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Maine Women's Lobby Staff

Maine Women's Lobby

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P.O. Box 15 • Hallowell, Maine 04347
Telephone 622-0851

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August 1993

NEWSLETTER

Number 4

Legislative wrap-up

FISCAL IMPACT, NOT MERIT, MOTIVATES POLICY MAKING

by LAURA FORTMAN
MWL Lobbyist

The first session of the 116th Legislature can be characterized as a time when policy making was motivated in large part by budgetary concerns. Unfortunately, the merits of a particular bill carried less weight than the fiscal note attached. In fact, if there was a fiscal note, the chances of getting the legislation passed were slight. Because of this, the need for the Maine Women's Lobby was greater than ever.

Thanks to members' phone calls to legislators and letters to editors, we were able to minimize the devastating cuts proposed in the Governor's original budget in the areas of AFDC, Family Planning, and General Assistance. Even though the budget does contain cuts in these programs, the cuts are much less severe than they might have been.

In AFDC there is a 4% cut to the basic grant. The housing special-needs payment remains \$75 in FY 94 and is reduced to 50% in FY 95. But the "gap" was retained, allowing AFDC recipients to continue to use earnings or child-support payments to "fill the gap" between their AFDC benefit and their need.

In addition to working to retain basic safety-net programs for poor women

and children, the Lobby was actively involved in the passage of the Reproductive Privacy Act as well as several bills dealing with domestic abuse, bills to protect children, and a welfare reform package.

Several important bills also passed the House and Senate only to be vetoed by the Governor. The most notable was L.D. 246: **An Act To Prevent Discrimination**. Though this piece of legislation had been introduced nine times before, this was the first time it received both House and Senate support.

Overall, we were able to pass some good pieces of legislation and to prevent some damaging bills from going through. Several bills that we care about are being carried over. It is our intent to use the time before the start of the next session to provide education and networking around those issues. Please call the Lobby, 622-0851, if you would like more information about any of these bills.

In an effort to make our legislative summary more user friendly, we are grouping legislation by subject matter. If the summary begins with "P.L." the bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, and is now *Public Law*. (Some public laws, indi-

cated by **, have not been assigned numbers yet.) Bills that were passed during the 1993 legislative session will take effect in October 1993 unless they are emergency measures (such as the budget) which take effect immediately upon signing by the Governor.

Since this is the first year of a two-year legislative session, there are bills that are being "carried over." These bills were neither passed nor killed during the first regular session. They will be worked on by the committee of jurisdiction and a recommendation will be made to the Legislature during the second session, which begins in January 1994.

Bills passed by the Legislature but vetoed by the Governor are so indicated.

Discrimination

P.L. 1993, Chapt. 379: An Act To Amend the Maine Civil Rights Act
Presented by: Sen. Lawrence of York.

Summary: Provides protections to people who are victims of hate crimes. Hate crimes are crimes that target specific groups because of their race, national origin, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability.

see UPDATE on page 4

Anti-stalking bill enacted

Stalking conjures up visions of hunting. The Judiciary Committee heard compelling testimony from women who had been stalked and had experienced personally that terror and constant vigilance. Their stories, coupled with countless newspaper articles documenting the prevalence of the problem, ensured passage of legislation that will provide additional remedies to victims of this crime.

At the beginning of the legislative session, four bills were introduced that attempted to address the issue of stalking. There were two primary concerns that the Judiciary Committee needed to balance. The committee wanted to provide protection for victims and, at the same time, to make sure that the constitutional rights of other people were being protected. The committee examined the bills before them and decided that, while each had merit, none addressed the issue in a manner that met with complete support. As a result, the committee drafted its own bill, L.D. 1546: **An Act Concerning Stalking**. This bill received unanimous support from the committee and passed easily in the House and Senate.

The legislation supplements the current crime of harassment with the crimes of criminal threatening and terrorizing to cover the activities that are

commonly thought of as "stalking." These activities would include: following a person or going to that person's home, business or school; or repeatedly being in the vicinity of that person's home, business or school without reasonable cause. The term "without reasonable cause" was included to protect activities such as legal investigations.

Another element required is that the activity must be engaged in in an attempt to "harass, torment or threaten" the other person. Finally, the person must have been forbidden to engage in the activity by a law enforcement officer or justice of the peace. Engaging in the activity after being told that the behavior is prohibited is considered evidence of the person's intent to "harass, torment or threaten."

Protection from abuse orders will be expanded to enable them to serve as notice that stalking is prohibited. It is not required, though, to obtain a protection from abuse order that is needed to provide the warning.

In addition to defining stalking, the legislation also enhances the penalty for harassment when the offender has prior convictions for the crime of harassment.

For more information on this bill, contact the Lobby office at 622-0851 or your local battered women's project.

Coming soon?

