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Maine League of Women Voters Staff
Maine League of Women Voters

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ERA

**means
equal rights
for men and
women**

"Here in the United States, we raise our families with a commitment to the ideal of fairness. Whether it is the rules governing employment opportunities, or inheritance laws, or the question of equal pay for equal work, the principle we are committed to is fairness. And that's what the Equal Rights Amendment is all about."

**President, Ruth J. Hinerfeld
League of Women Voters
of the United States**

ERA protects women. And men.

There are places in the United States today where women still are not recognized as mature, responsible adults. Where women can't serve on juries, start a business, get a mortgage, or control their own property *on the same basis as men*. There are inheritance laws, pension rules, and insurance practices that treat men and women differently—often shortchanging women, sometimes shortchanging men. (Such as widowers, who are still denied the same full protection of Social Security that is available to widows.)

Over the past decade, federal and state governments have enacted laws to ban certain discriminatory practices. But, because there is no clear Constitutional protection, these laws have not fully eliminated the problem. Only an Equal Rights Amendment can finally guarantee full protection.

ERA protects the homemaker. And the home.

Mothers and wives are among the hardest working people in America. Yet, in some states, they are automatically denied an equal right to the home, savings account, and other property which a couple works together to earn. ERA will mean that a homemaker's services at home are finally recognized as having real value. So that unfair inheritance laws and unfair credit practices can't discriminate against women who choose to be fulltime homemakers.

ERA protects widows. And their children.

Twelve million American children are growing up in one-parent homes today. Women are heads of households in 92% of these homes.

But women are denied equal job opportunities and equal pay. So that widows struggling to raise young children are forced to make that struggle at 20%

lower wages than men receive for the same work.

And widows are often penalized by unfair inheritance laws, denying them their rights to the farm or small business they helped build.

ERA will mean fair treatment for widows.

ERA protects older Americans.

Our parents and grandparents have earned retirement years of security and dignity. And every senior citizen should have a right to full protection against age discrimination and sex discrimination.

But discrimination against women can sometimes make life difficult for older women.

Social Security, for instance, doesn't recognize homemaking and child-raising as "real" work. So, if a woman is widowed early in life, she may be completely out of luck in terms of Social Security.

Widowers, too, have suffered because Social Security doesn't always allow them benefits based on their deceased spouse's work.

A Social Security system that treats men and women equally will be a stronger system, with benefits that are fair for all Americans.



But, whether the question is Social Security, or credit discrimination, or employment opportunities, the men and women who suffer most from unfair rules are our senior citizens. And that's why the National Council of Senior Citizens strongly endorses an equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Right now, women are paid about 20% less than men for doing identical work. That goes against our deepest American beliefs in fairness. But it also means real hardship for:

- widows trying to raise their families on unfairly restricted income.
- families where husband and wife both work, but earn far less than—in fairness—they should earn. Not only is the wife underpaid, but underpaid female competition often holds down the husband's wages, too.

The Equal Rights Amendment will assure that there can *never* be a state or federal law permitting employers to shortchange women in the workplace.

There are some things ERA doesn't do.

The Equal Rights Amendment is only 51 words long. And, while it has enormous importance in strengthening the legal protections of Americans, there is a lot that ERA doesn't do.

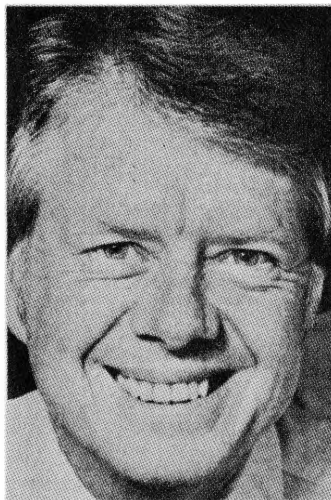
It doesn't interfere in private relationships. It doesn't say who should open the door, or drive the family car, or wash the dishes. It doesn't reduce the protections that women have won under the law. And it doesn't tell women whether or not they should go out to work, or stay home and raise a family, or both.

It just says that the government can't ever pass a law that restricts the rights of women—or men. And that all protections extended to either men or women must extend to both men *and* women.



**"We should celebrate life, and equality.
We should pass the ERA."**

**—Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
President, Notre Dame University**



**"I hope that all of us
can work together in
passing the Equal
Rights Amendment.
As President and
with Fritz Mondale as
Vice President, the
members of our
families and you,
must induce those
last states to finally
ratify the Equal
Rights Amendment
to give women a
chance in life."**

**—President
Jimmy Carter**



**"I have been far oftener discrimi-
nated against because I am a woman
than because I am black."**

—Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

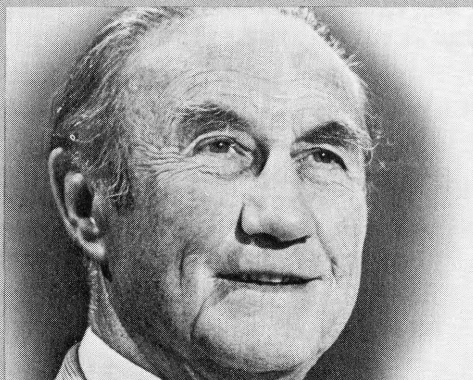


**"I have received hundreds of letters from
homemakers discarded or widowed after 20, 30 and
40 years of marriage. They are shocked to realize
that they have . . . no security. They are dropped
from pension and health insurance plans and find it
difficult to get a job."**

**"According to census figures, there are over five
million women over the age of 65 who live alone.
Half that number are living their last years below the
official poverty line."**

**"What happened to them is the result of discrimina-
tion throughout their lives which strikes its cruelest
blow at the end. Our country's retirement system
contributes to the economic impact of sex discrimi-
nation and punishes women for their traditional role
in society."**

"The ERA will set the climate for recognizing a



**"This amendment would not downgrade the roles of
women as housewives and mothers. It would con-
firm women's equality under the law and would up-
hold a woman's right to choose her place in society.
. . . I want my daughter, Nancy Moore, to grow up
with a full guarantee of every right and opportunity
that our great country provides for all its citizens."**

—U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond



**"I think that ratification of the ERA
would be helpful not only to the career
woman but to the married woman who
has to reenter the job market."**

—Former First Lady Betty Ford

**ERA.
Three states
to go.**

**Any three of these fifteen states can put
ERA over the top: Alabama, Arizona, Ar-
kansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois,
Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada,
North Carolina, Oklahoma, South
Carolina, Utah, Virginia.**

homemaker's non-monetary contribution to the marriage and the family, equal to the monetary contribution of the wage-earning partner.”
—Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder

Thirty five states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. Three more states must ratify ERA for it to become the law of the land.

Then, every state will have two years to review and revise their laws, regulations and practices—to make sure men and women have equal protection.

Every American president since Dwight Eisenhower supported ERA. And hundreds of respected national organizations support ERA.

Allied Industrial Workers of America, International Union
Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union
Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of University Professors
American Association of University Women
American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.
American Bar Association
American Civil Liberties Union
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Federation of Government Employees
AFL-CIO
American Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Americans for Democratic Action
American Home Economics Association
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Library Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Newspaper Women's Club
American Nurses' Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
American Public Welfare Association
American Veterans Committee
Association of Flight Attendants
B'nai B'rith Women
Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church
Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees
Catholic Women for the ERA
Center for Social Action, United Church of Christ

Child Welfare League of America
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Church of the Brethren
Church Women United, National Executive Committee
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America
Council of Chief State School Officers
Council of Nurse Researchers of the American Nurses' Association
Council of Women and the Church, United Presbyterian Church
Democratic National Committee
Economists in Business
Evangelicals for Social Action
Family Services Association of America
Federation of Shareholders in American Business, Inc.
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
Grey Panthers
Housewives for the ERA
International Association of Human Rights Agencies
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Ladies' Garment Workers Union
International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers
Latin American Studies Association
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
League of Women Voters of the United States
Lutheran Church in America
Men for ERA
Movement for Economic Justice
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Counties
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Temple Educators
National Black Feminist Organization
National Catholic Coalition for the ERA
National Coalition of American Nuns

National Consumers League
National Council of the Churches of Christ
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Negro Women
National Council of Senior Citizens
National Education Association
National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
National Governors' Conference
National Ladies Auxiliary/Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc.
National Lawyers Guild
National Organization for Women
National Welfare Rights Organization
National Women's Political Caucus
Network
Newspaper Guild, The
Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union
Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
Priests for Equality
Republican National Committee
Retail Clerks International Association
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Transport Workers Union of America
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
General Assembly of the Unitarian-Universalist Association
United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agriculture Workers of America
United Church of Christ, 10th and 11th General Synod
United Indian Planners Association
United Methodist Church
United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
United States Conference of Mayors
United Steelworkers of America
Women's Equity Action League
Women's National Democratic Club
Women's Ordination Conference (Catholic)
Young Women's Christian Association

And some organizations oppose ERA. Including the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Communist Party, the John Birch Society, the Ku Klux Klan, Liberty Lobby, and Young Americans for Freedom.

