Ave. N E
Washington, D.C. 20002

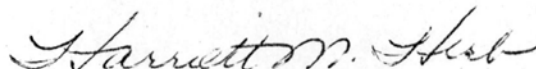
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota hereby places an order for 250 copies of your publication, "The Church, Religion and the ERA".

Enclosed please find our check #4002, dated July 11, 1975, in the amount of \$10.00 as a contribution to cover your printing, handling and postage cost.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Harriett Herb, office manager



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LThe League of Women Voters of the United States

1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-1770

JUL 21 1975

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July 17, 1975

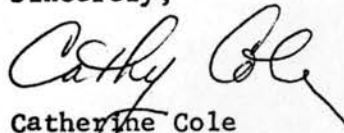
Ms. Harriett Herb
Office Manager
LWV of Minnesota
555 Wadasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Herb:

We are sending you the 300 ERA bracelets for
your Women's Fair on August 26. Sell what
you can and return those which you cannot.
We will refund your money.

Thank you for your order and good luck with
the Fair!

Sincerely,



Catherine Cole
Public Relations

Equal Rights Amendment

Some People Say:

The Facts Are:

The ERA will destroy the FAMILY.

The ERA affects only Governmental Action—such as equal pay and legal rights—NOT Private Relationships. *The Career HOMEMAKER'S Valuable contribution to marriage and the rearing of Children may continue as her CHOICE under ERA.*

Men will no longer have to Support their wives and CHILDREN.

Even now, according to the Courts, a married woman living with her Husband receives only WHAT HE CHOOSES to give her. *Support will still depend on LOVE, not Law.*

Mothers will be Forced to find jobs, leaving their Children in the care of OTHERS.

The ERA will NOT require anyone to take a job. *The INDIVIDUALS involved will still decide who in the family works outside the Home.*

Woman's PLACE is in the Home.

Over 70% of the women who work do so because of ECONOMIC NECESSITY. *The ERA will reinforce the right to Equal Pay for the Millions of women who are HEADS of Families.*

Divorced women will no longer be given Support or Custody of their CHILDREN.

Divorced women who need SUPPORT will continue to be awarded it. *The GOOD OF THE CHILD will be the Primary Criterion in awarding custody.*

The ERA will take away labor laws Protecting women.

The ERA will UNMASK "protective" laws which are Thin Disguises for excluding women from higher paying jobs and opportunities for Advancement. *Under the ERA, Truly BENEFICIAL protective labor laws will be EXTENDED to men.*

Women will be subject to the DRAFT, and Mothers will be TORN from their children to be sent into Combat.

The ERA means Women will be subject to a draft, but if we ever have one again, Congress could exempt either Parent or both, as they did FATHERS in the most recent drafts. *Equal Rights do mean EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.*

Women will lose their present Social Security benefits based on their HUSBANDS' Earnings.

Women will NOT lose any Present Benefits. *Women's and men's benefits will be EQUALIZED, so that present Injustices, primarily affecting MEN, will be Eliminated.*

Men and women will have to share the same public Bathrooms.

The Constitutional right to Privacy will still justify separate restrooms, dormitories, and barracks. *Equality and Modesty can co-exist.*

The ERA will Legalize homosexual marriages.

Same-sex marriages can be permitted or forbidden regardless of the ERA. *It will only mean that if Men can't marry men, Women can't marry women.*

The ERA will mean WHOLESale abortions.

The Supreme Court decision on abortion WILL NOT be affected by the ERA. *It was based on the Right to Privacy.*

The 14th Amendment makes the ERA Unnecessary.

The 14th and 5th Amendments have NOT been interpreted by the Courts to mean sex discrimination is Unconstitutional. *It is Time, after 200 YEARS, that the Constitution recognize women as FIRST CLASS Citizens.*

The Equal Rights Amendment reads in full:

Sec. 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 3. This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The Equal Rights Amendment is supported by the following national organizations:

Advisory Committee, Women's Rights and Responsibilities, HEW
AFL-CIO
American Association of College Deans
American Association of University Women
American Association of Women Ministers
American Bar Association
American Civil Liberties Union
American Federation of Soroptimist Clubs
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO)
Americans for Democratic Action
American Home Economics Association
American Jewish Congress
American Medical Women's Association
American Newspaper Guild
American Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Public Administration
American Society of Women Accountants
American Society of Women Certified Public Accountants
American Veterans Committee
American Women in Radio and Television
Association of American Women Dentists
B'nai B'rith Women
Catholic Women for the ERA
Church Women United
Citizens Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America (AFL-CIO)
Council for Christian Social Action, United Church of Christ
Democratic National Committee
Ecumenical Task Force on Women and Religion (Catholic Caucus)
Federally Employed Women
Federation of Organizations for Professional Women
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Intercollegiate Association of Women Students
International Association of Human Rights Agencies
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers
International Union of United Automobile, Aerospace and
Agricultural Implement Workers of America
Interstate Association of Commissions on the Status of Women

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
League of American Working Women
League of Women Voters
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs
National Association of Railway Businesswomen
National Association of Social Workers, Inc.
National Association of Women Deans and Counselors
National Association of Women Lawyers
National Board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious
National Coalition of American Nuns
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs
National Organization for Women
National Secretaries Association
National Welfare Rights Organization
National Women's Party
National Women's Political Caucus
Network Staff (Catholic Nuns)
President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities
Professional Women's Caucus
Republican National Committee
St. Joan's Alliance of Catholic Women
United Methodist Church, Women's Division
United Presbyterian Church
United Steelworkers of America
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
U.S. Dept. of Labor and the Women's Bureau
Women's Christian Temperance Union
Women's Equity Action League
Women in Communications
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Women's Joint Legislative Committee for Equal Rights
Women United
YWCA
Zero Population Growth
Zonta International

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

February 19, 1975

Keller H. Bumgardner
ERA Coordinator
League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Bumgardner,

We had a call the other day from a League member who asked if we had any information on the impact ratification of the ERA would have on homosexual relationships, particularly allowing homosexuals to marry and/or adopt children.

According to an attorney with whom she spoke and also a vocal homosexual attorney in the Twin Cities area, homosexual marriages and adoptions would be allowed when the ERA became an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Do you have any information on this particular aspect? If so, we would appreciate receiving that information. Since Mr. Baker made his announcement on television, we have had several comments about this and we'd like some sort of an answer to have to give to people who call about the topic.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give us.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb, office manager

copies: McCoy, Jenkins, DeSantis, Borg



ERA

*Planned
Opposition*

10 MYTHS ABOUT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

*There's a lot of misinformation being passed around by opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment.
Here are 10 of the most common myths about it, and the actual facts in each instance*

Myth #1: The ERA will do away with discrimination against homosexuals. The ERA does not do away with discrimination against homosexuals. Discrimination against homosexuals is arrived at outside the courts, or not punish both equally. The law against rape based on physical condi-



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LThe League of Women Voters Education Fund

MAR 17 1975

1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 659-2685

March 14, 1975

FILE COPY

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Riverside, Connecticut
Nan F. Waterman
Muscatine, Iowa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peggy Lampl

Ms. Harriet Herb, Office Manager
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Herb:

Your February 19 letter to Mrs. Bumgardner requesting information on the relationship between ERA and homosexuality has been referred to me.

The material that we have on hand (enclosed) indicates that if ratified, ERA would not require states to validate homosexual (same-sex) marriages. Our understanding is that the word "sex" in the text of the Amendment refers to a person's gender and not to a person's sexuality. What ERA would do is require states to treat male and female homosexuals equally under the law.

You will be interested in knowing that the Supreme Court of the state of Washington ruled unanimously in Singer v. Hara (May 20, 1974) that their state ERA did not invalidate the state's marriage law prohibiting same-sex marriages. The paper on the Washington case, entitled "The Equal Rights Amendment and Homosexual Marriages" was prepared by the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women. You may use it in any manner you wish provided, however, that you do not attribute it to them.

Sincerely,

Barbara Burton

Barbara L. Burton
Specialist
Human Resources

Enclosures
BLB:mrg/EF

cc: State President

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League of Women Voters of Minnesota
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Sincerely,

Barbara Burton

Barbara L. Burton
Specialist
Human Resources

Enclosures
BLB:mrg/EF

cc: State President



EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Historical Perspective

(Prepared March 26, 1975 by House Majority Research, Minnesota House of Representatives)

Judicial interpretation of the U.S. Constitution has usually occurred against the legal background of English Common Law. In terms of interpreting the question of legal rights and status of women, it has tended to uphold the Common Law concept of special status for women before the law. This special status has meant separating women into categories where they receive some special benefits such as a meal period or day of rest. While the motivation behind such legislation has been humanitarian, these attitudes have sometimes been used by employers as a basis for restricting women from certain occupational levels.

In 1648, the first petition for the right to vote ever presented in American was placed before the House of Delegates at St. Mary's in the Colony of Maryland by Mistress Margaret Brent. Her petition was denied because of sex.

Within 60 years of the writing of the Constitution, the first series of organized challenges to the denial of feminine political, social, and economic equality arose. In 1848, the first Women's Rights Convention was held at Seneca Falls, New York.

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, was designed chiefly to guarantee rights and privileges to newly liberated Negroes. In its working, Congress departed from previous Constitutional practice regarding sexual distinctions. In the body of the Constitution, "men" and "women" are not mentioned, but rather "people", "persons", "members" and "citizens". The 14th Amendment refers three times to "male inhabitants" or "male citizens". Women were unable to change the wording of the 14th Amendment.

In 1878, women succeeded in having a resolution for "votes for women" introduced in the form of a proposed Constitutional Amendment. In 1919, Congress responded with the passage of the Suffrage Amendment.

In 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment was offered for the first time in Congress. It read: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." It was argued that the wording might be interpreted to require geographic uniformity, and the language was, therefore, changed in 1943 to read: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by a State on account of sex."

Since that time, the amendment has been introduced in its revised form.

The bill passed the Senate twice in 1950 and 1953, but both times had the so-called "Haydn Rider" attached, which provided that the Equal Rights Amendment "shall not be construed to impair any rights, benefits or exemptions now or hereafter conferred by law, upon persons of the female sex." [96 Cong. Rec. pp. 872-3 (1950); 99 Cong. Rec. pp. 8954-5 (1953)]

Both time the rider accomplished its purpose of killing the proposed amendment; since, as the Senate Judiciary Committee noted, the rider's qualification "is not acceptable to women who want equal rights under the law. It is under the guise of so-called 'rights' or 'benefits' that women have been treated unequally and denied opportunities which are available to men." (S. Rept. No. 1558, 88th Cong. 2d Sess.)

On March 22, 1972, the U.S. Senate passed the Equal Rights Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification.

On February 12, 1973, Minnesota ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. To date, 34 of the necessary 38 states have ratified the amendment.



League Background on ERA

The League of Women Voters formalized its support of "equal rights for all, regardless of sex" in May 1972 when delegates to the national convention overwhelmingly voted to add the phrase to the League's human resources position and to support the Equal Rights Amendment as one of the major ways to take action in support of the position.

The vote was not hasty or unfounded. While preparing for the convention early in 1972, the national office received numerous calls from state and local Leagues urging adoption of a national equal rights stand, especially in light of the ERA which was then pending in the 92nd Congress. On March 22, 1972, the Congress approved the ERA and sent it to the states for ratification, giving the League more reason to take a national stand.

But the League has not always believed a constitutional amendment was the best way to guarantee women all the benefits of the American political system.

In 1920 when the League was first formed, members supported a variety of reform legislation, some of it written specifically to protect women against labor abuses. When the first comprehensive ERA was proposed in 1923, the League opposed it. Even though it had no quarrel with the bill's purpose, the League instead approached equal rights questions on an individual basis, believing that method would be less likely to undermine hard-fought labor legislation gains such as minimum wage and maximum hours.

Through the 1930's, the League continued its step-by-step approach "to remove legal and administrative discriminations against women" instead of an ERA. But as the years progressed, League members realized society and the role of women in it were changing. By 1954, the League had determined an ERA would not erode the gains made in labor legislation and dropped its 31-year-old anti-ERA stand. In the 1960's, women's rights became more and more a point of discussion and interest in state and local Leagues and some Leagues adopted positions on the subject. But there was no national League position specifically favoring equal rights for women or an ERA until 1972.

Preparing for the League's biennial convention in 1972, many state and local Leagues urged that equal rights and the ERA be added to the national League agenda. The National Board recommended the 1972 LWV convention consider the position of "equal rights for all regardless of race or sex..." and suggested several options for convention delegates to consider in dealing with the ERA. Options ranged from conducting a consensus study to provide a foundation for League action to a National Board review of the amendment to determine an appropriate response.

Meeting at the convention in May, League delegates overwhelmingly decided to incorporate "equal rights for all regardless of sex" as part of the HR position. They saw their action as a necessary extension of the League's long-term equal opportunity position. Delegates also voted to endorse ERA and sanction active lobbying for ratification in the states. That position was reaffirmed at the 1974 and 1976 national League conventions.

Leagues immediately began to see progress as 22 states ratified the brief amendment in the first year. But, by 1973, an organized opposition had formed and progress had slowed. That year, only eight states joined the ranks of the ratified, sparking the LWVUS to launch its first national fund raising efforts for passage of the amendment--the sale of nickel-silver bracelets etched with ERA as a sign of support.

More than \$273,000 raised by selling 103,000 bracelets was used to provide financial and technical assistance to help Leagues and ERA ratification coalitions lobby legislators and educate the public about the need for ERA. After that drive, an every-member fund raiser in 1975 raised an additional \$87,925 to supplement the on-going work. At the May 1977 Council meeting, the role of the League in the ERA ratification fight in the final months was a major topic of deliberation. Delegates decided if state and local Leagues could pledge to raise a major amount of money and if political realities warranted, the LWVUS would launch a campaign to raise over \$1 million in order to get ERA ratified in three more states before the March 1979 deadline.

In June 1977 at the National Board meeting, with more than \$825,000 in pledges from state and local Leagues on hand, the decision was reached to move ahead with the fund raising campaign and a massive effort to gain ratification before March 1979.



To: Minnesota State Legislators

From: Sisters' Council

Date: March 31, 1974 5

Re: S.F. 542

The Sisters' Council is a representative group of women religious elected by the 1600 women religious serving in the archdiocese of St. Paul- Minneapolis. The Sisters' Council is empowered to take appropriate action on issues concerning justice and equality for all.

We support the Equal Rights Amendment, as do several national organizations of women religious and Catholic women, such as: Leadership Conference of Women Religious, National Assembly of Women Religious, National Coalition of American Nuns, St. Joan's Alliance, Network, Catholic Women for ERA, Catholic Caucus of the Ecumenical Task Force on Women and Religious, Las Hermanas.

We, as women religious, support ERA because we are aware that the majority of the world's population is subjected to the indignities of second-class citizenship, or as Bishop Dozier, Catholic Bishop of Memphis, has called this, "the long abiding servitude of women in society." This jeopardizes our human freedom. We believe that to meet the challenges and to provide solutions for the problems facing today's world, we need the talents, abilities, and qualities of women and men.

We deeply regret that the Priests' Senate has demonstrated such misinformation and lack of information as to support S.F. 542 and to oppose ERA.

MINNESOTA COALITION TO RATIFY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Dear legislator:

One of the most significant bills to pass the Minnesota legislature in the last biennium was the bill ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

In Minnesota we can take special pride in the ERA: on the federal level it was authored by Senator Hubert Humphrey and supported by the entire Minnesota Congressional delegation. On the state level it was supported by Governor Anderson, all of the State's constitutional officers, and an overwhelming majority of legislators in both houses.

In response to requests from several legislators who were not holding office at the time of Minnesota's ratification, we are taking the opportunity to update you with the enclosed materials, some of which may be useful to you in responding to constituent inquiries.

The Equal Rights Amendment states that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." We would like to stress three features of the amendment:

1. It affects only the public sector--public law, public regulations and public employment. Private industry, private clubs and the like are not affected.
2. It does not abridge the constitutional right to privacy.
3. It does recognize bona fide physical distinctions where they are a legitimate factor.

If, after examining these materials you have any questions or require more information on the Equal Rights Amendment, please contact us and we will be glad to be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Pam Berquitz, Minnesota League of Women Voters, 920-3364

Koryne Horbal, DFL Feminist Caucus, 646-4004

Julie Johnson, Business and Professional Women, 823-5551

Ann O'Loughlin, GOP Feminist Caucus, 824-1455

3/31/75

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MINNESOTA ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE ERA (3/31/75)

American Association of University Women
AFL-CIO
Altrusa International of Minneapolis
Church Women United of Minnesota
Commission on the Status of Women Students, U of M
Common Cause
DFL Feminist Caucus
Emma Willard Task Force
GOP Feminist Caucus
Jacus Associates (Engineers)
Law Observance League
League of Women Voters - Minneapolis
League of Women Voters - Minnesota
Macalester College Student Body
Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
Minnesota Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.
Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs
Minnesota Council of Unmarried Parents
Minnesota Council of Social Workers
Minnesota Home Economics Association
Minnesota Republican Women's Federation
Minnesota School of Business
Minnesota Women's Center - U of M
Minnesota Women Lawyers Association
Minnesota Women's Political Caucus
National Association of Social Workers
National Council of Jewish Women - Minneapolis
National Council of Jewish Women - St. Paul
National Organization for Women (NOW)
St. Joan's Alliance
Sisters' Council of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis
Society of Citizenship
West Suburban Council of Women's Liberation
Women's Advisory Commission - Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Women's Division - Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Women's Equity Action League (WEAL)
Third District Minnesota Nurses' Association



10 MYTHS ABOUT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

There's a lot of misinformation being passed around by opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Here are 10 of the most common myths about it, and the actual facts in each instance

Myth #1: The ERA will do away with husbands' obligation to support their

divorce cases, judges generally make

to exempt all married women as well.



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THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

I. Why the ERA is needed

A. Limitations on use of Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment

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II. Specific areas affected by the Equal Rights Amendment

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on a genuine health or safety consideration, under the Equal Rights Amendment it could be extended to men rather than invalidated.

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Prepared by:
Karin L. Wille
Attorney at Law

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Prepared by:
Karin L. Wille
Attorney at Law

The following memorandum is a brief explanation of pending bills whose aims are to neutralize sex based discrimination now present in several Minnesota Statutes. Where the present statute confers a benefit, privilege or responsibility on one sex only, the thrust has been to extend that benefit or duty to members of both sexes. Where the present effect of the statute is to exclude or limit one sex, the statute has been revised or repealed. The statutes under consideration will be referred to by number, with a brief explanation of the change sought.

