

Eagle Forum

"the alternative to women's lib"

Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002

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President, PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

MORMON CHURCH OPPOSES ERA:

The First Presidency of the Church has issued the following statement concerning the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):

"From its beginnings, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has affirmed the exalted role of woman in our society.

"In 1842, when women's organizations were little known, the Prophet Joseph Smith established the women's organization of the Church, the Relief Society, as a companion body of the priesthood.

"The Relief Society continues to function today as a vibrant, worldwide organization aimed at strengthening motherhood and broadening women's learning & involvement in religious, compassionate, cultural, educational & community pursuits.

"In Utah, where our Church has its headquarters, women received the right to vote in 1870, 50 years before the 19th amendment to the Constitution granted the right nationally.

"There have been injustices to women before the law and in society generally. These we deplore.

"There are additional rights to which women are entitled.

"However, we firmly believe that the Equal Rights Amendment is not the answer.

"While the motives of its supporters may be praiseworthy, ERA as a blanket attempt to help women could indeed bring them far more restraints and repressions. We fear it will even stifle many God-given feminine instincts.

"It would strike at the family, humankind's basic institution. ERA would bring ambiguity and possibly invite extensive litigation.

"Passage of ERA, some legal authorities contend, could nullify many accumulated benefits to women in present statutes.

"We recognize men and women as equally important before the Lord, but with differences biologically, emotionally and in other ways.

"ERA, we believe, does not recognize these differences. There are better means for giving women, and men, the rights they deserve."

PUBLIC OPINION POLL:

The highly-respected and independent public opinion poll in Nevada called the Pierson Poll recently released the results of its survey: Voters in Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) oppose ERA by 60-40%. Congratulations to Sen. Helen Herr and her group for doing such a good job of educating the public!

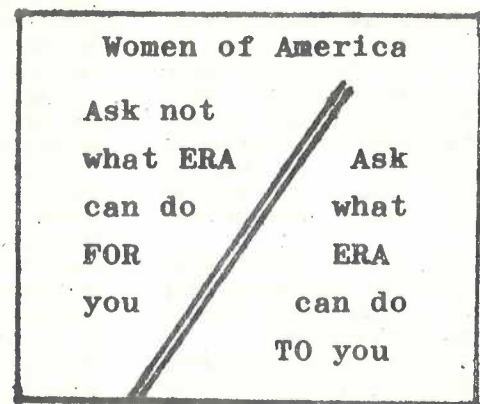
MORE ON REPUBLICAN PLATFORM COMMITTEE:

You will remember that the Subcommittee of the Republican Platform Committee voted 8 to 7 NOT to endorse ERA, and then it was announced that the full Platform Committee approved a pro-ERA plank by the narrow vote of 51 to 47. The vote was taken by a raising of hands.

I have recently been informed that the Missouri representative on the Platform Committee, former Cong. Tom Curtis, made his own count of the raised hands, and is convinced that those opposed to ERA were the majority. He demanded a roll-call vote, but the Chairman refused to take one. This was in violation of the rules, but the Chairman got by with it. No doubt he was under heavy pressure from Gerald and Betty Ford to make sure that ERA was approved by the Platform Committee by fair means or foul.

ERA POSTERS:

You can order our new ERA Poster for use in your area at \$1 each. A space is left at the bottom for you to write the name & address of your organization with a felt pen:



Power Grab Criticized

By LENITA POWERS

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a move on the part of the federal government to grab more power from individual states, Phyllis Schlafly, national chairman of STOP ERA, said Friday in Reno.

Section II of the ERA would transfer jurisdiction over property rights, protective labor legislation, marriages, divorces and child custody "from the states and into the sticky, meddling fingers of the federal government," Mrs. Schlafly told a small group of newsmen.

Mrs. Schlafly addressed newsmen prior to a speaking engagement at which she was scheduled to again discuss why STOP ERA, a nation-wide organization, opposes passage of the amendment.

The ERA would not add to women's rights but would eliminate many of those benefits under law that do exist for women, said the 52-year-old mother of six.

"There are no laws that discriminate against women. We oppose the Equal Rights Amendment because it won't do anything for women. It won't give them any rights, opportunities or benefits that they don't already have now. It will take away a lot of the rights we have."

Mrs. Schlafly and her husband, an attorney, reside in Alton, Ill.

She holds a B.A. degree from Washington

University in St. Louis and a Master's degree from Harvard University in Political Science.

She writes a biweekly newspaper column and does a biweekly broadcast over radio network.

"Women are entitled to special consideration in legislation because women and men are factually different," Mrs. Schlafly said. "And we have a right to reflect that difference in the law."

