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Inform - A Quarterly Newsletter for Maine Women (Sept 1986)

The Maine Commission for Women Staff

The Maine Commission for Women

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Inform

Published by The Maine Commission for Women

GOVERNORIAL ELECTION '86

The Maine Commission for Women is very pleased to bring you this issue of INFORM. As the citizens of Maine, we have a great responsibility in electing the Governor who will take us into the 1990's and set the framework in which we will enter the 21st century.

For women particularly, who we elect will, in large part, determine our basic rights, salaries, the degree of economic equity we can achieve, accessibility to child care, the availability of job training programs and education and will establish this state's response to budget activities at the Federal level. In essence, he or she will affect the kind of progress we can make at this time of unprecedented economic and social change.

The Commission felt it was important to ask each of the candidates about the issues of great concern to the women of Maine. Several Commissioners and staff met with each of the candidates to ask them a set of questions developed by the MCW.

With women comprising 53% of the voting population our ability to wield political power is increasing. In 1984 the "gender gap" (the difference between how men and women voted) provided the margin of voting in three U.S. Senate races and one gubernatorial campaign. Your vote **does** make a difference.

Get involved in this election! Study up on the issues and the candidates, go to candidate's forums; ask questions that are of importance to you, help the candidate of your choice. Most importantly, get out and vote. As the League of Women Voters says "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

What follows is the edited response to our questions. (The complete tapes of these interviews, approximately 1½ hours each, are available from the MCW office).

HOW TO PICK A CANDIDATE

The following are excerpts taken directly from a brochure published by the League of Women Voters. For a copy of the full brochure, order from:

The League of Women Voters
of the United States
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(publication #259, 10/\$1.50—minimum order)

A major political campaign, with all its excitement, activity and extensive news coverage can bombard you with images and impressions, and yet leave you with very little real information about candidates and their stands on issues. This voter's guide will help you to follow the campaigns, listen to the candidates, and sort out what you need to know to pick a candidate when you go to the polls.

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Television and radio commercials: When you see or hear a paid political ad, ask yourself some questions. What did you learn about the candidate from the ad? Did you find out anything about issues or qualifications? Or was the ad designed only to affect feelings or attitudes about the candidate?

Direct mail: If you are aware that you must read between the lines to get the full story, the direct mail letter can help you understand the candidates' stands on issues. Recognize that the letter is a campaign tactic and try to see what can be learned from it.

Pamphlets and flyers: That leaflet slid under your door or handed to you at the store may contain valid substantive information or it may be full of lies, distortions or evasions. Read it critically!

DISTORTION TACTICS

Name calling: Aside from the ignorant and the absurd, inflammatory statements that distort truth can be damaging. Don't be sidetracked by attacks on a candidate based on family, ethnicity, gender, race or personal characteristics that don't make a difference in performance.

Rumor mongering: Watch for the unsubstantiated statement or innuendo. Legal, perhaps, but dirty campaigning. Such "dark hints" can sway an election, if voters are unwary, long before a fair-campaign investigation or a slander suit can put a stop to them.

Loaded statements: "I oppose wasteful spending" doesn't say much—and it implies that the candidate's opponent favors it. If a candidate gets away with claims like that, he or she may never be held to account for identifying which expenses are necessary and which are just fat.

Guilt by association: Look carefully at criticism of a candidate based on that candidate's supporters—Every candidate needs support from a wide range of people and groups who may or may not represent the candidate's own views on all the issues.

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QUESTIONS FOR THE 1986 GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

Listed below are the exact questions asked of each candidate. They are printed out, in full, only once in the interest of conserving space. In the interview transcription, each question is highlighted by an appropriate phrase.

1. ** What are the three most significant problems facing women and girls today in Maine?
2. ** One of the most difficult problems women on welfare face is to move from welfare to a job—primarily due to lack of support services, both public and private. Do you have any ideas about modifying State programs or institutions or private institutions to make the transition easier?
3. ** The MCW has focused on women's economic development for the past three years. We have been frustrated by the continuing "*feminization of poverty*." To what do you attribute this economic decline and how will you address it?
4. ** The Commission has historically supported a women's right to choose as stated by the Supreme Court. We oppose any at-

tempts to erode this basic right. Do you support this position? Do you believe it is the responsibility of the Commission to actively support freedom of choice through legislation, public relations, education, etc.? Would you veto legislation that infringing on this right if the State legislature were to pass it?

5. ** What is your position on parental consent? Would you veto this legislation if it came across your desk? What would your role be in a referendum?
6. ** The number of working parents has increased dramatically since World War II. By 1997 67% of children will live in homes where all parents will work full-time. To date, the State has done little to support or encourage adequate affordable child care. Is providing child care a priority for you? What specific programs would you initiate to provide/encourage child care programs in the public/private sector?
7. ** Do you support the ERA? As Governor would you initiate efforts to reintroduce it? If not, why? If so, how?
8. ** The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget bill and other Federal cutbacks are and will continue to have a severe impact on Maine programs. Do you believe it is the State's duty to make-up those cuts? If so, how

would you generate the revenue to do so?

9. ** Teen pregnancy has become an epidemic in this State and across the nation. What do you believe are the most effective/least effective ways to combat this problem?
10. ** In Maine the wage gap between male and female workers is 45¢/\$1.00. What programs would you initiate/support to close that gap? (Should the State institute a comparable worth program to upgrade State employees? What role does the state have in promoting NTO's for women?)

ADMINISTRATIVE:

11. ** What commitment do you have to appointing women as members of your Cabinet? To Board and Commissioners? Administrative posts?
12. ** As you know the Maine Commission for Women is part of the Executive Branch of the Government. What do you see as the appropriate role participating/advisory of the Commission in your administration?
13. ** The job of the Governor's liaison to the MCW has fluctuated over the years. The MCW requests that the liaison attend MCW meetings regularly, be actively involved with the Commission and provide a direct access to the Governor. Would you be amenable to this proposal?
14. ** The seventeen members of the MCW have requested regular (quarterly) meetings of the Full Commission with the Governor. Would you do this?
15. ** Many State administrators have a Commission of Women's Services which heads up the MCW, Displaced Homemakers Project, Office of Child Care, Etc. As you organize your administration would you consider such a proposal?

PAID EMPLOYEES ON CAMPAIGN STAFF OF 1986 GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

	Total Staff	Number of Women	-%	Women in Top Three Positions
Huber	7	6 -	85.7%	2
McKernan	10	6 -	60%	2
Menario	3	0		0
Tierney	13	8 -	61.5%	2

Events

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	EVENT TITLE	DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	COST	FOR FURTHER INFO. CALL
Family Planning, AAUW NOW, MCW, BPW, LWV, W. Lobby, UMA	Women, Power & Politics Gub. Forum	Sept. 13 9:00-2:30	UMA	\$12 includes lunch	622-7131
Portland NOW	Take Back the Night	Sept. 26 evening	Portland Deering Park Oaks		773-6536
Maine Now	State Annual Meeting	Sept. 27 9:00-	Bowdoin College	\$5 member \$7.50 non M sliding scale	443-3881 725-5854
NOW	Dinner	6:00 Sept. 27	Joshua's Rest. Brunswick	\$12.00 Res. only	729-4378
Bowdoin Women's Association	Eleanor Smeal	8:00 Sept. 27	Pickard Theater Bowdoin		
Family Planning Assoc. of Maine	15th Anniversary Celebration	Oct. 7 evening	Augusta Senator Inn		622-7524

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS:



Sherry Huber

1. Three significant problems:

- A) A subtle discrimination exists in spite of our good efforts to improve, in terms of statute, basic equality of women. It is still a problem and will take time and effort to change.
- B) Certainly economic inequality—the wage gap problem. I don't have a good solution to that. Although I was reading the Minnesota study and it didn't sound too complicated.
- C) The third area, although narrow, is one of great concern to me. That is the area of unwanted pregnancy, Family Planning, and abortion, and the emotions and mechanics of dealing with it. This is something I've been interested in, serving on the Family Planning Board for ten or 11 years. We are all for life, but it is a question of trying to help those people who find themselves in a difficult position through no choice of their own. Being a woman, I think I am more sensitive to the issue than perhaps some of the men I served with in the legislature.