1. FAMILY RELATIONS: This bill attempts to equalize parents' right to custody of an illegitimate child as required by the 1972 United States Supreme Court decision of Stanley vs. Illinois, and to equalize duties of support within the family. With respect to the former, the bill amends chapter 257 and related sections to create a civil action to determine "parenthood". Consent of both parents is required to adopt either a legitimate or illegitimate child if the latter parents have, in certain specified ways, shown a substantial interest in the child. The portion of the bill dealing with support provides that parents of illegitimate children are jointly and severally liable for the support of the child and amends chapter 518 to require joint and several liability of spouses for all family expenses. The statute governing inheritance by and from an illegitimate child (525.172-3) is amended to correspond with the changes in duties of support.
2. DEPENDENCY: This bill amends various chapters of our statutes to comply with the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision of Frontiero v. Laird, which requires that the sexes be treated equally for purposes of compensation for dependants.
3. MARRIAGE: This bill amends 517.02, .03 to equalize the age for marriage.
4. NAME CHANGE: This bill amends chapter 517 to remove the unwritten presumption that a woman takes her husband's name upon marriage. By amending chapter 259, the bill also requires the judge to grant a change of name (to an adult) if the application is in proper form and if there is no intent to defraud. This bill further makes certain housekeeping amendments to the name change statute.
5. LABOR: This bill continues the abolishment of discriminatory labor provisions by repealing statutes which place a hour limitation on female employment as a telephone operator, waitress, sales clerk and laundry worker. It also equalizes the treatment of male and female workers below the age of 18 (amending sections of chapter 181 and 182), and makes a number of house-keeping amendments to reflect the fact that the Women and Children Division of the Department of Labor and Industry was changed to the Labor Standards Division in 1973.
6. TAX: This bill has two parts. The first part amends 290.09, sub. 26, to require that male and female taxpayers be treated equally for purposes of the deduction for cost of care for dependants. It also abolishes the \$6,000 income limit for taking the deduction. The second part of the bill concerns inheritance and gift tax. It equalizes the tax rate and the amount of available exemptions for husbands and wives, amending sections of chapter 291 and 292.
7. INSURANCE: This bill equalizes miscellaneous insurance statutes as follows. Life insurance benefits received by a widower upon the death of his wife would also be exempt from the claim of creditors. Married women named as beneficiaries on a life insurance policy would be treated like other people for purposes of changing that beneficiary by the owner of the policy. Insurance policies would have to provide the same benefits for an acknowledged or adjudicated illegitimate child of a man as must now be provided for an illegitimate child of a woman. Certain statutes which provide for the employment of "men" to arbitrate policy disputes would now refer to "persons". Supplemental first party automobile insurance policies would be required to pay a person of either sex whose task it was to care for the home or children the actual expense of hiring substitute services up to the same dollar limit provided for wage loss. Male members of township mutual fire insurance companies would also be allowed to be represented by proxy at meetings. Certain fire and police associations who operate as insurers would pay benefits to widowers as well as widows of members.

8. PREGNANCY LEAVE: This bill amends 268.09 so that pregnancy is treated like any other serious illness for purposes of unemployment compensation.
9. CORRECTIONS: This bill amends several sections of chapter 241 through 243, 251 to 252, 260 and 641 through 643. It first sets forth a public policy that all inmates shall have equal access to treatment, rehabilitation and training. It gives the Commissioner of Corrections the discretion to integrate the various correction facilities and grants the same discretion to the counties, with reference to county work farms. The bill further makes various statutory rules applicable to all correctional institutions and makes several housekeeping amendments concerning county jails and lockups.
10. CONSENSUAL SEX ACTS: This bill repeals our present adultery and fornication statutes, which distinguish between married women and single men, and makes it a misdemeanor for any person to have sexual intercourse with another person not his spouse.
11. PROSTITUTION: This bill amends the cause of action for seduction (chapter 540) to a cause of action for procurment into prostitution which may be brought by either parent or guardian on behalf of the child of either sex. The prostitution statute is equalized by providing the same punishment for the buyer as for the seller.
12. RAPE: This bill makes it illegal to force a male to have sexual intercourse, amending 609.291, .292 and .295.
13. MILITARY: Chapters 190, 192, 197 and 198 are affected by this bill, which extends the generic use of "enlisted men" to the few chapters not now covered. The rest of the bill simply extends veterans benefits to widowers of female veterans and adds able-bodied women to the pool of citizens from which the governor may draft in emergency situations. With the latter extension, the section allowing for the recruitment of female nurses becomes unnecessary and is repealed.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

April 3, 1975

Mr. Ralph J. Dolan
Operations Manager
KSTP Television
3415 University Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Dear Mr. Dolan:

We have received your inquiry about the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, and I am pleased to send you the enclosed list of our officers and directors as you requested.

In response to your inquiry about our charter, I shall need further description of the kind of information you seek since we do not have a charter.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has been a member of the Coalition Supporting the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) since September 1972. A representative of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota participated in a meeting of Coalition representatives with John Degan, KSTP Production Manager, on March 4, 1975. This meeting was called to discuss the possibilities for airing a program presenting the Coalition's views in support of ERA as part of a Fairness Doctrine appeal countering the KSTP program, "Women's Lib -- A Fraud." After Mr. Degan's negative response in a March 4, 1975 letter to Ellen Dresselhuis, the Coalition Supporting the ERA decided to file complaints with the Federal Communications Commission and the State Department of Human Rights.

As a participating member organization of the Coalition, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has reviewed and ratified the Coalition action.

Members of the League share a concern with other citizens about fair application of FCC legislation governing licensing of radio and television stations. We know that as a corporation doing business under regulation by the FCC you want to live up to the Fairness Doctrine, and we hope that matters currently under inquiry will be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all involved.

Very sincerely,

Mary Ann McCoy
State President

Copies to: Stanley S. Hubbard, President, KSTP
John Degan, Production Manager, KSTP
Stan Turner, News Department, KSTP



Copies to: Pam Berkwitz, ERA Lobbyist; Rosemary Rockenbach, PR Chairman;
✓ Helene Borg, Action Chairman; Liz Ebbott and Jerry Jenkins,
Vice Presidents; Mary Ann McCoy, President

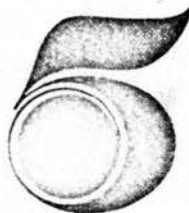
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Mary Ann McCoy	President
Liz Ebbott	1st Vice President; Program/Action, Lobbying Congress
Jerry Jenkins	2nd Vice President; Organization
Janet Rosenbloom	Secretary
Sidelle Moss	Treasurer; International Relations, Financing State Government

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Mary Waldo	Citizen Information
Mary Watson	Environmental Quality
Eleanor Weber	Corrections

KSTP TELEVISION



3415 UNIVERSITY AVE. • MINNEAPOLIS 55414 • ST. PAUL 55114 • MINNESOTA
(612) 645-2724



MAR 27 1975

RALPH J. DOLAN
Operations Manager

March 26, 1975

Mary Ann McCoy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. McCoy:

I understand that the League of Women Voters, which is supposed to be a non-profit, public service organization, has taken a stand regarding KSTP's position in refusing to let the National Organization for Women dictate our program policies to us.

Having read the National Organization for Women's complaint, it is my understanding that they do not think KSTP treated them fairly. Does the League of Women Voters wish to have KSTP or the public believe that it is in any way fair by taking such a stand without having asked KSTP to present its position on the matter to the League of Women Voters, or has the League of Women Voters now become a political arm of the National Organization for Women involving itself in a parochial political cause? Indeed, if this be the case, should the League of Women Voters continue to enjoy a tax free status as a charitable organization?

I would appreciate a prompt response to this letter. Also, please send us a copy of your charter along with a list of your Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

RALPH J. DOLAN

RJD/kpg

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O

TO: Helene

FROM: Ann K.

SUBJECT E.R.A.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: 224-5445

DATE 4/15/75

Here is the teletype report of the Gallup Poll that was published 4/10 in the Tribune. This is proobably more complete, hope it may be of some use to you.

Bonnie Boberg informed me that the Scott County Bommissioners voted to support rescining of the ERA amendment. She is concerned that others may try also.

+UU

A524

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RELEASE THURSDAY; APRIL 10

Interesting ?

(TRANSMITTED 4-8)

THE GALLUP POLL: MEN MORE IN FAVOR THAN WOMEN; PUBLIC BACKS
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT BY 3-TO-1 VOTE

BY GEORGE GALLUP

PRINCETON, N.J.; APRIL 9 - ALTHOUGH FINAL RATIFICATION OF THE

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT APPEARS UNLIKELY IN 1975; A MAJORITY OF
AMERICANS IN THE LATEST SURVEY VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS AMENDMENT WHICH
WOULD ABOLISH ANY LAW OR LEGAL PRACTICE WHICH
DISCRIMINATES ON THE BASIS OF SEX.



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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

MARCH and RALLY



TO DEMAND

**RATIFY
THE
E.R.A.!**

The Equal Rights Amendment is under attack. Recent defeats of the state ERA referenda in New York and New Jersey have signalled the need for ongoing, nationwide efforts to turn the antifeminist tide. International Women's Day weekend has been set as a focus date for pro-ERA demonstrations and rallies in other cities across the nation. Let's make the Twin Cities demonstration a big one!

SAT., MARCH 6

- *ASSEMBLE AT ST. PAUL CAPITOL AT 1:00 pm
- *MARCH TO DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL
- *RALLY AT WOMENS CENTER, 65 E. KELLOGG BLVD., 2:00 pm

SPONSORED BY THE MARCH 6 E.R.A. COALITION

INITIAL ENDORSERS:

Coalition of Labor Union Women
Kristi Appell, President, St. Paul NOW
YWCA, Women's Center, St. Paul
Avis Foley, Chair, Hennepin County Women's
Political Caucus
Betty Bedor, Chair, St. Joan of Arc
Women's Support Committee
Mary Hillery, Socialist Workers Party

U of Minn. Women for the E.R.A.
Sue Welch, President AFSCME 1164
Betty Olbekson, Chair, Minn. Recipients Alliance
MFT Local #59, Women's Rights Committee
Shirley Modless, Coordinator, Yvonne Wanrow
Defense Committee
Ramona Austin, Co-coordinator, Minority Women's
Task Force •NOW

Organization for identification purposes only
Further endorsement welcome

For more information, call -- 822-0317
825-4431

IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Can an employed married woman maintain individual economic identity with your local credit bureau? if not, has the decision been protested up to the president of the bureau?
- Can a newly divorced or widowed woman retain her credit?
- Does your insurance company discriminate with regard to disability or other types of insurance? is there a valid basis for differences in costs and benefits for men and women?
- Do the stores where you shop have only women performing certain jobs and only men performing others? regardless of their skills or talents?
- Do companies in which you own stock follow nondiscriminatory employment policies?

IN THE MEDIA

- Do you object when all news involving women is relegated to the women's page of your newspapers?
- Do you object when help wanted ads and job descriptions say "We want a man who..." or "We need a gal who..."?
- Do you write your TV and radio stations when their broadcasts include discriminatory elements or downgrade or make fun of women?
- Do you express your appreciation to companies whose advertising is nonsexist? to commentators who report in an unbiased way?

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Do you encourage qualified women to run for public office? do you work on their campaigns?
- When your mayor or school board or the governor is appointing a committee or commission or making an individual appointment, do you write and suggest names of qualified women?
- Does your municipality have an equal rights ordinance? can women join the police and fire departments? are the requirements discriminatory?
- Are men and women (boys and girls) given the same sentence by the courts for the same offense? are prison facilities of equal quality for males and females?
- Do job training programs for the unemployed discriminate between males and females?
- Do landlords in your area discriminate against divorced women? will lenders give home improvement loans, mortgages, etc., to employed, single, widowed, and divorced women? will lenders count the income of a working wife, when determining the size of a mortgage?

Discrimination is generally the result of viewing or judging on the basis of stereotypes. As more people become aware of discriminatory practices and protest them, equal rights for all will become a reality.

YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

League of Women Voters of Ohio
65 South Fourth Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

April 1975

what
you
can
do
about equal rights

Equal rights for all! This goal can only be achieved by the efforts of many concerned people. Businesses, governments, schools, and other institutions ARE responsive to public pressure. Using every opportunity which presents itself to oppose discriminatory practices, briefly and tactfully, can be an effective, potent lobby.

This checklist is intended to make you think about some of the more common discriminatory practices against women—and to become more aware of opportunities to speak out.

YOUR ACTION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

IN THE HOME

- What kind of toys do you give your children (or grandchildren)? do they reinforce stereotyped roles--dolls for girls and toy cars for boys?
- How do the TV programs your children watch treat men's and women's roles? are men (boys) always fixing things and women (girls) just helping them? do you explain that this is not an accurate portrayal of what women and men can do?
- Do you reinforce sex role stereotypes by making remarks like "big boys don't cry"—"little ladies shouldn't be so rowdy"?
- Do you assign chores on a stereotyped basis--boys to mow the lawn and girls to do dishes?
- Do you and your spouse show, by your behavior, that you both have family responsibilities and that there is no definitive division of these roles? do you share decision-making in regard to the children?

- Do you assume that repairs are the husband's responsibility? do you both share responsibility for problems which arise?
- Do you both feel free to pursue further education or job opportunities?

IN THE SCHOOLS

- Are your children's textbooks stereotyped—are women always shown as homemakers and men as breadwinners—men as leaders and women as followers?
- Do classroom discussions illustrate that girls have the same career opportunities as boys? are guidance counselors nonsexist in their career advice?
- Are shop and home economics classes open to both girls and boys?
- Are comparable athletic programs offered to high school girls and boys?
- Is there really equal employment opportunity in your school system? from superintendent down to custodians and cooks?
- Are all courses of study in your university, college, or technical school open to both men and women on the basis of qualifications and aptitude?
- Are college athletic programs substantially equal for men and women? are there athletic scholarships for women as well as men?

WHERE YOU WORSHIP

- Do women serve in leadership positions? on the basis of individual abilities or as token members on boards or committees?

- Would your congregation accept a woman minister, priest, or rabbi?
- Are group dinners prepared only by the women?
- Are children's classes taught by both men and women?

ON THE SOCIAL SCENE

- Do you speak up and object when women's rights are ridiculed?
- Do you avoid sex role stereotyping in your conversations?
- Do you encourage individuality regardless of a person's sex?
- When you serve on civic or charity committees, is the chairperson always a man—the secretary a woman?

ON THE JOB

- Does your company hire and place people in jobs according to their skills instead of their sex?
- Do women and men have the same chance for promotion? for management positions?
- Does your employer's retirement program provide equal treatment for men and women without regard to marital status? are fringe benefits equal?
- Does your union give women positions of leadership? are union benefits equal for men and women regardless of marital status?

Women in the 70's black women and the equal rights amendment

by Frankie M. Freeman



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• M TO: All Boarders

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: 224-5445

E FROM: Mary Ann McCoy

M SUBJECT Attached ERA material

DATE April 28, 1975

O

The attached material on the ERA was received by me on April 19, 1975 from the LWV of Blaine. It's a little bit more information for our use in answering all the many questions we keep getting about the ERA and its impact. If you have any questions about the material, call Janet Boland, new Blaine LWV president (757-3351).

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Laird
4/19/73
WV/Bleu

I. Why the ERA is needed

A. Limitations on use of Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment

1. In reviewing Equal Protection claims, courts determine standard of review by nature of right or category involved. Rights are classified as fundamental or nonfundamental; categories are divided into suspect and nonsuspect. Examples of fundamental rights include the right to vote and the right of interstate travel; nonfundamental rights include the right to education and the right to housing. Categories or classifications considered suspect are those based on race, alienage or national origin; classifications considered nonsuspect are those based on age, sex and wealth. When courts are faced with a fundamental right or a suspect classification, they apply the "strict scrutiny" test. The effect of such application is to require the states to show a "compelling state interest" for the denial of the right or the establishment of the classification. This test has been construed so narrowly that it is very difficult for the states to meet. Hence, classifications based on race are virtually never upheld. If a court determines that the right or classification involved is a nonfundamental or a nonsuspect one, the "rational basis" test is used, such that the state only need show a reasonable relationship between the ends sought and the means used to achieve it. This test is relatively easy to satisfy.
2. The Supreme Court has fairly consistently applied the "rational basis" test, or, at most, the "fair and substantial relationship" test, to classifications based on sex. In Frontiero v. Laird, a 1973 decision involving the right of a female Navy officer to receive dependents allowance, four members of the Supreme Court held that sex should be treated as a suspect classification. Of the four justices concurring in the result, one held that the discrimination in question was invidious, three justices held that categorizing sex as a suspect should be deferred pending action on the ERA which, they felt, would represent the "will of the people." Mr. Justice Rehnquist dissented. That is as close as the Court has come to making sex a suspect classification.
3. The passage of the ERA might make sex more than a suspect classification, in the sense that theoretically classifications based on sex could never be upheld. However, that is largely the practical effect of making a classification suspect. Further, the effect of the ERA would be limited by:
 - a. The requirement of state action. The ERA does not govern actions between private individuals; it only prevents Congress and the states from discriminating on the basis of sex.
 - b. The constitutional right of privacy. This right was established by the Supreme Court in the landmark case of Griswold v. Connecticut, holding that a state's prohibition of sale of contraceptives to married people was an unwarranted intrusion into the individual's right of privacy. Nothing in the ERA would abrogate this right. Thus, for instance, states would not be required to integrate sleeping quarters by sex.

II. Specific areas affected by the Equal Rights Amendment

A. Employments rights, particularly state protective laws

1. In general, such laws have already been invalidated under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in all terms and conditions of employment based on sex, as well as other protected categories. The courts have correctly noted that despite the purported purpose of the laws, protective legislation generally acts to deny opportunity rather than to protect. If the law is based

on a genuine health or safety consideration, under the Equal Rights Amendment it could be extended to men rather than invalidated.

- a. For example, limits on weight lifting and maximum hours for women would probably be invalidated, because to extend them to men would put certain jobs which both sexes are capable of performing out of existence. However, laws requiring minimum rest periods might well be extended to both sexes.
2. Where the laws are clearly exclusionary, such as preventing women from being bartenders or limiting women hairdressers to working on women's hair, the laws would be struck down.
3. Maternity leaves would be unaffected by the ERA for two reasons. First, the Amendment would require, as do the present Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines, that all temporary disabilities be treated alike. Secondly, it can be argued that pregnancy is a "physical characteristic unique to one sex" such that limiting pregnancy and maternity benefits to women alone would not be in violation of the Equal Rights Amendment.

