

PASSAIC-CLIFTON, N.J.

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NOW, irked by Sheehan nomination, to picket Byrne's office

By LESLIE R. DREISPAN Herald-News Staff Writer

Judy Knee, state coordinator for the National Organization of Women, says her group will stage a demonstration at noon Monday outside Gov. Brendan T. Byrne's office to protest his appointment of Community Affairs Commissioner Patricia Q. Sheehan as acting director of the new State Division on Women.

Byrne announced the appointment yesterday, although Mrs. Sheehan was selected at a cabinet meeting last week and will retain her post as commissioner. Due to the "economic crisis facing the state," the governor said, Mrs. Sheehan will waive the \$26,000 salary that had been allocated to the director.

"Mrs. Sheehan's experience with and concern for the needs of women make her extremely qualified to head the new division," the

governor added.
"NOW IS unalterably opposed to
the appointment. Pat Sheehan
can't do two jobs at once. The

director's job will be a part-time one at best. While we appreciate the governor's need to economize, his cost-saving will be a terrible cost. It's totally unsound to place the cuts here." Knee stated.

Wednesday, Knee reported that NOW would seek a court order compelling the governor to name a director to the Division on Women. The suit would have charged Byrne with failing to implement legislation by appointing a director and with illegally impounding funds appropriated by the legislature for the new division.

The state coordinator hopes to speak to Jerry F. English, legislative counsel to the governor, and will continue to change the focus of the suit. Nadine Taub, director of the Rutgers Women's Rights Litigation Clinic, is working on new grounds for the suit.

"IT'S POSSIBLE we may sue on the grounds that the will of the legislature is being frustrated . . . by focusing on the role of the acting director, which deprives the legislature of passing on the appointment. Despite campaign promises, the governor does not take women seriously," Taub added.

Ellen Durkin, state assistant coordinator for the Women's Political Caucus, said, "I was outraged when I read it in the paper. It seems like the governor is doing everything he can to make the division inoperative. I admire Pat Sheehan, but they're two full-time jobs. No one is that capable."

"I heard it but I couldn't believe it. I don't know how she can do two jobs, although Sheehan is a very competent woman. The division requires someone to play an active role. I'm not sure there are enough hours in a day, even for Pat Sheehan," Ilene Thornton, head of the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), said.

"I THINK it's an impossible task for her. She's already burdened with one full-time job. I don't think the governor feels the director of the new Division on Women is an important post. I think it might be a tactical move." said Jean Am-

brose, a former candidate, along with Mrs. Penelope L. Kuykendall, who withdrew her name last month. Mrs. Kuykendall's nomination was blocked by the Senate after several bad check charges and delinquent motor vehicle violations were revealed.

Ambrose also withdrew her name in nomination because she felt the Kuykendall controversy drained all her enthusiasm for the position. "Pat Sheehan is non-controversial and above all that's what the governor wants the new director to be. He's been having a lot of trouble getting people nominated," she said.

Former candidate Betsey Brown said, "I'm disappointed that the governor didn't need a full-time staff member for the new division. I don't understand why he didn't appoint a regular director. It's like a slap in the face, as if no one qualified was around."

"UNLESS PAT Sheehan is going to quit her job as commissioner and devote full time to this important job, it is an insult to the women in this state," said Jennifer Macleod, another former candidate. She plans to be at NOW's Monday demonstration.

"I think that the governor got wind of the suit . . . I think this is his response and I find that it is incredible. A permanent director should be involved with the programs right from the beginning. If she isn't, she's an afterthought," Macleod explained.

She was interviewed for the position on Aug. 8 and received a letter from the governor dated Jan. 10 that she was still being considered. But according to assistant legislative counsel Thomas O'Neill, the governor informally disclosed his selection of Sheehan on Jan. 8.

ONE TRENTON source said that at least 25 women including Gwen Bond of Somerset County were being considered for the director's post and interviews were still being conducted early this week. O'Neill said between 40 to 45 women had been under consideration.

One source who spoke to Assembly man Betty Wilson,

D-22nd-Union, said she was dismayed and puzzled. The majority whip sponsored the bill which established the new division. According to a Wilson aide, she was scheduled to meet with Jerry English and Pat Sheehan late yesterday afternoon.

"It's too big a job," said Assembly man Jane Burgio R-25th-Essex. "I don't see how she can handle the big department and a new division. It doesn't make any sense. We've all been pressing the governor to appoint someone. I strongly recommend that he appoint one full-time person to head the division. . This downgrades it by not having an independent director.

"With all the qualified women in the state, you would think that the governor could come up with someone," commented Sen. John J. Fay, D-19th-Middlesex. "I'm hoping the commissioner finds the time to devote to the division. Time will tell how taxing it will be for her... As for me I wouldn't split a job."



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INAL

Women's protests fall on deaf ears in Trenton

By EDWARD J. MULLIN Herald-News Trenton Bureau

TRENTON — Gov. Brendan T. Byrne listened to the protests of six women legislators yesterday but remained firm in his determination to have Community Affairs Commissioner Patricia Q. Sheehan run the Division on Women, without an individual division head.

"It was very predictable," said Assemblyman Jane Burgio, R-25th-Essex, after the brief meeting. She said the governor had promised nothing except that if the experiment proved unsatisfactory after three months, he would be the first to say so.

"'Oh, no you won't, we will',"
Mrs. Burgio said the women re-

sponded.
Mrs. Burgio was the only Republican at the meeting. The Democrats were Sens. Anne C. Martindell and Wynona Lipman; and Assemblymen Betty Wilson, Gertrude Berman and Mrs. Mary Keating Croce.

THE WOMEN told the governor they did not object to Mrs. Shee-

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han's qualifications, and would approve of her appointment if she did not have the other job.

Mrs. Wilson, who describe the Sheehan appointment as "one lousy way to celebrate the International Women's Year," suggested that instead of appointing a deputy director and a program coordinator, the two jobs be eliminated in favor of a full-time director.

She was alluding to the announcement last weekend that Miss Kitty McGrath, special assistant to Labor Commissioner Joseph Hoffman, had been named deputy director at \$17,935, and Mrs. Sylvia Johnson had been given the program development post at \$14,054.

The combined salaries come to more than \$31,000 — \$5,000 more than what the state is supposedly saving by having Mrs. Sheehan double as community affairs commissioner and director of the division.