**"EQUALITY OF RIGHTS
UNDER LAW SHALL NOT
BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED
BY THE UNITED STATES
OR BY ANY STATE
ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.**

**The Congress
shall have the power
to enforce, by appropriate
legislation, the provisions of
this article. This amendment
shall take effect two years
after the date of ratification."**

**That's the entire amendment.
But those fifty-one words
mean a lot to your daughters
and granddaughters. It
means that they'll be first-
class citizens.**

FAIRNESS.

League of Women Voters
1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Pub. No. 272—100/\$3
Revised September 1978





League of Women Voters of the United States • 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • 296-1770

This is going on DPM
November 1978

TO: State and Local League Presidents, State ERA Chairs
FROM: Nancy Neuman, ERA Chair
RE: Update on ERA

Election day didn't hand ERA many roses. Since then, in cooperation with our colleagues at the other national organizations, we've been sifting through available information and reevaluating. In brief, the political situation has about equal parts of uncertainty and pessimism, and our financial resources have dwindled as a result of all-out ratification efforts in 1978.

FLORIDA It was indeed a blow to lose our "Yes on 2" campaign, but the situation in Florida is by no means one of total gloom. First of all, the voters rejected all nine ballot issues (eight constitutional amendments and a casino gambling referendum). Analysts seem to agree that voters just didn't pick and choose: they simply chose the safest route, which was to vote "no" on everything. Among the group of nine that was rejected we didn't do so badly: we won in Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties and statewide pulled approximately 100,000 more votes (pro and con) than the other revisions. We won 42% of the vote, second only to the uncontroversial "merit retention of judges" proposal, which got 48%. ERA did well in the legislative races, maintaining a pro majority in the House and a probable 20-20 tie in the Senate. At this point it is unknown whether a tie-breaking vote will materialize, thus it is also unlikely that ERA will be considered by the legislature when it meets December 5-7.

All in all, the defeat was by no means a triumph for the antis. The Florida press has attributed it to a combination of confusion about the revision questions which, except for #2, were not discussed or explained publicly, and the massive, \$1.5 million anti casino gambling campaign which sent the voters to the polls with a basic negative set. The Tampa Tribune stated that "the Ten Commandments may not have survived Tuesday's votes," and the Orlando Sentinel Star editorialized that "Given the mood of the voters this year, it's well motherhood wasn't on the ballot." Our showing looks especially good considering Anita Bryant's last minute attempt to distort the facts by linking Revision 2 with homosexuality.

In a very important respect the campaign was a real success: approximately 7,000 volunteers from the League, NOW, BPW, AAUW, WPC, the Council of Jewish Women, and numerous other church and civic groups staffed phones, distributed literature, and organized grassroots support from 20 local "Yes on 2" headquarters across the state. The campaign organization was strong, and has served to strengthen the League as well as to build a cohesive proponent ERA ratification effort. If ratification looks like a real possibility that strong organization can be reactivated.

As two members of the Polk County, Florida League have written to the national Board, the expenditure of League ratification dollars in Florida made a significant difference for the League itself. They speak of the favorable publicity generated for the League by our advertising on TV, radio, and in newspapers, increases in membership, and the valuable campaign experience gained by League members which will carry them forth in the future.

NEVADA The Nevada advisory referendum, for which we had contributed production of media, lost by about two to one. The elections also brought the defeat of enough pros in the legislature to make ratification in 1979 a virtual impossibility. The major factor in the defeat was a massive and highly organized campaign by Mormons; for instance, on the Sunday before the election, churchgoers were given a sheet of written instructions citing the opposition of the head of the church to ERA and urging a "no" vote. Those who didn't go to church received the instructions at home.

NORTH CAROLINA There was one gleam of cheer: Jim McDuffie, who switched his yes vote to no in the 1977 legislative vote, was defeated for a second time in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. He had been defeated once in the primary and then ran in the general election as an independent. The issue was clearly ERA, and the pros rallied to do what needed to be done. But in general the legislative elections did not go

well; a number of seats that had seemed sure bets were lost, partially as a result of the Jesse Helms Senate race sweep, leaving a small majority in the House and a gap of three to five votes in the Senate. With ratification looking less likely than it had seemed prior to the election, proponent organizations are reassessing plans for North Carolina.

OKLAHOMA A significant ERA race in Oklahoma was pro Bernest Cain against incumbent anti Senator Mary Helm. Although it looks like a Cain victory, there was a faulty voting machine in one precinct and Helm is contesting the results. It is likely that the courts will decide to hold a special election, probably in December.

Basic to ratification of Oklahoma will be the significant number of undecideds in each house, and the key to them will be the legislative leadership. Both the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House are pros, a definite plus for ERA.

AMONG THE STATES THAT ARE NOT CURRENT TARGETS: In Arizona the elections did not produce a pro ERA legislature. So the prospects for ERA are dim. The new governor of Arkansas is Bill Clinton, a pro, who won by a landslide. A number of the strongest antis are now out of the legislature. The actual chances of ERA ratification are still unknown though undoubtedly helped by the presence of newly elected House member Gloria Cabe, former state LWV president. Senator Percy's win in Illinois was, in part, a win for ERA. His vote on extension was the most recent of a series of controversial votes. Phyllis Schlafly tried to capitalize on this by sending an anti-Percy letter to all her Illinois supporters. The ERA forces saw the problem; their hard work for Percy was one of the factors responsible for the dramatic turnaround he made. The Illinois legislature lost 2 ERA seats in the House and picked up one or two in the Senate. The old legislature will meet before the end of the year but at this time ratification seems unlikely. In South Carolina an ERA referendum in Marlboro County lost, but by a much smaller margin than had been anticipated.

RESCISSION AND REFERENDA The new danger we face is a concerted effort by the antis to force referenda in unratified states and achieve rescissions in ratified states. Either one would do great harm to the cause. Senator Jake Garn of Utah has written every state legislator in the nation advising them that they can rescind ERA during the extension period. Please let the ERA campaign office know immediately if rumors or facts about either surface in your state. At the moment, states that we know have been targeted for rescission are: Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Eternal vigilance is the price of no more rescissions!

MONEY Thanks to the generosity and hard work of League members around the country we were able to do what we had planned: run a highly professional campaign in Florida and contribute professional media to the Nevada effort. It is unlikely that even if we had had twice as much to spend in each state that would have made the difference. But, there is still everything to do and our finances are diminishing. All contributions and the LWVUS match have provided us with \$969,122 since May, 1977 (almost our million!). Of this, approximately \$760,000 has been spent in the states, and approximately \$125,000 by the national office for staff, Board, publications, consultants, contributions to ERAmerica, etc. We are left with slightly over \$80,000. Although decisions about next steps can't be made until the Board meets in January, one thing is clear: without more money we won't be able to maintain a highly visible League ERA effort. Therefore, I would like to issue a plea to those states that have not met their pledges to bend every effort to do so. It is especially urgent for New York Leagues to raise \$10,000 before December 31 because each of those dollars will be matched, one-for-one, by the Veatch Program of Plandome, New York. In addition, whatever you dauntless souls who have already met or exceeded your pledge can raise would be most welcome. Texas is setting a superb example: their December Voter will include a tear-off for "one more dollar for ERA".