The Clinton Health Plan

There have been lots of rumors about "The Plan," but nothing definite to date. Here is a list of principles that The Lobby, as a member of the *Consumers for Affordable Health Care Coalition*, suggests you use to measure the Clinton plan. Is it:

- A system of health care that provides the full range of care for all citizens, including preventative and primary care, acute and long-term care?
- A system of health care that finances coverage from a broad variety of sources, both public and private, based on the income of businesses and individuals, which provides care based not on ability to pay but only on the need for health services?
- A system of health care that moderates the rising costs of health care for all citizens, while preserving quality?

Another important criterion is whether abortion services are covered. While such services were a given in the early stages, the White House has recently been waffling on the issue. One suggestion from a White House staffer was that, rather than isolate abortion services, no pregnancy-related services would be covered. While we can't believe this is a serious suggestion, it's not too early to make your voice heard in support of including coverage of abortion in whatever plan is presented.

Sens. Mitchell and Cohen and Reps. Andrews and Snowe all need to hear from us about the importance of the principles listed above and the coverage of abortion services. A simple phone call or postcard does more good than you think.



The Maine Women's Lobby Newsletter is the official publication of the Maine Women's Lobby.

**Maine
Women's
Lobby**

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Calling all pro-choice advocates...

by KAREN HECK &
CHRIS RUSNOV

For those of us who thought we might be able to sit back and enjoy the reproductive freedom won with the passage this session of the *Reproductive Privacy Act*, we need to think again. Nationally, the murder of Dr. Gunn and the increasing harassment, violence, arson and chemical attacks at clinics indicate the need for us to continue our struggle for the basic right to control our own fertility. Maine is not exempt from the presence of these national anti-choice groups. *Operation Rescue* held a recent demonstration in Falmouth, and the *Christian Coalition* held an organizing seminar in Bangor in May.

The *Maine Choice Coalition* has organized a task force to plan short- and long-range activities to address what has become an increasingly violent opposition and to deal with other issues concerning access to abortion services. It was bad enough that women had to run a gauntlet of menacing anti-choice picketers, but now anti-choice tactics include harassing women in their homes after taking down their license plate numbers at a clinic; arson and chemical attacks on the clinics, some while patients are there; potshots forcing clinics to invest in bullet-proof glass; and, finally and tragically, murder.

The seriousness of the lack of access to abortion services for all Maine women is evident in several ways:

- the small number of providers who currently are willing to risk their practices and their lives;
- the distance women from eastern, western and northern Maine must travel to find a provider;
- continued support for the Hyde amendment prohibiting the use of federal Medicaid funds for low-income women's abortions; and
- the state's unwillingness to use its own funds. All of these force

women to bear unwanted children or to endure great difficulty obtaining services. Either choice can cause serious hardship to the women and their families and can even jeopardize their survival.

The task force's mission is to prioritize and implement pro-choice activities that will ensure long-term access to abortion services for all women. Whether it's funding for low-income women or the lack of providers, unless we make a concerted effort now, we will maintain our right to have an abortion but will be unable to exercise it.

The task force is considering actions:

- to ensure a truly pro-choice legislature and governor in 1994;
- to ensure abortion services are covered in any state and in national health care plans;
- to ensure the safety of providers, clinics and patients;
- to expand the list of providers;
- and to ensure access to services regardless of income.

Other possible actions to ensure the latter include working to overturn the Hyde Amendment, passing an equal access bill (Medicaid funding) in Maine, and working with the SAFE board to publicize its existence and to help raise funds. The SAFE (Safe Abortions for Everyone) fund is currently loaning money to low income-women in need of abortion services. However, the number of women the fund is able to help each month is

pitifully small compared to the need. (If you know of someone who needs financial assistance with the cost of an abortion, she should make an appointment with her local family planning program. They will talk to her about her options and give her a referral to the provider nearest her.)

To accomplish any of this work, the *Choice Coalition's* task force needs interested pro-choice activists who are willing to help develop and implement a plan of action. We are hoping for a broad-based group of people in Maine who can help in this effort. Meetings are held in Augusta, but the time can be flexible depending on people's schedules. We are willing to provide transportation and childcare money for anyone in need. If you are interested in finding out more, call Karen Heck at 873-4531 (home) or leave a message for the task force at 622-7524 and someone will get back to you.

One of the activities the Task Force is initiating involves the postcards included with this newsletter. Working in conjunction with national pro-choice groups, we are distributing the postcards and asking you to send them to Sens. Mitchell and Cohen and to your Representative to let them know you want them to support full reproductive freedom for all women. It's important to send them soon since Congress will be voting on a variety of relevant bills before September. If you want more to distribute to your friends, family, etc., please call one of the numbers above.

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY ANNUAL MEETING

All Maine Women's Lobby members are invited to the Annual Meeting.

WHEN: September 1, 1993

WHERE: First Parish Congregational Church, corner of State & Church Streets, Augusta

TIME: 6:15 - 8:30 p.m.