MRS. WILSON also took issue with attempts to compare the current situation with that of Stanley Van Ness, director of the Office of the Public Advocate and also state public defender. He receives no salary for the later job — just as Mrs. Sheehan will not be paid as director of the Division on Women — but the Union assemblyman said: "Van Ness has two large, fully-funded staffs to assist him." The Division on Women is pitifully understaffed and underfunded."

Mrs. Sheehan, meanwhile, was to meet in Newark with three representatives of women's organizations: Joan North, state coordinator of the Women's Political Caucus; Judy Knee, state coordinator of the National Organization of Women; and Jean Lane, representative of the Women's Equity Action League.

The three were among about 30 women who came to the State House, despite yesterday's bad weather, for a scheduled protest against the governor's decision not to appoint someone whose sole responsibility would be the Division on Women.

Alice Cohan of NOW presided at a limited program the protesters conducted in the corridor outside Byrne's office. She carried a cardboard sign with a paraphrase of the governor's 1973 campaign slogan, reading "The man who couldn't be bought sold women out."

COHAN SAID she hoped "this visible statement of our dismay" would convince Byrne and the other men who run state government that they can no longer conduct "business as usual" in giving women only a limited role in government.

"I think the governor has missed the boat again," said Mrs. Dorothy Cronheim of East Orange, coordinator of the Government Women's Coalition. There were other expressions of substantially the same sentiment.

Sen. Alene Ammond, D-6th-Camden, was the subject of several interviews, and the center of many conversations. Mrs. Ammond, charcteristically a willing critic of establishment procedures, is currently the focus of increased attention because the orthodox party Senate Democrats put her off the sensitive Judiciary Committee.

"They can't take the heat (and) they're trying to put me back into the kitchen," she said in paraphrase of the old political expression.

"AND IT won't work," she added.

Mrs. Ammond said the difficult relationship between herself and

the others — she is one of but three women among the 29 Senate Democrats — is due to the men's inability to understand and work with a woman as an equal.

"They don't know how to cope with me," Mrs. Ammond said.

The expected committee changes were formally announced by Senate President Frank J. Dodd yesterday. He moved Mrs. Ammond from the Judiciary Commit-

tee.— the committee that reviews the governor's nominations for judgeships and many other appointments — to serve on both the Transportation and Communications Committee and the Energy, Agriculture and Environment Committee.

THE PEOPLE she replaces, respectively, are Sen. Carmen Orechio, D-27th-Essex, and Sen. Raymond Zane, D-3rd-Gloucester.

Orechio will take Zane's place on the Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee. Zane will replace Mrs. Ammond on the Judiciary Committee and Sen. Stephen B. Wiley, D-23rd-Morris, on the Revenue, Finance, and Appropriations Committee.

Wiley had asked to be relieved of his Revenue Committee assignment to be able to spend more time on the Education Committee.



Marchers outside governor's office protest Division on Women appointment

Byrne Stands Firm On Appointment To Division on Women

Press State House Bureau TRENTON - Gov. Brendan T. Byrne held fast yesterday on his refusal to name a full-time director of the recently created Division on

Women.

Six women legislators came out of a meeting with the governor last night complaining that Byrne had rebuked them in their bid to have a full-time director named.

"I feel like I've given birth to a deformed child without a head," said Assemblyman Betty Wilson, D-Union, who sponsored legislation which created the division.

Byrne caused a furor last week when he announced he was appointing the community affairs commissioner, Patricia Sheehan, as acting director of the division which is classified under her agency.

Earlier in the day more than 50 representatives of women's right groups demonstrated briefly outside the State House and held press issued a series of bad checks. discussions near the gover- The women's groups connor's office.

pointed with his position.

"It seems he had just made up his mind and that was it," she said.

Mrs. Brman said the governor told the women legislators he believed Mrs. Sheehan could do the job. and that the women should give her three months to get the division rolling.

Mrs. Wilson said the governor told the women that if the division "falls on its face" after three months he would agree to reconsider his position.

The division was created last August to coordinate programs and services for women, promote women's rights, and conduct studies of the changing needs of women. The Legislature has appropriated \$100,000 for the fiscal year.

Initially, Byrne nominated Penelope Kuykendall, a former Fair Haven resident, to head the division, but she withdrew her nomination after it was disclosed she had

tend Mrs. Sheehan is fully After meeting with the capable of performing her governor, Assemblyman duties as community affairs Gertrude Berman, D-Mon- commissioner, but will not mouth, said she was disap- have enough time to devote

to the Division on Women.

Among those opposing Mrs. Sheehan's appointment at the State House yesterday were the New Jersey Chapter of the National Organization On Women, the Women's Equity Action League, the Women's Political Caucus, and the League of Women Voters.

Byrne explained his appointment as an economy move aimed at salvaging the salary for a full-time director and putting the money into the division for additional programs.

The salary for the position division director was never specified, but it reportedly could be near \$30,000.

But Judith Knee, state coordinator for NOW, disagreed.

"Program money is meaningless unless there is someone to see that it is wisely spent," she said.

Knee said NOW is considering legal action to force the governor to appoint a fulltime director.

"I think women throughout the state have expressed a very strong and unified position, and it's not going to go away," she said.



Women picket outside the State House in Trenton yesterday, protesting the failure of Gov. Brendan T. Byrne to name a full-time director to the recently created state Division on Women. (Press Photo)

What's in a name

Name of the game is self-identity

Herald-News Staff Writer
Following the Civil War and up
through World War I, divorce
meant disgrace for women. Being
the ex-Mrs. Doe aroused much societal stigma and women clung
desperately to their married
names, never dreaming of relinquishing them, "for the sake of the
children."
Generations later, the woman of
the 1970s, whether she's married,
single or divorced, is adopting her
"Ms." prefix. In some cases,
women have been required by the
courts to pay alimony to their husbands, and a rising number of
brides-to-be plan to retain their
maiden names, while women who
are already married are seeking to
resume the names they were given
at birth.

resume the names they were given at birth.