The fact women bear children and lack the physical strength of men must be taken into consideration, she said.

Passage of the ERA would make women subject to any future draft in the event of a war and would eliminate a husband's obligation under state law to provide for the support of his wife and require the wife to contribute 50 per cent to the household's income, Mrs. Schlafly said.

"Social Security is the most pro-women legislation we have ever had in this country," she said. "A housewife can receive social security even without having held a job to pay into the system. It is recognized how important the role of the housewife is."

With passage of the ERA, a wife's rights to receive social security benefits would be eliminated or the husband might have to pay more into the system for an assessed value of his wife's work in the home, Mrs. Schlafly said.

ERA MOVING IN REVERSE

People in the state of Washington do not instinctively deny opportunities to women, the best proof of this being the Nov. 2 election of Dix Lee Ray as governor.

Dr. Dixie Lee Ray, the former chairwoman of the old Atomic Energy Commission, is not overly impressed by being the second woman ever elected a governor without succeeding a husband. "I've been a woman for nearly 62 years," she says. "I really don't think about it too much."

Despite her healthy, non-sexist attitude, Dr. Ray is being forced to think about the consequences of the Equal Rights Amendment which her state adopted in 1972. Passage of ERA caused Washington to void a protective labor law enacted for women and children in 1913. The old law restricted enforced overtime work, put limits on lifting of weights by women, provided for rest periods, etc.

ERA proponents blithely said they would simply have a new law passed guaranteeing to men the same safeguards once enjoyed by women. But that hasn't happened.

ERA backers have taken to wrangling among themselves. Those at the national level want to push on for final ratification of the amendment, saying that protective labor legislation denies job opportunities to women.

Many working women see it differently, saying ERA in Washington has failed.

"As far as I'm concerned, we're facing a whole new period. It's not the old sweatshop but the new, modern sweatshop," says Cindy Gipple, coordinator for a group calling itself the Coalition for Protective Labor Legislation.

Some women have complained of being forced to work overtime by employers who found it cheaper to pay time and a half than to hire additional help. Others have protested that they no longer get lunch periods because their work is "intermittent" in nature.

Reports from Washington would indicate that heaven is a better protector of the working girl than is ERA.

Thirty-eight states must approve the Equal Rights Amendment before 1979 if it is to become part of the U.S. Constitution. Of the 34 states that have ratified ERA, two — Nebraska and Tennessee — have rescinded their legislative approval.

Missouri and Illinois remain pivotal states in the struggle over ERA adoption. The Washington experience could help cool the ardor of some proponents and cement the opposition of those who already know it is a bad deal. ERA is the reverse gear way to a setback, not to opportunity for either sex.

FUND-RAISING IDEA:

Northern Nevada Stop ERA successfully raises all the money it needs by Rummage Sales. They have one every 3 months at the American Legion Hall in Reno, and net \$300-\$800 on ea.sale. All their friends donate rummage regularly. They advertise by community public service announcements, women's page, posters, etc.

Send us YOUR fund-raising suggestions, please.

COSMETICS FIRMS HELP WOMEN'S LIB:

AVON gave thousands of dollars to the pro-ERA campaign in NY before the referendum in Nov.1975.

HELENA RUBENSTEIN gave a grant to Ill.College in Jacksonville, Ill. which was used to bring Betty Friedan to speak on campus.

It makes no sense for cosmetics firms to donate to women's lib. The libs don't believe in making themselves beautiful with cosmetics!

MRS./MISS/MR.:

The joint AP-UPI style-book committee has recommended the elimination of Miss & Mrs. in sports news stories but not elsewhere. The women's libbers are now conducting a letterwriting campaign to get AP & UPI to drop all use of Mrs.& Miss, and to refer to women in news stories by their surnames only--so they will be equal with men!

Do you like women being referred to by surname only(such as Smith, Brown, Ford, Carter)? Or do you like news stories to show special courtesy to women & refer to them as Mrs. or Miss, even tho men are referred to by their surname only?

If you oppose dropping Mrs.& Miss in order to give women "equal treatment" with men, please write to Mr.Keith Fuller (AP, 50 Rockefeller Pl., NY, NY 10020) and Mr. H.L. Stevenson (UPI, 200 E.42nd St., NY, NY 10017).

RECOMMENDED BOOK FOR XMAS GIFTS:

THE FEMALE WOMAN by Arianna Stassinopoulous. (Order from Elaine Middendorf, 3930 Eiler, St.Louis, Mo. 63116; \$1.50; 5 for \$6.50)

May the blessings of the Christ Child be with you & your family at Christmas.

Phyllis Schlafly