B. Domestic Relations

1. In general, it should be noted that the Equal Rights Amendment would affect domestic relations in Minnesota very little. In states that have undergone less family law reform, the changes would be perhaps more in theory than in practice.
2. Laws in Minnesota requiring revision are as follows:
 - a. The age of consent for marriage would have to be equalized.
 - b. The unwritten presumption that a woman take her husband's name upon marriage would probably have to be abolished. However, a bill has already reached the floor of both Houses which would do precisely that.
 - c. A sexually neutral rule would be required in determining the domicile of a married couple.
 - d. Each party would have a right to sue for loss of consortium. However, due to a Minnesota Supreme Court decision, this is currently the case in our state.
3. In Minnesota as in most states, a married woman is capable of owning and managing her own property. Thus, these laws would require no revision. Tax laws which grant preferential treatment to women as, for example, the inheritance law which allows widows to inherit \$30,000 tax free from their spouse but limits widower's allowance to \$6,000 would probably have to be revised.
4. Grounds for divorce would, at least in Minnesota, not have to be revised. Some states still retain provision allowing a husband to sue for divorce based to his wife's adultery but do not provide a concomitant right in the wife. Clearly, those provisions would have to be equalized or repealed.
5. Alimony and support are the issues which raise the greatest amount of controversy. Minnesota law now requires that alimony be awarded to either spouse on the basis of need; the ERA would require no more than that. On the issue of support, Minnesota spouses are jointly liable for all necessary household and medical supplies furnished to and used by the family. However, the husband is also liable for necessities furnished to the wife after marriage. The ERA would require a sexually neutral support rule. The practical effect of such a revision would be minimal because:

- a. Courts have been extremely reluctant to interfere with an ongoing marriage relationship. In McGuire v. McGuire, the Supreme Court of Nebraska overturned a district court order requiring that a husband - farmer install a working furnace and indoor plumbing for his wife of 34 years who had raised chickens, worked in the fields, maintained a home for her husband and children and was now arthritic. The Court noted that as long as the parties continued to live under the same roof, the manner in which a husband chose to support his wife was not one in which the Court would intercede.
 - b. As far as support after the marriage relationship is broken down or has been dissolved is concerned, statistics published by the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 1972, titled "The ERA and Alimony and Child Support Laws" clearly establish that a husband's unwillingness to support a former spouse coupled with unwillingness of judges to to enforce support judgments make alimony a dependable kind of support for at most 10 years. To put the issue in a nutshell, most women currently supported by their husbands or ex-husbands are in that position because a man desires or feels an obligation to care for them, and not because of any requirement of law.
6. Homosexual marriages would probably not be required under the ERA, at least in states like Minnesota where the Supreme Court has defined marriage as a relationship between two persons of the opposite sex. Further, prohibiting same sex marriages for both sexes does not appear to be sex based discrimination.

C. Criminal Law

1. Statutes making rape a crime would clearly be valid under the Equal Rights Amendment because if rape is defined as penetration by the penis, that act can only be performed by persons possessing that physical characteristic which is unique to men. However, unless the purpose of the law is clearly to protect invasion of the vagina only by the penis, the law would have to be extended to cover men (e.g., the anus and mouth of either sex are clearly capable of being penetrated by the penis).
 - a. Statutory rape, which makes it criminal to have intercourse with a woman under the age of 18 regardless of her consent and regardless of actual or assumed knowledge about her age, would come under close scrutiny, since the statute makes the assumption that women under the age of 18 are not capable of making choices about their sexual conduct. It would withstand scrutiny if men of the same age were also protected from seduction. The age of 18 for either sex is probably an illogical choice for our present day society.
2. Laws prohibiting certain kinds of consensual sexual conduct, such as sodomy, would probably not be invalidated, since they apply equally to either sex. Adultery and fornication laws in Minnesota would have to be revised, since married women are singled out for special treatment in the adultery law.
3. Prostitution laws in Minnesota would still be valid in the sense that both sexes are prohibited from soliciting. It is possible that the law could continue to distinguish between the "seller" and the "buyer".
 - a. The Mann, or "White Slave " Act, would have to be extended to men.

4. Indeterminate or unequal sentencing for men and women would have to be abolished. To my knowledge Minnesota has no statutes allowing unequal sentencing based on sex.

D. Military

1. Under the Equal Rights Amendment both men and women would be required to register with the selective service upon reaching the age of 18. If the draft were reinstituted, both men and women would be eligible to be drafted. Further, the military would have to equalize its standards for both sexes. For instance, men are now admitted to the armed services without a high school degree; women are not. Height and weight standards might also require revision.
2. Exemptions and deferments would simply have to apply to both sexes. For instance, Congress could choose to automatically defer the second drafted parent of minor children or the deferment could be awarded to whichever parent was primarily responsible for child care. Deferments for women would not be unconstitutional; they would simply have to be sexually neutral.
3. Similarly, the grounds for discharge would have to be equalized. For instance, only women can now be discharged from the armed services because of dependents.
4. In terms of assignments and training, both sexes would have to be eligible for all types of tasks subject to sexually neutral standards. For instance, certain physical characteristics might be required for all people eligible for combat duty.

Prepared by:
Karin L. Wille
Attorney at Law

The following memorandum is a brief explanation of pending bills whose aims are to neutralize sex based discrimination now present in several Minnesota Statutes. Where the present statute confers a benefit, privilege or responsibility on one sex only, the thrust has been to extend that benefit or duty to members of both sexes. Where the present effect of the statute is to exclude or limit one sex, the statute has been revised or repealed. The statutes under consideration will be referred to by number, with a brief explanation of the change sought.

1. FAMILY RELATIONS: This bill attempts to equalize parents' right to custody of an illegitimate child as required by the 1972 United States Supreme Court decision of Stanley vs. Illinois, and to equalize duties of support within the family. With respect to the former, the bill amends chapter 257 and related sections to create a civil action to determine "parenthood". Consent of both parents is required to adopt either a legitimate or illegitimate child if the latter parents have, in certain specified ways, shown a substantial interest in the child. The portion of the bill dealing with support provides that parents of illegitimate children are jointly and severally liable for the support of the child and amends chapter 518 to require joint and several liability of spouses for all family expenses. The statute governing inheritance by and from an illegitimate child (525.172-3) is amended to correspond with the changes in duties of support.
2. DEPENDENCY: This bill amends various chapters of our statutes to comply with the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision of Frontiero v. Laird, which requires that the sexes be treated equally for purposes of compensation for dependants.
3. MARRIAGE: This bill amends 517.02, .03 to equalize the age for marriage.
4. NAME CHANGE: This bill amends chapter 517 to remove the unwritten presumption that a woman takes her husband's name upon marriage. By amending chapter 259, the bill also requires the judge to grant a change of name (to an adult) if the application is in proper form and if there is no intent to defraud. This bill further makes certain housekeeping amendments to the name change statute.
5. LABOR: This bill continues the abolishment of discriminatory labor provisions by repealing statutes which place a hour limitation on female employment as a telephone operator, waitress, sales clerk and laundry worker. It also equalizes the treatment of male and female workers below the age of 18 (amending sections of chapter 181 and 182), and makes a number of housekeeping amendments to reflect the fact that the Women and Children Division of the Department of Labor and Industry was changed to the Labor Standards Division in 1973.
6. TAX: This bill has two parts. The first part amends 290.09, sub. 26, to require that male and female taxpayers be treated equally for purposes of the deduction for cost of care for dependants. It also abolishes the \$6,000 income limit for taking the deduction. The second part of the bill concerns inheritance and gift tax. It equalizes the tax rate and the amount of available exemptions for husbands and wives, amending sections of chapter 291 and 292.
7. INSURANCE: This bill equalizes miscellaneous insurance statutes as follows. Life insurance benefits received by a widower upon the death of his wife would also be exempt from the claim of creditors. Married women named as beneficiaries on a life insurance policy would be treated like other people for purposes of changing that beneficiary by the owner of the policy. Insurance policies would have to provide the same benefits for an acknowledged or adjudicated illegitimate child of a man as must now be provided for an illegitimate child of a woman. Certain statutes which provide for the employment of "men" to arbitrate policy disputes would now refer to "persons". Supplemental first party automobile insurance policies would be required to pay a person of either sex whose task it was to care for the home or children the actual expense of hiring substitute services up to the same dollar limit provided for wage loss. Male members of township mutual fire insurance companies would also be allowed to be represented by proxy at meetings. Certain fire and police associations who operate as insurers would pay benefits to widowers as well as widows of members.

8. PREGNANCY LEAVE: This bill amends 268.09 so that pregnancy is treated like any other serious illness for purposes of unemployment compensation.
9. CORRECTIONS: This bill amends several sections of chapter 241 through 243, 251 to 252, 260 and 641 through 643. It first sets forth a public policy that all inmates shall have equal access to treatment, rehabilitation and training. It gives the Commissioner of Corrections the discretion to integrate the various correction facilities and grants the same discretion to the counties, with reference to county work farms. The bill further makes various statutory rules applicable to all correctional institutions and makes several housekeeping amendments concerning county jails and lockups.
10. CONSENSUAL SEX ACTS: This bill repeals our present adultery and fornication statutes, which distinguish between married women and single men, and makes it a misdemeanor for any person to have sexual intercourse with another person not his spouse.
11. PROSTITUTION: This bill amends the cause of action for seduction (chapter 540) to a cause of action for procurment into prostitution which may be brought by either parent or guardian on behalf of the child of either sex. The prostitution statute is equalized by providing the same punishment for the buyer as for the seller.
12. RAPE: This bill makes it illegal to force a male to have sexual intercourse, amending 609.291, .292 and .295.
13. MILITARY: Chapters 190, 192, 197 and 198 are affected by this bill, which extends the generic use of "enlisted men" to the few chapters not now covered. The rest of the bill simply extends veterans benefits to widowers of female veterans and adds able-bodied women to the pool of citizens from which the governor may draft in emergency situations. With the latter extension, the section allowing for the recruitment of female nurses becomes unnecessary and is repealed.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED --- IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

T I M E F O R A C T I O N

To: All Local League Presidents and Action Chairmen

From: Pam Berkwitz - ERA Lobbyist, (612) 920-3364

Re: Equal Rights Amendment.

May 19, 1975

Background: Even though Minnesota has ratified the ERA, the issue is being raised again. The ERA Coalition has reactivated to reach out and educate the citizens about the true effects of the ERA. Many people do not understand the ERA and are therefore susceptible to the emotional and incorrect arguments of the opponents. It is important that groups do not vote to rescind the ERA because, in general, the resulting publicity is not good and might lead to activity at the Legislature next January.

The Minnesota Jaycees has before it a resolution to rescind the ERA. This resolution surfaced this spring after Senator Florian Chmielewski gave a "keynote" address to a planning session for the May 2-3 State Jaycees Convention. Also, the latest edition of the Jaycees Gopher magazine was filled with anti-ERA material. The resolution was postponed at the State Convention until a June 6-7 leadership training session at St. John's University for the State Jaycees directors and local presidents.

WHAT TO DO: Immediately contact Jaycees in your community and educate them about the ERA and tell them of the large support the ERA has in Minnesota, for example LWV, AAUW, Business and Professional Women, Church Women United, etc. The League and the Jaycees members should urge the local Jaycee president to vote against the anti-ERA resolution at the Jaycees June 6-7 meeting at St. John's University.

Additional information: See April Board Memo. Family Circle "10 Myths about the ERA" enclosed.



memorandum

The League of Women Voters of the United States

This is going on
Duplicate Presidents Mailing

May 21, 1975

TO: State and Local League Presidents
FROM: Ruth C. Clusen, President
RE: National Council discussion on the Equal Rights Amendment

This memo is to inform you about the results of the national Council discussion on the Equal Rights Amendment effort and the letter each League member will soon be receiving as a result of a board recommendation presented to the Council.

During Council discussion of ERA, it was clear that delegates from both ratified and unratified states wanted a "full speed ahead" ERA campaign. It was therefore not surprising that delegates responded affirmatively to a national board proposal to send a letter to each League member calling for at least a one dollar donation for future ERA efforts.

As you know, we were unable to get the full 38 states required for ratification this year. We know also that achieving victory will not be an easy task. These facts coupled with the exhaustion of the \$150,000 raised in '73 and '74 through the sales of ERA bracelets prompted the decision to initiate an every member fundraising effort on behalf of ERA. Mailing costs will be covered by the remaining ERA funds.

Not only has the opposition demonstrated a willingness to obscure the facts and to dwell on emotionalism, but they have also shown that their financial backing is substantial. Although we used the bracelet funds in a strategic manner by giving money and national office services and support to state Leagues for their efforts -- we are now at the bottom of the fiscal barrel. Because of the protracted nature of the fight and the financial strength of the opposition, we must be able to not only continue our commitment of providing hard work, but of also providing hard cash if we hope to turn this fight around and win.

As you may know, we have reached 34 state ERA victories and may be able to add two more this year -- since Illinois and Missouri are two target states still battling it out. Nevertheless, we will fall short of the 38 needed for ratification.

League members have worked hard in trying to gain ERA for those states still unratified and to hold the line against rescission efforts in other states. League leaders are coalition chairpersons in ERA campaign efforts in seven out of ten states targeted for ratification fights in '75. League members, moreover, are in the forefront of all ERA activities in unratified states and in states fighting rescission efforts. Obviously League commitment is high in this fight as witnessed not only by leadership efforts and hard work within states, but in the strength of delegate support demonstrated during Council.

We hope you will do your best to make this fundraising request a success and that you will urge League members to give more than one dollar if they are able to do so. It will also help our effort if you indicate in your state and local bulletins the importance of contributing to this important cause. An ERA victory hinges on our ability to sustain a unified effort both through hard work and hard cash.

#

June 14, 1975

Dear Editor,

Senator George Pillsbury's recent letter-to-the-editor on the Equal Rights Amendment could have been written in opposition to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. At that time the opponents tried to zero in on "States' Rights" and "local control" and promote these "boogeymen" as the issues of concern and, thus, ignore the hundreds of years of blatant discrimination that this Act would help eliminate. We are embarrassed about this behavior now and, hopefully, we will soon be embarrassed by the attempts to prevent over half the population from being viewed "equal" under the law.

Senator Pillsbury's diversionary tactic involves Section 2 of the proposed 27th Amendment to the Constitution. "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article." Since the very point of a constitutional amendment is to state a national principle, it must, for consistency, be enforced nationally. The power the ERA gives to Congress is no more and no less than that given by other constitutional amendments. Almost identical language appears in the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, and 26th Amendments to the Constitution. These last four became law after the 1913 date Senator Pillsbury used as the last "grant of power by the states to the federal level". In fact, the 26th Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1971. Whenever the Constitution is amended, the states have the right to act and enforce the amendment. The Supreme Court in a recent decision (Oregon vs. Mitchell, 1970) interpreting the scope of power granted in the same enabling clause (section 5) of the Fourteenth Amendment, suggested that that language may not authorize legislation in areas traditionally reserved to the states without specific direction.

The 1970 alternative ^{proposed} wording for section 2 of the ERA, "Congress and the several states shall have the power within their respective jurisdictions to enforce", cited by Senator Pillsbury as preferable, was rejected by proponents and opponents of the ERA. It was the interpretation of Paul Freund, the constitutional authority referred to by Senator Pillsbury, that such delegation of authority was more restrictive than that found in any of the other amendments, and advised against using it.

Senator Pillsbury's reference to the federal income tax is a typical example of the opponents' tactics of incorporating emotionally charged issues which are completely extraneous. Another tactic, quoting out of context, was used in quoting the Attorney General of the State of Washington. He neglected to mention that Washington has a state Equal Rights Amendment.

Senator Pillsbury's alternative to the ERA is state legislation. He has identified the needed legislation in Minnesota, but admits he was not able to get it into law. This is why we need this constitutional amendment. Specific legislation is time-consuming, expensive and inadequate. Some state that the Fourteenth Amendment already guarantees equal rights. Although this amendment became part of the Constitution in 1868, it only gave women the right to vote - their civil rights were unaffected. The ERA would dedicate the nation to a new view of the rights and responsibilities of men and women. It would allow each person to be judged on the basis of individual merit and not on the basis of an unalterable trait of birth that bears no necessary relationship to need or ability.

The letter in refute refers to the possible unconstitutionality of the new school athletics legislation. After so many years of discrimination against girls in school athletics, it undoubtedly falls in the same category as discrimination against minorities. To offset this in employment we have a law requiring "affirmative action". Similar laws are needed to prevent school systems from spending inordinate sums of public money on a handful of male athletes. The new legislation, providing separate but equal sports for both sexes, could evolve into a fairer distribution of funds for ~~opportunities in~~ sports for all boys as well as ~~XXX~~ for girls.

I urge all people to disregard the scare tactics being used by opponents of the ERA. Do not be persuaded by inaccurate, incomplete statements which appeal to your emotions instead of your reason. No "rights" will be taken away by the ERA. As Senator Pillsbury agrees, no one can argue with the intent of the ERA which states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex." Inform yourself of the facts and insist that the Minnesota Legislature devote its time to constructive legislation rather than the futile endeavor to rescind our ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

STATES' RIGHTS

There has been considerable confusion over Section 2 of the Equal Rights Amendment, which reads, "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

Opponents of the Amendment have interpreted this to take action out of state legislatures and place enforcement of ERA solely in the Federal courts. They base this argument on the deleting of the words, "and the several States", from the original proposed Amendment.

The facts, however, are otherwise. In a clarification from Mr. P. J. Mode, chief counsel for the United States Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments, it was pointed out that, under the federal system of the United States, power to act and enforce any Constitutional Amendment lies with the states.

Thus, the language of Section 2 of the Equal Rights Amendment will not take away states' rights. It merely insures that both the states and the federal government will have the power to enact appropriate legislation to enforce the Amendment.

Upon the enactment of any Constitutional Amendment, the states have the right to act and enforce the Amendment, and would maintain that right. The inclusion of Section 2 simply makes it clear that Congress also has the power to enforce the Amendment by appropriate legislation.