A woman who wishes to retain her own name for personal or pro-fessional reasons may be labled by her peers and men as "a women's libber" in the most pejorative

libber" in the most peju arrisense. But suppose the roles between men and women were reversed and husbands were identified by their wives surnames. Looking back at the film "Funny Girl" one recalls Fanny Brice and gambler Nicky Arnstein. When Nick is greeted as Mr. Brice a dark shadow of shame passes over his face for a brief monant.

ment.

DESPITE THE "FEM LIB"
MYTH, many women who wish retain or return to their maiden names do not identify with the woman's movement. They have made their decisions based on individual needs and circumstances.

Laurie Feiner of Clifton is thinking about changing her name. She has a 2-year-old child and her husband is all for it. Her maiden name is Vidris.

"I've been thinking about it for a couple of months. Recently, my cousin got married and kept her maiden name. When I got married 1 didn't know! I could keep it." Mrs. Feil production of the production of the

her married name. "Some of the older teachers look a little cock eyed at me, but no one has given me a hassle."

RANDALL said if there is a judi-cial procedure to change her name legally she would do so. In the meantime she and many other di-vorced women await the appeals court's opinion on the following cases:

Cases:

Bonnie Lee Daniels defended by her husband Adam Lawrence, former Bergen County assistant prosecutor, was denied recognition of her birth name last May even though she had employed her common law right for two and one half years. The case was appealed Feb.

9. Mrs. Arax Egner of Ewing obtained a divorce in December 1973 and has two children ages 6 and 8. Her maiden name was Kalagian.

9. Mrs. Lois Coon of Linden was divorced last April. She has a 3-year-old child and would like to assume her maiden name which was Kelemen. Mrs. Coon's attorney, Edward S. Synder of Union explained his client has no interest in the women's movement. "She just doesn't want to use the name."

9. Mrs. Barbara Walls obtained ad ivorce last March after being married for 23 years. She retains custody of her Tyear-old doy and legular country while a 19-year-old boy and 19-year-old girl live with her former husband. Her maiden name was Ross.

husband. Her maiden name was Ross.

• On Feb. 25 Mrs. Sandra Ann Furie of Fort Lee, a mother of two teen-age children, 14 and 17, filed suit to resume her maiden name, Sperry, for herself and her children. Mrs. Furie obtained her divorce in 182 after six years of the children are the mother's relatives, the amount of the children are the mother's relatives, the suit states and the children are unable to relate to the father.

Based on the general rule in common law, which this state follows, a person may take or assume any name, except if it is used for criminal or fraudulent purposes. There is no law on the state or federal level which frobids a woman from retaining her own name except Hawaii.

retaining her own name except in Hawaii.

The usage of the husband's surname is the result of custom, rather than the law's mandate. Historically, the custom of a wife assuming her spouse's surname evolved from the concept that the husband and wife are viewed as one entity.

IF YOU ARE married and wish to resume your birth name, you may do so by going to court and following the state law's provisions. You may also revert back to your birth name on your own, since judicial action is not required. Snyder said.

tives occasionally send her card addressed in her married name. According to Randall she has re

court Judge Roger W. Bresin.
In the past week this reporter has received several phone calls received several phone calls received several phone calls that a change of name might cause a number of bureaucratic headres. If you are thinking about aches. If you are thinking about him in the confusion. The confusion of the confusion of the confusion.

sion. CREDIT

The state laws do not require a married woman to use her husband's surname when she is applying for credit. According to common law she should be able to use her birth name. By state law, a any debts she incurs both before and after her marriage.

and after her marriage.

PROPERTY

In New Jersey, a married woman has the right to sign deeds in whatever name she uses and control her own property without

control her own property wimouth spouse's consent.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The state does not require that a woman use her husband's surmame and asks only the full name of the registrant. Prefixes such as Miss Mrs., Ms. and Mr. have been aboilished. Re-registration is only required "whenever the registrant shall change his or her name due to marriage." There is no assumption that the couple's names will change automatically after marriage.

change automatically after mar-riage.

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHI-CLES

When applying for a driver's li-cense or for motor vehicle registra-tion the state laws just require a person to sign in his or her own handwriting and not to use "ficti-cious names or addresses." The soouse's name is not required.

cious names or addresses." The spouse's name is not required.

NCOME TAX RETURNS
Nadine Talb, director of the Women's Rights Litigation Clinic at Rutgers Law School, is Mrs. Egner's attorney. The director, who has retained her own name has been able to the spouse of t

ing yourself."

CHILDREN'S NAMES

To date there have been no diffinative rulings that a couple could or could not give the wife's birth name to the chiked return the properties of the properties of the couple of

A divorced woman who is award-ed custody of her children cannot change the father's name, unless there are extenuating circum-stances such as extreme cruelty or incest on the part of the father which forfeits this right.

Mrs. John Jones
Mrs. Belly Smith Jones
Mrs. Belly Smith Jones
Mrs. B. Smith Jones
Mrs. B. Smith John and Betty Smith-

which forfeits this right.

THE DANIELS case is the first one of its kind in the state and it is destined to be a landmark one.

Judge Bresslin denied Miss Daniels request for judicial recognition of her change of name, because if the couple was to continue to use the couple was to continue to use cause great confusion in the community in which they live and could well have a traumatic effect upon any children they might have.

The court also said that bureaucratic problems could arise on giving a surname to children. The Daniels have no children at the present time.

Daniels have no children at the present time.

The Women's Rights Litigation Clinic of Rutgers Law School and the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey jointly filed a friend of the court brief.

us the court brief.

In Laseur vs. State of Florida, the Florida Court of Appeals granted a married scientist the right to use her own name and in a California case, Banks vs. Banks, a statutory change of name was provided for a divorced mother of three children.

ren.
The Daniels brief states that The Daniels brief states that when a woman resumes or retains the name she was given at birth, she is expressing a personal statement about her social and political role in society. The right to keep one's own name is linked to developing a strong sense of self-identity which is an important factor in all aspects of life. Denying a woman this right, the brief says, interferes with her right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by the first amendment.

BUT THE MOST interesting argument presented in the brief is that of the married couple's constitutional right to privacy which Justice Brandeis described as "the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized man," in a 1928 dissent.

The right of privacy gives Miss Daniels the right to define the relationship with her husband in such a way that she retains her individual identity. The right of privacy also protects the right of parents to determine how their children will be raised.

protects the right of parents to de-termine how their children will be raised.

The initial reaction to a bill intro-duced by Assembyman William J.