UPDATE (continued)

L.D. 246: An Act To Prevent Discrimination

Presented by: Sen. Amero of Cumberland and Rep. Farnsworth of Hallowell.

Summary: Proposed to guarantee protection in the areas of employment, credit, and accommodation for all Maine people, regardless of sexual orientation. Vetoed.

L.D. 1384: An Act To Strengthen the Enforcement of the Code of Fair Practices

Presented by: Reps. E. Townsend of Portland and Rand of Portland.

Summary: Proposed requiring all businesses that receive State contracts in excess of \$50,000 to attach a copy of their affirmative action program to their contract. Current state law already requires business to state that they have an affirmative action program. Vetoed.

L.D. 854: An Act To Ensure the Timely Resolution of Complaints Under the Maine Human Rights Act

Presented by: Sen. Dutremble of York, Sen. McCormick of Kennebec and Rep. Paradis of Augusta.

Summary: Proposed increasing the ability of the Maine Human Rights Commission to resolve discrimination complaints in a more timely manner by providing adequate funding to staff the Commission. Killed.

Economic Security

Resolve Law, Chapter 25: Resolve, to Create the Healthy Start Task Force
Presented by: Rep. Faircloth of Bangor.

Summary: Establishes a task force to plan for implementation of a model Healthy Start home visitation program. Similar programs in other states have reduced child abuse and neglect cases. Emergency.

L.D. 999: An Act to Establish the Child Assistance Demonstration Program
Presented by: Rep. Cathcart of Orono.

Summary: Designed as an alterna-

tive to the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, this program would assist families with child-support orders to better achieve economic independence. Some features include: enhanced Medicaid and child-care benefit eligibility; limitations on reduction in child assistance as income increases; and specially trained casemanagers. Carried over.

L.D. 1514: An Act to Promote Family Financial Responsibility through More Effective Child Support Enforcement

Governor's bill, presented by: Sen. Harriman of Cumberland.

Summary: Proposes to enhance child support collections by authorizing the suspension of professional and/or driver's licenses of persons who do not comply with child support orders. Elements of this bill have been included in the State's budget document. Carried over.

L.D. 404: An Act Regarding Family Leave

Presented by: Rep. Oliver of Portland.

Summary: Proposed eliminating the requirement of a minimum of 25 employees at each work site. This benefits large employers who have many work sites and employ large numbers of people but have them scattered across the state. Killed.

Education

L.D. 1471: An Act to Amend Requirements of Licensing for Nurses

Presented by: Rep. Pendleton of Scarborough, Sen. Paradis of Aroostook.

Summary: Brings education into line with Maine's health care needs and provides future nurses with a clearly articulated path to technical and professional accomplishment. Carried over.

L.D. 593: An Act Relating to Parenting Education

Presented by: Sen. Handy of Androscoggin.

Summary: Proposed requiring schools to offer an elective course in parenting education beginning in the fall of 1994. Killed.

Health/Reproductive Privacy

P.L. 1993, Chapter 61: An Act to Preserve Reproductive Privacy in Maine

Governor's bill, presented by: Sen. Cahill of Sagadahoc and Rep. Farnsworth of Hallowell.

Summary: This law affirms, in Maine statute, the protections of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, ensuring that the state does not limit a woman's access to abortion except after fetal viability. After viability, abortion is allowed only to save the life or preserve the health of the mother.

P.L. 1993, Chapter 394: An Act to Eliminate the Prescription Requirement for Hypodermic Syringes

Presented by: Rep. Rydell of Brunswick, Rep. Cathcart of Orono.

Summary: This law removes prescription requirements for purchasing hypodermic needles and syringes. However, it does not limit prosecution for possession of drug paraphernalia or permit the use, possession or distribution of controlled substances or scheduled drugs.

L.D. 1002: An Act to Amend State Law Regarding HIV Testing

Presented by: Rep. G. Townsend of Eastport.

Summary: The amended bill proposed eliminating the need for an HIV-specific release form. Currently, Maine law requires that a patient sign an additional release form before records containing information related to their HIV status is released. MWL opposed this bill. Killed.

L.D. 1178: Resolve, To Foster the Development of a Range of Alternatives in Long-Term care

Presented by: Reps. Treat of Gardiner and Rydell of Brunswick.

Summary: Proposed that the Department of Human Services develop a plan for assisted living facilities for use by low-income people. Also, directed the Department to pursue Medicaid waivers for these facilities. Killed.

L.D. 1285: An Act to Provide Family Security Through Quality, Affordable Health Care

Presented by: Sen. McCormick of Kennebec and Rep. Rydell of Brunswick.

Summary: Proposes establishing a universal access health care system. Key components are: comprehensive health care with access for all citizens, whether working or not; cost control with improved quality of care; and administration by a single, publicly accountable, non-profit agency. Carried over.

L.D. 1185: An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care by Redefining the Practice of Advanced Nursing

Presented by: Sen. McCormick of Kennebec.