BOYCOTT SUIT The NOW trial in the boycott suit brought by the attorney general of Missouri is now over, and the Judge says he will hand down a decision at the end of January. At issue is whether the first amendment protects the right of organizations to take economic action for political purposes. A negative decision would be a landmark reversal of previous decisions in this area. I testified in Kansas City on November 6; League testimony was important because we were one of the first two groups to officially decide not to hold conventions in unratified states, two years before NOW began to encourage other organizations to adopt similar resolutions.

Witnesses for the defense in Missouri v. NOW demonstrated the diversity of organizations supporting ERA. It should be very clear from the depositions we gave last summer, from the files subpoenaed from all the organizations, and from the trial record that all the groups called to testify have

different purposes, that their boards of directors determine quite independently one from another where and when to hold conventions, and that the one issue that we have in common happens to be ERA,

It is frustrating to all of us to use precious ratification dollars to defend ourselves in a case such as this one, and it must be doubly frustrating to Missouri ERA supporters to see their tax dollars spend on this lawsuit.

ERA COMMITTEE The national ERA committee will be meeting early in December to review the campaign and prepare recommendations for the national Board. You will recall that the Board decided in September to go full steam ahead until the end of March 1979, as originally planned, whether extension passed or not. The meeting in January will give them an opportunity to reassess this decision.

MAIL DAY, OCTOBER 23 ERAmerica sponsored a get-out-the-vote sending of post cards to Florida and Nevada on October 23. Over 400,000 postcards were sent, of which 22,413 were mailed by League members in 19 states. New York sent 10,000!

LUMINARIES FOR ERA As part of our campaigns in Florida and Nevada we were able to enlist a number of luminaries to make radio and TV spots, including Governors Rubin Askew of Florida and Mike O'Callaghan of Nevada, Betty Ford, Coretta King, and Burt Reynolds.

NEW MATERIAL

- ERA Means Equal Rights for Men and Women, LWV pub. #272 has been redone; a copy is enclosed. It has already been very well received in Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Georgia.

The Equal Rights Handook by Riane Tennenhaus Eisler has recently been published by Avon. Ruth Hinerfeld has written a brief introduction-testimonial for it. The book discusses a number of "facts and fallacies" and suggests ways to work for ERA. Avon is offering the book at half price to Leagues if there is a minimum order of twenty five copies. It costs \$1.95 (full price) and can be resold by you to make money. Books should be ordered from: Jack Bernstein, Avon Books, 959 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10019. A check for 50% of \$1.95 times the number of books you are ordering should be sent with the order.

Rights and Wrongs, Women's Struggle for Legal Equality by Nicholas, Price, and Rubin, of the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia has been published by The Feminist Press (Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568) and McGraw Hill. Short and concise, its four sections cover: women and the Constitution, marriage and the law, women and employment, and women and their bodies. This same group produced Women's Rights and the Law, a copy of which was sent to each state League several months ago.

+ + + + +

ERA Christmas and Chanukah Cards The Notables, 6019 Kenwood, Kansas City, MO 64110 (816-523-2646) again have appropriate Christmas and Chanukah cards. They come 12 cards to a package and cost \$2.50 retail, \$1.25 if you are going to resell them.

Note: Please notify the campaign office if your state ERA chair has changed.

Keep the Faith!



League of Women Voters of the United States • 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • 296-1770

This is going on DPM

December 1977

TO: State and Local League Presidents and State ERA Chairs
FROM: Nancy Neuman, ERA Chair
RE: ERA Progress Report

BACK FROM HOUSTON As you all know, ERA scored a tremendous victory at the International Women's Year Conference. It was thrilling to see such an overwhelming reaffirmation of support for this constitutional guarantee of equality. Let's hope the vote on ERA and the press coverage it received will carry over to our efforts to ratify three more states.

IWY for me as a voting delegate from Pennsylvania, renewed my faith in the ability of the American people to show the resolve, the energy, and the determination to persist in improving our society and shoring up those democratic institutions and principles upon which this nation was founded. It was indeed the most diverse collection of people imaginable, yet we were able to agree on some of the most controversial and complex issues of the day. Even within my own delegation, which was unified in its support for the Plan of Action, we represented all racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and religious groups. We ranged in age from 70 year olds to 17 year olds. Some of us were prominent in state politics; others were prominent only to our families. None of this diversity would have been possible without the federal allocation which meant that ability to pay expenses was not a criteria for being a delegate.

FUND RAISING As you can see from the accompanying chart, your hard work has brought in \$188,441.95 of the \$825,493 pledged by local Leagues. Special congratulations go to Delaware and Montana which have already sent in their total pledges. Money -- and a continuous flow of it -- is critical at this point in the campaign. The national board must be able to determine what level of money we have raised in order to develop strategy and make financial commitments for ratification. Our unratified states need money now in order to prepare for votes in their state legislatures. Therefore, we urge you to send your money in as soon as you collect it, and to make sure that 50% is here by January 16 when the board meets. If you are experiencing difficulties in raising your pledge and think we can help, please let us know.

The necklaces are selling well, at a rate of 700 to 1,000 per week. Be sure to order yours soon, if you haven't already. There still seems to be some confusion over what qualifies for the "bulk" order price of \$3.25. Any League order for more than one is a bulk order.

Swap shop ideas are coming in steadily via the local and state newsletters. They are innovative, exciting and productive. In Denver, for example, the mayor declared two days in September to be "Denver ERA Days", during which League members walked or stood along the main street with ERA posters, flyers, and cans for contributions. They raised a lot of consciousnesses, and \$350 besides. In Orange County, California, the League is raising money by sponsoring classes in Brazilian embroidery, and the League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Virginia, is quilting a double bed quilt with the IWY logo on it, to be raffled off. In the New Castle (Pa.) area, Leaguers sold ERA balloons at the Oktoberfest, netting \$390, and a wine and cheese party combined with an auction earned \$1,250 for Park Ridge, Illinois.

RATIFICATION UPDATE Contrary to what you may have heard regarding the proposed extension for ratification, there will be important ratification votes in some states in 1978 (as well as the inevitable attempts to rescind). As a result, we have been very busy assessing the chances for ratification in

some of the states in the coming months. There will be a vote in the state Senate of South Carolina early in 1978. Because of the early date of this vote and because of the well organized efforts to ratify in South Carolina, we have decided to invest a portion of the money you have raised toward winning both houses of that legislature. We have recruited top professionals to lobby, to organize, and to develop a positive public image for ERA. Without the kind of money you have been raising, hiring this kind of talent would have been impossible.

In the meantime, we have been working with other unratified states to determine how best to use League money in the year ahead.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO EXTEND ERA RATIFICATION TIME The resolution to extend the period for ERA ratification by seven years, which we told you about in October, received three days of hearings before the Sub-Committee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee early in November. Seven witnesses were called, including one from the Department of Justice.

Most of the witnesses agreed that Congress does have the right to extend ratification time, and a majority of them expressed the view that this can be done by a simple majority vote. On the basis of two Supreme Court decisions it is generally accepted that an amendment is supposed to represent the reasonably contemporaneous views of the people in the country, so an extension brings up the question of whether the increased time would give validity to rescission votes by the states. This issue brought the greatest variation in opinion by the witnesses: three agreed that Congress would have to make that judgment when there seemed to be the necessary number of ratifications and each of the other four held a different individual point of view.

A more detailed report is available in "Report from the Hill: 95-I-7, December 1977."