Bate, D-34th, Passaic, which would require a woman to file a notice with the Secretary of State if she chose to retain her birth name was negative. The bill received critical reviews from advocate Nadinal or Taub, members of the National Or-ganization of Women (NOW) and Marjorie Wyngaarden of West-wood, alde to Assemblyman Her-bert Gladstone, D-36th, Bergen. According to Bate's bill, a woman would have to file the no-tice within 90 days of her marriage or within six months of moving into. New Jersey from another state. 'His bill takes away a right that women already have,' commented Taub.

JUDY KNEE, state coordinator for NOW, felt the bill was very restrictive, "Making time limits is a very negative thing."
According to Assemblyman Bate, he is now working on anamendment with several members of the NOW organization which will be incorporated into the original bill. He hinted that some provisions may be added to aid divorced women. Bate hopes the revised bill will bring clarity to the issue and will save women the expense of legal costs.
Knee also hopes the new version

Photo by Bill Clare



Traditionally, women take their husbands' surnam





Byrne sued for failing to fill women's post

The Record Wire Services

TRENTON - A Superior Court judge has ordered the Byrne administration to explain in court why a permanent director of the state Division on Women has not been appointed.

Judge George Y. Schoch issued a show-cause order yesterday, setting a hearing on the matter in his court May 28 at 9 a.m.

He acted on a suit filed by the National Organization for Women, seeking an order that would require Gov. Brendan T. Byrne to show why he should not be directed to make an appointment to the women's agency.

The suit claimed that by not appointing a full-time director the governor is violating the intent of the legislature.

Earlier this year, Byrne nominated Penelope Kuykendall of East Brunswick to the position.

Mrs. Kuykendall withdrew her nomination after it was disclosed she had been charged with passing several bad checks. The bad check charges subsequently were dropped.

In the interim, Byrne has designated Commissioner of Community Affairs Patricia Sheehan as acting director of

the women's division, which is state's fiscal difficulties when groups to give him three part of her department.

he appointed an acting direc, months, which has since The governor cited the tor. He asked the women's elapsed.

Judith Knee, state coordinator for NOW, said Byrne has shortchanged the women of

New Jersey by not appointing a full-time director.

She pointed out that women are hurt disproportionately by

the job market squeeze. "Unemployment rates are higher for women than men." Ms. Knee said. "This is the worst possible time for the division to be without a full-time

director. The Division on Women is the only agency of state government specifically concerned with the needs and problems of the more than four million women in New Jersey.

"The directorship is hardly a part-time job," Ms. Knee

Beauty queen graces Bryne's staff

The Associated Press TRENTON - A former Miss New Jersey has been hired by Gov. Byrne to help arrange his schedule.

Suzanne Plummer, 23, Miss New Jersey of 1973-74, said she doesn't know yet what her salary will be.

"As soon as I find out, you'll find out," she told newsmen.

Her job includes working with Eliza-

beth Cohen, who schedules Byrne's appointments and helps arrange speaking engagements for administration

officials. Miss Plummer, who lives in National Park, said her job also includes secretarial duties.

In her first week on the job, she seemed surprised at the attention she was receiving from newsmen.

"I don't know why this is news." she

remarked. "If I'd known, I would have

had something ready to say." Miss Plummer has been working for Bozell and Jacobs, the advertising agency for the State Lottery Commission. She moved to the governor's office as former lottery director Charles Carella assumed his new job as execu-

tive secretary to Byrne. Miss Plummer was a finalist in the 1973 Miss America contest.

The Philadelphia Inquirer new jersey & metro

♦ Wednesday, Aug. 27, 1975

November Bonds Vote Asked



Associated Press

Anti-E.R.A. demonstrators outside Gov. Byrne's residence in Princeton, N. J., hold up signs as the governor leaves in his auto

Women Assail ERA at Ceremony

Special to The Inquirer

PRINCETON, N.J. - About 30 tion. interrupted ceremonies at the governor's mansion here yesterday as Gov. Brendan T. Byrne was about to sign a proclamation of Women's Equal Rights Day in New Jersey.

The demonstrators carried signs reading, "Stop ERA, Vote No Nov. 4," and claiming that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would promote abortion and homosexuality. Several demonstrators thrust placards between Byrne and television

cameras as he signed the proclama-

chanting and sign-carrying women. New Jersey approved the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on April 18, 1972. The state's voters will decide Nov. 4 whether to adopt a similar amendment for the New Jersey Constitution.

> About 100 women, including state legislators, state government officials and women's rights activists, had been invited to the garden at Morven, the governor's mansion, to hear speeches on the issue and to watch Byrne sign the proclamation.

The opponents, who had set up a Daughters of America or the Napicket line outside, simply walked tional Council of Catholic Women. around the mansion and into the garden.

Hostile remarks were exchanged by members of the two groups, but things quieted down after Judith Knee, state coordinator for the National Organization of Women (NOW), told the demonstrators, "You have the right to say whatever you want, but let us hear the speeches we came to hear."

Many of the demonstrators said they were affiliated with the Catholic

One woman carried a sign reading, "Don't push ERA on us just because you want to be gay."

Gov. Byrne's wife, Jean, spoke during the ceremonies. She said that the "ERA recognizes the difference between the sexes as well as the dignity of both sexes. It is an affront to human dignity to discriminate on the basis of sex."

Yesterday was the 55th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

Credit plan faulted

By RON STEPNESKI

Business Writer
Regulations proposed by
the Federal Reserve Board to enforce the Equal Credit Opportunity Act won't do the job, say local women's rights leaders.

Today is the deadline for interested persons to send the Federal Reserve their written comments on the proposed regulations, which were first announced Sept. 8. National feminist groups voiced their displeasure with the rules as soon as the proposals were made public.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which is due to go into effect Oct. 28, bans discrimination by creditors on the basis of sex or marital status.

The proposed regulations weaker than those originally considered by the Fed

- would permit creditors to ask women about childbearing plans. They also would free financial institutions from disclosing why a loan

has been denied.