2. Going from Welfare to Work:

I am working on this area right now, and you might give me some help as a Commission, the whole question of welfare and how to make it less of a maintenance program and more of a, for want of a better word, educational training program. One of the things in that area that concerns me a lot is the lack of child care. The other area is the question of medical benefits. In Maine only 40% of the jobs have benefits. It is a tremendous disincentive to a woman to leave the security of welfare for a job where medical benefits are not provided; to go into the workplace at minimum wage not knowing if her children or herself may get ill and not have the means of getting health care. If you live near one of the 14 centers in existence and if your kids are over five or six, you have to enroll in the WEET program. I wonder if that doesn't stigmatize it almost immediately and if a voluntary program wouldn't be better. In Massachusetts they have a mobile unit, and I think that kind of fine tuning would be very helpful. I've also been looking at some of the funding sources.

Massachusetts uses money from unemployment taxes when they have a surplus and we have the ability to do the same thing. That kind of funding makes a lot of sense to me because basically you are avoiding unemployment when you have people better trained to hold and keep jobs.

It is going to be hard because our standard of living is low enough so that when you are talking about a person who is getting public assistance or a low-paying job, there isn't a whole lot of difference between the two.

In addition to working within the system I think the next Governor should be working darn hard to attract and encourage existing businesses to pay better wages. Education is so critical to attracting the right kind of industry and responsible employers: An employer that realizes that not only does he owe his employee a good wage, he also owes them benefits, the good faith of collective bargaining. That will come I think when the State has committed itself to better education, making sure the employer has the facilities here, the resources here that they need and expect.

3. Feminization of Poverty:

Certainly the family has changed. Even now you have so many families where it takes two wage earners to make ends meet. The whole society has changed so much that you certainly have a great many more single parents, and as women they tend to get the kind of job that doesn't pay as well. I don't know how you deal with it, except to get women's salaries improved. Getting women into non-traditional employment is one good way, too. VTI's for instance, should be encouraged to seek out and recruit women to come in and take courses so they would have that kind of training. One of my pet peeves is that they give the course but make no efforts to do outreach. I think it is a very basic problem and am excited about the pilot programs like the "truckers" program or the "rehab" program which show people that these things work. These pilot programs are probably the best way to go because they do disabuse people of their negative thoughts.

4. Woman's Right to Choose:

My position is pretty clear over the years that I have supported freedom of choice. I don't think it is any of the government's business and it's tough enough on a woman with an unwanted pregnancy to make that kind of a decision without having government involved (*except to the degree that medical standards are met*). In addition, I also feel strongly that income level should not be a determinant if a woman should have an abortion. I favor State funding. I think Government ought to be neutral. If we are going to provide assistance to those who wish to carry their pregnancies to term, I think we should provide assistance to those women who can't afford an abortion or who simply can't have that baby.

As far as your role, I'm not sure I'm qualified to say.

It seems to me you are an autonomous agency and if you get criticized—so what? As a legislator I got criticized, too. Interestingly enough for years in the national and sometimes in Maine surveys, if the questions are asked accurately, people basically do feel this whole area of abortion is a private matter for women and should not be infringed upon.

Philosophically it's only right and constitutional. As we know, you are not going to change anything by making it unconstitutional except to drive it underground and then create more medical and mental problems and, I feel people feel that way. But, because there is a vocal minority which is extremely persuasive and loud, people get nervous about the subject.

I feel very strongly that this is a personal issue. Policies should be as neutral as possible in all kinds of situations. Treat everybody as fairly as you possibly can.

"The Governor should be aware of women's activities and concerns, and, when appropriate, give the muscle you need to pass a perfectly reasonable and worthwhile piece of legislation. I am certainly receptive to what you are saying because I am one of you."

Sherry Huber

5. Parental Consent:

On parental notification: I am completely convinced that we have to not make it easy for people to have abortions, but not put road blocks in their way. You cannot legislate better family relationships, and as a parent, obviously, we all want our children to come to us if they have a problem of that nature, but in some families it could lead to child abuse of its own. I would veto a parental consent bill that came across my desk.

6. Child Care:

When you speak of the bills you have already put in, don't get discouraged. I think they are good ideas. That is going to be tough because money is not just flowing freely. On the other hand, you have good arguments and I think eventually they will sink in. Obviously it would help if you had a supportive Governor and I would be that kind of Governor. I've come to think more and more that the incentive route makes sense as opposed to the mandatory route. I would be glad to work with you on these issues, to keep building support for them. I do think people will become more and more aware of child care and I see nothing wrong with the way you are going. With more support from the Executive Branch and from the legislature it will be given I'm sure. Society to some degree has the wrong impression and this is taking time to recreate it. The Maine legislature is a citizens' legislature and it reflects what it hears back home.

(Continued on Page 4)

SHERRY HUBER CONTINUED...

7. ERA

Yes. You are aware I worked very hard, as many of you did on the ERA referendum. On the other hand, I really question the wisdom of running a State campaign again.

You could explain it in person but how do you get the point across that, yes, we have extremely progressive laws in the State of Maine making virtually everything gender neutral, but we still need the security and assurance of a constitutional amendment. It should have been a constitutional amendment on the Federal and State level. And for that matter, I have the same feeling for sexual preference. I think all people deserve the same protection under the constitution. And I think there it makes more sense for us to have a State effort. I'm sure there will be a bill.

8. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Budget:

I think we make up the cuts to the degree that we can. Then, it calls for a basic effort that will happen here in Maine, for hands-on prioritizing and making the tough decisions. When I look back and think of things like child abuse and drug and alcohol abuse, as two very obvious examples, I don't think we spent any money on them 20 years ago, and hardly any ten years ago. Now, they are critical. Here in Maine we can set our own priorities and we know what we need, whereas, if it was coming from the Federal level we are spending money on things we don't find as vital and important just because there are national strings attached. My one concern is if we continue to get less money but the strings don't go away. If we can go the block grant route which we have in areas like Family Planning then we have much more latitude to tailor the program to meet our needs. So I'm not saying it's going to be easy to find the money and I know there are things we probably won't be able to do two or three years from now which may be regrettable for some people, but I think we have the capability and the desire to make those kinds of hard decisions, and if necessary, either reallocate moneys or think of ways to save money.

9. Teen Pregnancy:

I am working with some people in the Portland area right now on an "in-school clinic" combined with a day care center. From what we've seen in other states, it has not only cut down on the incidence of teenage pregnancy, it has also slowed down teenage promiscuity or the first sexual experience of young women and boys.

It will be a comprehensive clinic. It will run the gamut of everything from the common cold, physicals, and adolescent acne and overweight, you name it. So that when an individual goes into it isn't immediately going to be assumed that he or she is having

sex. It probably won't have contraceptives on the premise but there will be contraceptive counseling. Having it on the school premises is very important. Lack of transportation sounds like a very minor thing but it is one reason a lot of our youngsters don't get family planning assistance. I think another reason for having these clinics would be an opportunity for a young person to have the peer pressure she may be getting from her classmates alleviated by an adult saying you don't have to do it. There is nothing wrong with abstinence.