ERA FORCES DEFEAT "ANTI" STRONG MAN IN VIRGINIA Through a carefully organized campaign, the Virginia ERA coalition, (VERA), defeated James M. Thompson, Virginia House Majority Leader, in November. A 22-year veteran of the Virginia House of Delegates, Thompson led the anti-ratification forces in the Virginia legislature. Campaign strategy included contacting every registered voter in Thompson's district to locate those for ERA and see that they voted. Although this was a big boost for ERA, it is still uncertain whether Thompson's absence from the legislature will be enough to assure ratification. We continue to monitor all unratified states for political shifts and potential targeting by the League.

NEW ERA MATERIALS Common Cause has just published a tabloid entitled "What happens if this man leaves the picture . . ." It covers the controversial aspects of the ERA with personal stories from a variety of people. Because there is a limited supply it is currently available only to unratified states, at \$25 per 1000, from Common Cause/ERA, 2030 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. Up to ten copies will be sent free of charge. Common Cause may reprint this brochure in the new year to make it available to more people.

A sample copy is being sent to all state ERA chairs with this memo. Please note that there is no copyright, so you are free to reproduce it yourselves in part or in toto.

The Florida state League has published an ERA Action Kit which should be useful in both ratified and unratified states. It includes the text of the Senate Judiciary Committee Report that forms an important part of the Congressional intent that will be referred to by the courts as they work out the implementation of the ERA once it is passed, as well as helpful articles and quotes and assistance for public speakers. It is available from the League of Women Voters of Florida, 1035-S South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803 for \$4.00 mailed first class and \$3.50 mailed third class.



news release

THIS IS GOING ON DPM
June 1977

[This is a model press release. You may want to adapt it for use in your media to help gain coverage for the ERA fundraising effort. We also suggest that you check with your state League regarding the amount your state League has pledged to this effort. You may want to add a line regarding this where the * has been placed. Also if your state has been successful in ratifying the ERA, you may want to re-word the third paragraph to include remarks on your own state's victory and your commitment to helping others achieve the same goal.]

"We're betting on the future of the ERA and we intend to be winners," _____, president of the _____ League said today as the _____ League launched its fundraising efforts to help the League of Women Voters of the U.S. raise over 1 million dollars for ERA campaigns in key unratified states. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. has already received \$825,000 in League pledges from around the country for this national ERA effort.

In making the announcement, _____ said that "we are determined to ensure passage of this amendment before time runs out in 1979. Since any well-run legislative campaign needs funding, we are committed to ensuring that not only will we have the womanpower needed for a national ERA victory, but we will have the cash necessary to carry out our campaign."

_____ went on to say that the bulk of the money will be used to operate ERA campaign offices in the key states. "We're proud to commit _____ (League) efforts to help our sister states in ratifying this vital amendment." She then added that "since every American stands to gain a great deal from the ratification of ERA, we feel we have a responsibility to help achieve the ERA victory."

_____ also said that the _____ League has pledged to raise _____ dollars for ERA.* Fundraising is being undertaken by local and state Leagues and the national League.

The _____ League's fundraising efforts will include (list or describe activities). _____ added that "if citizens are interested in helping us achieve this important goal, they can make a contribution to the effort by sending their dollars to _____."

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League of Women Voters of the United States • 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • 296-1770

This is going on DPM
March 1978

TO: State and Local Presidents, State ERA Chairs
FROM: Nancy Neuman, ERA Chair
RE: Update on ERA

South Carolina This was a case where we did everything right, but in the end were no match for the power the Senate president pro tem has built up over 47 years. We went into the session ahead, 23 - 21, the result of careful and diligent work by the South Carolina ERA team. But, according to someone who was on the floor at the time, the president pro tem, Marion Gressette, began making the rounds, "promising the moon and the stars" to win votes for the anti. The upshot was that one of the men who was publicly committed to ERA paired his vote with an absent anti, another "walked", and three simply switched and voted "no". "We were lied to, eye-ball to eye-ball," said one of our consultants. Ironically, we held the votes we had thought were uncertain.

This event reconfirms our analysis that ERA is now a hardball political issue, and has to be treated as such.

Although the South Carolina Senate will not come up for election until 1980, proponents may try for another vote early in 1979.

Virginia Although the pros are far better organized in Virginia than ever before, no one had thought that ERA had a serious chance of passage. There was some hope that with a new, pro, chair of the Privileges and Elections Committee the measure might at least (and at last) reach the floor of the House. As things turned out, the pros gained one vote, but the rest of the committee members are evidently frozen into position, and voted to keep the bill in committee 12 - 8. The pros are now going to try all procedural moves available to see if they can get the bill out for a floor vote though, again, there is not much hope.

So this leaves us with Illinois, where the pieces of our campaign are rapidly falling into place, and with the hope that legislatures in North Carolina, Florida and Oklahoma will change enough through the coming elections so that ERA will pass there.

Let me emphasize once again: we are of course unhappy about the results in South Carolina and Virginia, but we are in no way disheartened or deterred from our plan. In fact, we're getting the fight more in focus, and urge you all to work with us to redouble our effort.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Continue to raise money. Money is essential. We are fighting very well financed interests. Consider how much it costs a candidate to run for statewide office and you will realize why ERA needs money to generate support throughout unratified states. Psychologically, the notion that our side can run well financed campaigns

is equally important. Until now the perception has been that the economic clout is on the anti-ERA side. By demonstrating that pro ERA forces can organize well financed campaigns our legislative opponents will realize that their seats are not necessarily going to be protected by anti-ERA dollars in the next election.

2. Monitor the media. Anti-ERA efforts to discredit ERA are going on in all the states. It is up to you to combat this activity by keeping the pressure on to remind citizens of the positive nature of equality for all Americans. Don't fall into the trap of answering the absurd charges of the opposition; make your case on the grounds that ERA is a matter of simple justice and a missing link in our struggle to become a fully democratic nation. Your speaker's bureau can be used to inform the community about ERA and the League's role in its ratification.
3. Mobilize your other affiliations, such as churches, synagogues, unions, political parties and civic organizations.
 - A. Encourage other groups to take economic action. This is beginning to spread to local government units: Prince Georges County, Maryland and Ingham County, Michigan have joined the convention boycott, as have Cincinnati, Ohio, the District of Columbia, and Ypsilanti, Michigan. In these cases resolutions are passed saying that expenses will not be paid for employees to attend conventions, meetings or conferences in unratified states. The Cincinnati League has offered to share information on this: Ella C. Brown, President, LWV of Cincinnati, 103 William H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45219; (513) 281-8683.
 - B. Make certain they mobilize their members and leaders in unratified states. In all unratified states we need more help from religious leaders, especially from mainstream Protestant churches and from Catholics. Unions and political parties have endorsed ERA but need more of a push to get tough on the issue.
4. Monitor rescission efforts if they arise in your state and exert all the pressure you can to keep such proposals buried in committee in your state legislature.
5. Take individual economic action.
 - A. Refuse to vacation in unratified states and write the Governor, the legislative leadership and chambers of commerce in those states to inform them of your action. For details write the state Leagues of Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey or Connecticut.
 - B. Take the lead from one of our members in California who is responding to every request for a charitable contribution this year by stating that her contributions are going to ERA ratification.

ERA AT CONVENTION. We will have a suite, and urge those with questions or problems to come and talk with us. We'll keep it open as much as possible; exact hours will be posted at Convention. My formal report to the Convention will be on Tuesday afternoon, May 2. See you there!



League of Women Voters of the United States • 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • 296-1770

This is going on DPM

March 1978

TO: State and Local League Presidents, State ERA Chairs
FROM: Ruth C. Clusen, President
Nancy Neuman, ERA Chair
RE: Further comments on our position regarding Congressional extension of the ratification period for ERA

Pressure has been building for the League to mount a national effort in favor of the ERA time limit extension. In part this is because there is a sense of discouragement after the losses in Virginia and South Carolina, in part it comes from increased lobbying on the part of other groups. We still believe that the position we took in October is the correct one: the League is going to concentrate its activities on getting ERA ratified by March 22, 1979. In this memo we explain our reasons for maintaining this course of action.