Summary: Proposes to increase access to primary health care by removing restrictions to practice that currently exist. It clarifies the eligibility requirements and the approval process for persons who practice advanced professional nursing. Carried over.

L.D. 1561: An Act to Collect Baseline Data to Facilitate Health Care Reform

Presented by: Sen. McCormick of Kennebec.

Summary: Proposes to establish a task force that will gather data for use in making recommendations concerning health care reform. Emergency. **

Personal Safety**P.L. 1993, Chapter 142: An Act to Clarify the Role of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils**

Presented by: Rep. G. Townsend of Eastport.

Summary: Affirms the need for a child abuse and neglect council in every county in Maine to ensure a coordinated, statewide effort in preventing abuse and neglect of children. However, this does not require the Department of Human Services to fund fully projects in every county.

P.L. 1993, Chapter 27: An Act to Require the Use of Standardized Evidence Kits for Cases of Gross Sexual Assault

Presented by: Rep. Plowman of Hampden and Sen. Summers of Cumberland.

Summary: Requires the use of standardized kits, by all hospitals in Maine, when evidence is being collected in any case of alleged sexual assault.

P.L. 1993, Chapter 391: L.D. 1543: An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing HIV Testing of Sexual Offenders

Presented by: Rep. Townsend of Eastport.

Summary: Amends current language in the law to guarantee that if a victim of sexual assault proves certain facts, the court must order HIV testing of the offender.

L.D. 1405: An Act Concerning Tribal Protection Orders

Presented by: Sen. Pearson of Penobscot and Rep. Cathcart of Orono.

Summary: Extends the same criminal penalties for violations of tribal protection from abuse orders that currently exist for protection orders issued by the State. Emergency. **

L.D. 292: An Act to Provide Deterrent to Child Abuse

Presented by: Rep. Faircloth of Bangor and Sen. Lawrence of York.

Summary: Enhances penalties for certain cases of sexual abuse of a minor. The crime is increased from a Class D to a Class C crime if: the actor is more than 10 years older than the victim; if the actor is related to the victim within the second degree of consanguinity; or if the actor has two or more prior convictions for sexual abuse within the previous five years. **

L.D. 1109: An Act to Amend the Sexual Assault Statute

Presented by: Rep. Cathcart of Orono.

Summary: Increases penalties in cases of unlawful sexual contact whenever "compulsion" is a factor. It also requires that a history of child abuse be considered when awarding custody and visitation rights. **

L.D. 1546: An Act Concerning Stalking

Judiciary Committee bill.

Summary: Expands the current crimes of harassment and criminal threatening and terrorizing to cover activities commonly considered to be "stalking." Penalties are also enhanced when the offender has prior convictions for the crime of harassment. **

L.D. 1407: An Act Concerning Primary Care and Parental Rights and Responsibilities in Cases of Domestic Abuse

Presented by: Rep. Cathcart of Orono.

Summary: Proposes preventing violent parents from using custody and visitation as a way to abuse children and/or the other parent. In cases where the parent has a history of family violence, the court shall only allow supervised child visitation at least until the parent has successfully completed a treatment program. Carried over.

L.D. 1436: An Act to Eliminate the Statute of Limitation in Child Molestation Cases

Presented by: Rep. Paradis of Augusta.

Summary: Eliminates the statute of limitation for civil prosecution of the crime of gross sexual assault and incest if the victim was not at least 16 years of age at the time the crime was committed. Carried over.

L.D. 450: An Act to Expand Protection to Persons with Mental Illness and Mental Retardation

Presented by: Rep. Gean of Alfred.

Summary: Prohibits sexual contact between persons who provide service to persons with mental illness and mental retardation and the people who are recipients of those services. Carried over.

L.D. 1443: Resolve, To Create a Pre-trial Intervention Pilot Program for Sex Offenders

Presented by: Rep. Lipman of Augusta.

Summary: Proposed developing a pilot project to provide intervention and diversion for first-time offenders who allegedly committed sex offenses against minors. (MWL opposed.) Killed.

IN WHOSE INTEREST?

What Caused This Recession?

by Ellen Teninty

Reading the newspaper is confusing these days. Some headlines claim we have caused the economic recession by not spending our money. Others say the problem is that we have failed to save our money. And some are saying that the tough times are over.

On a more disturbing note, many political leaders are telling us that our economic problems have been caused by the people with the least control over the economy. "It's those women on welfare dragging us down!" Or, "It's the flood of new immigrants that is hurting the economy."

Others are selecting another familiar scapegoat—the Japanese—attempting to create a national enemy on whom we can focus our pain and anger. Their scapegoating sidetracks us from looking at the *real* causes of our economic problems.

Recessions and Double-Dips

Economists seem to think that recessions are as natural as menstrual cramps—good times and bad times are an expected part of capitalism. A *downturn in the business cycle* results from overestimating how much people will buy and producing more than can be sold. Then profits don't increase at their usual rate, and people are laid off until the backlog of inventory gets sold.