The other thing that is so important, is that parents have a tremendous responsibility and I don't know that we are really living up to it. We are not really taught how to be parents. It is the most important job you will ever have, bar none. But you can't legislate that.

10. Wage Gap:

I certainly have no aversion to continuing along the lines of collective bargaining. Obviously I think those having the same responsibilities and the same requirements in a job should be paid what that job demands. I don't know the best way to implement it. Philosophically I'm very much in favor of women being paid what they are worth.

11. Women on the Cabinet and Administration:

The nice thing about being an independent candidate is I have no baggage. The qualifications of the individual will be the criteria, that and other things like respect by the constituency, integrity, hard work, and brains. I am looking for someone who has no fear and does not intend to make a career out of public office as I do not plan to make a career out of public office. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to appoint those kinds of people who really want to work in state government for the people of Maine because we answer to the citizens of the State. There are a lot of people out there who would make that kind of commitment without political strings. I really want to attract people who have a sincere interest and who are going to give their job a lot of effort. I'm looking for ability, period.

12. MCW Role in Executive Branch:

Given the fact that the Commission exists, that it has a mandate it is actively pursuing, it seems to me that the Governor should be aware of your activities and your concerns, and when appropriate to give the muscle you need to pass a perfectly reasonable and worthwhile piece of legislation. Perhaps because I am a woman, I certainly would. I am certainly receptive to what you are saying because I am one of you. I know how hard you have worked to keep communications open and not be extremist and I agree with that.

13. MCW Liaison to the Governor:

I guess my answer would be to go to regular meetings and see what the needs are. At that point, once you've established communications you have a much better idea of where

and when it would be important to be participatory. Maybe, in fact, those needs will show that you should be more involved. That may be a possibility that you and I should evaluate as we go through the first year.

I feel very good about the election. I love being the only woman, I love that there are four candidates, and I've got an awful good organization which is growing regularly.

14. Commission of Women's Services:

I would explore an office to head up women's issues.



"HOW TO PICK" CONTINUED...

PHONY ISSUES

Passing the blame: When one candidate accuses another candidate or party of being the cause of a major problem such as unemployment or inflation, check it out. The incumbent or the party in power is often accused of causing all the woes of the world!

Promising the sky: There are promises that no one in an elective office can fulfill and problems that are beyond the reach of political solutions. Voters shouldn't expect miracles and candidates shouldn't promise them.

Evading real issues: Many candidates work very hard to avoid giving direct answers to direct questions. The candidate who claims to have a secret, easy plan to solve a tough problem is often just copping out.

BIG ISSUES

Pinpoint the issues that are important to you. Decide what changes you feel that your community, state and country need most. What do you want to keep the same? Which of your interests are served by the programs each candidate is proposing? As you ponder, weigh alternatives. Listen to people on both sides of an issue. Look at cause and effect. Consider what you have to trade off to get what you want.

Find out where the candidates stand on your "top priorities." Which candidate most closely shares your views on important matters.

...THEN VOTE



Jock McKernan

"Women are just an incredibly untapped resource."

Jock McKernan

going on our there. So I think we are probably working in the right direction. I'm not sure that frankly we ought to be doing as much of it through the Dept. of Human Services as we are but maybe doing more through community based education.

2. Going from Welfare to Work:

I think that is a number one issue. We need to break that chain of dependency which happens for a number of reasons. If you lump all the programs together and see what it is that people get when, for whatever reason they can't get a job, you take away a lot of incentive for people to get a job. It isn't that people don't want to work, but when you start adding it up in dollars and cents, it doesn't make any sense to go out and work. I saw a study back five or six years ago, that if you take into consideration AFDC, food stamps, free medical care and being on local welfare in some instances, you are asking for people to go out and work for basically \$20. Who is going to do that? You can make more under the table babysitting a couple of afternoons a week. We don't have the right incentives. We need to look at the way the program is designed and do a better job in transition. The medically needy program needs to be improved. It is a big thing to suddenly lose medical care if you are getting off AFDC or welfare. Also the skills development is essential and we need to have a better program. We need to require of anyone who is on public assistance and is not disabled and does not have small children, that they be out somewhere trying to get some skills. My view is that you are never going to be able to address all of the needs people on public assistance are going to have for new skills, but I think in those instances where we can't provide skills we are going to have to have a waiting list. We're going to have to have those people who aren't able to get into an actual training type program involved in the community. One of the things I hope to do as Governor is to have a lot more community involvement from everybody and I think that we will be requiring that of people who are on general assistance and people on AFDC. And if they don't need any help in the community, then it ought to be a non-profit agency. People who are receiving benefits must help those who are paying the benefits. The people in the communities ought to realize that it is a joining together not a punishment. We ought to allow them to be in basically anything that is going to give them some social skills as well as job skills.

This is similar to the current WEET program. I think we ought to expand it and I would like to see us supply a little bit more on the job training. A lot of our JTPA programs, CETA, haven't always worked, but I think we need to see if we can make it work. I like the idea of people who learn a position where they could go into a private organization. I think if you can get them in there and

have enough incentive, you can keep them there afterwards. We just have to invest more money and realize we are saving in other places.

3. Feminization of Poverty

I think the feminization of poverty stems from the number of single parent families. You look at the single parent families and the families where the husband earns less than \$15,000, something like 67% of the women in the workforce are in that category. We never heard the term feminization of poverty before because for the most part, it was two parent families and it was just poor people. Now the poor people are just one person and she has the kids. It also means we have to have some new response to that. That's where day care is especially important and the economic tools I've talked about are essential. That is really where the economic development activities are going to benefit women. A woman who is going to start a big business like any other person who is going to start a big business, probably is not in the feminization of poverty category. You are talking about somebody who has a skill like knitting or probably something that they've learned in the home and they want to start a little shop. They have the incredible artistic or creative skills, but they don't have the business skills. That is what is holding back a lot of businesses in the State. They don't have the expertise themselves to develop a marketing plan and they cannot afford to hire someone. That is where the State could help. I would like to run it through the University. One of the things I am looking into is a center for innovation and entrepreneurship that Arthur Johnson was trying to start at Orono. We could do that in a couple of places—Farmington, Portland, and Orono—and you would have a really good base, maybe even have a hotline, and give people the skills they need. It can make a difference for employment, and more importantly to create what I think we need here, which is to export more of our products. When we just sell to each other, we are not expanding the wealth of the state. We need to develop new markets outside of Maine. We need somebody else giving us money to pay salaries with instead of paying somebody in Maine and recycling it.

4. Woman's Right to Choose:

Yes. Obviously I think women do have the right to choose. I think the MCW is there to take a position. I don't know how you make decisions, but I assume you have some procedure to make decisions that you are going to speak out on. As long as you use that procedure and feel this is important to women.

