

Casper Church of Christ

— A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH, SPEAKING AS THE ORACLES OF GOD —

2344 E. 2ND ST.
CASPER, WYOMING 82601

ELDERS

BARNEY HOMAN
BILL IRBY
GEORGE OWEN
SAM SHOULTZ

DEACONS

BILL HEARN
KENNETH JEFFRES

EVANGELIST

RICHARD DACUS

January 15, 1973

Thomas Stroock
State Senate Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Dear Senator Stroock:

I would like for you to know how many of us here feel, enregards
The ERA.

This bill, even as admitted by those for the bill, will allow our
wives and daughters to be drafted into the armed forces. This I
cannot accept as being good for our homes.

There are other ramifications of this Bill that can effect the moral
fiber of our homes, and thus our state and nation.

This being true, I firmly recommend you vote against the ERA, unless
some safe guards can be put in to protect the females of our homes.

What more rights do the women of Wyoming need? I would appreciate
an answer.

Thanking you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Dacus

“THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU”
(Rom. 16:16)

January 26, 1973

Evangelist Richard Dacus
Casper Church of Christ
2344 E. 2nd St.
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Dear Evangelist Dacus:

Please excuse the delay in replying to your kind and thoughtful letter of the 15th instant advising me of your thoughts on the Equal Rights Amendment and urging my vote against this piece of legislation. I have not answered because I found that this is the most difficult decision I have had to make so far during this session of the legislature. As you know, I voted against your opinions and advice and in favor of the bill.

I can assure you that I gave the matter the most careful consideration. Section 1, Article 6, of the Wyoming State Constitution says "The rights of the citizens of the State of Wyoming to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Both male and female citizens of this state shall equally enjoy all civil, political and religious rights and privileges." Another section reads: "In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal." Yet another section: "Since equality in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made sure through political equality, the laws of this state affecting the political rights and privileges of its citizens shall be without distinction of race, color, sex or any circumstance or condition whatsoever, other than the individual incompetency or unworthiness duly ascertained by our court of competent jurisdiction."

It seems to me that this wording is stronger, more comprehensive and further reaching than the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution. Therefore, women in the State of Wyoming enjoy greater rights than those proposed to be extended to the women in other states.

As a happily married man of twenty-three years with four daughters aged fourteen through twenty-two all of whom - to date - are leading busy, useful and productive lives, I think I can speak from experience of the condition of Wyoming women. I think this happy political and civil circumstance should be extended to women in the other states of this union.

The arguments against passage of the Equal Rights Amedment were as follows:

1. Rape would no longer be a serious crime.
2. Men and women would not have any privacy left in bedroom, bathroom or even telephone booth.
3. That fathers would not be legally responsible for their children.
4. That women would be drafted into the Armed Forces.

Of the above allegations, my careful investigation determined that only the last is true. Rape is a serious crime in this state and will be a serious crime throughout the United States if the Equal Rights Amendment is adopted. The absolute right of privacy is guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Wyoming and the Constitution of the United States, and will not be touched in the slightest by the Equal Rights Amendment. Fathers will still be legally responsible for their children, and husbands will still be legally required to pay alimony in the case of divorce. So will they be required to pay child support.

The only argument against the measure is the one concerning the drafting of women. This is true - if there is ever again a draft in this country women will be equally liable to be drafted into the Armed Forces as men. I spoke at length, however, with General Richard Carson, the Adjutant General of the State of Wyoming, a combat veteran of many years of experience. He informs me that it would be impossible for women to pass the physical standards required for a combat soldier in any branch of the service - artillery, infantry, signal corps and the like. Thus only men will be sent into combat conditions and women, if and when drafted, will be used in positions such as office staff, quartermaster corps etc.. This is much the same situation as we saw with women in the Women's Voluntary Corps during World War II.

I have tried to answer your thoughtful letter in detail because you requested a reply and because I know of and respect your work with young people and civic groups, both within and without your Church organization. I hope you can understand and respect the way I think and the way I voted. Your concern in getting in touch with me and your admonition on how to vote weighed heavily on my mind. I am truly sorry that, when the hard decision of how to vote came up, my opinion dictated that I should take a position different from yours. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Stroock
State Senator

TFS/nr