According to Mr. Mode, when ERA was being drafted, it was the opinion of legal scholars - including opponents of the Amendment - that the phrase "and the several states" should be deleted because it would be not only confusing, but unnecessary. They believed it to be common knowledge that the states have the right to act and enforce any Constitutional Amendment. In support of their argument, these scholars point to the fact that the phrase, "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article," appears in almost identical form in the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, and 26th Constitutional Amendments.

#

Prepared by: The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

MCCL reaffirms neutrality on ERA

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) reaffirmed its previous policy of neutrality on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) at a meeting of its executive committee March 5.

The resolution said MCCL members "hold a wide spectrum of views on the ERA" and that the group carefully considered the ERA before its ratification by the Minnesota Legislature two years ago.

The resolution also said that the group's newsletter has carried articles both opposing and supporting the measure and that the Minnesota Legislature heard testimony from MCCL members who both opposed and favored the ERA.

Angry women and what they want

By Elizabeth Kruidenier

Obviously I have no idea what all women want, and you may conclude that I am really talking about what I think women ought

to women that way.

I'm sure he hopes that the women's movement will soon blow over, and we will all go back to our kitchens and let the men take

That is what it is like to be a woman for most women today. In order to get what we want, we learn to manipulate, to pout and to throw an occasional tantrum—in short to be a large-sized child. And

known fall into exactly the same categories. It will be evident that there is equality between the sexes the day that the female dummy moves ahead in the world as fast as the male dummy. That will be



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Sorry to join in the attack, because I know you are sincere in your beliefs. However, because I think the ERA is so important I had to retaliate.

The burden of inequality weighs heavily on both men and women ⁱⁿ community like Mound. They need both the national and state governments to provide a legal structure ^{that} ~~which~~ will allow them to share equally the benefits + responsibilities of a democracy.

~~No hard feelings, I hope.~~

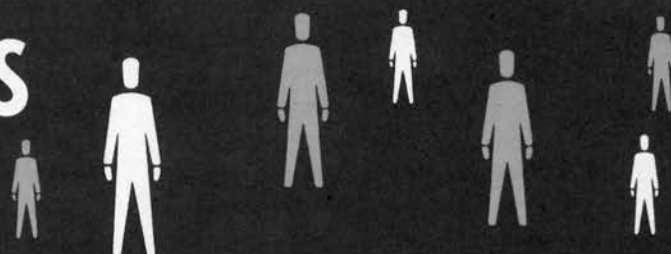
In less enlightened states this need is far greater.

No hard etc.

to George Pillsbury 6/30/75

Fed. Emp. Woman's Conf. - 11000 was it?
Zurich Conf? Eric Conf?
Zurich Conf?

HUMAN RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 - August 1975

MINNESOTA SENATORS' MAY 1975 VOTES TO RESCIND RATIFICATION of ERA

Senators who sought to set aside the 1973 legislative ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in May, 1975:

<u>District</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Residence</u>
48	*Robert Ashbach	St. Paul	37	*William Kirchner	Richfield
39	*Otto Bang	Edina	53	*Howard Knutson	Burnsville
15	Charles Berg	Chokio	45	Al Kowalczyk	Brooklyn Park
22	John Bernhagen	Hutchinson	35	Lew Larson	Mabel
38	Jerome Blatz	Bloomington	43	*Rolf Nelson	Golden Valley
51	Robert Brown	Stillwater	11	Wayne Olhoft	Herman
14	Florian Chmielewski	Sturgeon Lake	27	Howard Olson	St. James
18	Robert Dunn	Princeton	26	John Olson	Worthington
1	Richard Fitzsimons	Warren	63	*Joseph O'Neill	St. Paul
54	Edward Gearty	Minneapolis	30	John Patton	Blue Earth
31	*Baldy Hanson	Austin	42	George Pillsbury	Wayzata
61	*Mel Hansen	Minneapolis	23	Earl Renneke	LeSueur
10	*Roger Hanson	Vergas	36	Robert Schmitz	Jordan
28	Carl Jensen	Sleepy Eye	16	Ed Schrom	Albany
20	J. A. Josephson	Minneota	29	*Arnulf Ueland	N. Mankato
40	*John Keefe	Hopkins	12	Myrton Wegener	Bertha
			4	*Gerald Willet	Park Rapids

Senator Jack Kleinbaum (St. Cloud-District 17) was absent and did not vote. He supported ratification in 1973.

*switched from support to opposition (supported ratification in 1973)

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Our bicentennial year is a most appropriate time to talk about-- and finally ratify--the Equal Rights Amendment. For 200 years, American women have sought to become first class citizens in our great nation. It's about time that equality became the law of the land. *Abigail Adams* *Experiment in democracy - amazing* *Yez* *quoted what the people* *wrote than*

As you probably know, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972 and then went to the states for ratification. So far, 34 states have ratified it, including Minnesota in 1973. Four more are needed by 1979 before it can become the 27th Amendment to the Constitution.

The League of Women Voters' efforts on behalf of ratification of the ERA are in many ways an outgrowth of our historical heritage. Our roots, of course, go back to the 19th and early 20th century struggle for woman suffrage. After American women finally won the right to vote in 1920 and the League of Women Voters was founded, it seemed that women's rights were secure and they could turn their attention to other matters. However, the right to vote did not mean that all other equal legal rights had been won by women, so in 1923 the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress. It continued to be introduced in every Congress after that for nearly 50 years, until finally, three years ago, it was an idea whose time had come, and it passed overwhelmingly in both Houses.

Meanwhile, the League was emphasizing good government in general and concern for the disadvantaged in our nation, but steered away from involvement in specifically women's causes. For a long period, Leaguers did not really recognize that women themselves have been legally a disadvantaged class.

In 1964 the national League undertook a study of Human Resources.

Our support position which emerged from that study called for "equal rights for all". In 1972, this position specifically included the word "sex" in case there was any doubt about who was included in the word "all". The 1972 National League convention, by motion, authorized the support of the ERA and action at the state and local level in opposition to discriminatory practices against women. League could have supported the ERA without this motion, but because we had been hesitant to work specifically for ourselves, this provided the extra emphasis. If you think of women as people under our various human rights programs, our support of ERA is obvious. ~~We would do the same for any other group.~~

Today, among the supporters of the ERA are President Ford--and indeed every President since and including Eisenhower has supported it--the vast majority of our Congressmen and Senators; numerous governors; labor unions such as the AFL-CIO and the United Auto Workers; national women's organizations in addition to the League such as the American Association of University Women, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Business and Professional Women, and the American Home Economics Association; minority organizations such as the NAACP and the National Association of Negro Business Women; the Democratic and Republican national parties; and religious groups such as Church Women United, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the National Coalition of American Nuns.

Now then, what is this amendment which has received such widespread and diverse national support--and what will it do?

The Amendment, as worded, says very simply, that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." In other words, it will provide equality under the law through a constitutional guarantee

of equal rights and equal treatment under the law for both sexes. This guarantee is a first.. There is no place in the U.S. Constitution --including the 14th Amendment--no place in any major court decision--that clearly states the general principle that discrimination on the basis of sex is illegal. There have been a few court decisions which have ruled against sex discrimination, but these have been limited to specific instances. This constitutional guarantee would officially once and for all, and not inch by grudging inch, require equal treatment under the law for both men and women.

That guarantee of equal treatment is very significant. All of you have, I am sure, at some time, met ^{sex} discrimination in some form or you know ^{people} ~~women~~ who have. Sometimes, the injustice of a long-accepted practice may have gradually dawned on us--when was the first time you noticed, really noticed, the inequality in boys and girls athletic programs in our schools? Or we probably all know women stuck in low paying jobs without prospects for promotion--not because they are incompetent but because they are women. ^{Sometimes in our society today, it is against men; usually it is against women} ^{Statistics of salaries earned, job levels, etc. prove this discrimination.}

But the ERA will mean expanded educational opportunities for women, greater job options, fairer standards for obtaining mortgages, credit and insurance--generally a greater range of choices and the right to be seen as persons. What could be more fundamental than that? ^{Does not say men & women are the same}

Notice that the ERA will not affect the personal relationships between husbands and wives, between men and women generally. Men may still, if they choose, open doors for women and women may still walk through. But the ERA itself will also open other doors for women--doors of opportunity and full legal equality.

Let's trace some of the opportunities ERA will open up, in education alone. Access to a full range of educational opportunities is inseparable from access to the means of earning a living. And more and more women these days are supporting themselves and their families.

Under the ERA, all publicly supported schools will have to open their doors equally to women and men, using the same admissions standards for both. In the past, many state colleges either ex- *40 years of*
cluded women or operated an unspoken quota system for girls. *Fewer female doctors today than 50 yrs. ago.*

a few weeks ago
Just ~~last week~~ I read of a bright 15 year old girl who has been denied admission to an all-boys public high school in Philadelphia, and so is appealing to the Supreme Court. She wants to attend this high school because of its extremely high academic reputation, but many of the alumni of this distinguished school have shown themselves ~~--in my eyes--~~ not too distinguished themselves by writing her very nasty letters about her audacity in seeking to share the educational opportunity until now the unchallenged privilege of academically talented boys--only! *And this is a public high school, tax supported*

Incidentally, opening up of educational opportunities under ERA will apply only to public and not to private schools.

Educational opportunities, of course, will be mainly opportunities for our children. How will the ERA affect us as adults?⁷ Women, as a group, have been defined as "persons" under the Constitution since 1874--not very long, is it?--*to be persons* but even that definition has not pre-
vented discrimination in many areas of our national life. Take the job/labor market, for example.

In the job market, the ERA will have the effect of strengthening the already existing anti-discrimination clauses of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

These two laws have already begun to open up greater job opportunities for women--with commensurate salaries--from which they were excluded before. When we consider that 40% of the labor force is composed of women, most of whom work because of economic necessity, the need for a clearly defined guarantee is dramatically underlined. These working women and the millions to come after them need the protection of a general constitutional principle of equal opportunity, not subject to repeal or erosion from one session of Congress to another.

What about protective labor laws? The fact is that those covering women only have essentially been outlawed by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In a good many cases, it has been pretty hard to tell who was being protected any way. For example, some laws "protected" women from working overtime at premium pay. In Ohio, women were "protected" from being gas and electric meter readers. Other laws kept women from holding jobs--at good salaries--because they required lifting loads--loads which were no heavier than the children they had to lift at home. //But this last example points out how some laws can be genuinely protective if not just applied to women. Actually, men need sensible weight lifting restrictions too. In fact, over 60% of the men who receive workmen's compensation now for job-related injuries, are suffering from strain, sprain, hernia or other disabilities arising from having to lift weights. So weight lifting

laws exemplify the kinds of truly protective labor laws which, if applied to both men and women--are designed to prevent exploitation rather than limit options. In fact the effect of the ERA will be to extend such laws to cover men as well as women. Recognizing these positive effects, the AFL-CIO has endorsed ERA for its beneficial effects on working women and men.

The ERA will also have a similar positive effect on federally funded manpower training, opening such programs equally to women and men.--though somehow, to admit women to manpower training strikes me as rather ironic and implies a certain begrudging of the opportunity. What a long ways, baby- women have yet to go before the subconscious bias--so often expressed in our English language itself--will really disappear.

Well, back to the practical level--military service is another area in which the ERA will open up new opportunities to women. Right now I would like to talk about the benefits the military service offers. Later, I shall discuss the issue of the draft.

For years the military service has been an avenue of upward mobility. It has helped less advantaged young men to improve themselves by giving them job skills, ^{and} higher education, and ~~increased self-esteem~~. Additionally, the G.I. bill has often been referred to as the "poor man's college". Many men who might never have considered college or a professional career before entering the service have taken advantage of the G.I. bill upon discharge.

The ERA will open that avenue to more women. Until recently, women--by law--could not exceed 2% of the service rolls. Women still have to be more qualified than men to enlist. They must have finished high school and they have to score higher on tests than men. The ERA will equalize standards. More women will share the benefits of good health care, housing, travel, and job training. They will be able to share in veterans' preference in jobs and getting mortgages and in using VA hospitals if necessary. So many of the positive benefits of being ^{in the military} ~~a veteran~~ ^{in the military} will be available for women on a new equal basis with men.

A fourth major area in which ERA will help women is credit. Right now, it's hard for women to get credit--mortgages, loans,

credit cards, and insurance,--on an equal basis with men. The reason is not ability to pay but sex discrimination.

Check this weeks pages

Minnesota's laws are much fairer, now, in this respect, but this is not true nationwide. On Women's Day at the State Fair, the elderly conductor on the free shuttle bus noticed ^{the} my ERA ribbon. He told ^{on a league member} me that his daughter in Texas, who runs a highly successful real estate business, could not get a business loan without the signature of a male relative. So this man, her father, an older retired man without anywhere near her income or prospects, had to co-sign her loan application. Thus, even if Minnesota is far-sighted and non-discriminatory in its laws, the ERA is needed to eliminate discrimination across the nation.

Social security is another area in which men and women have not been treated equally. The ERA will assure that this discrimination is eliminated. Congress will be able to decide how to equalize benefits, but this often will work to the advantage of men. Already, the Supreme Court has ruled that a young man with small children whose schoolteacher wife died, should be entitled to both widower and child benefits, just as she would have been, had he died. Under ERA, all social security regulations which similarly discriminate against either men or women would have to be changed.

There have been some proposals that a monetary value should be placed on women's work in the home and that social security contributions be made based on such value. Such a proposal would not be mandated by ERA and would have to be debated in Congress on its own merits. It would represent a new departure in thinking in the social security program, which until now has been seen as an earnings-replacement system. But this proposal could pass with or without ERA. ~~A recent article in the St. Paul paper took a quote out of context from a column by Sylvia Porter who indicated in her original~~

~~statement that this was only a proposal and would not be an automatic result of ERA.)~~

~~So,~~ Basically, the ERA would simply require that social security benefits in some way be equalized for men and women. I find it pretty hard to argue with that.

The Equal Rights Amendment will once and for all establish men and women as legal equals. Women will be neither more privileged nor less privileged than men. ~~(First, for the first time in our history we shall start off on an equal footing.)~~ Jill Ruckeshaus, the American chairperson for International Women's Year, says, "The women of America--53% of our population--have waited patiently to be assured that they are not second-class citizens. The passage of the amendment would make that matter of simple justice a constitutional reality." However, there is a vocal minority who disagree with the national leaders and organizations supporting the amendment. This minority is afraid of the Equal Rights amendment. Whether their fears are justified or not, we must discuss them.

The minority opposed to the Equal Rights amendment fear three things: ^{mainly} the destruction of the family and morality; the loss of privacy; and the conscription of their daughters. [While I don't question their sincerity, at times they sound very much like Chicken Little. In fact, ratification of the ERA will not cause the sky to fall in.]

The first spectre haunting the opponents of the ERA is the erosion of family life. ^{Divorces + delinquency have increased for years and ERA is not the cause. We can't blame the ERA which still doesn't exist for something that has been taking place since industrialization.} The ERA, opponents say, will force women to go out and work by taking away from the husband's legal responsibility to support his wife. But the ERA will not require anyone to take a job. The individuals involved will still decide who in the family works outside the home. Under ERA a person can still make a career choice --be it bringing home the bacon or bringing up the baby or both. ~~Nothing in ERA will take away from the career homemaker's valuable~~

As for a husband no longer having to support his wife under ERA, unfortunately it is a fact of life that the legal right of support so persistently cited by the opponents of ERA is of little more than psychological value. Although there are support laws on the books of many states, the courts, in practice, do not enforce them in an ongoing marriage. The only practical way a woman can force support is to sue for separation or divorce. This is hardly strengthening the family.

McGuire v. McGuire is a case in point. The wife of a well-to-do farmer worked the fields, cared for the house, and raised four children. But after 34 years when she became arthritic and her husband refused to install a working furnace or indoor plumbing, the Nebraska Supreme Court declined to intervene because it was an ongoing marriage, saying that in order for the wife to be granted support "the parties must be separated or living apart from each other."

Actually the support laws cited by ERA opponents function primarily for the benefit of creditors, so a store owner can collect from a husband for debts incurred by a wife in her husband's name. But if a husband announces he will not be responsible for his wife's debt, he cannot be forced to pay. You've seen the notices in the papers: "I, John Doe, will no longer...." It is a simple fact that wives without independent income get only that money their husbands choose to give them. Support laws can't really provide legal recourse for a wife. Former Congresswoman Martha Griffiths boils the support issue down to a fundamental truth. "The idea that men support their wives because a statute tells them to is ridiculous. They support their wives and children because they love them and because of long custom."

Under the ERA with equal sharing of lives responsibilities + benefits the family will more likely be strengthened the burden of stereotypes has caused stress on both men + women

Another fear of opponents has to do with abortion. But since the Supreme Court decision on abortion was based on the right to privacy it will not be affected one way or the other by ERA. The two issues are simply unrelated. Most of the national organizations I mentioned

as supporting the ERA have no stand at all on abortion. And Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life - MCCL--on the other hand, ^{is} ~~are~~ officially neutral on the ERA. *They have never come out against it;*

The same thing applies with the worry about legalizing homosexual marriages. States regulate marriages. The Minnesota Supreme Court has defined marriage as the union between two members of the opposite sex. Washington State is an example of one with a state ERA as part of its Constitution. Yet the Washington State Supreme Court upheld its state law prohibiting same sex marriages and said it was not in conflict with its ERA. The ERA prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, not sexual preference or sexual behavior, which is an entirely different matter. The only thing that the ERA means on this issue is that if a state has a law prohibiting men from marrying men, it must also prohibit women from marrying women.

What about the ERA and divorced women? The opponents worry that divorced women will lose the right to alimony and be forced instead to pay alimony to their ex-husbands. Once again, concern has been carried to an illogical conclusion. If a wife has not supported her husband during their marriage she won't have to do it afterward. Alimony at present is worked out in terms of financial ability. Changing the law to read "spouse" instead of "husband" or "wife" ^{is already there in MN.} will not change the judicial practice of awarding support based on need. In the case also of the custody of children, the good of the child will be the primary criterion. ^{Already true in MN. If we have done so well in MN why do we need the ERA. Still cover 140 laws to change expensive one by one. Many important things to do. Other states won't change court federal direction men + women}

^{will have to share lavatories. Mention airplanes} The second nagging fear bothering the opposition is that there will be coeducational bathrooms. But the Constitutional right to privacy will allow continuation of separate facilities for men and women for cases involving disrobing, sleeping or performing bodily functions. In the landmark case, Griswold v. Connecticut, the Supreme Court defined privacy as a separate constitutional right which results

from a combination of the more specific rights outlined in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 9th amendments. Because we possess freedom of speech and religion, freedom from being forced to quarter soldiers, the right against unreasonable search and seizure, and the right against self-incrimination, we consequently possess the right to privacy. Since the ERA will not affect these specific rights, and the Courts interpret the constitution as a whole, the ERA and the right to privacy will be able to co-exist.