5. Parental Consent:

I do not support parental consent, but I probably would not veto a properly constructed parental notification bill, a bill making sure that there is the right kind of a safehatch where a doctor or an adult would be able to go to a court or whatever to make sure that there was a way in specific instances where a girl would be steered in the right direction. I don't intend to propose any of these bills, but if one happened to pass the legislature I would take a hard look at whether or not

(Continued on Page 6)

1. Three significant problems:

- A) The number one issue has to be economic equity. There are sub-parts underneath that of adequate opportunity, assistance in getting necessary skills to find jobs in a workforce, etc.
- B) Economic development activities and opportunities for women who find it difficult to get started in a small business. I think with some more targeting of financial, marketing and planning assistance these small businesses of one or two people can expand.
- C) Day care has to be something we take a look at. Over 50% of the women with children under six are in the workforce. That has to be addressed. It is an issue that has evolved without anybody taking a hard look at whether we are meeting the needs of the 1980's and obviously the needs we are going to have in the 1990's and the 21st century. Congress has tinkered with that over the years and tried to do something that would better reflect what the needs are but we really haven't hit the nail on the head yet. We need to go out and make a major effort and work especially with the private sector. The problem we have in Maine is that we have so many small businesses and you can't expect someone with three or four employees to have a major day care program. But it seems like a Chamber of Commerce would make a difference in that regard. It seems as though the Maine Merchants Association could do something. If they pooled their resources to buy insurance, why shouldn't they be pooling their resources to be a clearinghouse on developing day care opportunities for various communities? It is going to be a major issue in the next decade.
- D) When you get into girls, I lump that more into children's issues rather than just girls. I think we need to do a better job on drugs. We need to try to do more in the schools, earlier in the schools. I think we also need to look at child abuse issues. I think the jury is still out on whether we are addressing it well or not. In my view I don't think that child abuse is necessarily up that much. We are taking some of the taboos away in talking about it and we are getting more knowledge about what is really

JOCK McKERNAN CONTINUED...

there were safeguards in there to cover in those instances where it was going to cause serious harm. The thing that bothers me about consent is that I think that any girl who is old enough to get pregnant ought to have the right to say I don't want this pregnancy. I think it has to be properly handled.

6 Child Care:

The first thing is to go out and hammer away at the organizations that can organize it. Quite frankly, most of the men run the organizations and it is not a priority to them unless they happen to have some employees for whom it is a big priority. I think we need to bring that to the State chambers, the local chambers, any other organizations that we can get to and try to find a way to provide clearinghouses if not actually funded programs. I would question whether we really have the facilities to have day long day care in the schools. For the latchkey kid, the before and after care is perfect. The building is there. Solving child care is going to take being out there, solving the problems of insurance, what's the actual cost of being certified? How are we going to do it? Who should be running it? All those kinds of things. The Commission is an important player, but also we need someone from DHS, and the Chamber to put together a whole task force, to put together a program for 250 employees or ten employees. *"This is what you have to do, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, call this number and these are the checks you have to go through and here is the packet."* Businesses are going to realize that they are a lot better off to have employees that aren't looking over their shoulder to see if their child is OK.

7 ERA

Yes. I wouldn't say I would be a part of any effort to reintroduce it, I think that any time the people have spoken on any kind of an issue, you have to give it a long time before you decide to try it again. Unfortunately, because of a lot of red herrings, it wasn't successful and there's nothing you can do about that except try to find out what other routes you can take to make sure you have equality.

8. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Budget:

I think it is the State's duty to address the needs created by those cuts, and when those needs are great enough I think it is the State's duty to make up the difference. Maybe not in some of the programs that we feel are not beneficial to the State. We ought to be really concerned if we are serious about creating jobs and improving the job creation climate about the fact that we have the highest State tax burden of any state in New England. It's always easy to say let's go out and raise taxes for new programs but we need to look at the structure, especially in the Dept. of Human Services. Local services could probably expand what they are doing at a lower cost to the taxpayer than the State could.

9. Teen Pregnancy:

I think education is the key. In spite of what some of the people who oppose education say, most of the studies I've seen indicate

that it really does help. I really, at this point, am looking at what the proper role of the State is in doing those types of programs, how much of an effort we ought to be making, or how much should be done through private organizations. I have some reservations about school based clinics, but I am not totally opposed to it. If you talk to people involved in the schools, they say that one of the greatest problems they have is that there is less time for teaching and more and more time is spent on social services. I am not opposed to a longer school day, but I am not endorsing it at this point.

10 Wage Gap:

I think realistically we ought not to be moving the so-called pay equity issue from a mandatory standpoint. I think the State government has an opportunity to look at historical trends and what we're paying people and whether that ought to be changed. Frankly, I think that is as far as the government ought to be going in interfering with the marketplace. It ought to be one of those things that is phased in because we can't just make those changes quickly and you can't reduce people's wages. So you end up having to spend more money at it.

11. Women on the Cabinet and Administration:

I think that we are missing an awful lot of talent by not looking at women who we have around the State who would be better in office than a lot of people who are in now. First we must make it known that this is going to be an equal opportunity administration. Also, we see a lot of women in middle management areas for whom it is going to be a long time before they can ever get the kind of administrative experience in the private sector that they might want that they can get in State government. Women are just an incredibly untapped resource.

12. MCW Role in Executive Branch:

Maintaining the advocacy position you have, making sure that I know the kinds of issues that are out there and what the prevailing needs are at any given time, and being a liaison with some of the other private sector organizations. I hope to use the Commission as a liaison and as a part of different task forces. We need to set up task forces that involve businesses so that they are advocating the same thing you might be advocating. I hope that the Commission would play that kind of role.

13. MCW Liaison to the Governor:

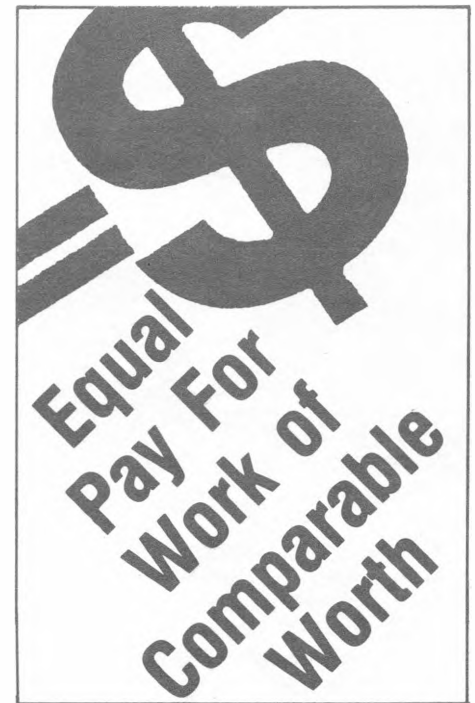
Absolutely. I hope that my record indicates that. I am convinced that there are a lot of issues that are not being addressed. We have a changing workforce and we ought to be taking a look at it.

14. Regular or Quarterly Meetings:

Absolutely.

15. Commission of Women's Services:

Probably not and the reason is best stated by Senator Barbara Mukluski from Maryland, who said *"All issues are women's issues."* I think we ought to focus on those issues, but I think making a separate department would be a mistake.



INFORMATION ON NEW LAW CONCERNING GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE

As part of the Older Women's League effort to get out information on the new law that allows certain individuals to continue their group health plan coverage on a temporary basis following unemployment, divorce, widowhood, a spouse's retirement, or loss of dependency status, they have prepared a consumer pamphlet containing basic information that individuals need now.

A copy of the pamphlet is available to anyone who sends a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to:

Insurance Continuation
Older Women's League
1325 G. St., NW, Lower Level
Washington, DC 20005



John Menario

1. Three Significant Problems:

I guess from my very narrow perspective of understanding, I would assume it would be job opportunities and embracing in that the availability of jobs and the value of the job itself. I would assume upward movement toward leadership roles is in the area of concern and ought to be addressed. From my bias, which is the economic opportunity of the state, I think women are a valuable resource that has not been effectively used. I turn that around and say it is a missed opportunity in terms of the broad economic development scale. When I was City Manager of Portland, I think this is true, I was the first City Manager to appoint a woman department head and that was not easy. This was before it was considered necessary to do that. This was back in the 60's. When I was at the Chamber we also formed the first woman's task force. The Board was not testy but the Board had some difficulty with that. They finally said, fine and believed in the long run it was OK, but it was not with a great deal of applauding. If left to our druthers and without the pressures that your kinds of groups can bring, there is a tendency to forget. I watched a while back when the Governor was asked to speak and he elected not to come, and you challenged him. My basic comment, is "good for you" because he won't forget to come the next time.