A *slow-down* becomes a *recession* when the output of goods and services fails to grow for six months. Now we are experiencing a *double-dip recession*: we had a big slow-down in 1991, then the economic indicators (like new construction and manufacturing orders) turned up briefly, before diving down again.

*Reprinted with permission from **Equal Means: Women Organizing Economic Solutions**, a tri-annual journal published by the Ms. Foundation for Women. Subscriptions available for \$24/four issues from: Equal Means, 2512 Ninth St. #3, Berkeley, CA 94710. (510-549-9931).*

"Many political leaders are telling us that our economic problems have been caused by the people with the least control over the economy."

Traditional policy responses to recessions aim to push money into the economy to revive business investments and consumer spending. But the usual medicines won't cure us this time, because this is not just another "natural" recession. We have been painted into a corner by a set of policies in the Reagan-Bush era that have resulted in deeper problems.

Supply-side Magic

"Reaganomics" represents policies that grew out of an economic theory called *supply-side economics*. Supply-siders believe that the engine of the economy is the private investor. Their policies are designed to shift the money (supply) from the middle and bottom to the wealthy individuals and corporations at the top. Because people at the top are supposed to be smart about money, their investments should create jobs for the rest of us.

The supply-side policies that levitated the money from your pocket to the "productive rich" fall into three categories:

- Cut the role of government.
- Hold wages down.
- Cut taxes on the top.

These ideas have been enacted in the past decade, shooting the top 1% of American families off the Richter scale of wealth and leaving three-fourths of the American public under the rubble.

Cutting Government

Reagan told us that the problem with America was Big Government and "bureaucratic red tape." So, we cut the role of government by *deregulating* (cutting government oversight and accountability) several fundamental sectors of the economy, such as transportation (airlines and trucking), communications (AT&T) and finance (Savings & Loans and banking). Business was further "freed to do business" by budget cuts in environmental protection and occupational safety and health. The government also *turned its traditional functions over to the private sector* (like managing parks), and drastically cut social services.

Holding Wages Down

To hold wages down, supply-siders have campaigned against the institution of collective bargaining, and attempted to *get rid of the minimum wage law* entirely—which they have succeeded in keeping disgracefully low. Reagan's presidential debut was to declare the Air Traffic Controllers' strike illegal, and fire workers who were striking for safer flying conditions! This set the stage for a decade of total assault on labor rights. The barn door was opened for a new kind of law firm—called union busters—to operate in an arena where the government put pro-management rights people in labor-relations positions, turning mediating institutions into attack vehicles pointed against the work force.

Cut Taxes on the Top

The way money was moved from the bottom 80% to the top 10% was by changing tax policy, beginning in 1981. Taxes on wealthy individuals and corporate profits were slashed, with the belief they would reinvest their windfalls to stimulate production and employment. So, what happened to the supply? The mountains of money squeezed upwards were invested in other countries and gambled on corporate buyouts costing millions of American workers their jobs, while creating several new billionaires.

Debt by Design

The corporate takeover game blew more than a trillion dollars leaving these legally-looted companies saddled with debts whose

interest payments eat all earnings. These crushing debt loads are the underpinning of the current economic story and will prevent any quick-fixes.

Personal and public budgets are also belly-up. Personal debt resulted from making less money and buying things on credit cards anyway.

Collecting less money in taxes from the wealthiest segment of society, combined with doubling military spending was the formula by which our federal debt tripled in a single decade. The federal debt problem was not caused by spending too much on social programs and cannot be solved by further cuts in those programs.

The Trickle Down

Now 80% of us are working longer hours at more jobs and earning less money, less paid vacation, less pension benefits and less health insurance. Necessities like housing and health costs have rocketed past the remaining ozone. Add to this the increases in sales and social security taxes. Then figure how much you are paying out of pocket for things our tax dollars used to cover, like camping in a state park or sending a child to state college.

Obvious and True

There are abundant resources to be tapped by taxing the wealthy in a fashion equal to our major economic competitors, the Germans and Japanese, and by stopping redundant defense spending. Wise public investments could be made by guaranteeing top quality education to everyone, throughout life, and investing in infrastructure like dams, bridges, sewers and public transportation.

Even if the economy flashes a momentary upward glimmer, the problems caused by supply-side policies will drag us under again. We need to think as investors with different values and develop a culture which honors contribution to the community more than accumulation of personal wealth.

Ellen Teninty is Training Coordinator for the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy in Berkeley, CA. (510) 549-9931.

CREATING JOBS:

Every \$1 billion of taxes spent on defense creates 25,000 jobs.

The same money directed in other ways bears more:

- in mass transit, 30,000 jobs
- in housing, 38,000 jobs
- in health care, 40,000 jobs
- in education, 41,000 jobs

(figures from the Campaign for New Priorities)

MWL's 15th Anniversary Celebration

"Changing the Face of History"

Saturday evening, Nov. 13
Sonesta Hotel, Portland

Mark your calendars now!