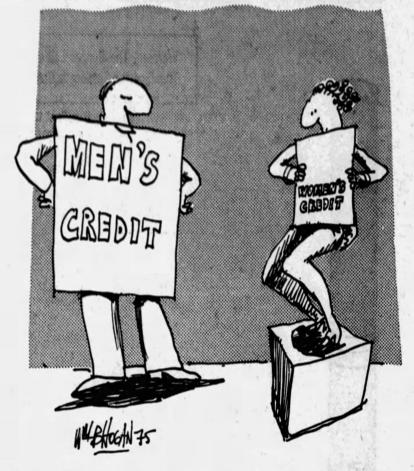
"It's absolutely a step backward," says Judy Knee, New Jersey president of the National Organiza-tion for Women. "A woman's capacity to bear children has been used against women in obtaining credit, employment, and other situations since time immemo-

'Probable continuity'

The proposed Regulation B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act states: "A creditor shall not request information about birth control practices or childbearing capability. However, a creditor may request and consider information concerning the probable continuity of an applicant's ability to repay.

Frank O'Brien, a spokesman for the Federal Reserve Board in Washington denies the proposed wording was changed to create effective loophole through which creditors could ask about childbear-

ing intentions. Presume a woman is visibly pregnant and you have to put together a loan to finance a car," O'Brien



said. "All it [the proposed regulation] says to the woman is 'Are you going to be able to return to a job or have you got some income maintenance insurance? Surely a creditor has a right to know if you have a reasonable prospect of re-paying him. This is not a sex-related question. It's an income-related question." You cannot justifiably,

in my view, interpret the continued ability to repay as a question about childbearing intentions," said.

Feminists, however, also disagree.

"This just points up how we need the equal rights amendment," said Judy Murphy of Teaneck, a state board member of NOW. "Under the equal rights amendment, all differentiation between men and women would be illegal."

Small creditors

O'Brien said the proposal requiring an explanation of why credit was denied was eliminated to protect the small creditor.

"You can't prepare a standard answer [for the denial]," he said. "It's got to be a specially prepared thing. It's going to be costly. You'd need betteries of people writing these things, in many cases lawyers.

"For the little creditor, it

would be even more diffi-cult, and the board feels there's no intent on the part of Congress to drive the little creditors out of business," he said.

However, feminist Judy Knee counters: "I feel a creditor should be required to provide a reason, whether its asked for or not, if credit is denied.

"In our society, the right to a loan is becoming a bas-ic need to survive," she savs.

Doris Tarrant, president of United Jersey Bank of Ridgewood, says some banks apparently discrimi-nate against single women and divorcees, but it is likely to take more than legislation to reverse the situation.

"I don't think they can legislate these things away," said Ms. Tarrant, who is single. "There is prejudice in many banks. I think it's the mind that has to be changed and that's going to take time and attrition.

Attitudes changing '

Jack Generelli, loan officer for Garden State National Bank, Paramus, said some banks still require that husbands and wives must both sign for a loan, even if the collateral is completely in the wife's name. He adds, however, that that attitude is changing except in cases where a divorce only depends on alimony for income or where a single woman has a shorttime employment record.

"I think the proposed law itself is good, and I think most banks are complying with it already," Generelli said. "I think some people will come out and try to claim discrimination where there isn't any, but if a person has the ability to repay, the stability of income, and a loan can be collected, there should be no reason connected with sex or marital status to turn them down for a loan."

There is no provision in the proposal for joint ac-counts for unmarried persons - a provision the feminists had wanted.

The original proposal required that all joint accounts of married couples be listed under both names. The new rules impose this provision only on those accounts opened after Nov. 1, 1976. Old accounts would be changed only on request of the account holders.

Also creditors would be required to keep records for only a year, not two years as originally planned.

Feminist groups did win at least one victory in the new regulation. Credit recipients no longer would be forced to reapply for credit status after their marital status changes.

Time for countdown on the ERA-how do you decide?

With the election only five days away, the debate over whether the New Jersey Equal Rights Amendment should be passed grows fiercer

The state's voters are being bombarded with buttons, bumper stickers and old-fashioned campaign banter by women on both sides of the issue.

Opponents envision a unisex society which will mean the eventual breakup of the family unit.

Supporters point to Wyoming and Utah which have had equal rights amendments since the 1890's and so far have not experienced any drastic social changes.

Mrs. Inez L. Franko of North Plainfield, president of the Citizens Alliance to Stop ERA, says the amendment is unnecessary since Article 10, Section 4 of the state's constitution already protects women.

The group, whose slogan is

"ERA—Emasculative, Radical, Aberrant," has been unsuccessful in its attempts to have the amendment removed from the ballot on a technicality.

"UNTIL WOMEN can rely on the constitution the same way both black and white men can, they are really inferior under the law. There is no substitution for constitutional protection." says Judy Knee, state

coordinator for the National Organization for Women.

Actually the idea of an ERA is not a new one. An Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was first introduced in Congress in 1923, just three years after women got the vote.

It took 49 years, but Congress finally passed the amendment in 1972. It must now be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the states by 1979. A two-year waiting period is required after ratification to allow the states an opportunity to examine all statutes and bring them into compliance.

The federal amendment has been ratified by 34 states.

Other states with equal rights amendments include Illinois, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Texas, Washington, New Mexico, Montana, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

In order to help readers make a "yes" or "no" decision on the ERA, The Herald-News has asked proponents and opponents of the amendment 10 questions it believes cover all points of the issue.

The questions and answers may, be found in today's Living section, Pages 21 and 22. (Comment, Page 18)



THE HERALD-NEWS

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FINAL



Making their absence felt

Women marching in Washington were the exception Wednesday, as relatively few joined the

strike called by the National Organization of Women. Story, Page 3.

EQUAL BIGGIGHTS AMENDMENT Yes.

By GERALDINE BANDA Herald-News Conference

In an effort to provide readers with a sound basis for a "Yes" or "No" vote on the state's Equal Rights Amendment, The Herald-News here presents questions relevant to the issue along with answers from those who are for the amendment and those who are opposed to it.

The views of the proponents and the opponents were compiled from position papers and pamphlets and from conversations with leading figures on both sides.

A Yale Law Journal article written in the spring of 1971, an authoritative study of the effects of ERA, has been the basis of arguments both for and against the amendment.

In simplest terms, what is the State **Equal Rights Amendment?**

PRO
It is an amendment which recognizes the fundamental dignity and
individuality of each human being.
It will prevent discrimination in
this state on the basis of sex
(gender).
Women will be elevated to "first
class citizen status" at last, and
will be recognized as persons under
the law.
However, the amendment is not
only for women. Certain laws exist
which discriminate against men.
Under the amendment, these laws
could be changed.

