

Eagle Forum

"the alternative to women's lib"

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President, PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

STOP ERAERS CELEBRATE "THE END OF AN ERA" AT SUCCESSFUL GALA

It was truly a Night To Remember forever. The 1,200 friends of Stop ERA who jammed into the Ballroom of the Shoreham Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C., celebrated the conclusion of their seven-years' battle against incredible odds to keep ERA from going into the U.S. Constitution. Despite tremendous and unprecedented White House pressure and the expenditure of millions of federal tax dollars to promote ERA, the original legal deadline passed on March 22, without ERA's getting the 38 states it needed.

Members of the Stop ERA Movement and Eagle Forum came from 45 states (even Hawaii) to celebrate what is the greatest victory for women's rights since the women's suffrage amendment of 1920. The expiration of ERA means that we will be able to defeat Defense Secretary Harold Brown's plan to draft women and put them in combat. It means we will defeat the attempt of the women's lib movement to convert America into a unisex society under total federal control. The expiration of ERA is also a tremendous victory for the family because it means we will retain special legal rights and protections for mothers and children.

The highlight of the evening was a musical program called "The ERA Follies of 1979." It consisted of many musical parodies making good fun of both the women's libbers and the Stop ERAers. Superlative professional performances were given by Ann McGraw, Prudence and Bill Fields, and the Pantana Family, with John Schlafly at the piano and Vickie Harvey on the violin. The show was narrated by Congressman George Hansen, and was so good that it was fully reported with pictures by the Washington and New York newspapers.

For the serious part of the program, Senator Orrin Hatch was a perfect master of ceremonies. Special awards were presented to Senator Jake Garn for his gallant fight against ERA Extension last year and to Senator Jesse Helms for his courage in holding the Ad Hoc Hearings on IWY chicanery the year before. Many other Senators and Congressmen were present.

The evening was made especially memorable because of the Bomb Scare, a shocking and dramatic event which proved again how radical, vicious, and destructive are the forces we have been battling for the last seven years. At 8:50 p.m., in the middle of the Follies, the hotel manager came to the podium and told Senator Hatch: "We have received phone calls saying that two bombs will go off at 9:00 p.m. in the room Phyllis Schlafly is in, and the police recommend immediate evacuation." So we had to interrupt the show and evacuate the 1,200 people outside while the police searched for bombs with instruments and dogs. No bombs were found.

Obviously, the ERAers devised the Bomb Scare as a cheap way to disrupt our party, hoping that it would spoil the evening and people would go home. It was the mark of sour grapes and poor losers.

The biggest surprise to the reporters in attendance was the way all 1,200 people filed back into the ballroom 45 minutes later to see the rest of the show and hear the speeches. We didn't lose any of our audience because of the interruption. Most people who came are well aware of the kind of people we have been fighting and no anonymous phone call could ruin our evening of triumph. Our guests looked upon the interruption as like the intermission in a play -- time to mill around and talk with other friends. It fortunately was a delightful evening outside. The musicians entertained during the forced "intermission."

We wish there had been time to give special recognition to all Stop ERA leaders who have worked so hard, but practically everyone present was deserving of mention, and there would be no place to stop if we had started reciting names of dedicated Eagle leaders. I especially want to thank Alyse O'Neill, our Virginia Stop ERA Chairman, who was responsible for the original idea of our having a March 22 Dinner Celebration. That was the greatest idea any Eagle ever had!

PRO-FAMILY WORKSHOP

The Pro-Family Workshop in Washington the morning after the Gala was one of the finest ever held. Dr. Bob Billings, Pres. of Christian School Action, led off with a speech on "The IRS Attack on Private Schools." Then Brig.Gen. Andrew J. Gatsis gave an original and most important address on "The Pentagon Plan to Draft Women and Send Them Into Combat", telling facts about women's lib and the armed services that no one else has revealed.

Dr. Carolyn Gerster, Pres., National Right to Life Committee, Inc., gave an outstanding address on "The Right to Life and Current Legislation." The final speaker was Dr. Harold Voth, author and senior psychiatrist of the Menninger Foundation, who told what is happening to American families under the title "The Future of America."