Items From Our Catalog



NOTE CARDS

Striking and colorful "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" design by Kiki. 5x7-inch greeting card printed on recycled gloss stock using vegetable-based inks.

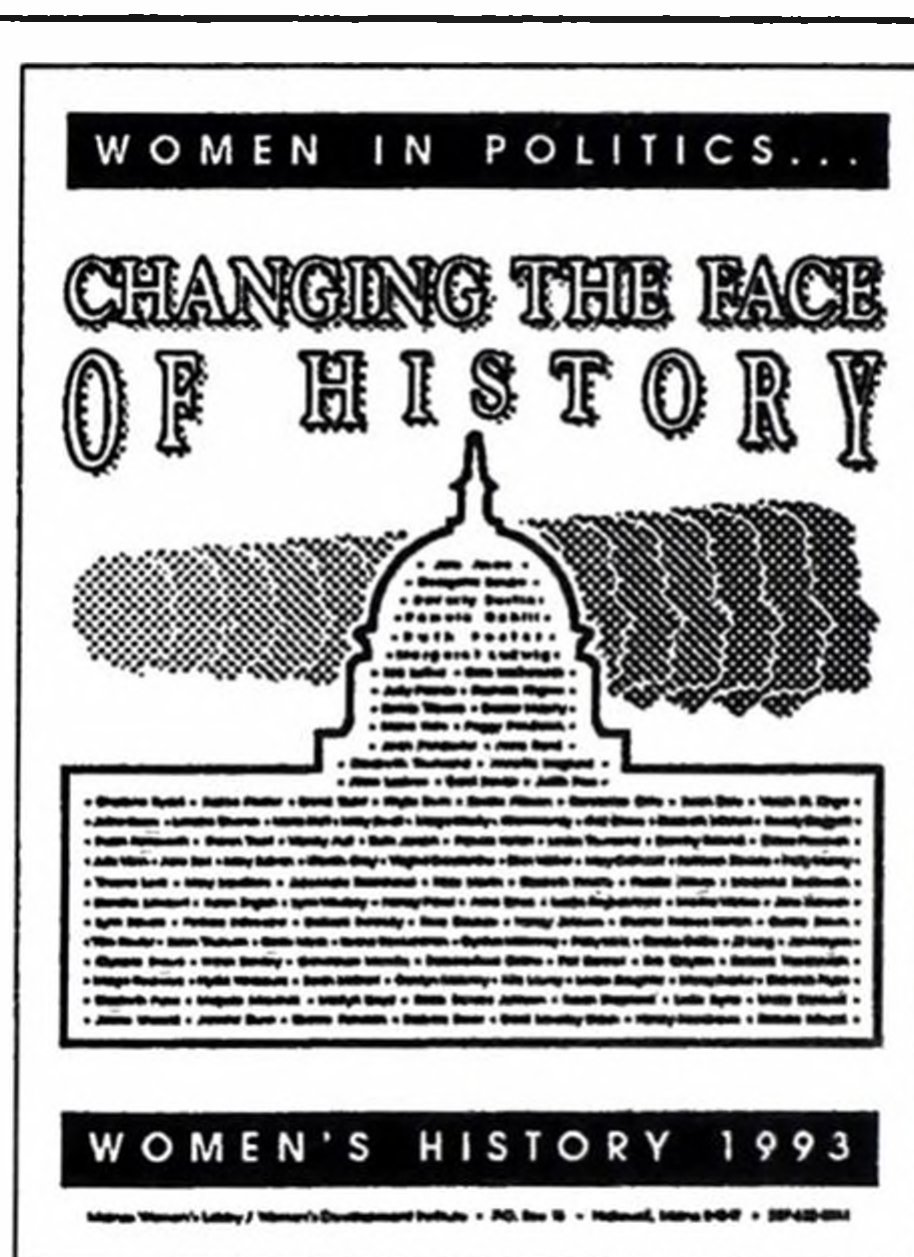
MWL price: \$1 ea.; 6 for \$5

T-SHIRTS

Heavy 100% pre-shrunk cotton featuring the colorful, multi-cultural designs "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" (pictured) or "Women Help Women" (not shown.) Sizes M, L, XL

\$15 each

BUMPER STICKERS • \$1 EACH



POSTERS

The 3-color 1993 poster — "Changing The Face of History" — lists all the women elected to Congress and the Maine Legislature. Get yours . . .

1 — \$12.50

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BALLOT

Maine Women's Lobby members may vote for eight candidates. Please return your ballot by August 15 to:

The Maine Women's Lobby
P.O. Box 15
Hallowell, Maine 04347

- ☐ Lynn Cole
- ☐ Lucinda Coombs
- ☐ Ellen Golden
- ☐ Linda Kley
- ☐ Christine Kukka
- ☐ Valerie Mitchell
- ☐ Penny Plourde
- ☐ Betsy Sweet
- ☐ Other: _____

To cast your ballot, please vote for the candidates of your choice (up to eight), fold it so the return mail panel shows, staple, attach a postage stamp, and return it to the Maine Women's Lobby office by August 15th.