CON

CON
The amendment is an unnecessary "drastic measure" which will plunge us into legal darkness."
It is a "sneak attack" against family life by a vocal minority or radical women.
It is really a "loss of rights" amendment for women, since it will remove most of the protective legislation aiready passed.
The amendment will mean freedome choose a litestyle which removes the state of the protective legislation aiready passed.
The amendment will mean freedome choose a litestyle which removes the state of the stat

Since other constitutional amendments, statutes and court decisions, such as the Fourteenth Amendment, the Civil Rights and Equal Opportunities Acts have provided protection for women's rights, is there a need for this amendment?

What we have now is a "plecemeal" approach to the problem of
eliminating sex-based discrimination. Not only is the method too
slow, but there is nothing that prewritten the problem of future legislation which might discriminate on
the basis of sex.

It is true that: civil rights laws
prohibit discrimination by sex in
areas such as employment, and education; a new credit law makes it
possible for women to obtain credit
regardless of martial status; the
state Legislature has repealed several protective labor laws which
discriminate against women by eliministing, do spending which will
prohibit discrimination by sex.
These are limited areas.
Statutes and court decisions are
not adequate substitutions for the
broader protection afforded by a
constitutional amendment, said
Mrs. Kitty McGrath O'Neill, acting
director of the State Division on,
Women.

There have been only two United

director of the State Division on Women.

There have been only two United States Supreme Court decisions which held that the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause had been violated. The cases evaluated classified persons on the basis of sex.

The court's poor record in these matters proyes the Fourteenth Amendment is hardly a substitute for the ERA. The same amount would give the Legislature the impetus it needs to review all laws in-feel to see just where problems of discrimination occur and to suggest solutions.

Newark, vice chairman of the Citizens Alliance to Stop ERA in New Jersey makes a point during a discussion on the amendment at the Passaic-Clif-YWCA.

There is no need for this amendment. The state constitution Article X, Section 4, states whenever the term person, persons, people or any personal pronoun is used, "the same shall be taken to include both."

same shall be same.

Give women the right to serve on juries, start a business, get a mort-gage, control their own property or become "mature, adult persons" under the law, ask proponents. These things were made possible

years ago!
Once the amendment goes on the books, the results will become irreversible. We will be locked into the

consequences.

That is one advantage to the so called "piecemeal" method (Civil Rights Act, Fair Pay Act). It is the only method in which the electorate has a voice through its representatives.



If passed, how will the ERA affect existing statutes? How will these be brought into compliance?

Laws which now bestow privi-leges, responsibilities or benefits on one sex will be extended to in-clude the other sex or will be struck

down entirely.

Many laws could be brought into compliance simply by eliminating or adding a few words. The word "sex" in many cases would be added.

or adding a few words. The word or adding a few words. The word of the many cases would be added. The more complex or controversial statutes would have to be scruinized by the legislature and the courts. The factors the courts would consider when deciding which statutes to strike down or which to exture the statute, the feasibility of its extended form, the proportional difference in terms of number of persons, groups or areas covered, and, whether it is a benefit or a burden to the new group, and an interpretation of the actual words of the statute.

den to the new group, and an inter-pretation of the actual words of the statute. Certain statutes would remain as they are. For example, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1984, which prohibits sex discrimination in em-ployment unless sex is a "bona fide occupational qualification," would stand. Statutes which make dis-tinctions on the basis of a unique. Control of the control of the con-trol of the con-trol of the control of the con-trol of

Elayne Nord (left) of the Passaic County Equal Rights Amendment Coalition discusses her reasons for a "yes" vote on the ERA with Dorothy Forte (center) and Marcia Bograd of the Wayne LWV.

CON

CON
The ERA is not a panacea. It's going to take time and money to change all of the existing statutes. Former Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina feels the federal ERA will transpose every law concerning women into a constitutional issue to ultimately be resolved by the courts.

The problem is, the matter of whether a statute will be struck down or extended will be left to the whims of the legislators and the courts.

whims of the legislators and the courts.

The state amendment will invalidate approximately 800 laws, according to one estimate. Others say to establish a commission to study 1,000. The legislature was asked to establish a commission to study ERA's impact on the laws, but the proposal was turned down.

The amendment is a constitutional wedge that will open up issues which otherwise would not be looked into.

Under ERA will there be unisex restrooms and coed sleeping facilities in public institutions such as hospitals or dormitories?

The ERA will not interfere with our rights of privacy. These rights have been interpreted by the courts to mean privacy in sexual relations, disrobing and bodily time. The courts have arrived at these interpretations through a combination of rights provided for in the First, Third, Fourth Fifth and Ninth amendments.

"If you think your 7-year-gld daughter will have to share the same restroom with a 34-year-old truck driver, that's a lot of bunk," said one ERA supporter.

There is nothing in the amendment which will cause the walls, which now segregate public toilet facilities to be torn down.

The amendment will not protect privacy between the sexes in schools, hospitals, prisons, the mil-itary or places of public accomoda-tions.

tions.
Prof. Paul Freund of Harvard
Law School testified that ERA
would not require segregation of
the-sexes in public institutions including prisons, reform schools,
public restrooms, and other public
facilities.

Will the amendment permit homosexual marriages? Will women be drafted?

Marie and the second section of the se

The ERA will affect only existing statutes. There are no statisties which would permit homosexual marriages, nor is there a state inhilita into which women could be drafted.

Actually, the draft question is a federal one. There is no national draft at the moment. If a draft is called, eligible women (i.e. women physically capable of handling the rigors of combat etc.) just as eligible men would have to serve.

A state could still prohibit homosexual marriages. If a state should legalize or prohibit this type of marriage, at would have to permit or prohibit such marriages between women as well as men.

Colorado, an ERA state, has begin to issue marriage licenses to horiosexuals. (Anti-ERA members coneede, however, that the amendment itself would not permit such marriages, but that "it would on the door for subsequent legislation which would allow same-sex marriages.")

which would allow same-sex mar-riages.")
It is realized there is no state or federal draft ... at the moment. But with conditions in the world, especially in the Middle East, what they are, such a draft could be in-stituted.