To digress for a moment into a more philosophical area--the fears I've just mentioned--threats to modesty, to morality, to the family structure--are often the fears of people and groups who couch their objections in terms of threats to their religious faith. I have spoken to their specific concerns directly and I hope definitively, but underlying these is often the feeling that somehow to support legal equality for women is unspiritual and against the Bible.

I'd like to point out first that many equally devout religious people and groups support the ERA. 19 Protestant churches or their women's organizations signed the Joint Religious Statement on Equal Rights. Church Women United representing the women of almost all the mainstream Protestant churches across the nation is a strong supporter of the ERA. Recently I've been receiving reams of material from the evangelical feminists, evidence of a new movement within the more conservative branches of Protestantism who also strongly support the Biblical concept of equality between men and women. The major national Jewish women's organizations support ERA, as do at least 8 national Catholic groups, including Network, St. Joan's Alliance, and especially organizations of Women Religious.

Because many Leaguers are also committed in their religious faith and are uncomfortable that the opposition to the ERA often uses religious language, ^{we checked a member who has her} I've been asked to speak to this issue also tonight. To do that I'll put on another hat besides my League one, the one I wear with my Master's Degree in Theology and ^{has} my studies of the Biblical perspective

on women's role.

She said that
You all know how you can find a Bible verse to prove just about anything you want to--*she has* I've tried to find one saying, "Thou shalt ratify the ERA, thus saith the Lord"--but unfortunately *she* I can't. On the other hand, *she* I can't find one to the contrary either. What *she did* I do find is conclusive evidence that the overall Biblical themes affirm the thesis that God has ordained equality between men and women and a mutual sharing of his mission on earth.

~~Without giving you a sermon on this subject--which I have done,~~
she referred
~~incidentally, if you want it later--I'll just refer to the fundamental evidence: from the Biblical doctrine of creation of both male and female in the image of God--to the astonishing attitude of Jesus toward women as persons, in a culture when it was considered actually obscene to even teach a woman from the scriptures--to the apostle Paul's ringing affirmation in Galatians of the new social order in Christ - "You are neither Jew nor Greek, you are neither slave nor free: you are neither male nor female, but you are all one in Christ Jesus."~~

Other specific verses of Paul, directed to specific church situations, can be wrenched out of their historical context to keep woman quiet and submissive, but *she contends that these* I ~~contend that the three Biblical themes~~ *already* I've mentioned point up much more strongly the overall Biblical witness: that God wants all his people to share equally in his service and work.

The Christian church through the centuries, as well as institutional Judaism and other world religions, have perpetuated one great put-down of women. Male theologians have just absolutely ignored the really revolutionary attitude of Jesus toward women, including his purposefully choosing to reveal his resurrection first to women--whom of course, the ^{male} disciples didn't believe at first, because they were unreliable witnesses, being women. But anyway, just as the church was slow to awaken to the horrors of slavery and to take a strong stand against it, so the church is just now

awakening to the discrimination which has been practiced against women, much of it in the name of religion. And at long last, much theological and Biblical soul searching is going on so that there is emerging a new Biblical understanding of women as an equal, contributing part of God's people.

~~But to slip back now into my League hat.~~, regardless of a person's philosophical or theological commitment to equality, the ERA will still only affect legal rights, not personal relationships. If a woman still prefers to be quiet and submissive, if she prefers to regard her husband as her lord and master rather than her equal partner, if she still wishes to stand 6 paces behind him as does the Empress of Japan, all this is still quite possible under the ERA. No woman will be obligated to use her legal rights: she will not have to take a job at equal pay. She will not have to seek credit in her own name; she will not have to see her daughter win a scholarship on an equal basis with a boy; she still will not even have to vote. But the ERA will assure all these options to those who do want them.

Quite honestly, so far I have been talking about the rights ERA will confer on both men and women, and the new options it will open up. There is one area which ERA will affect where women may at some time be faced with a new obligation--and we should look at this issue honestly and objectively. It is the issue of the draft.

In the first place, in time of war Congress has always had the power to draft women + almost did during the second world war - except so many women volunteered they didn't have to.

the ERA will not affect these specific rights, it will not affect the resulting right of privacy.

The third big problem ~~spied~~ by those who fear ERA is the draft. The ERA opponents who exploit parents' fear that their daughters will be drafted into combat use an argument that is misleading. (First, it's ^{under ERA} true that women would be eligible for the draft just as men are.

But we should note that only 1% of all men eligible for the draft ever served in combat. Additionally, there ^{have always been stringent} ~~are~~ physical requirements for combat. For example, ~~men with flat feet have never been eligible to~~ fight.

Our opponents also say that women will be torn away from their children. The fact is that family responsibilities have always been a factor in draft status. During the Korean and Vietnam wars, men with children were exempted. Since Congress will under ERA retain the right to establish deferments, as long as they apply equally to both sexes, it could extend the deferment for fathers of dependent children to include mothers. But beyond the question of eligibility for the draft, there is the question of responsibility.

I propose that we would all be willing to defend our country in a time of crisis, and in regard to the draft that is what we are talking about. Our present armed services operate on a volunteer basis so the question is moot, for now. Even if the draft is reinstituted, peacetime draft calls are few and deferments are numerous. So the real question of the draft comes with critical times. In the Forties, ^{as I said} large numbers of women eagerly served their country as volunteers. The 200,000 member Intercollegiate Association of College Women believes military service is a responsibility women should share with men. It is only just that equal rights should mean equal responsibilities.

Like Chicken Little, those who oppose the ERA may truly believe that the sky will fall in if the ERA is passed. They may even convince

others. In Minnesota, we ratified the ERA overwhelmingly more than 2 years ago, after presentation of all the arguments pro and con that we are still hearing today. Yet a small vocal opposition force has kept up the pressure, aided and abetted among others by Sen Florian Chiemilewski, and last May in a surprise move, as I'm sure you recall, he attached to a bill on girls' athletics an amendment to rescind our ratification. ^{of the ERA} This amendment failed 33-33, much too close for comfort. ^{However, it is pretty well agreed that this was a political maneuver - you vote & we & you vote & we} As a result, the ERA support coalition, including many state wide organizations such as the League, has reactivated, has published the leaflet you received tonight, has organized a speakers' bureau, and urges all of you to be sure you are informed on the implications of ERA, so that you can inform others--at coffee parties, at the grocery store, at work, at church meetings, wherever you can--and especially that you tell your legislators of your support for the ERA so that the small minority will not convince our state to make a disastrous mistake next session and rescind our ratification. ^{still important to}

On rescission, most legal opinions hold that it cannot be done, but this may have to be tested in the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, any rescission by Minnesota would certainly have a negative psychological effect on the 16 unratified states of this nation, and we need at least 4 of these for this amendment to become part of our Constitution.

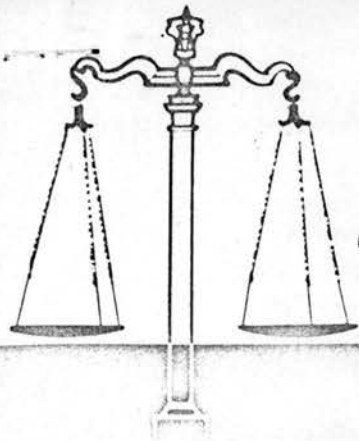
So if we believe the opposition and fail to work for the ERA, we will spend the rest of our days buffeted by the inequalities of life without ERA, making gloomy weather predictions about a new day, that will come despite us. ^{It doesn't matter as much for some of us here in the suburbs & the good life, but other women really need the ERA & we need to help them}

I think we can spend our time more fruitfully. We can work for the Equal Rights Amendment, and assure ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren equal rights, equal opportunity, and a far brighter future.

Thank you. I want the ERA for my sons as much as for my daughters. The slave-master mentality is as bad for the master as for the slave. After going thru reams of material on the ERA including all of the arguments of the opposition I can honestly say I

can't find anything against it that makes sense.
when you look at it rationally instead of emotionally.
Mostly I can't understand why a democratic country
hasn't included women as people always.
A hundred years ago when they freed the slaves it
is incredible that they didn't free women at the
same time.

There are still many misunderstandings, fears
and questions regarding the ERA. I hope you
will bring up the ones that bother you or that
you've heard discussed. I'll do my best to
point out what the ERA will + will not do.



How and Why to Ratify THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

*Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged
by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

Why the Equal Rights Amendment?

The Equal Rights Amendment, or ERA, would amend the United States Constitution to insure that men and women have the same rights and responsibilities under the law.

The Amendment would be a major step toward assuring first class citizenship for women, toward their assumption of fuller responsibilities, and toward bringing women into the mainstream of American life. A century ago Susan B. Anthony remarked: "Men their rights and nothing more. Women their rights and nothing less" . . . Passage of this Amendment would eliminate impediments to women's rights and enable women to share with men the responsibilities of family, community, and Nation.

—Virginia R. Allan, former Chairman of the President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities

How Will ERA Become Law?

Three-fourths of the state legislatures (38 states) must ratify ERA within seven years of March 1972 before it becomes the 27th Amendment to the Constitution. Following that, states have two years in which to review and revise their laws, regulations, and practices to bring them into compliance with the Amendment.

What is ERA?

Simply stated, the Amendment provides that sex should not be a factor in determining the legal rights of men and women. It thus recognizes the fundamental dignity and individuality of each human being. ERA will affect only governmental action; the private relationships of men and women are unaffected. The Amendment does not require any state or the federal government to establish quotas. It does require equal treatment of individuals.

Who Supports ERA?

ERA has received the endorsement of Presidents of the United States, including Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon, and has been repeatedly supported on the national party platforms of the major political parties. The House of Representatives approved the Amendment by a vote of 354 to 23 on October 12, 1971. The Senate passed the Amendment on March 22, 1972, by a vote of 84 to eight. In both houses, efforts to amend ERA were defeated by substantial margins.

In addition, an impressive list of women's groups, labor unions, and religious and professional organizations have recorded their support of ERA. Both the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women, created by President Kennedy, and the President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities, created by President Nixon, have recommended in strongest terms approval of the Amendment.

Is the Equal Rights Amendment Really Needed?

There has been some progress toward equal legal rights for men and women in recent years. However, the fact that persistent patterns of sex discrimination continue to permeate our social, cultural, and economic life has been thoroughly documented in the many Congressional committee hearings held during the past years, and extensively over the last three years.

On the whole, sex discrimination is still much more the rule than the exception. Much of this discrimination is directly attributable to governmental action both in maintaining archaic discriminatory laws and in perpetuating discriminatory practices in employment, education, and other areas. The social and economic cost to our society, as well as the individual psychological impact of sex discrimination, are immeasurable. That a majority of our population should be subjected to the indignities and limitations of second class citizenship is a fundamental affront to personal human liberty.

—Report No. 92-689, Senate Judiciary Committee

Don't Women Have Equal Rights Under the Constitution Now?

The only right women gained under the Suffrage Amendment was the right to vote—their civil rights were unaffected. Although the Fourteenth Amendment, which was made part of the Constitution in 1868, guarantees "equal protection of the laws", not until 1971 did the Supreme Court strike down a law which discriminated against women. The Court invalidated an Idaho law which arbitrarily favored men over women as administrators of estates (*Reed v. Reed*), but it did not overrule earlier decisions upholding sex discrimination cases in other laws, and it did not hold that sex discrimination is "suspect" under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Court left the burden on every woman plaintiff to prove that governmental action perpetuating sex discrimina-

tion is "unreasonable". As the Association of the Bar of the City of New York pointed out in its report, "the 1971 *Reed* case indicated no substantial change in judicial attitude."

Under ERA, the burden will not be on each woman plaintiff to show that sex discrimination is "unreasonable". Instead, all men and women will be assured the right to be free from discrimination based on sex.

Why Not Change Specific Laws Instead?

There are many uncertainties and practical difficulties connected with attempting to change every law which discriminates on the basis of sex. It is time-consuming and expensive; and specific legislation can deal only with specific problems. A constitutional amendment is the only realistic way to insure equal treatment of the sexes before the law.

It would be possible for Congress and each State to revise their laws and eliminate those which discriminate on the basis of sex. But without the impetus of the Equal Rights Amendment, that process would be far too haphazard and much too slow to be acceptable, especially in light of the fact that the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced 49 years ago.

... we cannot overlook the immense, symbolic importance of the Equal Rights Amendment. The women of our country must have tangible evidence of our commitment to guarantee equal treatment under the law. An amendment to the Constitution has great moral and persuasive value. Every citizen recognizes the importance of a constitutional amendment, for the Constitution declares the most basic policies of our Nation as well as the supreme law of the land.

—Senator Birch Bayh (D-Indiana)

How Will the Amendment Affect Existing Laws?

Essentially, the Amendment requires the federal government and all state and local governments to treat each person, man and woman, as an individual. State legislatures have the primary responsibility for revising those laws which are in conflict with the Amendment. The effective date of ERA has been delayed for two years after ratification to give states time to do this.

In cases where the states have failed to act, these issues can easily be resolved, with the guidance of well-established precedents, by the courts. The legislative history of the Amendment indicates that Congress expects any law which is truly beneficial to be extended to protect both sexes, while laws which are truly restrictive and discriminatory would become null and void. In a great many instances, the problem can be solved simply by changing the laws to read "persons" instead of "male" or "female".

Where a statute is defective because of underinclusion there exist two remedial alternatives: a court may either declare it a nullity and order that its benefits not extend to the class that the legislature intended to benefit, or it may extend the coverage of the statute to include those who are aggrieved by exclusion.

—Mr. Justice Harlan, concurring in *Welsh v. United States*

Would Women Be Drafted Under the Equal Rights Amendment?

Congress now possesses the power to include women in any military conscription. ERA would not limit that power of Congress. However, under the Military Selective Service Act of 1967, only male citizens must register for the draft. The Amendment would require that this law, or any subsequent law concerning military and/or alternative national service, be extended to women equally.

Women would be allowed to volunteer for military service on the same basis as men: those who are physically and otherwise qualified under neutral standards could not be prohibited from joining solely because of their sex. With respect to the draft—if there is one at all—both men and women who meet the physical and other requirements and who are not exempt or deferred would be subject to conscription.

Of course, the ERA will not require that all women serve in the military any more than all men are now required to serve. Those women who are physically or mentally unqualified, or who are conscientious objectors, or who are exempt because of their responsibilities (e.g., certain public officials; or those with dependents) will not have to serve, just as men who are unqualified or exempt do not serve today. Thus the fear that mothers will be conscripted from their children into military services if the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified is totally and completely unfounded. Congress will retain ample power to create legitimate sex-neutral exemptions from compulsory service. For example, Congress might well decide to exempt all parents of children under 18 from the draft.

—Report No. 92-689, Senate Judiciary Committee

Under ERA, women would also be entitled, as men now are, to reap the benefits which flow from military service. These include, for example, educational benefits of the GI bill; medical care in the service and through veterans' hospitals; job preferences in government and out; and the training, maturity, and leadership provided by service in the military itself.

Does This Mean Women Would Be Assigned to Combat Duty?

Once in the service, women, like men, would be assigned to various duties by their commanders, depending on their qualifications and the service's needs. Only those persons — men or women — who can meet the very high physical demands which combat duty imposes would be eligible for such assignments. Today, less than 1 percent of those men eligible for the draft are assigned to combat units. Studies have shown that almost nine out of 10 jobs done in the service are non combat jobs.

There are now, of course, a considerable number of women serving with distinction in the military services, and many of them are serving in combat zones and receiving combat pay. Then, too, as Senator Marlow Cook (R-Kentucky) has pointed out, "Combat today may be a lady sitting at a computer at a missile site in North Dakota."

What About State "Protective" Labor Laws?

Almost every state has some kind of so-called "protective" legislation which applies only to women. It may restrict the number of hours they work, set limits on the pounds they can lift, restrict night work, provide for special seating arrangements, or prohibit their employment in certain occupations. While these laws were originally enacted to prevent women from being exploited, they now serve to restrict employment opportunities by keeping women out of some jobs which offer higher pay or advancement. To the extent these laws provide meaningful protections, men are today arbitrarily denied benefits they need and deserve. Many of these state "protective" laws are being struck down because of their incompatibility with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sex discrimination in employment where sex is not a "bona fide occupational qualification".

The Commission believes that such state laws and regulations, although originally promulgated for the purpose of protecting females, have ceased to be relevant to our technology or to the expanding role of the female worker in our economy. The Commission has found that such laws and regulations do not take into account the capacities, preferences and abilities of individual females and tend to discriminate rather than protect.

—Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidelines,
August 19, 1969

Women today work for the same reasons as men—namely, to support themselves, their families, and other dependents. And increasingly, working women are testing the validity of state "protective" laws.

The truth, more abundantly clear with each passing week, is that "real" working women in the factories of the land, with or without the support of their unions, have been making a charge at the discriminatory practices authorized or not prevented by the state protective laws, and have been challenging the validity of these laws with considerable success. Not professional nor business women but women who work for wages have brought most of the suits, or had the most suits filed in their behalf, charging the state protective laws with discrimination based on sex.

—Olga Madar, Vice President, United Auto Workers

How Would ERA Apply to Schools?

Discrimination against women, in contrast to that against minorities, is still overt and socially acceptable within the academic community.

—A Ford Foundation Report On Higher Education

Under the Equal Rights Amendment, state supported schools at all levels would have to make certain that

admissions and the distribution of scholarship funds were on the basis of ability or other relevant characteristics, not on the basis of sex. In like manner, employment and promotion in public schools and colleges would have to be free of sex discrimination. The Amendment would not require the setting of quotas for men and women, nor would it require that schools accurately reflect the sex distribution of the population. State schools and colleges currently limited to one sex would have to allow both sexes to attend.

What Would ERA do to Relationships Between Men and Women?

ERA applies only to government action and legal rights, not to social customs. The question of who pays the dinner check, opens the door, or pulls out a chair has nothing to do with equal legal rights. Social customs and personal relationships between men and women would be decided by the individuals involved.

It is important to note that the only kind of sex discrimination which [ERA] would forbid is that which exists in law. Interpersonal relationships and customs of chivalry will, of course, remain as they always have been, a matter of individual choice. The passage of this Amendment will neither make a man a gentleman nor will it require him to stop being one.