2. Going from Welfare to Work:

I have a thought that actually goes beyond the issue you are addressing but I really have concern about our social service delivery system in that we are so horribly compartmentalized and fragmented, everybody dealing with their niche and their piece. I look at it from a systems point of view. We've got 138 social agencies in greater Portland who are trying to assist people with various needs whether it is emotional or physical or sex or whatever the case may be. I hold an MA degree in Governmental Administration, I practiced government most of my adult life and I don't know who all the agencies are. We once tried to study model cities to take that maze of social agencies and come up with a single intake office which we called "First Stop." The thought was trying to get every agency involved in that network to at

least buy into a standard application, so that if I needed a job and then I needed transportation and I needed housing, I didn't have to go to four different agencies and fill out four applications which is a depressing kind of a process to begin with.

No one wanted to give up their little piece of the application because that had value to their long range planning—and I understand that. Part of the problem is the system is too fragmented. Although there's a lot of people out there anxious to help, we have so bureaucratized ourselves that there are so many fixed barriers.

3. Feminization of Poverty:

To solve the problem you have to believe it exists. One thing that really boggled my mind was for me to look at the statistics of the poor in Cumberland County and to recognize that it is predominantly young children and women. A staggering percentage. Somehow the system isn't working, at least it isn't working for those people. It would seem to me that one of the influencing characteristics, is that most single head of households are women. Who in one sense are more able to break away and do their own thing, but also finding the marketplace not acceptable to them. It seems that from what little I recall of the AFDC laws, I don't think they have advanced terribly much since I used to live with them. There used to be a lot of disincentives built into women getting on their feet. I'm afraid unless we let those support systems stay on board longer, whether it is medical payments or transportation, the disincentives are too dear to them so it's easier for them, not in a mental sense, but in an economical sense, to stay on AFDC and not to try to break the cord. Another influence to the statistics you use has got to be teenage pregnancies. They are up dramatically, and I assume those are women less able to have the skills in the marketplace. Then all of a sudden you find more of the poor are women and children because of the childbearing age. I think there is talent out there, with people like yourselves, there is a lot of good thinking out there with a number of men and women. A fundamental flow in our whole social system is we haven't embarrassed the private sector enough to want to create programs to use these skills and resources and talents. That's not because they are not willing, it's just because they haven't been challenged. I know Union Mutual for example has a real social conscience and contributes financially. That's fine. But it's time that corporations like that contribute their human skills to it as well. Because there are systems approaches that can be done. Maybe it's time that every corporation decide they are going to take in three people per year who are just experiments. If you got 30 companies to do that you've got 90 people who could participate in an upward program. Government can't do it all, but I think we need to be more creative. Education is crucial. The teenage pregnancy issue alone, I'm not sure education is the entire answer but it has to be somehow involved. And the funding of the vocational schools, we just all can't be teachers, engineers, doctors and lawyers. Particularly with the fact

"I also feel that males, regardless of their good intention will never appreciate the sensitive issues that you people are confronting, and therefore, you've got to translate those to me."

John Menario

that Maine has such a low rate of high school graduates who aspire beyond high school. We've got to find an answer to that.

4. Choice:

I respect your position on it and your advocacy of it. I don't happen to agree with you. I am a pro-life person. I believe strongly that life does begin at conception. I would never, however, in my position as Governor use the power of my office to either strengthen or weaken the existing laws of the land. That is my position.

If that happens to be a decision based on your constituency, by all means you should do it. I don't know how you determine what your constituent base is. I respect a healthy difference of opinion. It is a deep personal issue and I respect you for whatever you believe. I would probably veto legislation that extended public funds for abortion in Maine. I would probably veto legislation that somehow allowed abortion in Maine beyond what is allowed under Roe vs. Wade.

5. Parental Consent:

I would be supportive of it and allow it to become law. I would not become an advocate of my position during the referendum process. Obviously I have strong feelings about government, the ultimate power rests with the people. The referendum is the purest form. I would not as Governor, feel the need to use my personal feelings to encourage people to go left or right. It is a private and personal matter.

6. Child Care:

It is a crucial issue. It is a high priority with me. It may well be one of the most important things we can do to assist women in the marketplace. It is nearly impossible, in my judgment, without child care to somehow raise the family and go to work. I'm proud of the fact that when I was City Manager, we developed the largest child care system in the State of Maine. We did it for a lot of reasons. The human need to do it but also because of economics, associated with letting women get out and get on their way and getting off welfare. The private sector has got to be encouraged to do that. Politically we can't get the money through the funnel to do all that needs to be done. One, there is a lack of appreciation for the problem. Maybe it is going to take tax incentives to encourage private industry to support their own child care, have a 25% tax write-off, or reduction in their taxes. It goes beyond the issue of women. It goes to the issue of economic development and to welfare reduction. The Governor has to become an advocate of these things.

(Continued on Page 8)

7. ERA

I am opposed to the ERA in terms of believing that it is going to take a separate law to protect rights that you fundamentally have now. I am of the opinion that the rights you have now can virtually do everything you need to have done. So I do not support the ERA, or special laws for ethnic groups, or sex, or gays, or women or men. I guess the question is do we need additional laws to be very specific with a class of society, whether female, age, special laws for children rights. I am saying in my judgment, if we are assertive enough in our laws, the equal protection of the laws will do it for us. I would probably not lead any effort, but I probably would announce my position of not supporting the ERA. I would do that.

8 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Budget:

I wish the picture was more clearly focused. The more I read about what goes on beyond Maine, the more confused I get. I can't sit here and tell you that I would urge the state to automatically make whole a lot of those programs. I would really want to take a hard look at the importance of them, their importance to the future of Maine, to the constituency they are serving, whether there are alternative ways of doing that job, less expensively, or through other methods. If I was convinced that that was important and the federal funds the only way that the programs stayed alive then I would argue for their replacement through the State of Maine. I am a champion of belief that the local government themselves should be made financially stronger. I am proposing that we take a penny of the current sales tax away from the state government and apportion the proceeds of that penny to every town and city in Maine through what is called the revenue sharing formula. That is an enormous amount of money, by the way, and I don't believe it can be done overnight. Particularly it can't be done as we are trying to wrestle with Gramm-Rudman if in fact there are appreciable losses.

9 Teen Pregnancy:

I must confess to you that I don't consider myself knowledgeable on that subject. I feel lacking in knowing what you do about the issue. Sex education is crucial. In our public system, whether it is values awareness, or economics, both have got to become part of the education process. Young women, they must learn the plight of teenage mothers whose lives are perhaps over at that point. The men who walk away from those problems are not forced to have some responsibility. That's another problem. But I don't pretend to know which ones have worked and which ones haven't. I don't even know which ones we've tried.

10 WAGE GAP:

One thing I would not get enamored over, unless someone could convince me that it is both practical and easily administered, is

your comparable worth concept. I have been trying to understand it. I just can't accept that somewhere the bureaucracy can measure different jobs and determine the comparable contribution to an organization. As much as I love government, there is no great wisdom in government, there certainly is no skill in government to do complex things well. I fear the kind of bureaucracy that could conceivably shift attention immediately and go into comparable worth studies and pretend that we know how to measure the value of the janitor, the brain surgeon, and so on. I don't understand how you can measure skills and responsibilities. I want to believe that the basic fundamental equal protection under the law will someday remedy it and I'm sure not at the speed that you want. As Governor, I have no trouble articulating that, I have no trouble expanding, talking and speaking on the absolute importance of equal opportunity, equal pay, and comparable worth. But for laws, I just can't do it, I don't think it will remedy it. It will create a nightmare in my judgment.