State Public Question No. II **Equality of Rights of Women**

Shall Article I of the Constitution be amended, as agreed to by the Legislature, by the addition of the following paragraph?

"20A. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. The Legislature shall by law provide for the enforcement of the provisions of this paragraph."

Can we estimate every legal consequence of the amendment?

PRO

No, we cannot predict all legal ramifications of the amendment. It's argued that the amendment is to broadly phrased. All constitutional amendments are necessarily broadly stated. The same argument was given at the time both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments dealing with the concepts of due process and equal protection were proposed.

process and equal protection were proposed.

Whether an existing statute will be struck down or extended will be left to the court's interpretation in cases where statutes are complex, just as was done with the other amendments,

CON

The language of the ERA is vague. It will be left up to the courts to determine what exactly it would mean. It is wishful thinking for proponents to say that so have made to be read to be read

How will the ERA affect private relationships?

The ERA will have no effect on our private lives. The amendment concerns the conduct of govern-

ment. U.S. constitution prohibits the government from interfering in private relationships. The courts have traditionally never interfered in an orgoing marriage. Therefore, division of responsibilities, such as financial support of a famfly, will remain a decision between both spouses.

The amendment will not eliminate support by a husband and father.

nate support by a husband and father.
Separation or divorce takes the relationship between spouses out of the private realm and into the public domain, where it has been traditionally dealt with by the courts.
Existing laws concerning child the court of the private realm and into the public domain, where the property of the courts.
Existing laws concerning child the court of the

"The ERA will invalidate all state laws which require a husband to support his wife and children. It will make women equally liable for financial responsibilities." (This will make women the stributed by Clitzens Alliance to Stop ERA. However, a group representative when questioned further conceded that this might apply only in cases of divorce. It will be a better wage earner (in divorce cases it is assumed), according to testimony by Sen. Birch Vorce cases it is assumed), according to testimony by Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana during the Congressional debate over the federal ERA. If a wife fails to support her husband, he could use it for grounds for divorce.

Divorced women will lose the customary right of child custody, child support, and/or almony, if her husband wins custody of the children.

Will women be forced out of traditional roles of homemaker and mother into the labor market, thereby undermining the family?

It would be absurd to think that women would not be allowed to choose the roles of mother and homemaker, just as it would be absurd to think that a woman or a man could not take a job outside the home.

the home.

These are personal and private decisions, something not regulated by the courts, and could never be affected by the amendment.

Support of the family will remain a decision of both spouses as it has always been.

widdle hights Nmendment (Both Men and Monen) First-Class Crtzensko for ALL aduts "Do you want to lose your right not to work? If you are married, you may choose to work outside your home. But you may choose to stay at home, to rear your children, to be supported by your husband. The ERA will abolish this right." (From a position paper issued by Women Who Want to be Women, Scott City, Kan.)

You would be worth to be Women, Scott City, Kan.)

Scott City, Kan.)

You will adversely affect women in industry, by invalidating all protective laws for women. This means laws regulating weight lifting restrictions, rest periods, excessive working hours and maternity leaves. "American women are the envy of the world, because of the protection afforded them," said one anti-ERA woman. "There are a number of women who like this protected situation. But the ERA will take all this away, It will give us responsibilities we really don't want," she concluded.

For questions nine and 10 Please turn to page 22, col. 1 (Continued from Page 21)

Will the ERA affect men?

amendment could result in more job opportunities, lower in-surance premiums, or increased social security benefits for men, since statutes governing these areas would be so en as discrimina-

A man could be awarded alimony ayments, or custody of his chilpayments.

payments, or custody of his children and child support, in certain divorce cases where his wife might be better able to provide support.

Many times children are awarded to their mother in divorce cases not because they are better able to provide for them, but because they are considered inherently more cases. are considered inherently more ca pable of rearing children simply because they are women. The amendment would give fa-

thers an equal chance at custody of their children.

Widowers would be entitled to the same Social Security benefits as widows, under the amendment. Widows now receive a substantial-

ly larger payment.

CON

The ERA will deprive husbands of their right to "beget and rear their own children," since they will have no control over abortions which might be sought by their wives

Men are now the primary bread-inners. The ERA will change winners. this.



What kind of social changes do you think will be brought about by the

will mean a fundamental ge in the way we view each ange

change in the way we view each other as individuals.

The amendment reflects two basic premises. First, that women are not inferior to men because of their sex and second, both men and women vary as individuals, intellectually and emotionally, in body structure and physical strength.

Equality doesn't mean same-ess. The amendment will not ness. The amendment will not mean a unisex society. Nor will it prevent people from choosing tra-ditional roles or force women to leave their homes.

It will mean a society where men and women are free to choose life-styles based on their unique identi-ties rather than by societal compul-sion rooted in legal restraints based solely on sex.

Who's for?

State support groups represented by the Coalition for a New Jersey Equal Rights Amendment are: AFL-CIO, Industrial Union Coun-

cil
AFL-CIO, Women's Affirmat
Action Committee
American Civil Liberties Union Affirmative

American Association of Universi-ty Women

ty women American Nurses Association American Jewish Congress B'nai B'rith Women Board of Rabbis

Center for Peace and Justice, Sis-ters of St. Joseph of Peace Church Women United Common Cause

Communication Workers of Ameri-

ca Council of Churches Department of Christian Social Re-lations, Archdiocese of Newark Education Association Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

Human Rights Association
League of Women Voters
National Association of Business
and Professional Women
National Council of Jewish

Women Vational Organization for Women New Jersey Bar Association Women's Rights Section Association,

Women's Rights Section
Newspaper Guild
Public Interest Research Group
United Auto Workers
Women's Equity Action League
Women's Political Caucus
YWCA, State Council
ZONTA, International

Proponents envision rroponents envision a secular-humanist society replete with sex-ual freedom, abortion on demand, euthanasia, and a decentralized government which is in complete opposition to the Judeo-Christian ethic.

The amendment is an assault on the traditions of this nation, and will contribute to the breakdown of the American family.

Socialistic estates such as Castro's Cuba or the Soviet Union point to the necessity of the equality of men.

women.

The amendment will result in the loss of sexual identity of our children. It fails to take into account the fullness of persons. Regardless of the "equality" the ERA promises, there is a difference, and we can not be equal in all things!

