

HERE ARE THE FACTS

In October 1971 by an overwhelming vote of 354 to 23 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equal Rights Amendment. This was followed by a Senate vote of 84 to 8 on March 22, 1972.

To become a part of the Constitution, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) must be ratified by the legislatures of 38 States before March 22, 1979.

In view of the huge vote in favor of ERA in both the House and Senate, 22 States ratified it in 1972; 8 States approved it in 1973, but only 3 in 1974. The big rush by State Legislatures to ratify ERA came before the American people (and many State legislators) had a chance to learn what it was all about.

What slowed down the momentum of ERA ratification by the States? Thousands of American women began a tremendous offensive against ERA. This offensive was led nationally by Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly, a wife, mother, and author of a number of books on issues of the day, particularly national defense. Mrs. Schlafly's organization, aptly named "Stop ERA,"* has literally done just that.

In 1977 only one State, Indiana, ratified ERA.

As of August 1977, a total of 35 States have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment but three States, Tennessee, Idaho and Nebraska, have now rescinded their ratification. These rescissions will, without doubt, be contested in court by the proponents of ERA.

WHAT E.R.A. REALLY MEANS

Briefly, the "Stop ERA" women are informing their State Legislatures and the general public that what ratification of the so-called Equal Rights Amendment really means is:

- Protective laws on working conditions for women would be abolished.
- Women would no longer be exempt from compulsory military service -- or even combat duty.
- Various protections, benefits and exemptions for single women, wives, mothers and widows would be wiped out.
- Fathers would no longer have the responsibility to support their children.

- Sexual offense crimes against women would no longer be punishable.

- If divorced wives earn more money than their former husbands, they could be forced to pay alimony. Also, fathers would have an equal right to custody of children in divorces.

- ERA will eliminate all-girls' and all-boys' schools and colleges, as well as single-sex fraternities and sororities in high schools and colleges.

- The federal government will have the power to force the admission of women to seminaries equally with men, and possibly force churches to ordain women.

- Police departments will be required to eliminate physical tests and to pass over qualified men so that women can be hired and assigned on a one-to-one basis.

- State legislatures will be deprived of all power to stop or regulate abortions at any time during pregnancy. ERA will give women a Constitutional "right" to abortion.

- ERA would legalize homosexual "marriages," giving gays the right to qualify for joint income tax and home-stead benefits, and the right to adopt children.

- ERA will transfer jurisdiction over marriage, property rights, divorce, alimony, child custody, and inheritance rights out of the hands of the individual States into the hands of the federal government.

TAXPAYERS DOLLARS USED TO LOBBY FOR E.R.A.

Stung by their numerous defeats in State legislatures, the militant women's libbers resorted to strong-arm tactics -- the "muscle" of federal taxpayers' dollars to push for ratification of E.R.A.

Here's the background on how the women militants got their hands on \$5 million of taxpayers' dollars:

In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year. On January 9, 1975, President Gerald Ford issued Executive Order No. 11832 setting up the Commission on International Women's Year (IWY). The IWY Commission opened an office in the State Department with a paid staff of 13. With Ford's approval, the Commission received cash grants from the Departments of State, Interior, Labor, Transportation,

Justice, Defense, as well as from Health, Education and Welfare.

In April 1975, the IWY Commission held its first meeting and officially resolved to make ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment its first priority.

After the stunning defeats of ERA in the New York and New Jersey referendums on November 4, 1975, the IWY Commission persuaded Ford to issue an Executive Order extending the "year" of International Women's Year to June 30, 1976.

On December 10, 1975, the House of Representatives passed by a vote of 252 to 162 a bill authorizing \$5 million for the IWY. The termination date of the Commission was set at March 31, 1978.

The purpose of this appropriation was to put on a women's conference in every one of the 50 States, to be followed by a national conference.

The IWY has become a blaring, taxpayer-supported propaganda machine pushing for ERA, abortion-on-demand, federal child-development centers, etc.

In the spring of 1977, President Jimmy Carter reconstituted the IWY and named Bella Abzug as its chairperson. (It was "Congressperson" Abzug who originally proposed the bill authorizing the \$5 million for IWY. Ms. Abzug also introduced the first "gay rights" bill which would make it possible for gay men and lesbians to mold the minds of America's children in schools and in federally financed child-development centers.)

Other Carter appointees to the Commission on IWY include many of the most militant women's libbers in the country such as Gloria Steinem, editor of MS magazine; Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force; Eleanor Smeal, the new president of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Commenting on Carter's appointees to IWY, the PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY REPORT of May 1977 had this to say:

"It is quite a reflection on President Carter that he appointed to the IWY Commission so many notorious women's libbers as well as the national director of the homosexuals' organization, but he did not appoint a single member of Stop ERA or Eagle Forum.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE I.W.Y. STATE CONFERENCES?

On July 1, 1977, Senator Jesse Helms

declared in the U.S. Senate:

"There has been and continues to be a concerted effort to use these IWY State conferences -- financed by tax dollars -- to promote the goals of a militant feminist minority....The National Women's Political Caucus, and the Lesbian Caucus -- just to name a few -- have developed a strategy to prevent differing viewpoints from being heard."

In each State, pre-selected IWY committees arranged pre-planned packaged thinking to produce pre-determined results. All the materials selected for distribution at the State conferences supported ERA, abortion, and the other women's lib goals.