11. Women on the Cabinet and Administration:

I don't make a distinction. I really want to get some of the most able people together and if they all happen to be women, so be it, and if none of them are women, so be it. I can't believe that will happen. If the balance out there is roughly 50-50, I've got to believe that my administration will not be too far off the mark. I am not going to try to do a formula approach to my administration.

12. MCW Role in the Executive Branch:

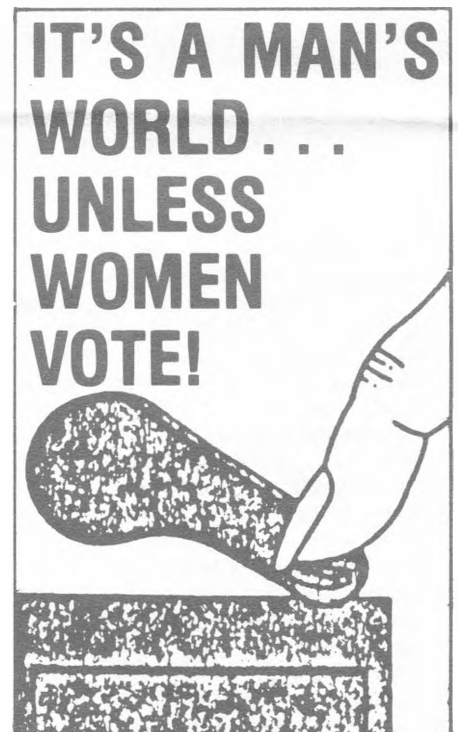
I would really want to use you in the best sense of that word. I would want to use you in the economic world. It's the part of Maine that bothers me. I don't have the answers. I see it as so fundamental, whether it is teenage pregnancies, women in the workforce, or young men in the workforce, or youngsters being able to stay in Maine, to live here. I want to hear your points of view. I also feel that males regardless of their good intention, will never appreciate the sensitive issues that you people are confronting, and therefore you've got to translate those to me. I've watched it in the various roles I've had, and no one can understand your plight except you people. I do not see the need, philosophically, to make MCW a cabinet level because then I've got to give one to the men and the boys, the blacks and the whites and here we go again. What I would really like to do is see if you people could own an idea which was then a pilot to state development so we could demonstrate symbolically how valuable women are. Look what they did, look at the value of this, look at state government as a result of us running in that direction. If I had some strong ideas that I thought were good for me, if I couldn't get you people to come on in, I'd feel as though it wasn't a good idea. And secondly, if you would come, then I think we'd double our concern. I'd want to take advantage of our relationship to say "What can we do together?"

13. MCW Liaison to the Governor:

Given the value that I put to the real resource base that you people offer to Maine, I really don't need a liaison. I want that access directly. If the issue is important enough, I want to know it first hand. You will have access to me and I will invite it and encourage it. We may agree or disagree on some issues. There may be an occasion when the Governor is off and about, but there will be someone there. I would be disappointed if you relied on that person and did not thrust yourself on the Governor.

14 Regular or Quarterly Meetings:

I love that. I really do. How can you stay abreast of things otherwise. It wouldn't be an imposition, it would be an opportunity. My nine years of city manager in Portland I decided to be the chief spokesman in all of our labor negotiations. We had all kinds of people who were doing things. But I needed to know my people and they needed to know me. I didn't want to deal with inbetween people. I learned more about the rank and file and the concerns of the workers in Portland by sitting at the table with them. And they knew a lot about me. My opinion was that we created a lot of mutual trust and respect as a result.





James Tierney

1. Three Significant Problems:

- A) Employment for women is a problem. Not too different than most citizens, but there are different aspects to it.
- B) Education.
- C) A third, I guess is social service deliveries. When you talk in terms of employment, you raise obvious issues such as comparable worth, and I would much rather see child care put in the context of employment than I would anything else. So rather than talk in terms of social service, I'm having a hard time getting it into category of three. I really see these issues as an aspect of jobs and the same thing is true of education. I want education, training facilities, or whatever to be delivered to people in a meaningful way. I guess another problem would still be the continuing stereotypes that people have. That is still exhibited in state government. If you look at our VTI system you'll find that women are prejudged into certain kinds of jobs and men into other ones. The state government has something to do with that. Those are the three particular issues in no particular order. How do you get a job if you are stereotyped and if you don't have the education? It's all a basic quality of life that people face. That is my broad view.

2. Going from Welfare to Work:

Governmental programs in Maine appear to be some of the better ones in the country. The success ratio in our WEET program actually exceeds that of Massachusetts which has been getting all kinds of national publicity. One of the reasons Massachusetts has developed good statistics is because they have a booming economy. It is one thing to go to an employer who is doing very well and say "Hey, we want you to set up a child care center and we want you to kick some money into the training pot and the government will be there for you" when the employer is making a lot of money. If the employer is laying off people and under great stress and someone comes from Augusta and says "Hi, we want you to put in a child care center" they would throw you out the door. I think we have the system in place, we know what to do, it is simply

a question of resources. Those resources simply cannot come from state government, there's never enough to provide all the child care places. We have to develop a very aggressive liaison with the private sector, to try to make them understand, not just that it is the right thing to do, but that it is in their economic interest to do so.

I mean if they are an employer that has a lot of single parents or people with children, then they ought to just set aside part of their hospital, restaurant or whatever it is and make it work. Because Maine is a State of small employers, businesses have to do that by combining employment places and that is going to require a very aggressive outreach by State government into communities. The easiest place to start is, of course, in the State government and in the university itself who has a deplorable record for providing any facilities for anybody. Obviously, we can't talk about exporting this concept of improved child care facilities in relationship to employers until we do a better job ourselves. There certainly is no philosophical problem there, just a question of whether you have the money to do it. Do you put the money into establishing outreach centers? Do you put the money into paying rent for child care centers? Do you put the money into supplementing insurance benefits? It is a question of where do you get the most for your dollar, as opposed to how big the pie is. I am going to be looking to the groups that have traditionally been involved in developing women's issues for that advocacy. I am a big believer in working with organized groups. In most cases I think they do represent the people who are their membership. The Maine Commission for Women would be no exception.

James Tierney

"Child Care just has to be accepted as part of the world, as part of life."

James Tierney

3. Feminization of Poverty:

The reasons for the basic problem are the first three problems I outlined. Personal jobs, education and the stereotypes as to what women should be doing with their lives which makes all three of those things work together to increase poverty for women at a time when an economic downturn occurs. If a person having been stereotyped since young, lacks any appropriate form of education, lacks sufficient self-esteem to get up and go battle through it all day, every day and gets crushed down by the overwhelming problems of life, that is usually when you end up with someone in the poverty situation. All those things point towards women in greater proportion than towards men. There is still the expectation that women will take care of the children. If a man has a hard time, just can't deal with the problems of life, he can't just disappear. Where if a woman has a hard time

and can't deal with the problems of life, she is still expected to be a primary support mechanism for that child. Government has an important responsibility in breaking that at all levels. Life doesn't have to be that way.

4. Woman's Right to Choose:

Well, I have personally always taken the "right to choose" position. Even before the Supreme Court decision. I don't think that my personal views have very much to do with my governmental views, frankly.