It is important to keep in mind that extension is not ratification. Extension is the priority of the National Organization for Women; AAUW and the National Women's Political Caucus have agreed to support extension as well. NOW's analysis is that ratification is impossible, and the only option at this time is to push for extension. Ratification by the deadline is the strategy and top priority of the LWVUS. We believe that it is possible to ratify by March 22, 1979. At the same time we recognize there are other options open to us if, later on, ratification by the deadline no longer seems possible.

Our position on extension has been based on organizational, political and constitutional considerations. The campaign we set up last summer is in full force; for us to announce we are rearranging our energies to lobby for extension would be tantamount to admitting we think we can't ratify by March 22, 1979. The deadline has brought us money and workers which we never were able to mobilize to such a degree in the past when the deadline was far in the future. With Leagues all over the nation committing themselves to the campaign we believe we can win.

The position of the campaign now is just where we projected it might be when we began it last June. We never believed ERA would pass in Virginia, Georgia and Alabama, three of the states which have defeated it recently. The effort we made in South Carolina was acknowledged from the beginning to be a gamble, undertaken because it was the most viable state to bring up a vote early in 1978.

Our political reservations about extension are still valid. Sources in Congress continue to believe it is questionable whether there are enough votes in Judiciary to bring the measure to the floor of the House. Similar problems exist in the Senate Committee and chances are that it could not survive cloture and filibuster in the Senate. A negative vote or a narrow pass would make it look as though ERA had lost national support. In addition, extension presumes that state legislatures in unratified states will be more inclined to ratify in the future, which is somewhat doubtful.

Passage of extension would bring up serious constitutional questions about the amending process itself. (Some of these questions are also part of Congressional uncertainties.) Because the League is a multi-issue organization, we hesitate to advocate something which would impact on future constitutional amendments in ways that are not foreseeable. Of great concern to us is the possibility that the validity of rescission would again be subject to reinterpretation. Although final judgment about rescission has to be made by Congress when the full complement of ratifications has been achieved, an amendment has to reflect the "roughly contemporaneous" opinion of the country's citizens. Proponents of rescission would have a much stronger argument that this didn't exist toward the end of an additional seven years, and they would also have more time to rescind.

For all these reasons we believe that at this time we should devote our full energies to ratification within the original deadline, and keep our options open about what to do should that effort fail. There is still a full year to go. We may decide at a later date that extension is the best alternative, or it may be that a reintroduction of the amendment on March 23, 1979 would be best, or other strategies may develop. Right now, the League will continue to devote its efforts toward ratification so that the whole question of extension will become moot.



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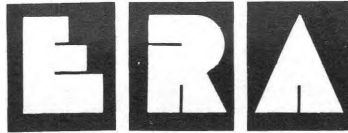
December 1977

This is going on DPM

REPORT OF STATE LEAGUE PLEDGES TO ERA CAMPAIGN
AS OF DECEMBER 2, 1977

<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PLEGGED</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID TO DATE</u>	<u>% OF PLEDGE PAID TO DATE</u>
Alabama	\$ 1,000	\$ 426.00	43
Alaska	2,780	643.50	23
Arizona	9,000	825.62	9
Arkansas	5,905	4,425.00	75
California	65,000	6,680.67	10
Colorado	16,000	13,430.67	84
Connecticut	30,000	86.71	.3
Delaware	1,000	1,077.50	107
Dist. of Col.	3,200	-0-	-0-
Florida	40,000	5,000.00	12
Georgia	10,000	1,000.00	10
Hawaii	2,000	1,397.50	70
Idaho	2,500	250.00	10
Illinois	30,000	8,052.50	27
Indiana	30,000	1,095.04	4
Iowa	11,000	2,500.00	23
Kansas	8,800	5,123.54	58
Kentucky	1,000	10.00	1
Louisiana	8,000	800.00	10
Maine	2,500	195.44	8
Maryland	17,620	5,143.00	29
Massachusetts	50,000	30,545.00	61
Michigan	40,000	10,615.09	26

<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PLEDGED</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID TO DATE</u>	<u>% OF PLEDGE PAID TO DATE</u>
Minnesota	\$ 40,000	\$ 6,075.45	15
Mississippi	430	100.00	23
Missouri	19,900	4,363.29	22
Montana	1,100	1,484.50	135
Nebraska	3,500	700.00	20
Nevada	600	410.00	68
New Hampshire	-0-	60.00	
New Jersey	25,000	6,303.42	25
New Mexico	5,000	-0-	-0-
New York	50,000	5,406.00	11
North Carolina	16,650	5,300.00	32
North Dakota	2,500	1,250.00	50
Ohio	75,000	1,215.00	2
Oklahoma	8,000	5,910.00	74
Oregon	20,000	3,035.00	15
Pennsylvania	65,000	12,112.00	19
Puerto Rico	1,320	132.00	10
Rhode Island	4,000	-0-	-0-
South Carolina	10,290	3,300.00	32
South Dakota	399	221.20	55
Tennessee	2,255	500.00	22
Texas	15,950	6,179.00	39
Utah	6,990	2,086.36	30
Vermont	621	114.00	18
Virginia	19,172	8,135.36	42
Virgin Islands		100.00	
Washington	9,640	2,964.00	31
West Virginia	3,950	920.00	23
Wisconsin	29,320	4,753.90	16
Wyoming	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,632.44</u>	<u>82</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>\$825,493</u>	 <u>\$188,441.95</u>	 <u>23%</u>



League of Women Voters of the United States • 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • 296-1770

This is not going on DPM

October 17, 1977

TO: State League Presidents
FROM: Ruth C. Clusen, President
Nancy Neuman, ERA Chair
RE: ERA - Congressional Extension of Time Limit

As we indicated in the last Report From the Hill, legislation may be introduced in this session of Congress to extend the ratification period for the Equal Rights Amendment.

We have decided not to actively support the legislation on the grounds that League energies, in the long and short run, are best concentrated on national, state and local efforts to raise money and build the momentum for ratification efforts in the 1978-79 period. We have no illusions about the difficulty of the task before us but we know, also, that the key to ERA passage is well-financed, broad-based and hard hitting campaigns in key unratified states. We know, too, that the March 1979 deadline has served as a galvanizing force for all those committed to ERA ratification.

If the legislation's sponsors are successful in getting the extension through Congress, the additional time will be insurance in case our efforts fall short. However, the League's goal will be ratification within the original time frame.

The Bill's sponsors believe that the legislation can be passed with a simple majority rather than a two-thirds vote. The Justice Department is currently preparing a brief which will deal with this issue as well as the effect this move could have on recission and other constitutional amendment questions. The brief has not been released so unfortunately we cannot give you information now on its contents other than to say that their opinion will be that Congress can act to extend the ratification period.

We will keep you informed on developments but since the press has gotten wind of the possible extension effort we wanted you to have this preliminary information. By way of background, NOW was the originator and prime organizational mover of the extension and efforts for House of Representatives passage are being led by Elizabeth Holtzman (D. N.Y.) and Margaret Heckler (R. Mass.).

October 8, 1977

Dear State League President,

The "women's movement" is alive and well. Most of us have been working hard for ERA passage, along with other worthwhile projects and causes. It's time we relaxed a bit. It's time to pause for a little introspective good humor, mixed generously with some profitable initiative and enterprise!

I've been active in the Dallas League for more than a decade (former vice president for community relations). More recently, I've had a hand in the Dallas Women's Center (as a board member) and several other related activities.

Last April, at the State Convention of the Texas Leagues, in Fort Worth, we staged the final version of "Chauvinist, Beware!", a show that had been seen by enthusiastic audiences in the Dallas area on several previous occasions. The standing ovation, the many requests for encores in other Texas communities, and encouragement from professional theater producers who were special guests of the cast, led to a decision to publish.

The enclosed folder describes details of the script package. The "quotables" on the back page, among numerous testimonials received, relieve me of the necessity for indulging in any unbecoming immodesty!