The August 1977 newsletter of Eagle Forum (Phyllis Schlafly, president) revealed:

"Those who attended the International Women's Year State conferences are in a state of shock. They have discovered from first-hand experience that the women's lib movement stands for:

- (1) Aggressive immorality (especially of the lesbian variety),
- (2) Anti-family goals (especially abortion, federal child-care, and the anti-homemaker ERA),
- (3) Total federal power and control,
- (4) Open hostility toward church-going, patriotic Americans,
- (5) A radical attack on marriage, the family, moral values, and the traditional role of women and mother."

The August 1977 issue of the PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY REPORT declared that the majority of the IWY State conferences were characterized by rigged elections, ruthless parliamentary tactics, and the railroading of the pre-scripted IWY resolutions.

No speaker opposed to ERA was permitted to address any general session of any IWY State Conference. The speakers at the workshops were at the ratio of about 100 pro-ERA to one token con. The hundreds of workshops at the State conferences were permitted to discuss only the topics selected by the IWY such as ERA, abortion, federal child-care, and lesbian privileges.

The rules were kept secret as long as possible and then changed daily before the State conferences, and hourly during the conferences, in any way necessary to elect IWY delegates to the national conference and pass IWY resolutions. It was standard operating practice to unplug the micro-

phones when any non-IWY participant tried to speak.

According to a report in THE WANDERER newspaper, in one of the sex workshops at the Pennsylvania IWY conference, "bestiality and necrophilia were promoted as normal forms of sexual expression." The July issue of THE MIND-SZENTY REPORT stated that Communist films and literature were distributed at Minnesota's IWY: Colorado featured 12 workshops on sexual and lesbian subjects, and one on atheism; and, in Virginia's IWY conference, self-proclaimed witches held a workshop on witchcraft...In Wisconsin, radical feminists celebrated International Women's Day by marching from the State capitol shouting: 'Two-four-six-eight, Smash the Family, Smash the State...'

And, to repeat, these IWY State conferences were financed by your tax dollars via that \$5 million appropriation.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN SCORE SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES

Despite strong-arm, unfair, underhanded, tricky devices employed by the women's libbers, Conservative women managed to out-maneuver the feminist radicals in a number of States.

Syndicated Columnist Paul Scott on July 4 covered the Nebraska IWY conference and had this to say:

"When the smoke of the battle cleared, those representing the traditional values and pro-life (anti-abortion) forces had elected a full slate of 21 delegates to the national convention of IWY. The women's libbers were left without a single delegate and a ripped-up and changed platform."

And, syndicated columnist James J. Kilpatrick on July 11 had these comments on the Oklahoma IWY conference:

"What happened in brief, is that the troops of Bella Abzug got scalped. They were routed. In a fair fight at the Oklahoma Conference of Women, the women's libbers were out-maneuvered, out-thought, out-hustled....The surviving libbers fled in disarray. The victorious anti-libbers boarded buses to take them back home to church."

The PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY REPORT of August gave this tally of the IWY State conferences:

"In a few States, non-IWY participants scored spectacular victories: Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Utah.

"In most cases, this was accomplished only because non-IWY participants hired lawyers and parliamentarians at their own expense and threatened legal action if they did not get fair treatment."

ILLEGAL LOBBYING

On August 8, the AP reported that Congressman George Hansen had criticized the IWY, saying it has spent public funds to lobby for the Equal Rights Amendment. Hansen stated that he might file suit to halt what he alleged was illegal lobbying by the group. He said the lawsuit was based on a General Accounting Office audit report.

SHOWDOWN AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

The series of IWY State conferences will culminate in a national conference to be held in Houston, Tex., on November 18-21, 1977, and attended by 1,442 delegates from all 50 States.

However, THE PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY REPORT of August revealed:

"The IWY National Commission is now naming 400 additional delegates of its own choosing -- just to make sure that the pro-ERA libs have a comfortable majority in Houston."

The ostensible purpose of the Houston meeting is to draft recommendations which will be presented in a final report to the President and Congress in March 1978.

The national conference at Houston could turn out to be a knock-down, drag-out affair, complete with credentials fights, votes on imposition of unit-rule in voting, etc., just like a national political nominating convention. It is expected that TV will provide coverage.

Mrs. Virginia Wilson who reported in her COUNT DOWN newsletter on her experiences at the IWY meeting in Kansas made this prediction regarding the Houston convention:

"From all indications it promises to be a fiery, vocal confrontation between anti-family, pro-abortion, radically Liberal, frustrated feminists who want the federal government to solve all

their problems -- and pro-family, anti-abortion, politically Conservative, anti-lib women who believe in individual, moral responsibility free of federal dictates."

Any worthwhile civilization has always been built on its strong families. If the anti-family, pro-lesbian women's lib movement is successful, the family will fade into obscurity, and so will our nation and our civilization.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

As could be expected, the Leftwing-controlled communications media is sympathetic to final ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the women's lib movement, in general. Therefore, TV coverage of the Houston national conference could be biased in favor of these radical women's libbers.

Therefore, if you believe that the documented information in this pamphlet should have the widest possible distribution throughout this nation, you are urged to buy and distribute as many copies of this pamphlet as possible.

Send copies to your Congressman, your two Senators, the editor of your local newspaper and news commentators on local radio and TV programs. Also send copies to members of PTA groups, senior citizens groups, patriotic and civic clubs, as well as to your doctors, dentist, employees, your pastor and members of your church, and, of course to your neighbors and friends.

The phony Equal Rights Amendment will never become a part of the U.S. Constitution if the American people have the true facts!

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Phoebe Courtney, Managing Editor August 1977

Using your tax dollars

BEWARE THE I. W. Y.!

How the radical
women's libbers
are using IWY to
lobby for the anti-family
Equal Rights Amendment

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