—Senator Marlow Cook (R-Kentucky)

Does the Right to Privacy Conflict With ERA?

"Equality under the law" does not mean that the sexes must be regarded as identical, and it does not prohibit states from requiring that there be a reasonable separation of the sexes under some circumstances. States would continue to have the power to require segregation of the sexes for regulatory purposes with respect to such facilities as sleeping quarters at coeducational colleges, prison dormitories, and military barracks.

In addition, the right to privacy under the Constitution would also permit a separation of the sexes with respect to such places as public toilets and sleeping quarters of public institutions.

... the right to be free of sex discrimination would have to harmonize with other constitutional rights, such as the right to privacy recognized by the Supreme Court in Griswold v. Connecticut. Therefore, the Equal Rights Amendment most certainly would not abolish the practice of providing separate restrooms for boys and girls in public schools. The right to privacy would justify some segregation by sex in the military, as well as in prisons and other public institutions.

—Representative Martha Griffiths (D-Michigan)

What About Family Relationships?

ERA would apply only to governmental action. It would not affect private action or the purely social relationships between men and women. Domestic relations and community property laws, however, would have to be based on individual circumstances and needs, and not on sexual stereotypes.

Alimony laws would continue in effect under ERA. Continued support of one spouse by the other after divorce or separation, if based on actual economic dependency or relative ability to provide family support, would be permitted.

... the Equal Rights Amendment would not deprive women of any enforceable rights of support and it would not weaken the father's obligation to support the family.

—Citizens' Advisory Council
on the Status of Women

The Amendment would bar a state from imposing a greater liability on one spouse than on the other merely because of sex. It is clear that the Amendment would not require both a husband and wife to contribute identical amounts of money to a marriage. The support obligation of each spouse would be defined in functional terms based, for example, on each spouse's earning power, current resources and nonmonetary contributions to the family welfare... where one spouse is the primary wage earner and the other runs the home, the wage earner would have a duty to support the spouse who stays at home in compensation for the performance of her or his duties.

—Association of the Bar
of the City of New York

Would Maternity Legislation be Affected?

Legislation allowing maternity benefits would not be prohibited by the Amendment because it is based on a function unique to one sex. "Equality" does not mean "sameness".

So long as the characteristic is found in all women and no men, or in all men and no women, the law does not violate the basic principle of the Equal Rights Amendment; for it raises no problem of ignoring individual characteristics in favor of a prevailing group characteristic or average.

—Professor Thomas I. Emerson,
Yale Law School

What About Women Who Choose Homemaking as a Career?

ERA would not take women out of the home. It definitely would not require both the husband and wife to become wage earners. Rather than downgrading the roles of mother and housewife, the Amendment would give new dignity to these important roles.

By confirming woman's equality under the law, by upholding woman's right to choose her place in society, the Equal Rights Amendment can only enhance the status of traditional women's occupations. For these would become positions accepted by women as equals, not roles imposed on them as inferiors.

—Representative Florence P. Dwyer (R-New Jersey)

How Would ERA Affect Criminal Laws?

State laws which provide greater penalties for female law violators than for male violators committing the same crime would be nullified by ERA. But the Amendment will not invalidate laws which punish rape.

Rape laws... are perfectly constitutional, for both the group which is protected; namely, women, and the group which can be punished; namely, men, have unique physical characteristics which are directly related to the crime, to the act for which an individual is punished.

—Senator Birch Bayh (D-Indiana)

How Would Property Rights Be Affected?

State laws which place special restrictions on the property rights of married women would be nullified. A married woman would be permitted to manage or own separate property in the same manner as her husband. She would also be able to enter into contracts or run her own business as freely as a member of the male sex.

Would Jury Laws Be Affected?

The Equal Rights Amendment would make women eligible for jury service on the same basis as men. Any state laws "relieving" only women from jury duty simply because they are women, or requiring them to register for jury duty only if they are interested in serving, would be invalid.



What
does it
mean to
women's
rights
in marriage
and divorce
under ERA?

ERA will continue a trend toward applying the yardstick, "Who is able to support whom?" Since courts seldom intervene in such private relationships as an ONGOING MARRIAGE, in reality a married woman living with her husband gets only what he chooses to give her. Under ERA, support in SEPARATION cases would be settled, as it is now, on an individual basis.

The case of the woman divorced in late middle years and unequipped by training or experience to earn a living is often cited. In a DIVORCE, the same principle of need and ability to pay will apply to ALIMONY under ERA--just as it does now. So also with CHILD SUPPORT. (At present, only 38% of fathers are making full child support payments one year after the decree.) Correspondingly, CHILD CUSTODY will be based on which parent can better care for the child.

Who
supports
ERA?

Many organizations, representing a great variety of men and women, endorse the ERA. Among the national groups are these:

American Association of College Deans; American Association of Women Ministers; American Home Economics Association; American Jewish Congress; American Medical Women's Association; American Newspaper Guild; American Nurses Association; American Society of Microbiology; American Society of Women Certified Public Accountants; American Women in Radio and Television; Association of American Women Dentists; B'nai B'rith Women; Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Council for Christian Social Action, United Church of Christ; Ecumenical Task Force of Women and Religion (Catholic Caucus); Federally Employed Women; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Intercollegiate Association of Women Students; International Association of Human Rights Agencies; International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars; League of American Working Women; League of Women Voters of the United States; National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs; National Education Association; National Federation; National Welfare Rights Organization; Professional Women's Conference; St. Joan's Alliance of Catholic Women; United Methodist Church-Women's Division; Women's Christian Temperance Union; and Women United.

Pub. no. 272--Bulk prices on request

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES
1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

THE ERA

what it
means to
men and women

What
is
ERA?

ERA, the Equal Rights Amendment, is the proposed 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It says that "E/quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

What
will
ERA
do?

It will remove sex as a factor in determining the legal rights of men and women. It will primarily affect government action. It will not interfere in private relationships. For example, the questions of who will wash the dishes, open the door, or bring home the paycheck are outside the jurisdiction of the ERA. The general principle is: IF A LAW RESTRICTS RIGHTS, IT WILL NO LONGER BE VALID; IF IT PROTECTS RIGHTS, IT WILL PROBABLY BE EXTENDED TO MEN.

How
will
ERA
become
law?

< By March 1973, ³⁴ 29 states had ratified the ERA. Ratification by 9 more states before March 1979 will bring the total to 38--the three-fourths required to amend the Constitution. ERA will not become effective, though, when the 38th state ratifies it. States will then have two years to review and revise their laws, regulations and practices--ample time to bring them into compliance.

Why
do we
need
ERA?

Even though there are some laws on the books forbidding discrimination against women, there is no clear constitutional protection. The Supreme Court has never decided whether the 14th Amendment prohibits discrimination based on sex. Today in 1973, 49 years after ERA was first introduced, women in some states are still not recognized as mature, responsible adults. They cannot serve on juries...start a business...get a mortgage...control their own property, their own paychecks, or the property and money of their children.

PRESIDENT NIXON put his finger on the need when he said, "Throughout twenty-one years I have not altered my belief that equal rights for women warrant a Constitutional guarantee." (March 18, 1972)

What do
national
leaders
say
about
ERA?

VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO T. AGNEW

"The Equal Rights for Women Amendment...deserves wholehearted support of all Americans.../W/e have made a great deal of progress toward the goal of equality between the sexes but we need a continuing concerted effort to make this principle a reality." (October 24, 1968)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA GRIFFITHS

"In 196 years of this country's being, any government could make any law it chose against women and the Supreme Court has upheld that law...Corporations have been 'people' for more than 100 years. It is high time that we too became human. We cannot rely upon the Courts. I urge the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment." (February 27, 1973)

U.S. SENATOR STROM THURMOND

"There has been progress in recent years toward the goal of equal rights and responsibilities for men and women.../T/he only practical basis to provide the necessary changes is thru a constitutional amendment." (April 10, 1972)

LUCY WILSON BENSON, President, LWVUS

"The League grew out of women's struggle for the vote. The League has been a part of the struggle to assure constitutional rights for all people, and we know how slow the case-by-case process can be. We think it's long past time for the nation to affirm the legal equality of women right in the Constitution." (August 26, 1972)

GOVERNOR GEORGE C. WALLACE

"I...favor the Equal Rights for Women Amendment. I...will do all in my power to bring about the early passage of the appropriate legislation." (July 20, 1968)

THE 92ND CONGRESS

The House passed the ERA by a vote of 354 to 23.

The Senate passed the ERA by a vote of 84 to 8.

How
will
ERA
affect
Social
Security
benefits?

The ERA won't take away a single Social Security benefit women now have. It will give benefits equally to men and women. The 1972 Social Security Amendments have already moved in that direction. For instance, men as well as women can now begin to draw benefits at 62.

The ERA will enable a man to draw on his wife's social security just as any wife now draws on her husband's account. For example, today if a woman dies or retires, her widower is not automatically entitled as a dependent to his wife's benefits. Under ERA he would be.

Will men
and women
have to
share
sleeping
quarters?

The ERA won't interfere with the constitutional right of privacy, which permits separation of the sexes in such places as public toilets and military barracks. And states will still have the power to separate the sexes in sleeping quarters of such institutions as coeducational schools, prison dormitories and mental care facilities.

Will
women
be drafted
under
ERA?

With a volunteer army about to go into effect, it's a dead issue for now, anyway. Under ERA, Congress could draft women (incidentally, it already can) but their chances of serving in combat duty is slim. In 1971, only 5% of eligible males were actually inducted, only 1% of those inducted were ever assigned to combat duty, and only a fraction of those served at the front lines. Women won't be "snatched away" from their children to be drafted. Men have always been exempted for a variety of reasons, including family responsibilities--and so will women be.

What the ERA would do is end the practice of demanding higher qualifications for women than for men and so open up the possibility of GI benefits to a greater number of women.

How will
ERA affect
labor laws
that
protect
women?

Labor laws saying what hours women can work and how many pounds they can lift, originally intended to protect women from being exploited on the job, are now often used to bar working women from getting better jobs at better pay. Such discriminatory rules and regulations exist in 26 states. In Ohio, for example, a woman cannot be a gas or electric meter reader or a section hand. ERA would put a stop to this nonsense.

Will ERA
eliminate
laws
against
rape?

Criminal laws against rape will still be valid (as well as civil laws applying to one sex, such as medical payments for childbirth). What ERA will change is this: Courts will have to stop giving a longer prison sentence to a woman than to a man for the same offense--or vice versa.

How will
ERA affect
states'
rights?

Section 2 of ERA, which reads, "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article," does not take away states' rights. Whenever the Constitution is amended, the states have the right to act and enforce the amendment. Almost identical language appears in the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th and 26th Amendments to the Constitution.

HOWARD A. KNUTSON
Senator 53rd District
1907 Woods Lane
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
Telephone:
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335-9307 (Office)
296-4120 (Senate)

*Helene,
I thought you might be interested
in this letter. It was a reaction
to our letters urging support
of ERA. Please return to me after
reading it.*

Senate

Barb
State of Minnesota

November 5, 1975

Ms. Barb Rivers
13846 Gladiola Court
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124

Dear *Barb* Ms. Rivers:

I appreciate all the letters I received in support of the ERA. This gives me a chance to explain my position and hopefully receive more input.

Let me first clearly establish that I do support equality of rights and responsibilities therewith for all people.

In this I think we agree.

However, the method of reaching and guaranteeing this equality is open for discussion. Therefore the subject matter deserves the length of this letter.

First of all, what guarantees do we have now--legal guarantees, that is, because that is all we can really talk about.

The 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution says in Section 1, ". . . No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. . . nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Sec. 5 says, "The congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

It is my information that at least 180 federal court cases have been decided under this amendment, which cases prohibit discrimination based on sex.

The state constitution provides in Section 2 that "No member of this state shall be disenfranchised or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to any citizen thereof, unless by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers."

Page 2

In my opinion this is much in line with the 14th amendment to the federal constitution.

Minnesota Statutes 181.66 is entitled "Equal pay for equal work" and Section 181.67 prohibits wage discrimination because of sex.

Minnesota Statutes 519.04 provides that a wife can hold property in her own name. Only the homestead must be jointly conveyed. All rights gained because of the marriage contract may be conveyed by separate deeds. This is not the result of sex discrimination but rather the result of rights arising from the marriage contract.

Minnesota Statutes 363.03, Subd. 3, prohibits denial of full use of public services because of sex.

I think it is fair to say that most, if not all, good things promised by ERA are now law in Minnesota.

On the other hand, under ERA it is doubtful that any job differential--laws excluding women from hazardous occupations, weight lifting, or pregnancy leaves--would be permissible between the sexes.

It is also quite clear that every wife and mother will lose the right to be supported by her husband.

Let's look at some actual court decisions in states with ERA blanket-type amendments rather than Minnesota's procedure.

Colorado--Six homosexual marriage licenses have been issued with all the rights of married couples, including that of raising adopted children.

Pennsylvania--The former support law was declared unconstitutional and now women must share in the financial support of the family. (I'm not sure just what this means as yet.)

Washington (state)--It is unconstitutional to separate by sex in state institutions. The latest decision requires all athletic teams to be open to both sexes, at least as I have heard the decision to be. (Minnesota enacted a law permitting separate teams, if necessary for equal participation and competition.)

Other factors to consider--

Social Security--It is generally agreed that under ERA the income producing spouse would have to contribute once on his own account and a second time on the assumed earnings--calculated by a government produced table--of the non-income producing spouse. Presently the surviving spouse can draw benefits, in many instances, based on the working spouse's contributions. Any gaps you may have read about could perhaps be filled by other kinds of law changes, which changes would also consider the total contribution picture along with a policy to encourage the family situation without forcing the homemaker to work outside the home. The renewed interest in the role of the family should be encouraged and supported. Social Security itself, not being actuarially sound, demands careful scrutiny, especially when many think private endowments or pensions yield a better return.

Family--As you note, some states have proceeded to reinforce equality laws by proceeding to reinforce on a selective situation basis while others have proceeded on a blanket basis. Given the relationship of husband and wife and parents and children, I question whether the blanket approach (ERA amendment) may be an additional unwarranted pressure on the family at a time when we are beginning to again recognize the role and value of the family in society.

Government--In our pluralistic society, we have rested on a principle that government closest to the people is best. A great deal of what this means is that we do have preserved in our government structure the ability of people, cities, counties, and states to be different--to adapt to their own concerns, beliefs and situations. Part of this is in the general principle that our constitution preserves to the states all powers except such as are specifically granted to the federal government. As you know, the second part of the amendment says that "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

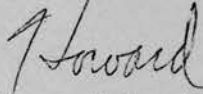
The U.S. Constitution already speaks to this. However, we maintain a state and legislative flexibility to establish policy as close to home as possible without a blanket policy being imposed from above. Otherwise Minnesota would not be able to do what we have already done.

Page 4

I favor equality, I favor the Minnesota approach, and I favor the family unit. That is why I voted for rescission and now tend to favor this position even though I supported the original passage of this amendment.

I have extensive information about the ERA, including a Yale Law Journal article, available for your perusal at any time you desire.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard".

Howard A. Knutson

HAK:js

GEORGE S. PILLSBURY

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Senate
State of Minnesota

November 19, 1975

From: George S. Pillsbury

Subject: Equal Rights Amendment

Helmer

Per your request, enclosed is the report.
Hope it will be helpful and will appreciate
any comments you may have on it.

George

GSP:js
encs

replied 12/7/75

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 Wabasha Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102 - 612/224-5445

December 7, 1975

Dear George,

Writing that date always shakes me up a bit.

Thanks for all that information you sent. I have already used it and I am sure I will refer to it many times. I hope you intend to write the needed legislation to make the suggested changes. You will certainly have League support.

You are absolutely right in thinking the ERA would not be needed if every state were as concerned with equality as Minnesota has been. However, it looks as though we still have about 140 laws to change. We should certainly concentrate on making these changes. I hope while doing so you can quell some of the illogical fears of your fellow legislators regarding the end results of equality. We keep getting letters saying, "I believe in equality, but - - " and concluding with the ramifications of all the world's problems.

I haven't gone over each in detail, but my general impression is that they're good.

I do believe that you believe in equality - even for women. I am convinced we can work together toward that goal and I'll be watching for your bills in the coming session. If the League can be of any assistance, please let me know.

November 25, 1975

Dear Barbaras,

Here are a few answers for Knutson's letter. They are by no means all that can be said, but just some thoughts in case you need them. I'll just go through it point by point.

The 14th amendment: From the beginning of our Constitution up until 1972, the Supreme Court never once held a sex-based legislative classification to be violative of the 14th amendment. Since 1972 I think there have been only two decisions that include women in the equal protection clause and then only in limited instances. As far as Sec. 5 is concerned The Court has ruled that they may not authorize legislation in areas traditionally reserved to states without specific direction. Those cases he mentions in federal courts could be most anything and I don't know how you could check on that statistic. At any rate, without the ERA it is up to each woman to prove she has been discriminated against. It isn't society's responsibility not to discriminate against her.

Minnesota has corrected many of its statutes to ease discrimination against women, but I have a list of over 140 more, collected by Senator Pillsbury, that still discriminate against women and should be changed. This will take a lot of time and money to do this one by one. Besides most states are way behind Minnesota in this effort. As we learned in Civil Rights it takes federal guidance to make many of these states do what they should have done long ago. Some states have community property laws, where the husband has complete control of even his wife's property. Some refuse credit to women, even when they have profitable businesses or large incomes, etc. Prostitution is only penalized as being a crime of women. Women are denied certain jobs and certain training, etc. On and on. In fact, any law changed recently in Minnesota regarding sex discrimination, is still on the books in many states. We need to help these people get their rights

Protective legislation regarding employment will not be eliminated. If it is needed it will be protective for men as well as women. In the past most legislation of this sort has just been used to keep women out of some well paying jobs. More men have bad backs and hernias than women have. Do we approve of that when in many instances power equipment could save their health.

We have only the most minimal support laws now and they are virtually never enforced. Women who have tried to demand support have been told that the courts do not interfere in personal relationships. As long as a couple has not separated the woman must take what her husband is willing to give her, even if she has the barest necessities and he is wealthy. And that includes marriages where the wife has done half the work to earn the money - particularly on farms and in family businesses. A husband can, at any time, publish a notice saying he is not responsible for debts incurred by his wife and he isn't. Even after separation and a wife is given the right of some support, civil enforcement mechanisms are woefully inadequate. Under our present laws husbands support their wives because they want to, not because they can be made to. That would not change under the ERA.

