



NATIONAL LOBBY DAY

JULY 10, 1978

WE NEED THE ERA BECAUSE:

***In 1977, the United States Supreme Court denied a young woman the right to attend a public high school in Philadelphia because this academically superior technical school was reserved for boys only.

***For every dollar a man earns, a woman earns only 57¢. A female head-of-household earns less than 2/3 of what a male head-of-household earns, and this gap is widening.

***A title-by-title review of the U.S. Code in April, 1977, revealed over 800 sex-biased laws, the cumulative effect of which is to assign women, solely on the basis of their sex, to a subordinate role.

***Not only is there a quota set for the number of women who may serve in the military, but women are also required to have a higher educational level than men in order to be admitted. Thus, women are denied education, insurance, job training, and loan benefits. Additionally, they are thus denied veteran and retirement benefits.

***Men in college receive more financial aid and higher grants than women. Women receive only 5% of the most prestigious fellowships.

***Non-discriminatory laws of one state cannot carry over to other states. Therefore, even if a woman lives in a state with a state ERA, she may lose her rights when she moves to another state.

***Without the Equal Rights Amendment, what little non-discriminatory legislation there is can be reversed, modified, or even eliminated.

***Women represent only 2% of the total secondary school principals, although they comprise 63% of the public school teachers.

***Women college professors earn, on an average, \$3000 per year less than men college professors.

***Although Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) is designed to prohibit sex discrimination in employment, the nation's largest employer, the Federal Government, has been included in a less meaningful way.

***Although a man would be entitled to receive full Social Security benefits upon retirement, his surviving widow would be eligible for only 82% of his benefits.

***Women frequently receive longer jail sentences than men for the same crime,

and receive significantly less education and job training while incarcerated.

***Failure to pass the ERA will mean that this nation has gone on record as opposed to full equality for all its citizens.

WE NEED AN EXTENSION BECAUSE:

***The issue continues to be one of pressing concern, and the debate is, if anything, livelier than it was when the ERA was introduced in 1972.

***75% of the population of the United States lives in states which have said "yes" to the Equal Rights Amendment, yet a handful of politicians are denying women and men of this country Constitutional equality.

***All reputable polls indicate that the vast majority of Americans, including those in the unratified states, want the ERA.

***35 states have ratified the ERA. If the deadline passes without Extension, the entire process of including women in the Constitution will have to begin again, thus tying up the Congress and state legislatures in the process of reconsideration.

***Opponents have been using the deadline as a weapon, shifting the dialogue from the merits of the ERA to the time limit itself.

YOU MAY HEAR THAT, . . .

***to extend the deadline would be to change the rules in the middle of the game. Since when has Congress not been allowed to change its rules and procedures when circumstances demanded? Since when does 50 years of procedure wipe out 150 years of precedent? Since when does an arbitrary deadline established by Congress override Article V of the Constitution? Since when is equal rights and opportunities for over one-half of the population a game? SINCE WHEN!

***seven years is long enough. Since when did we expect progressive social change to be accomplished within seven years? Since when did we decide that the rights of women are to be limited by an arbitrary Congressionally established rule? Since when have we forgotten that the 14th, 15th, and 16th Amendments came only as the result of a Civil War? Since when did we decide that an oppressed segment of our society has but seven years to change the thinking and prejudices of over 200 years? SINCE WHEN!

***if we have an extension of time it would be only "fair" to allow rescission. Since when did the interpretation of "fairness" by a small minority of ERA obstructionists supercede the Constitution of the United States? Since when has it been "fair" for state legislators to be elected on a pro-ERA platform, only to compromise that position for personal political gain? Since when did it become "fair" to use tricks, lies, threats, and parliamentary deceit to bar women from the Constitution? Since when is it "fair" that over 50% of our population is denied Constitutional equality.
LET'S TALK ABOUT FAIR!