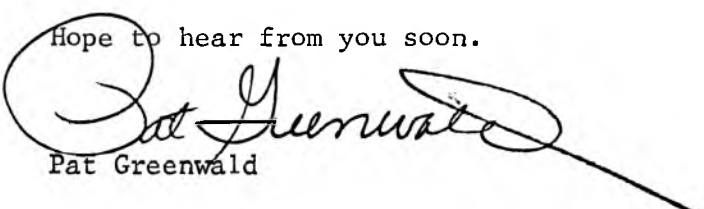
Sexism, like racism and nihilism, is a serious subject, indeed. But most of us recognize that in every solemn social initiative, there is a portion of irrepressible amusement. It is to that awareness that "Chauvinist, Beware!" is dedicated.

Most Leagues need new prospects for fund-raising. We all need to boost ERA! And more important, perhaps, the pleasure and gratification from a League-wide undertaking like this can make a lasting contribution to organizational pride and solidarity.

Can we call upon you to let your local affiliates know about "Chauvinist, Beware!"? An article in your newsletter or other publication could lead to a worthwhile project and a grateful constituency. Or, if you prefer, we'd be glad to directly contact selected local presidents in your state. Just send us your mailing list and we'll take care of the rest.

The order blank on the back page of the folder will bring you the prime ingredient for a successful theater venture--a proven script, easily adapted to local tastes and talents. The investment is insignificant; the potential is almost unlimited. It takes only the foresight and leadership found in every League to launch a highlight event to be remembered for years to come.

Hope to hear from you soon.


Pat Greenwald

ERA

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

NORTHEASTERN FIELD OFFICE

U.S. Customs & Courthouse Building

26 Federal Plaza, Room 1643

New York, New York 10007

Telephone: (212) 264-0400

26 So. Chestnut Street

Augusta, Maine 04330

February 11, 1974

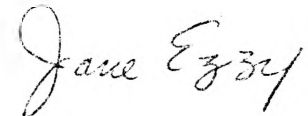
Dear Friends:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maine State Advisory Committee ~~to~~ the United States Commission on Civil Rights. By now you have received our preliminary report on the employment of women and minorities in state government. We are continuing our investigation of state employment and will eventually release a thorough, in-depth report on employment of women and minorities in state government.

In line with our continuing investigation, we are contacting organizations throughout the state which represent women and minorities. If any member of your organization has any complaint or observation regarding the treatment of women and minorities in state employment which he or she feels would be helpful to our study, would you please contact me at the above Augusta address, or call me at 622-3840 anytime after 5:00 pm. You may also call Harriet Price at 623-9004.

A reply by March 11, 1974 would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Jane Ezzy
Maine State Advisory Committee
to the U.S. Commission on
Civil Rights.

League of Women Voters of Maine

ERA Coalition

The Equal Rights Amendment was introduced into the Maine Legislature in 1973 regular session in two separate ratification resolutions, one sponsored by a Republican legislator, the other by a Democrat. The Republican sponsored resolution was brought up first, assigned to the State Government Committee (Maine has joint Senate-House committees), and a public hearing date announced.

Outside the Legislature there was a minimum of communication among groups interested in ERA. Letters were sent to the State House but little else was done. Everyone expected the resolution would pass easily, in and outside the Legislature.

The hearing brought huge numbers of people to Augusta - to testify and to watch. I never got inside. It lasted longer than I did, over 4 hours. The star proponent was Judy Potter, a law professor at the University of Maine, and the major opponent was the AFL-CIO. Arguments against ERA ranged from bathrooms and the Bible to protective labor legislation.

There was then a 10-day delay before the resolution reached the House floor. The committee issued a divided report 'Ought to Pass'. (Committee reports are given great weight in the Legislature; a unanimous report is almost never challenged on the floor.) Both proponents and opponents began to get nervous and the lobbying began, described by the media as the most massive lobby effort ever. Legislators began to report receiving impolite phone calls, calls in the dead of night, etc.

The House passed the resolution by a 78-68 vote after a hotly debated and well-attended session. It sat over a weekend during which Senators were lobbied, according to them, far too heavy-handedly. The Senate vote was one short of passage. It had then to return to the House, which had two options: recede and concur with the Senate, or insist on its previous action. It chose to insist; the measure returned to the Senate and was again defeated, which killed it for the legislative session.

The second resolution could have been, but was not, brought up during the remainder of the session. The climate created by the lobbying and debates verged on ugly; the session was a long one; and a good deal of partisan hostility arose later over a legislative reform package.

That resolution was the one introduced into the Special Session of the Legislature in 1974.

In July 1973, a letter was sent by Maine NOW to a number of organizations urging formation of an ERA coalition. A meeting on 5 August discussed some of the possibilities and a temporary coordinator was appointed. At that point we did not know whether the issue would even arise in the Special Session, certain to be called.

Early in October we met again. Representatives from a number of organizations attended to set up a coalition structure. That brainstorming session produced an organization chart and elected a chairman, Pat Ryan, who had been temporary coordinator. After this beginning, we began in earnest to organize.

Our job was to undo the hard-sell campaign of the previous year; to remove or reduce the threat that effort presented, and to demonstrate a large and representative constituency. We started with the representation issue, writing to every organization we could think of and following up. As a result, we ended up with close to 30 member organizations in the Coalition.

We decided to put most of our emphasis in the district organization and to use the state organization mainly as a clearinghouse. We believed this strategy would make the constituent pressure more obvious to legislators, would demonstrate the broad base we had, would provide better information gathering machinery and closer control, and would be cheaper.

Most publicity was generated locally; speakers were provided by district coalitions; and member recruitment proceeded, after the initial effort, at the local level. The effect of this strategy was to produce state-wide pressure; proponents were difficult to put off as a small band of wild-eyed radicals when they turned up in all shapes and styles all over.

We tried to be as personal as possible with legislators - to find out what their objections were and to find the right person and/or material to answer them. We organized letter-writing campaigns, but strongly discouraged phone calls to legislators except by personal friends; we also discouraged any pressure from outside the legislator's district.

We continued to have state-wide meetings to air problems, to exchange information, to determine strategy. Our approach was flexible, and local coalitions had a good deal of freedom, but we did not change our basic rules or strategy.

The Governor's call to Special Session came at the beginning of December and included ERA ratification.

From then through January 14, the day set for a public hearing, the local and regional coalitions were at work, filling speaking engagements, reporting information on legislators' views, distributing literature, holding workshops and debates. The state Coalition had rented an office and WATS line in mid-November and served as an information, research and intelligence center.

Fund raising was a low priority in the campaign. Each member organization was asked to contribute \$25.; buttons and bumper stickers were produced and sold, and bracelets sold; and funds were sought from national organizations by member groups and from the National coalition by the state Coalition. The Women's Political Caucus held a fund-raiser in the fall and contributed some of that to the Coalition. In kind contributions (equipment, office supplies, etc.) were also made by member groups. Our aim was to cover expenses and no more. We counted on people-power being our most effective weapon in this small and personal state, and shunned expensive mass advertisement as slick and impersonal, as well as financially impossible.

The public hearing was seen as a public relations event by both sides. 'Stop ERA' brought in Phyllis Schlafly, as well as a variety of Maine people. The Coalition for ERA determined to use no outside protagonists, but to show instead the broad and varied support we had among Maine citizens.

The arguments presented by the opposition were fewer than in 1973. The draft was a major point; several speakers mentioned the gains already made in employment and education, indicating a lack of need for a Constitutional amendment; some speakers feared forced sameness of the sexes; one speaker dwelt in the dangers of 'Humanistic' education which would accompany ERA; and the states' rights issue was presented: ERA would move more power to Washington and out of the hands of state legislators.

Proponents spoke briefly on the need for the amendment; the effect it might have in various areas; the fact that it would not affect private relationships. The major legal points were handled in rebuttal by Judy Potter.

The debate took place first in the House on January 17. The vote was 78-68, within 2 votes of Coalition head-count. The next day the measure went to the Senate. One Senator, who had voted against ERA in regular session and signed the minority 'Ought Not to Pass' report of the committee, rose to speak stating that, while he still had reservations about the measure, he trusted the flexibility of the political and judicial difficulties sensibly, and he was going to vote yes. Coalition prediction had been a 1-2 vote favorable margin with some fear for shaky votes. Final Senate vote was 19-11.