Minnesota law states that a marriage is a union between two persons of the opposite sex. Until that law is changed there can be no legal homosexual marriages in Minnesota. The ERA prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, not sexual preference or sexual behavior. A state can legalize homosexual marriages without the ERA, but it would not be a way of doing it.

Laws regarding separate athletic teams will probably have to be handled like affirmative action - as something needed to make up for past wrongs, or else as something needed to provide equal opportunity, as we do with other education.

Social Security can be changed by an act of Congress. Many proposals have been made and could result in changes without the ERA. The only immediate change with ~~pass~~ ratification of the ERA would be that husbands would collect their wives' benefits just as wives now collect their husbands' benefits. Bringing whole different issues, particularly emotionally charged ones, is just diversionary. What should be done about social security is one of these.

Family - Divorce rates have been climbing, as has delinquency, probably since people started leaving farms and getting into industrialization. The strains and pressures will continue. Women are working outside the home, usually because they must. Rather than the ERA being an additional burden, it is more logical that when women and men don't have to struggle with the present discrimination, when they can bear responsibilities equally, when they are not compelled to be locked into stereotyped relationships, they will have a new freedom and families will be healthier. A slave-master relationship can't begin to be as valuable a background for raising children as a relationship held together by love and mutual sharing.

Amendments 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 24, and 26 have almost identical language as that in section two of the ERA. When the Minnesota legislature ratified 26 a few years ago they said nothing about states' rights or losing powers. Suddenly they protest an accepted wording, which logically has to be part of the Constitution.

The Yale Law Journal article, which is constantly referred to, merely explores the possible results of the ERA. As long as Knutson has it, take him up on ~~ix~~ his offer to let you peruse it. I'll bet he hasn't. They all quote it because Senator Ervin used it as a refutation of the ERA. He took every sentence out of context and completely distorted its meaning. I have what he said and what the Law Journal said and his liberties are unconscionable. I was quite disillusioned. However, not that this article supports the ERA, but it doesn't say what these legislators think it does. Most authorities, legal minds, etc. support the ERA. The difference between the quality of these in support and those in opposition is unbelievable. Every president, starting with Eisenhower, has been a supporter. Congress~~ed~~ voted overwhelmingly for it. Virtually no one opposed it until Phyllis Schlafly and her cohorts got to work. After going over all the pros and cons in vast amounts of materials, I simply cannot find a single thing against it. People fear any change and fight against it with scare tactics, emotional boogymen and misconceptions. We have to just keep stating the facts and overcoming their fears. It is really incredible that we haven't had the ERA for a hundred years.

It is interesting to me that these women working against the ERA seem to be able to spend so much more time away from their families out speaking on the benefits of keeping women in the home, than do the supporters of the ERA, who aren't willing to neglect their children while they fight for a better life for them.

Note the supporters of the ERA, including unions. Read what the amendment actually says. It can do no more than that. Just keep that in mind and you can really refute almost any argument. If you have any more questions call me, or call Jeanette Kahlenberg, 429-6070. She is the LWV's representative on the Coalition for the ERA.

This is a really quick letter and poorly done, but I'm off to another meeting. Be sure to reply to Knutson's letter.

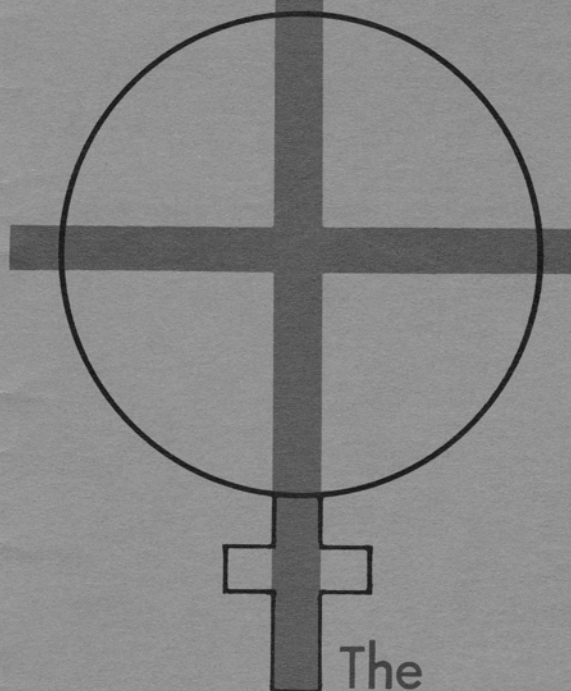
Sincerely,

Helene Borg

[1975]

The Equal Rights Amendment will assure the legal rights of women. Not to guarantee these rights is to deny the full humanity of women and to deny the basic meaning of the Constitution of the United States which recognizes human dignity and equality. Rights cannot be given, they already exist, but they must be recognized and supported by our action. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment . . . is one of the most important actions our nation can take to affirm the principles on which this nation was founded, principles which flowed out of our religious heritage.

—Claire Randall, General Secretary,
National Council of Churches



This leaflet was prepared and is being distributed by the ERA Support Project, a joint project of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries and the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. For further information write: ERA Support Project, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Additional copies of this leaflet available from: Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Order No. W6000. Price \$5.00 per 100. Please enclose payment with order.

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PROJECT
EQUALITY
PARTICIPANT

The
Church,
Religion,
and
the
Equal
Rights
Amendment



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

August 5, 1976

Peggy Lampl, Executive Director
LWV-US
1730 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Lampl:

Enclosed please find \$20.00 cash to be added to the League's ERA campaign fund. The contribution is from a group of twenty Japanese students who spent the afternoon of August 3rd in our office with Board members Helene Borg and Mary Watson. This is the second year such a group of students has visited us to learn about the LWV and to discuss issues. This year, as last, there was considerable discussion about equality and the Equal Rights Amendment, so we think it fitting that their contribution go to the ERA Campaign Fund.

Next year when they visit, we intend to have one of Minnesota's male League members assist with the briefing so the boys and male teachers will feel more comfortable and at ease.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb
Office Manager

H:M
Enclosure





memorandum

The League of Women Voters of the United States

This is going on DPM

July 1976

TO: State and Local League Presidents
FROM: Veta Winick, Public Relations Chairman
RE: Womens Equality Day, August 26

With Womens Equality Day coming up on August 26, we have an excellent opportunity to remind the American public that equality under the law still eludes us.

As you know, during the suffrage movement, women used to take to the streets marching for suffrage while they carried banners proclaiming that it was time for a change in the Constitution. We believe that the use of banners on Womens Equality Day and in the ERA struggle has considerable potential.

Banners with the slogan "Make '76 the banner year for equality--and wrap-up ERA in '77" could be an excellent League project to launch on August 26th. Banners could be flown from League members homes, presented to legislators during sessions, displayed in store windows and put up at other locations. They offer a constant reminder that we want equality for all now.

Enclosed is a sample press release. Please feel free to modify it to meet your needs. We believe that a press release along with banners has considerable public relations potential for your League in the ERA struggle.

In addition, if women's groups in your community plan to hold a rally or any type of gathering is planned for August 26th, not only will you want to take your banners, but you'll want to take along presidential debate petitions since those sites offer good opportunities for collecting signatures.

#



ERA COALITION

PO Box 7

Rosemount, Mn. 55068

OCT 12 1976

THERE ARE A FEW FANATICS, WHO IF THEY COULD,
WOULD FORCE THE WOMEN OF THIS GENERATION BACK
INTO THE SPHERES OF THEIR GRANDMOTHERS.

Carrie Chapman Catt, 1900
Quotables from ERA Monitor

We want to go forward — not back into the spheres of our grandmothers!!
The Minnesota Coalition to Support the ERA, formed to educate Minnesota
citizens about the ERA and to testify before the legislature, if necessary,
needs your support.

Is your organization willing to:
(Check all appropriate blanks)

_____ join or continue membership in the Coalition. Twenty-four
organizations belonged to the Coalition in 1975-76.

_____ contribute \$25 or more for 1976-77. (For reprint of our
successful ERA leaflet.)

_____ recruit additional organizations to our cause.

The amendment must be ratified by 39 states by 1979. We need your
support financially to continue our educational program. We need
your representative to the Coalition who is willing to work for the
cause and to attend meetings. Please sign and return this form by
October 31. Thank you.

Signature: _____

Representative is: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Your representative has been Jeannette Kahlenberg.