Results of this election will be announced at the Lobby's 1993 Annual Meeting, which will be held at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, at the First Parish Congregational Church at the corner of State and Church Streets in Augusta, Maine.

Descriptions of Candidates for the MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYNN COLE

Lynn is Director of Child and Family Services for the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program in Waterville. She administers the Head Start and social service programs to homeless families and pregnant and parenting adolescents. She has been a member of the Lobby for three years. Lynn has a personal and professional commitment to improving the lives of Maine women and families and sees serving on the Board as one more way to achieve this. She has a particular interest in equity issues for young girls. Lynn lives in Canaan.

LUCINDA COOMBS

Lucinda currently teaches writing and speech communication at Central Maine Technical College in Auburn, following 15 years' work in adult and post-secondary education. Her priorities include promoting financial equity by improving women's access to education and career opportunities, and working to provide greater access to preventive health care for women and their families. She sees the members of the Board of the Maine Women's Lobby as women advocating for women and would like to become a more active part of that process. Lucy lives in Leeds.

ELLEN GOLDEN

Ellen is a Senior Program Officer at Coastal Enterprises, Inc., where she works on resource and policy issues affecting women's small business development. She has been on the Lobby Board for three terms, was Chair of the Economics Task Force, and is currently the Board's Vice Chair. She also serves as the Chair of the Women's Development Institute, the public education sister organization of the Lobby. She looks forward to continuing to help the Lobby expand its capacity to support the needs of Maine women. Ellen lives in Woolwich.

LINDA KLEY

Linda is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Family Violence Project, a private nonprofit organization providing services to victims of domestic abuse in Kennebec and Somerset Counties. She has been on the Maine Women's Lobby Board for the past two years, and has served as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. Linda has a longstanding interest in issues affecting the lives of women and children, and sees the Lobby Board membership as an effective way of continuing to address these issues. Linda lives in Winthrop.

(additional candidate profiles on reverse)

CHRISTINE KUKKA

Chris is a free-lance journalist and has been a reporter for the Maine Times and The Portland Newspapers. Since she moved to Maine in 1978, she has been interested in, and has tried to play a role in, improving the conditions of women's lives through her writing and political activism. Chris says that women's education, safety, income, occupations and self-esteem are touched every day by the laws passed—or not passed—by the state legislature and the social policies practiced by our community leaders. She hopes she can make a contribution toward improving the lives of Maine women by serving on the Lobby Board. Chris lives in Scarborough.

PENNY PLOURDE

Penny is a Civil Rights practitioner with the Division of Equal Opportunity and Employee Relations at the Maine Department of Transportation. Her work focuses on economic opportunity and entrepreneurial development for women. She has had a great deal of experience with private not-for-profit community-based organizations, having been an incorporator of *Alpha One*, Maine's Center of Independent Living, serving as its President for five years and successfully developing a spin-off for-profit wholly owned business. She has been Co-Chair and Legislative Chair of the Commission for Employment of People with Disabilities and a member of the State Independent Living Council. She believes membership on the Lobby Board is a unique opportunity to advance, promote, and enhance a women's agenda with public policy makers for the benefit of all Maine's citizens. Penny lives in Augusta.

VALERIE MITCHELL

Valerie is currently Theater Management Assistant in the Performing Arts Department at Colby College. She has a strong background in small business ownership and management and has held a number of positions in the state legislature. In the last election she chaired the campaign committee for Gail Chase, representative from Maine House District 85. Valerie is the Legislative Coordinator for Maine NOW and is its representative to the Women Legislative Agenda Coalition. She has served one term on the Lobby Board. She is currently pursuing a degree in government from Colby College. Her career goal is to become a professional advocate on behalf of women and children. Valerie lives in Waterville.

BETSY SWEET

Betsy is currently President of Moose Ridge Associates, a private consulting firm dealing primarily with policy development, lobbying issues, and business management. Highlights from her background include Co-Director of the University of Maine Aspirations Program, Executive Director of the Maine Commission for Women, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Lobby, and Executive Director of the International League for Peace and Freedom in Philadelphia. She is well acquainted with the issues facing Maine's women and families and has helped guide many positive gains in recent years. She feels the Maine Women's Lobby is one of the best vehicles to further implement necessary changes in the economic status of women and other measures to improve the quality of life for Maine families. Betsy lives in Monmouth.

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Maine Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 15

Hallowell, ME 04347

From The Chair (con't)

Services: The service sector took off in Maine, growing faster than in the rest of New England. Finance-related businesses such as banks and insurance companies added 170 jobs in Maine for every 100 they added nationally over the last 10 years. And contrary to popular belief, service-sector jobs are not necessarily low paying. For example, new health-service positions more than made up for jobs lost in leather manufacturing; the new jobs pay, on average, \$4 an hour more and provide better benefits.