Your second question really goes to the question of what the MCW should be and what statutory command it should have. I don't think any government should be in the business of trying to decide what the Commission should be doing. It is an advocacy group. Part of your question implied, "Should we promote the right to choose option?" I'm not going to say that's what you should be doing. That's up to the Commission to decide. Another Commission at another time might decide the opposite of this—that it's not a high priority for which to advocate. And that's why it is there, it is an advocacy group. Just like the Maine Association for Handicapped people and other groups, it is not there to hand out predispositions but to challenge, to argue and to raise issues that may not be raised otherwise. I am basically pleased with the way the MCW operates and has operated as an advocacy group. That doesn't mean I support all their positions, I just mean it is an appropriate thing to be out there kind of as a burr under everyone's saddle. Women have some unique needs and there are problems. Someone must stand up and shout and say "Hey, look at us," because a lot of it tends to be invisible. I'm pretty pleased with the way things are and that would be my position. Show me the bill and I guess I will decide.

5. Parental Consent:

There have been lots of different parental consent bills. My basic position is the one which was defeated in the 1978-79 legislature. I would have no trouble with parental consent being required as long as there were sufficient safeguards to protect the child and that would not entail a very complicated arbitration system, but simply be the physician's judgment after talking to that individual. If the physician thought the health and safety of that child was endangered by notifying the parents at that time, then the physicians notification would basically create an exemption. My basic feeling is that notification in a vast majority of cases is appropriate. We hope that the number of human beings forced to be in that situation is as small as possible. You are faced with the inevitable conclusion that if my daughter were to have her tonsils out or to have a bump on the knee, the parent is automatically informed. In fact, the only type of medical attention the young girl has, that the parents do not know about, is abortion. So that is where you start with the presumption that parents have a right to know treatment which is being visited upon their child. But in situations, as I've seen, where the

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JAMES TIERNEY

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father of the child is maybe also the father of the fetus or the stepfather might be the primary abuser, to send that child back to the mother or to actually the father, would not be appropriate. We see this in the Dept. of Human Services and it is a horrible tragedy. It is one of the most difficult things, but I can never favor legislation which would require this teenager to get beaten up and knocked around.

6. Child Care:

It is an extremely high priority. As I said earlier, you have to make everyone understand it's in their interest and everyone has to pay. Everybody has to feel they have a responsibility. The employers have to understand that it is going to be in their economic interest (as well as being the right thing to do) for the employees who are scared stiff about where their child is. Child care cuts down lost time, it increases productivity, it increases job satisfaction.

Government itself can be very creative. I like to think my department has done that; we have flex-time and part-time positions. We have the most liberal pregnancy policy probably in the world. Child care has to be accepted as a part of the world, as part of life. Before I put money into low income child care (for which there is a desperate and, frankly, insatiable need) I think you need to establish a very vigorous outreach effort into the entire community to try to create that feeling, that environment. You have to set aside places in your community for some day care centers. You start with your major employers and also employers which are particularly labor intensive for women. There are spaces available. You start with state government. There is no reason why we can't set the example. We have a lot of schools that are not filled to the maximum outside Cumberland County. There is lots of space in basements of schools, where brothers and sisters are anyway. Why can't we start to be creative like that?

7. ERA

Yes, I do support it. I don't know. I'd listen to groups like the MCW if it is a good idea or not. It is obviously something I'd always vote for if it is submitted, but you reach a point of emotional exhaustion and maybe priorities ought to be somewhere else.

8. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Budget:

The first thing you do is elect a Governor who wouldn't have voted for Gramm-Rudman. The second thing is you do try to keep the general level of commitment to programs that do the most good. I reject a program by program dollar match. That's just an excuse for doing the same thing and I don't think we are doing enough. What I would be doing is planning to devise and piece together ways of leveraging state money and multiplying it through different forms. You do that by

decentralizing Social Services, or in any services, decentralizing your delivery system, using a lot of contracting with non-profit agencies. That gets more local people involved in the decision making process because it's not so far away from them, not so bureaucratic. You use the combinations of volunteers and part-time people and full-time people and you stretch your dollar a lot further. In doing that you keep up your advocacy and you keep your dollars. We have done a wonderful job in Maine of maintaining our level of commitment in the area of Social Services, mental health, mental retardation and low income programs. We are the envy of the country. We've not been as creative in how we use those dollars. We have not maximized our block grant possibilities because we have not been creative.

9. Teen Pregnancy:

I don't know. The person who thinks he has the answer is probably not telling you the truth because they do not understand the problem. It's all the things we've talked about. It's self-esteem, poverty, substance abuse, alcohol either in the home with the parents and grandparents, or with the children themselves. It's unemployment, loneliness, stereotypes—it's all those things combined to hit the most vulnerable among us. We can all remember when we were adolescents and what a difficult experience it is in life. If you lack a role model and a sense of what is destructive behavior, you don't know what to do—you don't know where to go. It would be very easy for me to be moralistic and to outline a series of programs. Once you start to see those problems turn around and people feel better about themselves and who they are and about their life, they are able to make better decisions and clearly the better decisions that are made the fewer teenager pregnancies you have.

10. Wage Gap:

In terms of comparable worth, the state employees are subject to collective bargaining. We have done a study and we have some problems but nowhere near the problems that we have in other states. I think it is a legitimate issue to talk about and to discuss and always keep in mind in terms of state employment. In terms of society at large, I think we have now reached a point where there is less stereotyping. You see women in all kinds of jobs and just accept it. It doesn't mean the problem is solved, but once you start to provide the role models it helps. Women who came into law school with me years ago were almost always patronized by judges, lawyers, and mistaken for legal secretaries and the like and that has pretty much disappeared. The number of women in my office has increased tremendously since I've taken over, partially because I just choose the best person and there are a lot more women to choose from. My daughter has a whole series of role models to look for that my wife didn't and certainly my mother didn't. The more role models you have the better off you will be.

13. MCW Liaison to the Governor:

My home telephone number is in the book in Lisbon Falls and I always return my phone calls. I listen a lot, talk a lot. I don't like being isolated from anybody. I enjoy people. I can't imagine that I would have access problems with anybody, much less this group. It doesn't fit my personality, it hasn't been my experience so far. I would want this Commission to challenge itself. My appointments to the Commission would reflect that. If I find this group to be totally right to choose, I might appoint someone who doesn't share that concern. The Commission would represent divergent views and I like that. I don't want any stereotypes out there.

14. Regular or Quarterly Meetings:

Yes.

15. Commission of Women's Services:

I don't have any interest in making the Commission for Women a service delivery system.

What Is Feminism?

fem•i•nism *n.* 1. The theory advocating the political, economic and social equality of the sexes. 2. Organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests.

TALKING WITH ME: A Look To The Future

Date: August 1994—
An Interview with the Governor
by Sally Rose

As I began writing this article, I realized how relaxed and at peace I was last week sitting in the Governor's office. I felt welcomed and was enthusiastic about the opportunity we had to reflect on the changes made during this Governor's two-term administration.

Although the scheduled time with the Governor was minimal, as a group of Portland AFDC women were awaiting the Governor's arrival at their monthly meeting, I felt the interview informative and complete. One by one, we listed the Governor's changes already in effect and those still in the development process.

The unique philosophy and vision of this particular Governor has given the state a new approach to problem solving. Because the Governor felt a fresh approach was in order the constituency was asked to withhold passing judgment on the effectiveness of this administration for two years. The Governor's philosophy has been to maximize energy and state dollars by keeping a long-term view in mind and to resist falling prey to the pressure for short-term (bandaid) solutions. Over the past eight years decisions, programs, legislation have all been made based on long-term goals. The positive affects of that philosophy are now becoming apparent.