Cassettes of this splendid Workshop are available to Eagle Forum subscribers at \$10 each. Gen. Gatsis's speech is reprinted in full in Sec. 2 of the P.S. Report this month, and you are urged to give it the widest possible distribution. Send it to your Congressman and tell him you do NOT want our daughters drafted OR put into military combat.

VICTORY OVER FEDERAL CHILD-CARE

The week our Eagles were in Washington for the Gala was the week the Federal Child-Care Bill, S.4, was withdrawn by its sponsors. This was a tremendous victory for all those working against the principle of federal child-care (as opposed to mother care).

WESTERN STATES RALLY

A highly successful Western States Pro-Family Rally was held in Meridian, Idaho on Mar. 24. It held more than 500 people from eight states in rapt attention from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. The splendid speakers, including Congressman George Hansen and Dr. Cleon Skousen, were followed in the evening by an original musical show written by Douglas Stewart of Utah. Thanks to Susan Hill and Sylvia McKeeth for a great rally.

Don't forget to order Mother-Baby Pen-dants as gifts for Mother's Day, \$10.95.

The Rise and Fall of E.R.A.

The United States Constitution has been called "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man." Every right guaranteed to men by the U.S. Constitution is guaranteed to women. Every office is open equally to women and men. The Constitution has guaranteed the greatest freedom and opportunity to men and women the world has ever seen, and has allowed women to become the most fortunate class of humans who ever lived. Our Constitution permits laws to extend special rights, benefits, and exemptions to women which respect the eternal differences between men and women.

In 1923 a few dozen women invented the Equal Rights Amendment to forbid our country's laws to respect the differences between men and women. For half a century, all those Congresses had the good judgment to leave E.R.A. buried in committees. E.R.A. was not supported by anyone of importance.

In the late 1960s, the radical women's liberation movement seized upon E.R.A. as the vehicle to achieve their goals to build a gender-free society under near-total federal control. They stripped E.R.A. of its qualifying clauses (which would have permitted rational exceptions such as military combat duty), and they stripped Section 2 of its reference to "the several states" in order to require total federal enforcement.

A few dozen militant women lobbied the new radical E.R.A. through Congress. Despite the valiant efforts by Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., to stop it, the Congress passed E.R.A. on March 22, 1972. By March 22, 1973, 30 states had ratified E.R.A., most of them without study, hearings, or debate.

Then the tide turned and the genius of the American federal system reasserted itself. In the following six years, only five states ratified E.R.A., but five other states rescinded their previous ratifications. On March 22, 1979, the expiration of the seven-year period set by Congress, E.R.A. had only 30 valid ratifications. It takes 38 to amend our Constitution. On the night of March 22, 1979, E.R.A. becomes constitutionally and morally dead.

The radical women's lib movement, plus some persons in the federal government, are now trying to keep E.R.A. alive by patching together an artificial "consensus" consisting of (1) an illegal time extension resolution "passed" by Congress in 1978 without the $\frac{2}{3}$ majority that Article V of the U.S. Constitution requires, (2) using Congress and/or the Justice Department to deny states the right to change from yes to no, (3) using White House power and taxpayers' money to pressure states to switch from no to yes, and (4) using Justice Department power to count ratifications of 1972 and 1973 as still alive, even though their ratification resolutions expressly include the seven-year limit.

The American people must rise up and say to the radical E.R.A. proponents and the power-hungry federal employees, "Our Constitution is sacred. We will not let you tamper with it." E.R.A., requiescat in pace.

Honor Roll of States Against E. R. A.

Rejected for 7 years, 1972-1979

- * North Carolina
- * Oklahoma
- * South Carolina
- * Utah
- * Virginia
- * Alabama
- * Arkansas
- * Arizona
- * Florida
- * Georgia
- * Illinois
- * Louisiana
- * Mississippi
- * Missouri
- * Nevada

Rescinded

- * Idaho, 1977
- * Kentucky, 1978
- * Nebraska, 1973
- * South Dakota, 1979
- * Tennessee, 1974