Small Businesses: Nine out of 10 Maine businesses employ fewer than 100 people. These small businesses—employing half of all Maine workers—have a far higher survival rate than similar businesses nationally. And they create eight out of every 10 new jobs. Small manufacturers increased their exports more than 140 percent over the last five years, a rate far above the national average.

The business owners and policy

analysts interviewed for the series were in agreement as to the reasons for this economic growth: Maine's abundant natural resources, its quality of life, the strong work ethic of its workers, the high quality of its telecommunication system and its proximity to Boston's research and development centers. There was also general agreement on negative impacts: high workers compensation and electricity costs, the low rate of post-secondary education among Maine workers, and the lack of support services in the state's more rural areas. The lack of education and skills among Maine residents has forced high-tech businesses to recruit workers from out of state.

There was little agreement on the impact of state taxes and environmental regulations on Maine businesses, however. Business advocates were united in their belief that our tax rate and regulatory process make it more difficult for Maine businesses to survive and discourage businesses from coming to Maine. Maine economists and public policy researchers disagreed as to whether tax rates and environ-

mental regulations have much of an affect on attracting or keeping businesses in the state. However, most of the scientific studies reviewed by The Portland Newspapers, found *no* relationship between rates of taxation and regulation and economic growth. What is more important, as one economist put it, is what you do with the money you collect.

And using public funds wisely to invest in Maine's future is not something the state does well according to The Portland Newspapers. There is no blueprint for economic growth in Maine. There is no agreement on which businesses and industries are best for Maine. For example, is tourism good or bad? Should its promotion be publicly funded? While the state has innovative programs to support business development, they are woefully underfunded. Maine spends less money on economic development than just about any other state in the country, and little effort is made to measure the economic impact of the development programs that do exist.

Maine needs a public economic development strategy that complements the efforts of the private sector to expand businesses and create jobs. While there is much to learn about which industries are "best" for Maine, some things are clear. We cannot afford to reduce public support for programs which will make Maine people employable, support small business development and attract entrepreneurs to the state. It is clear from these articles that we need to maintain the quality of our public schools, to graduate more of our young people from college and technical schools, to protect our environment through careful regulation, and to support small business development.

It is unfortunate that the governor and state legislators believed the rhetoric of those who claim Maine has too heavy a tax burden. Taxes were extended only marginally and none of the public services that make Maine a good place to do business will receive the funding they deserve.



Membership Form

*I want to help improve the lives of
Maine women and their families!*

- ☐ Here's my \$25 individual membership
☐ I prefer to join at the level below:

REGULAR

- ☐ \$500 Life
☐ \$250 Sustaining
☐ \$100 Sponsoring
☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$25 Individual
☐ \$1-24 Other

PLEDGE

- Total annual pledge \$ _____
 I prefer to pay:
 \$ _____ monthly
 \$ _____ every other month
 \$ _____ quarterly
 \$ _____ twice per year

Name _____

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- ☐ I do not want my name given to other groups.

The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means. Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership. Please make your check payable to: MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY and return it with this card.

From The Chair —

Is Maine a good place to do business?

by LINDA WILCOX
MWL Chair

The budget passed, the legislature adjourned, and we all breathed a sigh of relief that the worst cuts in education and human services were averted and that state government did not shut down. If we look to the future, however, it is not clear that the budget compromise—harsh cuts in programs and a continuation of the one-percent increase in the sales tax—is in the interest of Maine people.

The budget for the next two years was balanced but with gimmicks, deferrals and cost shifts. Unless the economy grows five percent a year, the governor and the legislature 18 months from now will again be faced with revenues inadequate to support basic public services.

It is clear that Maine needs a healthy economy—to provide decent jobs for Maine workers and tax revenue to support our educational system, protect our environment and provide life-support to poor families. What are the roles of government and the private sector in improving the economy? Ellen Teninty, in her article *What Caused This Recession?* reprinted on page 6, argues that Reaganomics—which greatly reduced the role of government, lowered taxes for the wealthy and gave a freer hand to business—caused the economic downturn with which we are still struggling.

In a five-part series published in early June, The Portland Newspapers reported on the state of Maine's economy. The articles showed some surprising and encouraging results. While finding some cause for concern,

the analysis concluded that Maine's business climate is far healthier than many business and political leaders—who are making the decisions that most affect our future—appear to believe.

Here is the evidence.

Manufacturing: Manufacturing exports more than doubled during the last five years, growing three times as fast as the nation as a whole. While 15,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the past decade, almost all of them were in textile, leather, and food processing—low-wage and low-skill industries. During the same period, jobs have grown in industries investing in capital equipment and worker training. These industries produce high quality products, require skilled workers and pay high wages.

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