Arguments on the floor had become less emotional on the whole and fewer in opposition. In general, more people knew more and fewer were as threatened by the Amendment as was true a year earlier.

There was a subsequent effort late in the Special Session to approve for referendum an equal rights amendment to the state Constitution. Opponents of the federal amendment saw defeat of such a measure in referendum as a spur to return to the next legislature with a rescission resolution. After much confusion and lack of understanding of the issues as well as weariness of long session, that measure died in the Senate, though it had passed the House. It had no official support or opposition from the Coalition.



The League of Women Voters of the United States

1730 M STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 TEL. (202) 296-1770

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Executive Director

Peggy Lampl

1428 Columbia, N.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
January 19, 1974

Mrs. Mark Knowles, President
League of Women Voters of Maine
R.F.D. 1
Winthrop, Maine 04364

Dear Shirley,

Congratulations, you made it! The League and your sisters throughout the United States are both pleased and proud. I won't reiterate, "as Maine goes..."; but you certainly did have a heavy responsibility.

Now don't be too content and relax too much for the job has just begun. You will gain more impetuous for housecleaning your own state's discriminatory statutes. And afterall, Lois is too young to retire!

I often think about my trip to Maine with the many exciting sights and all the fantastic and enthusiastic Leaguers.

Again, My best wishes and heartiest congratulations to all your members.

Euphorically yours,

Sandy
Sondra L. Cohn

Hells to Mark

ERA

League of Women Voters of Maine

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THE ERA

**what it
means to
men and women**

What is ERA?

ERA, the Equal Rights Amendment, is the proposed 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It says that "the equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

What will ERA do?

It will remove sex as a factor in determining the legal rights of men and women. It will primarily affect government action. It will not interfere in private relationships. For example, the questions of who will wash the dishes, open the door, or bring home the paycheck are outside the jurisdiction of the ERA. The general principle is: IF A LAW RESTRICTS RIGHTS, IT WILL NO LONGER BE VALID; IF IT PROTECTS RIGHTS, IT WILL PROBABLY BE EXTENDED TO MEN.

How will ERA become law?

By November 1973, 30 states had ratified the ERA. Ratification by 8 more states before March 1979 will bring the total to 38--the three-fourths required to amend the Constitution. ERA will not become effective, though, when the 38th state ratifies it. States will then have two years to review and revise their laws, regulations and practices--ample time to bring them into compliance.

Why do we need ERA?

Even though there are some laws on the books forbidding discrimination against women, there is no clear constitutional protection. The Supreme Court has never decided whether the 14th Amendment prohibits discrimination based on sex. Today in 1973, 49 years after ERA was first introduced, women in some states are still not recognized as mature, responsible adults. They cannot serve on juries...start a business...get a mortgage...control their own property, their own paychecks, or the property and money of their children.

PRESIDENT NIXON put his finger on the need when he said, "Throughout twenty-one years I have not altered my belief that equal rights for women warrant a Constitutional guarantee." (March 18, 1972)

**What do
national
leaders
say
about
ERA?**

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA GRIFFITHS

"In 196 years of this country's being, any government could make any law it chose against women and the Supreme Court has upheld that law...Corporations have been 'people' for more than 100 years. It is high time that we too became human. We cannot rely upon the Courts. I urge the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment." (February 27, 1973)

U.S. SENATOR STROM THURMOND

"There has been progress in recent years toward the goal of equal rights and responsibilities for men and women.../T/he only practical basis to provide the necessary changes is thru a constitutional amendment." (April 10, 1972)

LUCY WILSON BENSON, President, LWVUS

"The League grew out of women's struggle for the vote. The League has been a part of the struggle to assure constitutional rights for all people, and we know how slow the case-by-case process can be. We think it's long past time for the nation to affirm the legal equality of women right in the Constitution." (August 26, 1972)

JOHN GARDNER, Chairman, Common Cause

"The Equal Rights Amendment has developed a genuinely broad base of political support. Women from every walk of life, women from all parts of the political spectrum, women representing the great middle range of American life are saying that the time for full equality has come. And men are saying the same thing." (August 27, 1973)

GOVERNOR GEORGE C. WALLACE

"I...favor the Equal Rights for Women Amendment. I...will do all in my power to bring about the early passage of the appropriate legislation." (July 20, 1968)

THE 92ND CONGRESS

The House passed the ERA by a vote of 354 to 23.

The Senate passed the ERA by a vote of 84 to 8.

**ERA will
equalize
Social
Security
benefits.**

The ERA won't take away a single Social Security benefit women now have. It will give benefits equally to men and women. The 1972 Social Security Amendments have already moved in that direction. For instance, men as well as women can now begin to draw benefits at 62.

The ERA will enable a man to draw on his wife's social security just as any wife now draws on her husband's account. For example, today if a woman dies or retires, her widower is not automatically entitled as a dependent to his wife's benefits. Under ERA he would be.

**ERA
will not
interfere
with an
individual's
privacy.**

The ERA will not affect the constitutionally guaranteed right of privacy, which permits the separation of sexes in such places as public toilets and military barracks. Under ERA, neither men nor women would have to share sleeping quarters in institutions such as coeducational schools, prisons, dormitories or mental care facilities.

**Will
women
be drafted
under
ERA?**

With a volunteer army about to go into effect, it's a dead issue for now, anyway. Under ERA, Congress could draft women (incidentally, it already can) but their chances of serving in combat duty is slim. In 1971, only 5% of eligible males were actually inducted, only 1% of those inducted were ever assigned to combat duty, and only a fraction of those served at the front lines. Women won't be "snatched away" from their children to be drafted. Men have always been exempted for a variety of reasons, including family responsibilities--and so will women be.

What the ERA would do is end the practice of demanding higher qualifications for women than for men and so open up the possibility of Veterans benefits to more women.

**ERA
will remove
discriminatory
labor laws.**

Labor laws saying what hours women can work and how many pounds they can lift, originally intended to protect women from being exploited on the job, are now often used to bar working women from getting better jobs at better pay. Such discriminatory rules and regulations exist in 26 states. In Ohio, for example, a woman cannot be a gas or electric meter reader or a section hand. ERA would put a stop to this nonsense.

**ERA will not
do away
with laws
against
rape.**

Criminal laws against rape and other sexual offenses will still be valid under the ERA--they are and will remain crimes against persons. What ERA will change is this: Courts will have to stop giving a longer prison sentence to a woman than to a man for the same offense--and vice versa.

**How will
ERA affect
states'
rights?**

Section 2 of ERA, which reads, "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article," does not take away states' rights. Whenever the Constitution is amended, the states have the right to act and enforce the amendment. Almost identical language appears in the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th and 26th Amendments to the Constitution.

What happens to women's rights in marriage and divorce under ERA?

ERA will continue a trend toward applying the yardstick, "Who is able to support whom?" Since courts seldom intervene in such private relationships as an ONGOING MARRIAGE, in reality a married woman living with her husband gets only what he chooses to give her. Under ERA, support in SEPARATION cases would be settled, as it is now, on an individual basis.

The case of the woman divorced in late middle years and unequipped by training or experience to earn a living is often cited. In a DIVORCE, the same principle of need and ability to pay will apply to ALIMONY under ERA--just as it does now. So also with CHILD SUPPORT. (At present, only 38% of fathers are making full child support payments one year after the decree.) Correspondingly, CHILD CUSTODY will be based on which parent can better care for the child.

Who supports ERA?