Return to Herb 'Grass roots' group seeks to block ERA

By TOM HORNER

back to September 1974 and claims 600 members. The league is also part

~~~~~  
"We've got everything

Erhard, "is that we feel very strongly that the family has been at-

"We support women's rights," said Erhard. "That's why we oppose



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February 21, 1976

Route 1  
Morris, MN 56267

Dear Sanny,

Thanks so much for sending me the ERA articles that Judy Johnson wrote. I think she did an excellent job and have passed them along to Lois DeSantis, the H.R. chairman. I really do believe that such efforts are making a difference. I find people so much more aware, of what the ERA really will do, than they were even a year ago. The interviews of the legislators ~~showed~~<sup>3</sup> indicated that most of them ~~were~~<sup>3</sup> firmly behind the ERA, in spite of all the publicity the "aginners" are getting.

Please, thank Judy for me and congratulate her on her election to City Council. Obviously her support of the ERA was not a hindrance.

Hope all is well in Stevens County. I will probably see you at Council.

Sincerely,

Helene Borg, Action Chairman



the U.S. Supreme Court.

Complex ethical problems are not settled by amendments. The social solutions to such problems can be worked out in the courts. An amendment serves as a guideline for the making and interpreting of laws. But the precise meaning of any law or the rights of any person under the law is decided by judges in our courts. The judges use the Constitution and its amendments as a guideline to interpret laws and to determine individual rights. The ERA is a constitutional guideline for determining if state and federal laws, passed by legislatures, deny any person their rights because of their sex. It is a guideline for judges to use in deciding in court if any person has been treated unjustly by other individuals or institutions because of his or her sex. It is a guideline for legislatures to use when passing laws in the future. ERA is not a threat. ERA, if passed, is our promise, as a nation, to encourage an even more inclusive practice of the idea of equality for all.

Thought you might like to see these ERA articles. They were written by the gal who does this column on a regular basis and published in the local paper.

Our marvelous Voters Service Chairman, Judy Johnson, ran for City Council and won. She was the only woman running and she received more votes than any other candidate. We're happy for her success but she will be sorely missed on our board. It is of some consolation to know she missed us, too.

C'est la vie.

Sonny Lee  
LWV of Stevens County

# LWV: FACTS FOR VOTERS.



A column of Public Information Prepared by the  
League of Women Voters of Stevens county.

+++++

## ERA — Part II

One issue often discussed in connection with ERA is women and the draft. "Will women be drafted," someone will ask. The answer is if there is a draft women would be treated equally with men. In short, the answer is yes. A clear picture of the draft issue can be made with a few straightforward points:

1. At the present time there is no draft. Neither men or women are being drafted.

2. When there is a draft congress sets the requirements for who will and won't be drafted. In the Korean and Vietnam conflicts men with children were exempted. If ERA were passed the congress would have to set regulations that would apply to men and women equally. However, parents with children and other special persons could be exempted. If the need for drafting family persons arose there are a variety of possibilities for making sure at least one parent remained at home with the children.

3. Women could indeed be required to serve in combat zones. At present persons are selected for combat duty if they are mentally and physically capable. It can be assumed this policy will continue and any women serving in a combat zone would have to meet the physical and mental requirements. Opponents draw gruesome pictures of grenade torn bodies of women strewn the battle fields. It is an ugly picture. So is the picture of a young man barely twenty lying bleeding to death on a battle field. Is it any less reasonable to send a young single woman to combat than a young single man? If women share equally in participating in our government through voting and

holding office, ought they be less responsible in supporting the defensive or aggressive actions of our government?

5. Women are already serving in the armed forces, yet they are not receiving equal benefits. It is pointed out on page 978 of the April, 1971 "Yale Law Journal" (Vol. 60, No. 6) "Male officers are provided quarters on base, or a basic quarters allowance for their dependents if they live off base; male officers also receive a dependents allowance based on their grade and the number of dependents, regardless of any money the officer's wife may earn. The husband of a female officer, however, is not recognized as a dependent unless he is physically or mentally incapable of supporting himself and is dependent on his wife for more than half of his support." The armed services have been improving conditions for women and moving toward equality. The ERA will guarantee that women can receive the benefits of such job training as that of an electronic technician or pilot. The women will not be limited to clerk-typist and nurse. They can have a choice of careers. This will make more women eligible for such benefits as GI bills for college and other special veterans benefits.



# LWV FACTS FOR VOTERS

A column of Public Information Prepared by the  
League of Women Voters of Stevens county.

PART I

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

The amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

If you walk into a room full of people and say "ERA" you may hear all sorts of replies ringing about your ears. Such phrases as "abortion," "breakdown of the family," "women fighting in combat," "women and children left starving by deserting husbands," may be shouted your way. "Weak and ineffectual," "written by male pigs," "a million years of suppression" may come at you from other directions. There is a great deal of emotional slogan spouting by both opponents and proponents of ERA. What is needed is a quiet look at what the amendment does and does not say. Let's see what it does and does not do. Go back and read the three statements of the ERA, above. Do you see any statements that relate to the emotional phrases we just quoted? What does it really mean?

Certainly ERA has come about because of the Women's Liberation Movement, but it is not espoused to the Women's Liberation cause. Those writing the amendment took a broad view of social dilemmas and realized that people of both genders are often locked into social frameworks that are unfair. They wrote a simple but inclusive amendment. ERA pertains to both men and women. It is scorned by many Women's Libbers because it does not give direct and specific rights to women. You can see as you read the ERA that it is a very general statement. It is a conservative statement that will not radically affect any person's life. It is a statement that reflects the growing recognition in our society that all persons have a right to pursue their personal goals without being hindered by unfair restrictions and prejudices.

In this series of articles about ERA we will discuss some of the questions that are often asked about ERA. These include women going to war and family support. In today's column we'll discuss ERA and abortion.

Abortion is a difficult and complex issue to discuss. It is a topic that very quickly causes people to get angry. Let's try to keep cool and to find a few facts. It is a fact that laws expanding the woman's right to have an abortion already have been passed, without ERA. The abortion issue is separate from ERA and will remain so. Abortion involves the question of when human life legally begins, not the question of the rights of humans already existent. There is nothing in ERA that will decide the question: whether a fetus is or is not a person. If a fetus is a legal person laws will protect it. If not, laws will not protect it.

There are some human rights questions that could evolve from a woman having an abortion if abortions are determined to be legal (which they have been). There is the question, if a man has the right to share in the decision, because he shared in creating a fetus, whether or not the fetus is to be aborted. The ERA would not decide the question of a man's right. It could serve as a guideline for the judge making a decision in such a case. But the judge's decision would be determined by his interpretation of facts presented, laws in effect and ERA or other relevant parts of the Constitution. Like all legal issues, for a decision to be made, someone must file suit and take the matter to court. Once a case is taken to court it can go clear to

## League of Women

### Voters Column

#### Part III Equal Rights Amendment

We have shown that the ERA has nothing to do with abortion. We have asked "What's wrong with having women in the military?" But our opponents are still not convinced. They shout that if ERA is passed family life will be ruined and the world will be in chaos. Fictions are related of hapless housewives left destitute by runaway husbands who won't have to pay alimony. Stuff and nonsense!

Let's read that ERA statement again:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex."

You must admit the statement doesn't seem to give a man the right to leave home and allow his wife and children to starve. Can the ERA lead to this? Hopefully it will lead away from the situation of the destitute woman with children. At present in many states a woman has no guarantee of joint ownership of property acquired by husband and wife during their marriage. The couple can buy a house or car and the husband can keep them in his name. Thus, when the marriage breaks down and a dissolution takes place the woman owns nothing. A court may decide what the woman should get from the husband in terms of property, alimony and child support. If the husband has kept a savings account and property in his name the wife has no guarantee she will acquire a share based on her years of joint ownership during the marriage. In short, she is not treated as an equal partner participating in the dissolution of a partnership and with rights to equal shares. She is treated as an employee dismissed by the company and getting, with condescension, severance pay.

Let us point out that at present many women are "on welfare" because the present system makes it easy for men to desert families. It is difficult to force a man to pay alimony or child support. Often, simply moving to another state puts him beyond the reach of the law and support payments. Perhaps if ERA is passed women will have greater chance of becoming self-sufficient. Then fewer women will be dependent upon our welfare system.

Hopefully, ratifying the ERA will bring about a review of divorce laws and changes will take place, giving the woman who has chosen wife and mother as her career a fair chance at survival if the marriage partnership does break down. If she can share equally in property and savings when the marriage is dissolved she will have a sounder financial base to begin her separate life than if she must live on the monthly dole or her former husband. And if she is capable of making a living her husband will not be forced to make a monthly dole. This does not mean that if she cannot support herself she would not be entitled to support payments. If her commitment to the marriage had made her dependent upon her husband and left her with no alternative means of acquiring an income then fairness under the ERA would seem to dictate that she should receive financial support.

Let us take a brief look at another family matter. What about the children in the divorced family. More often than in the past fathers are being considered as custodians of the children. Hopefully this trend would become more widespread if the ERA is ratified. It used to be a mother was given the children no matter what. In some cases she did not even want them. A much better situation is for a child to be placed with that parent who can best provide the most complete home environment, which includes supervision, love and companionship. If the child would be better off and happier with the father the father ought to have the right of custody of his child. Remember — men too can benefit from the ERA.



## LWV FACTS FOR VOTERS

A column of Public Information Prepared by the  
League of Women Voters of Stevens County.

#### Part IV — ERA

There are questions about the Equal Rights Amendment we have not answered in this four-part series. We have tried to cover the most frequently asked questions. Rape and restrooms are among the topics we haven't covered. We can assure you that the ratification of the ERA will not make rape legal or force upon us unisex restrooms. We will still have our right to privacy in both instances and be protected by law.

If you have more questions about the ERA the following organizations have material available supporting ERA:

1. The League of Women Voters of the United States. Contact your local League president. Sunny Lie in Stevens County.
2. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
3. May 1974 issue of Family Circle magazine.
4. Common Cause, 2030 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.
5. Citizen's Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Room 1335, Dept. of Labor Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20210.
6. Catholic Women for the ERA, 8815 Dunning Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227.
7. ERA Support Project (prepared by committee of the Board of Global Ministry and United Methodist Church), 100 Maryland Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

You can find these publications in the Stevens County League of Women Voters file in the Morris Public Library.

The League of Women Voters supports the ERA and asks you to also support the amendment. The League feels the amendment "Lays the foundation for comprehensive review of present laws. There is a real and critical difference between adopting the Amendment and assuming that lawmakers will act without the Amendment as if it existed. Without the Amendment there is no legal impetus for states to do an in-depth review and study of the myriad laws and various legal areas to indicate the problems of discrimination and to set forth nondiscriminatory solutions. Without a constitutional declaration of principle, each new piece of legislation or each litigation about discrimination would raise anew the issue of the desirability of equality between the sexes. This would assure long and protracted battles. It would place an onerous burden of advocacy on those who believe in the principle embodied in the Amendment, and it would deny women the certainty of any legal consensus favoring their equality. With the Amendment, every jurisdiction will have a final resolution of this initial and fundamental policy question, and thus be provided with the critical framework necessary for a review of laws in the affected areas."

The above paragraph is from "The Proposed Equal Rights Amendment: A Brief in Support of Its Ratification." Prepared for the League of Women Voters of the U.S. by Bellamy Blank Goodman Kelly Ross and Stanley.



Lois DeS.

Jeanette K.

J.J.

DEC 3 1975

55746

Box 65 Star Route 2, Hibbing, Minn.

Nov. 30, 1975

✓ Helene

EDITORIAL STAFF-AAUW JOURNAL  
2401 Virginia Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Am reading the November AAUW Journal with great delight. The sections: Women in Political Process and Political Organizations and Resources are so very timely. Note you have a picture credit to Alice Paul. I clipped an article on her from Newsweek March 23, 1970 when she was 85. She is mentioned in Shoulder to Shoulder as a great worker for the vote.

Our local LWV league studied the ERA three years ago. I briefed the unit leaders again in October. We used the splendid kit we obtained from the LWV and material in our magazine.

For our briefing used several 1975 issues of The Clubwoman, GFWC. Am sending you a copy of an article from Jan. 1975 on The Homemaker and ERA. We need to make this very clear due to the myths abroad.

We appreciated your reproduction of the 1915 poster concerning the vote in the October 1975 AAUW Newspaper. Also Helen Wolfe's Cancelled Checks Tell the Story. Found good material on ERA in April, May and August numbers.

Minnesota Pine AAUW has had some material on ERA in Oct. 1975 and July 1974. Minnesota's vote to rescind was much too close for comfort and shows we cannot relax.

Heard Phyllis Schlafly on TV the other day. She certainly appeals to fears of many women and men. Maybe she unconsciously believes the homemaker is a second class citizen. Know there is nothing in ERA to indicate that. The leaflet Bringing Home Equality from the LWV Kit, reprinted with permission of the National Fed. Business and Prof. Women's Clubs, is to the point but I like the GFWC: The Homemaker and ERA better.

I was the last AAUW State Chairman for Minnesota of the Committee on Status of Women when it was disbanded in 1963. Chaired the Community Interests the next year.

Am glad the AAUW is taking an active part in supporting ERA and know that's only the beginning. Am a life member- have belonged since 1927.

Congratulations on a super issue November 1975.

Sincerely,

*Marion Smith*  
Marion Smith (Mrs. M.I.)

ERA

*Thought you might be  
interested*





# memorandum

Going on DPM

November 18, 1976

To: State and Local League Presidents

From: Ruth C. Clusen, President and  
Joanne Hayes, ERA Chairperson

Re: Enclosed ERA booklet--In Pursuit of Equal Rights: Women In  
the Seventies and attached recommendations on ERA Action.

The enclosed booklet, In Pursuit of Equal Rights: Women In the Seventies, was written specifically in response to the request at National Convention for more information, not only on ERA, but also on the present status of women. Though not comprehensive, it is designed to provide answers to the most-asked-about questions relating to the Equal Rights Amendment and, additionally, to act as a guide to issues directly affecting women.

We hope that it will be a handy reference for new material that you may want to develop on the ERA, as well as a useful lobbying tool. Local Leagues in unratified states may want to consider sending for copies to distribute to their own state legislators, other organizations and to the media.

The attached ERA Action Memo should provide you with an idea of where we are in the ratification effort, where we hope to be after the 1977 state legislative sessions, and some action suggestions with respect to the campaign ahead.



# memorandum

Going on DPM

November 18, 1976

TO: State and Local League Presidents  
FROM: Ruth C. Clusen, President and  
Joanne Hayes, ERA Chairperson  
RE: ERA Action '77 (outlook and recommendations)

Most of you have probably heard that Massachusetts passed its state ERA at the ballot on November 2nd by a wide margin. In addition, Colorado successfully defeated an attempt to repeal its state ERA--again, at the ballot. The 1977 legislative sessions are rapidly approaching. These two victories for state ERAs in states far removed from one another clearly demonstrate that the federal ERA ratification stalemate can be broken.

It must be broken this coming year. If we aren't successful this year and unratified state legislatures need to consider ERA in 1978, they would do so with the same state legislators who presumably would have considered ERA in 1977 (with the exception of Virginia). The next opportunity for a major turnover of state legislators in unratified states is in November of 1978, only a few months from the March 22, 1979 deadline.

Our job is clear. Four more states must ratify and we must continue to hold the line on rescission until the job in the unratified states is successfully completed, hopefully in 1977.

## What's the Next Step?

### Action Recommendations--Unratified States

#### States (Convening dates, regular session)

|           |         |                |         |
|-----------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Alabama   | March   | Mississippi    | January |
| Arizona   | January | Missouri       | January |
| Arkansas  | January | Nevada         | January |
| Florida   | April   | North Carolina | January |
| Georgia   | January | Oklahoma       | January |
| *Illinois | January | South Carolina | January |
| Indiana   | January | Utah           | January |
| Louisiana | April   | Virginia       | January |

The major goal is to successfully persuade a majority of legislators in both houses of the state legislatures that the Equal Rights Amendment should be ratified.

\*Illinois reconvened this year on November 17 and will continue until sometime in December.

I. With the exception of Mississippi, every unratified state League has an ERA coordinator (see attached list). In most unratified states, the state League ERA coordinator (working with other state endorsing organization representatives) has compiled at least a tentative post-election legislative head count. With the help of local Leagues (wherever possible) this head count, along with an evaluation of the positions of the house, senate and committee leadership, will determine the state legislative strategy. To insure an accurate, continually updated report on the legislative head count, every local League, if they haven't already, should assign a person to work on ERA at the local level and transmit any new information on the position of local legislators to the state League ERA coordinator.

II. There are two activities that, united, will form a single thrust for ERA legislative consideration in 1977.

Educating and lobbying: The key word with respect to these two activities is "persuasion," both with the public and with state legislators. The gentle art of persuasion is not unknown to the League and several action publications are available at the national League office which outline the philosophy and "how to's" of forming a coalition as well as the "do's" and "don'ts" of lobbying legislators.\*\*

Many state legislators have been persuaded by the simple eloquence and sincerity of a Leaguer who believed in what she/he was supporting and came armed with good factual materials. Approaching legislators in this fashion at the local level can't be done to excess. If they're supportive, thank them and continue to provide support for them in every way possible until the vote comes up. In addition, we must prepare now for the "letter competition." During the legislative session, as many of you know by now, letters for and against ratification become a serious consideration for "leaning" legislators. Contact your state League ERA coordinator about the number of letters needed every week and the timing during the session. Be creative and have fun with this--friends and coffee make good letter-writing companions.

With regard to public persuasion, we have learned two fundamental things: 1) Whether you approach the city or town council, address private groups, or place ads in local newspapers, ask people (at the same time that you are informing them about the issue) to convey their support for the issue to their local legislators. The League is not "neutral" on this issue; we support it, and we want everyone we address to support it also. 2) Sometimes Leaguers confuse the objectivity we must display in our voter's service activities with program items on which we have clearly taken a stand. We have learned that it is not wise to formally debate this issue with the opposition. Debates have not been productive in either informing or persuading the public. Generally speaking ERA debate audiences have been a preset mix of proponents and opponents. Regardless of who "wins," rarely do uninformed citizens come away from a debate thinking that they now have an informed "new" opinion on the subject. All too often debates degenerate into "sideshows" for proponents and opponents, with the press picking up the most sensational aspects of the debate with headlines like "ERA--Integrated bathrooms and homosexual marriages?" regardless of the truth.

With regard to persuading people to support the ERA, it's important to remember that the organized opposition to the ERA has but one strategy and that is to create doubt. Doubt as to the extent of public support and the amount of public opposition and doubt about the need for and the effect of the Equal Rights Amendment. They don't

\*\*Making an issue of it: The Campaign Handbook (Pub. No. 613, 75¢)

ACTION (Pub. No. 161, 50¢)

The National VOTER, Fall 1976.

have to prove anything. Their proclamations, while often representing sincere, if not realistic fears, are designed to create doubt. We must overcome any remaining doubt--let's not help them create it.

#### Action Recommendations--Ratified States

In addition to achieving ratification in four more states, we must hold the line on rescission moves by the opposition. The League's state legislative person, especially in states with previous rescission attempts, should be alert to any rescission developments and may want to send a questionnaire to state legislators regarding their support for ERA. Local Leaguers should let supporting state legislators and the state League know of any rescission rumblings in their area. Make sure your state legislators are informed on ERA and on the history and meaning of rescission. We've successfully defeated all rescission attempts in the last two years. We mustn't let up now.

ERA supporters in ratified states have also been asked to "adopt" unratified sister states. The national League supports this effort. A proposed sister-state list has been prepared by several unratified states and sent to ERA contacts in the ratified states. If you haven't heard about this yet and would like to help, write to ERAmerica, 1525 M Street, N.W., Room 602, Washington, D.C. 20036, for information about your sister-state.

Sometimes during the heat of the race, especially in the unratified states, we forget that, nationally, ERA is not a controversial issue. Even the opposition's attempt to unseat ERA at the national Republican convention failed. Over two-thirds of the states have already ratified and states are continuing to adopt state ERAs. President-elect and Mrs. Carter are supporters, as are President and Mrs. Ford. All of the national polls continue to show a supportive public. Approach your ERA efforts expecting that the public will agree and want to help if you show them what they can do. There is nothing to stop us but ourselves (and a very few reluctant but persuadable legislators).

# # #

(SEE REVERSE SIDE)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ERA COORDINATORS--UNRATIFIED STATES

|                |                                                                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALABAMA        | Carolyn Crawford<br>1405 Miami Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35214                        |
| ARIZONA        | Carol Goodman<br>1439 N. 1st Street #211, Phoenix, Arizona 85004                       |
| ARKANSAS       | Gloria Cabe<br>415 Colonial Court, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205                         |
| FLORIDA        | Shirley Hayes<br>1352 Southwest 12th, Boca Raton, Florida 33432                        |
| GEORGIA        | Dorris Holmes<br>346 Pine Tree Drive, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30305                     |
| ILLINOIS       | Mary Lubertozzi<br>301 Springfield, Park Forest, Illinois 60466                        |
| INDIANA        | Mandy Wertz<br>R.R. #6, Grandview Lake, Columbus, Indiana 47201                        |
| LOUISIANA      | Eleanor Shirley<br>7219 Sedley Circle, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808                    |
| MISSISSIPPI    | Doris Barwick, President, LWVMS<br>537 Launcelot Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39206      |
| MISSOURI       | Yvonne Spies<br>12650 Grandin Lane, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044                          |
| NEVADA         | Kathy Slocum<br>5517 Reba Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107                              |
| NORTH CAROLINA | Lora Lavin<br>330 Robert E. Lee Drive, Wilmington, N.C. 28401                          |
| OKLAHOMA       | Ann Savage, President, LWVOK<br>2332 N.W. 119th S.E., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120    |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | Gemma Arnott Morrison<br>2598 Club Drive, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302            |
| UTAH           | Gina Rieke, President, LWVUT<br>211 East Third South, #200, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 |
| VIRGINIA       | Pat Jenson<br>7745 Bridle Path Lane, McLean, Virginia 22101                            |

# In pursuit of equal rights: women in the seventies

## *The Equal Rights Amendment*

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:*

*Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

*Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.*

*Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.*

**League of Women Voters of the United States**



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# SAINT PAUL CHAPTER

P.O. Box 80065, Como Ave. Station

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108



MAR 25 1976

To: Endorsers of the March 6 E.R.A. Rally  
From: The Board of St. Paul N.O.W.  
Re: Follow-up report on March 6 Rally and May 15-16 E.R.A. Illinois Mobilization  
Date: March 23, 1976

Congratulations on an enjoyable, meaningful and successful rally!

A financial report of the March 6 Rally was presented on request to the St. Paul N.O.W. Board on March 21 by Holly Harkness, coordinator of the U of M student March 6 E.R.A. Coalition, who made the collection. The stated purpose at the time of collection was to pay the costs of the rally and to contribute to the E.R.A. Illinois Mobilization. A copy of their financial report is on the reverse side of this page.

The Board thought all March 6 Rally endorsers should be informed of the uses to which money collected at the rally was, and is intended to be, put. The Board voted to accept the financial report of the March 6 E.R.A. Coalition and voted to endorse the transfer of the remaining funds (\$75.53) to the E.R.A. Illinois Mobilization Committee to defray transportation costs for persons travelling to Illinois for the E.R.A. action there. If for any reason you do not concur with this, please let us know before March 30 (phone 377-4662).

The May 15-16 E.R.A. Illinois Mobilization is sponsored by the National Board of the National Organization for Women and is coordinated at local levels by state and chapter N.O.W. organizations. For more information and to sign up to go Illinois, contact Minnesota N.O.W. Coordinator, Virginia Watkins, 938-8342, P.O. Box 1348, Minnetonka 55343; or contact her E.R.A. Illinois Mobilization committee members: Leslie Adams, 784-1747, 4061 Glenhaven Ln., New Brighton 55112, and Gen Kulesa, 929-6601. If you are able to leave for Illinois on Friday May 14 in order to do the legislative district canvassing work on the 15th, please tell them so or contact Genevieve Trudell, 377-4662, 2228 Sheridan Ave. So., Mpls. 55405.

We learned a great deal from our experiences participating in the March 6 Rally, both because of problems and successes. We welcome any constructive discussion of the process of groups working together.

Thank you for your participation March 6, and good luck in all your efforts.



# MARCH 6 ERA COALITION BUDGET

## Debits

|                                               |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Insty-prints ... 500 buff leaflets            | \$10.76         |
| Insty-prints ... 500 buff leaflets            | \$10.76         |
| Quick Print ... 1000 white leaflets           | \$ 9.36         |
| Quick Print ... 2000 small blue leaflets      |                 |
| 100 letters                                   |                 |
| 50 statements                                 | \$22.62         |
| O'Tooles Drugs ... pickets & felt tip pens    | \$10.40         |
| O'Tooles Drugs ... " " "                      | \$ 8.00         |
| Contact sheet and prints for Black papers     | \$17.16         |
| Minnesota Press Club                          | \$10.00         |
| Chrysalis                                     | \$ 5.00         |
| Armbands (Sears)                              | \$ 4.00 approx. |
| Mailing leaflets in bulk                      | \$ 5.98         |
| Leaflets sent to individuals .... 50 at 13¢   | \$ 6.50 approx  |
| News releases 30 copies @ 10¢                 | \$ 3.00         |
| & 30 stamps @ 13¢                             | \$ 4.30         |
| Public Service Announcements (twice) 14 @ 10¢ | \$ 1.40         |
| and 14 stamps @ 13¢                           | \$ 1.69         |
| Mailings for meetings 60 copies @ 10¢         | \$ 6.90 approx  |
| 60 stamps @ 13¢                               | \$ 6.90 approx  |
|                                               | <u>\$143.83</u> |
| Banner ... paint \$4.60, cloth \$2.75         | \$ 7.35         |
| St Paul leaflets and letters (Insty Prints)   | \$32.50         |
|                                               | <u>183.68</u>   |
| St Paul Women's Center, YWCA for auditorium   | \$50.00         |
| Women's Center Child Care fee (Mary Radford)  | \$ 7.50         |

241.18

|                 |                       |          |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <u>Deposits</u> | Collection at rally   | \$281.58 |
|                 | MFT donation          | \$ 25.00 |
|                 | Other check donations | \$ 25.00 |
|                 | totalling             |          |

\$331.58

- 241.18

\$ 90.40

5

\$ 95.40

- 19.87

\$ 75.53

\$5.00 deposit  
March 15th

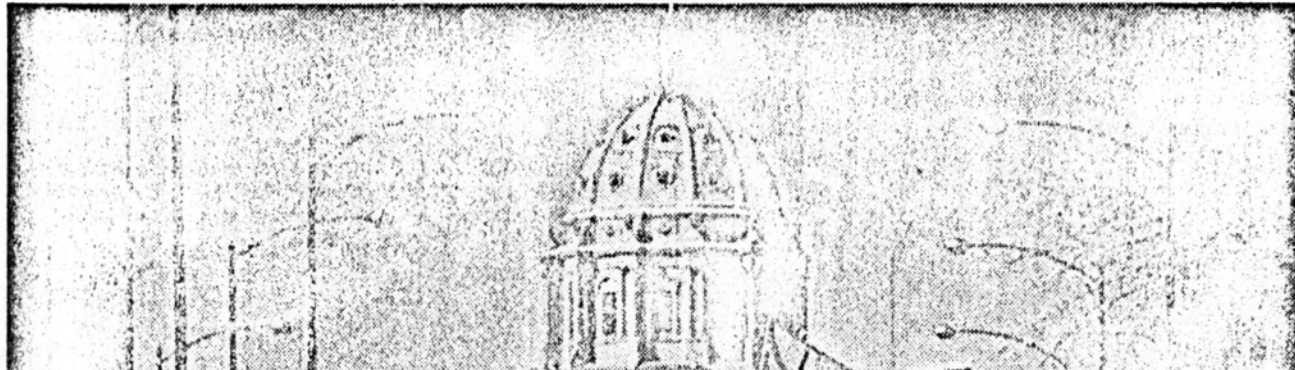
Balance:

\$95.40

- 19.87

\$ 75.53

St. Paul  
New  
bulk mailing



## Women march in support of ERA passage

About 350 people, most of them women, marched from the Minnesota State Capitol, background, to a rally at the YMCA Women's Center in downtown St. Paul Saturday



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