Under this approach the State of Maine has made some important realizations concerning two segments of our citizenry: Our youth and our elderly.

Realizing our youth are this country's most valuable resource, the Governor, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, has instituted innovative changes in our public schools.

Junior and senior high school students are now required to complete a course entitled "*Expanded Views of Possible Life Options*." The material offered in the course is approached from a new adult to adolescent perspective. It includes information on increasing self-esteem, motivation, decision making skills, positive role-models, and job skills for all students. What has become evident is if we want kids to change their values and habits, we must somehow change our relationship to them, and in so doing, their relationships to life, and perhaps, to themselves.

A 60% reduction in teenage pregnancy in Maine is attributed to the statewide curriculum addition of "*Teen Bodies and the Sexual Self*." The

course conveys information on the functions of the sex organs, birth control, healthy pregnancy information, and self-responsibilities in relationships. Schools are now equipped with health clinics where birth control information is disseminated and pregnancy related issues can be addressed.

It appears for the first time in many years, our adolescents are valuing themselves, their relationships, and their futures. We are guiding our children in a realistic yet natural way, and meeting the requirements of youth with an understanding of their individuality. We are encouraging our students to face their adult years with a sense of pride in themselves and our state.

The other end of the population, our elderly, have felt enormous burdens lifted from their shoulders under this administration.

Maine has addressed the issues of housing and health care for the elderly by subsidizing communal living arrangements. Joining our state's mobile elderly with single parent, low-income families, has addressed many needs. These community housing structures, staffed by State paid health and social workers, blend two struggling factions of our population to create a positive and productive environment. Child care is lovingly provided by the elderly, enabling the single parent to be comfortable in securing employment. A portion of the single parents have found employment within the housing complex by meeting the needs of the older and less able. These community building projects have turned into a self-sufficient entity by entwining its clientele's abilities and needs. As an alternative living arrangement, it is affordable, supportive, and safe. We have come to realize that "*community*" means joining forces, offering ourselves to others, a circle of friends. Maine is building a sense of understanding, compassion, and community between two groups previously alienated from each other.

During the Governor's first term, employment issues for differently abled women were addressed. This segment of the population is virtually invisible, neither portrayed as working women nor homemakers. Women with disabilities have the highest level of unemployment, lowest level of income, and lowest level of education of any minority. Understanding this, the Governor convened a task force with a firm commitment to making changes.

In 1990, the MCW received funds out of the Governor's budget which were specifically earmarked for career training for differently abled women. With this grant money, the MCW was able to develop a curriculum package addressing the unique educational and career needs of this group. The courses on ableism are now offered in each of the eight Vocational Technical Institutes. To date out of the 41,400 differently abled women in the State of Maine, 7000 have enrolled and received training to help them become viable parts of the Maine economy.

The Governor and I talked about the changes made in the area of Civil Rights. During the Governor's third year in office, an Executive Order was signed putting an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the State of

Maine system. Having set this example through Executive Order, the 117th Legislature followed suit by passing a bill enacting the term "*sexual orientation*" to be included in the Maine Human Rights Act. By so doing, the State of Maine earned notoriety across the nation for its humanitarian views and its deep commitment to equality for all people. We finally realized that if we value integrity, we must also value diversity in sexual expression and orientation, recognizing that there is no one truth, or one way, that fits everyone.

A major area of accomplishment under this Governorship, perhaps the area to encompass the broadest spectrum of the population, has been the improvement in Maine's economy. Recommendations taken from the 1986 Maine Commission for Women and State Development Office conference on "*The Changing Workforce: Its Impact on the Maine Economy*" have created a positive rippling effect in the state's economy.

After analyzing the make-up and needs of today's workforce, both public and private sector employees realized their responsibilities in helping to maintain a comfortable lifestyle for all of Maine's citizens. By offering flexible work hours, benefits for all employees—including seasonal and part-time) providing retraining to anyone interested, and on-site child care employers discovered a payback. Employees, feeling more comfortable and connected to their place of employment, began to be more conscientious about their work and exhibit pride and dedication to their employment. Following this example, the Chamber of Commerce became highly interested in their town small businesses and now offer child care as a benefit to their shop owners.



We are seeing Maine prosper in a wholesome, family, care-taking fashion. This sense of family and commitment to a rich life for everyone in Maine carried over to the polls in 1990 when a referendum passed by an 80% majority to close down the nuclear power plant in Wiscasset. In so doing, the citizens of Maine made a statement about their priorities concerning ecological changes.

Through major state funding Maine now has two rape crisis centers and two battered women shelters in each county. This comprehensive coverage is an indication of this state's awareness and commitment to women who have been violated in a women-demoralizing society. The budgets of these shelters also contain state money for educational research. Through outreach programs to educate the general public about the cause of violence against women, the incidence of rape has dropped by 57%.

(Continued on Page 12)

TALKING WITH ME CONTINUED...

State judges appointed by the Governor during the past two terms have clearly shown their progressive and enlightened thinking in trying domestic violence cases. Sexual assault has finally been labeled a serious crime and court decisions reflect this awareness. This change was brought about by the educational work of the shelters and through the past two statewide domestic violence conferences held by the MCW.

The final area the Governor and I talked about is a woman's right to make her own choice in a pregnancy. Funding for abortions through Medicaid is now available in Maine. This Governor early in the administration made it very clear to the legislature that medical discrimination on the basis of income would not be tolerated. Abortion clinics have become safe and respectable medical centers where counseling and care are administered unhampered by politics.

At the end of my interview I was touched and saddened as I bid farewell to this outstanding Governor. However, I feel the trail has been blazed and future administration have an example to follow. We have come out of a downward spiral with new hope and promise. There is finally a pride among women in this state as we feel our worth reflected by our government. This new sense of self, this validation for women's lives and needs, has positive effects on the whole of society. Because women are the centers of families and relationships, our well-being is reflected by those around us. Thank you Governor.

MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Commission is pleased to announce that Governor Joseph E. Brennan has appointed Mary Cathcart of Orono and Joanne D'Arcangelo of Portland as the new Chair and Vice-chair of the Maine Commission for Women. Our heartfelt thanks to Celeste Branham of Lewiston and Julie Motherwell of Falmouth who have served the Commission so well for the past two years.

Additionally, the Governor has appointed three new Commissioners: Sally Gibson of Harpswell, Laura Gordon of Brunswick, and Robert Dworak of Mount Desert. Speaker of the House, John Martin, has also appointed Sister Claudette Poulin from Winslow to serve the Commission. Each of these people will be profiled in the November/December issue of *INFORM*.

Welcome to all of you. We are looking forward to a very exciting and productive two years.

MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Patti Bourgojn, Augusta
F. Celeste Branham, Lewiston
Yolanda Bulley, Millinocket
Gena Canning, Portland
Mary Cathcart, Bangor
Joanne Clarey, Portland
Joanne D'Arcangelo, Portland
Robert Dworak, Mount Desert
Gwen Gatcomb, Winthrop
Caroline Gentile, Presque Isle
Sally Gibson, Harpswell
Laura Gordon, Brunswick
Stephanie Irvine, Blue Hill
Ruth Joseph, Waterville
Wendy Kindred, Fort Kent
Stephanie Locke, Dover-Foxcroft
Sister Claudette Poulin, Winslow

INFORM STAFF:

Betsy Sweet
Peg Ricker
Sally Rose

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THE WHITE HOUSE**

MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
STATE HOUSE STATION 93
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

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