Many organizations, representing a great variety of men and women, endorse the ERA. Among the national groups are these:

American Association of University Women; AFL-CIO; American Home Economics Association; American Jewish Congress; American Medical Women's Association; American Newspaper Guild; American Nurses Association; American Women in Radio and Television; Association of American Women Dentists; B'nai B'rith Women; Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Common Cause; Communications Workers of America; Council for Christian Social Action; United Church of Christ; Ecumenical Task Force of Women and Religion (Catholic Caucus); Federally Employed Women; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Intercollegiate Association of Women Students; International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; League of American Working Women; League of Women Voters; National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women; National Association of Women Deans and Counselors; National Education Association; National Federation of Business and Professional Women; National Organization for Women; National Welfare Rights Organization; National Woman's Party; National Women's Political Caucus; Professional Women's Conference; NETWORK; St. Joan's Alliance of Catholic Women; United Auto Workers; United Methodist Church-Women's Division; and Women United.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES
1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036



League of Women Voters of Maine

25 April 1974

Susan L. Offutt
Box 30-0139 Sledd
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32612

Dear Susan,

I am a little puzzled by your request for history and pros and cons; therefore I hope this information will be of use to you.

I am enclosing copies of the House and Senate debates, a publication dealing with Maine law, and information about the Coalition. We did not publish other literature ourselves; we used leaflets published by the League of Women Voters of the U.S., Business and Professional Women, and Common Cause for handouts, and LWV and Common Cause kits, as well as a collection of other background material from various sources. Most of this should be available from the Florida coalition.

The success in Maine was due, I think, to good information, confidence, good communication among volunteers, and careful planning.

The opposition effort is difficult to assess. We saw few volunteers, and almost no public information; though the Schlafly Report was sent to legislators. They did not appear to be locally organized on this issue, relying on separate groups and a few spokesmen. The Right to Life movement apparently lobbied actively in opposition, though the link between abortion and ERA was not publicly made. The change in their approach, to fewer and better arguments, was their strongest point.

The tone of this year's campaign was more rational; a better effort was made on both sides to inform the public and the Legislature. We had the better arguments and organization and we won.

Good luck on your paper.

Sincerely,

Lois C. Wagner



League of Women Voters of Maine

STATE - FRA
ERA Coalition

The Equal Rights Amendment was introduced into the Maine Legislature in 1973 regular session in two separate ratification resolutions, one sponsored by a Republican legislator, the other by a Democrat. The Republican sponsored resolution was brought up first, assigned to the State Government Committee (Maine has joint Senate-House committees), and a public hearing date announced.

Outside the Legislature there was a minimum of communication among groups interested in ERA. Letters were sent to the State House but little else was done. Everyone expected the resolution would pass easily, in and outside the Legislature.

The hearing brought huge numbers of people to Augusta - to testify and to watch. I never got inside. It lasted longer than I did, over 4 hours. The star proponent was Judy Potter, a law professor at the University of Maine, and the major opponent was the AFL-CIO. Arguments against ERA ranged from bathrooms and the Bible to protective labor legislation.

There was then a 10-day delay before the resolution reached the House floor. The committee issued a divided report 'Ought to Pass'. (Committee reports are given great weight in the Legislature; a unanimous report is almost never challenged on the floor.) Both proponents and opponents began to get nervous and the lobbying began, described by the media as the most massive lobby effort ever. Legislators began to report receiving impolite phone calls, calls in the dead of night, etc.

The House passed the resolution by a 78-68 vote after a hotly debated and well-attended session. It sat over a weekend during which Senators were lobbied, according to them, far too heavily-handedly. The Senate vote was one short of passage. It had then to return to the House, which had two options: recede and concur with the Senate, or insist on its previous action. It chose to insist; the measure returned to the Senate and was again defeated, which killed it for the legislative session.

The second resolution could have been, but was not, brought up during the remainder of the session. The climate created by the lobbying and debates verged on ugly; the session was a long one; and a good deal of partisan hostility arose later over a legislative reform package.

That resolution was the one introduced into the Special Session of the Legislature in 1974.

In July 1973, a letter was sent by Maine NOW to a number of organizations urging formation of an ERA coalition. A meeting on 5 August discussed some of the possibilities and a temporary coordinator was appointed. At that point we did not know whether the issue would even arise in the Special Session, certain to be called.

Early in October we met again. Representatives from a number of organizations attended to set up a coalition structure. That brainstorming session produced an organization chart and elected a chairman, Pat Ryan, who had been temporary coordinator. After this beginning, we began in earnest to organize.

Our job was to undo the hard-sell campaign of the previous year; to remove or reduce the threat that effort presented, and to demonstrate a large and representative constituency. We started with the representation issue, writing to every organization we could think of and following up. As a result, we ended up with close to 30 member organizations in the Coalition.

We decided to put most of our emphasis in the district organization and to use the state organization mainly as a clearinghouse. We believed this strategy would make the constituent pressure more obvious to legislators, would demonstrate the broad base we had, would provide better information gathering machinery and closer control, and would be cheaper.

Most publicity was generated locally; speakers were provided by district coalitions; and member recruitment proceeded, after the initial effort, at the local level. ~~One~~ effect of this strategy was to produce state-wide pressure; proponents were difficult to put off as a small band of wild-eyed radicals when they turned up in all shapes and styles all over.

We tried to be as personal as possible with legislators - to find out what their objections were and to find the right person and/or material to answer them. We organized letter-writing campaigns, but strongly discouraged phone calls to legislators except by personal friends; we also discouraged any pressure from outside the legislator's district.

We continued to have state-wide meetings to air problems, to exchange information, to determine strategy. Our approach was flexible, and local coalitions had a good deal of freedom, but we did not change our basic rules or strategy.

The Governor's call to Special Session came at the beginning of December and included ERA ratification.

From then through ^{January} February 14, the day set for a public hearing, the local and regional coalitions were at work, filling speaking engagements, reporting information on legislators' views, distributing literature, holding workshops and debates. The state Coalition had rented an office and WATTS line in mid-November and served as an information, research and intelligence center.

Fund raising was a low priority in the campaign. Each member organization was asked to contribute \$25.; buttons and bumper stickers were produced and sold, and bracelets sold; and funds were sought from national organizations by member groups and from the National coalition by the state Coalition. The Women's Political Caucus held a fund-raiser in the fall and contributed some of that to the Coalition. In kind contributions (equipment, office supplies, etc.) were also made by member groups. Our aim was to cover expenses and no more. We counted on people-power being our most

effective weapon in this small and personal state, and shunned expensive mass advertisement as slick and impersonal, as well as financially impossible.

The public hearing was seen as a public relations event by both sides. 'Stop ERA' brought in Phyllis Schlafly, as well as a variety of Maine people. The Coalition for ERA determined to use no outside protagonists, but to show instead the broad and varied support we had among Maine citizens.

The arguments presented by the opposition were fewer than in 1973. The draft was a major point; several speakers mentioned the gains already made in employment and education, indicating a lack of need for a Constitutional amendment; some speakers feared forced sameness of the sexes; one speaker dwelt on the dangers of 'Humanistic' education which would accompany ERA; and the states' rights issue was presented: ERA would move more power to Washington and out of the hands of state legislators.

Proponents spoke briefly on the need for the amendment; the effect it might have in various areas; the fact that it would not affect private relationships. The major legal points were handled in rebuttal by Judy Potter.

The debate took place first in the House on ^{January} ~~February~~ 17. The vote was 78-68, within 2 votes of Coalition head-count. The next day the measure went to the Senate. One Senator, who had voted against ERA in regular session and signed the minority 'Ought Not to Pass' report of the committee, rose to speak stating that, while he still had reservations about the measure, he trusted the flexibility of the political and judicial difficulties sensibly, and he was going to vote yes. Coalition prediction had been a 1-2 vote favorable margin with some fear for snaky votes. Final Senate vote was 19-11.

Arguments on the floor had become less emotional on the whole and fewer in opposition. In general, more people knew more and fewer were as threatened by the Amendment as was true a year earlier.

There was a subsequent effort late in the Special Session to approve for referendum an equal rights amendment to the state Constitution. Opponents of the federal amendment saw defeat of such a measure in referendum as a spur to return to the next legislature with a rescission resolution. After much confusion and lack of understanding of the issues as well as weariness of a long session, that measure died in the Senate, though it had passed the House. It had no official support or opposition from the Coalition.