Who's against?

Groups against the amendment and represented by the Citizens Al-liance to Stop ERA are: Conservative Action Group Federation of New Jersey Taxpay-Taxpay-

ers League of Housewives National Conservative Union Other groups which have spoken out against the amendment in-

clude American Legislative Exchange

Council American Party

Catholic Daughters of America Communist Party Congress of Freedom Daughters of the American Revo-

Freedom Newspaper, Inc. General Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Birch Society Knights of Columbus, New York

Ku Klux Klan League of Large Families Liberty Lobby Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

Mormon Church National Coun Council of Catholic

Women
National States Rights Party
National School Boards Associa-

tion Rabbinical Society of America Union of Orthodox Rabbis Veterans of Foreign Wars

We The People Women's Christian Temperance

Union Women Who Want to be Women of Kansa Young Americans for Freedom

Civil Rights unit jurisdiction asked on NOW charges

NEWARK — The New Jersey National Organization for Women (NOW-NJ) wants the state Appellate Court to order the charges of sex discrimination it filed against 40 school districts returned to the jurisdiction of the state Division on Civil Rights.

NOW-NJ. has filed a notice of appeal from the opinion of state Attorney General William F. Hyland transferring the cases to the state Department of Education. Its attorney will be in Appellate Court this week asking that a hearing on its suit be expedited.

All of the 40 cases allege unlawful sex discrimination in school curricula or programs. Two of the cases are against the Middletown and Matawan Boards of Education.

Boards of Education.

Both Judy Knee, state NOW coordinator, and Nadine Taub, of the Women's Rights Litigation Clinic at Rutgers Law School, Newark, the organization's attorney, said yesterday that NOW believes an expedited hearing is the only chance for getting some of the situations it is complaining about remedied by this fall.

All of the cases had been filed with the Division on Civil Rights between February, 1973 and December. 1974. They were in various stages of processing — some ready to go to public hearing — when Mr. Hyland issued an opinion last fall declaring that the state Department of Education had sole jurisdiction.

The Matawan complaint

The Matawan complaint also alleges sex discrimination in employment, and the Hyland opinion left that part of the complaint within the Division of Civil Rights jurisdiction.

In its court challenge, NOW-NJ contends that state law gives the Division and Department concurrent jurisdiction. It says the cases should be returned to the Division because the Department of Education lacks the staff and procedures to investigate them.

And, while the Division on

And, while the Division on Civil Rights has responsibility to investigate the complaints, and to hold conciliation conferences and public hearings, the Department of Education hasn't any such obligation. Ms. Knee said.

Shifting the complaints to the state Department of Education also shifts the responsibility for the investigation of them to the complainants who don't have any legal basis to compel a school board to cooperate with the investigation, Ms. Knee declared.

"The Attorney General's decision denies access to the state Division on Civil Rights by groups with such complaints," Ms. Taub declared. "We believe the statutes are clear. We are asking the court to expedite the hearing to make sure that no more generations of school children are subjected to sex stereotyping."

"In some of the cases, the Division already had made findings of probable cause and was all set to move. Now the Department of Education will have to start all over," Ms. Taub said.

Agreeing with Ms. Knee that the Division on Civil Rights has investigative staff and procedures and enforcement powers the Department of Education lacks, Ms. Taub Taub said "the fundamental question is, when the law against sex discrimination was passed, was the intent to reduce or increase the resources available (to enforce

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15 CENTS

VOL. 98 NO.139

NOW rally to protest Medicaid cutbacks

By DORIS KULMAN

LINCROFT — New Jersey's largest femnist group will sponsor a mass rally in front of the Governor's Mansion in Princeton at noon on Sunday, Feb. 22, to protest the cutbacks in the state Medicaid program.

Spokeswomen for the National Organization for Women of New Jersey (NOW-NJ) said the Washington's Birthday protest rally at Morven is the first of many actions the organization plans this year to challenge what it contends is the state's increasingly punitive treatment of impoverished women.

There are about 630,000 persons in the New Jersey Medi-

caid program, the overwhelming majority of them women and children receiving public assistance through the Aid To Families With Dependent Children program.

At its annual state conference last Saturday, NOW-NJ declared the plight of women in poverty a priority issue for 1976. The conference met in the Unitarian Church, Lincroft.

Judy Knee, Verona, was reelected state NOW coordinator. Diana Radcliffe, Bordentown, was elected co-coordinator.

A \$20 million Medicaid cutback, effective last Friday eliminated aid to the poor for adult dental, optometric and podiatry services, and ended

r- physical therapy and psychological services and provision of medical supplies, such
as wheel chairs and crutches,
for adults and children. The
New Jersey Hospital Association has filed a federal court
suit seeking to restore the
portion of the cuts that would

A \$22 million gash in the Medicaid program last fall reduced payments to physicians, pharmacists and dentists. Gov. Brendan T. Byrne reportedly is considering slashing another \$60 million from the program, eliminating virtually the entire appropriation for optional ambulatory medical services in the state budget due for adoption in July.

effect payments to hospitals.

Gov. Byrne and the state legislature "have deemed it unimportant to take constructive action to help the poor and indigent and are instead treating the victims of poverty as punitively as possible," NOW-N.J. asserted.

It charged that the cutbacks have "precipitated a situation nearing a medical emergency for Medicaid recipients."

The organization also declared "the war against rape" a priority issue. It said it will wage a campaign to require all hospitals "to take evidence from rape victims promptly and competently" and will work for legislation that would provide for conviction and treatment of rapists and also would "alleviate the trauma for the victim."

The state NOW also adopted a resolution deploring the appointment of Corrinne Boggs, a Louisiana congresswoman, to chair the 1976 Democratic National Convention. County NOW at the national

NOW-NJ said Mrs. Boggs is a poor choice because she has supported national legislation that would deny or limit women's right to safe abortion.

A similar resolution was on before it adjourned.

presented by Monmouth County NOW at the national NOW convention in Philadelphia last October and assigned priority status, but was among the resolutions that convention failed to act on before it adjourned.

Pair sought for robbery

WEST LONG BRANCH — Police here are still searching for the two masked holdup men who escaped with more than \$1,000 in cash from Consumers Distributors in the Paddock Shopping Center on Rt. 36 Friday night.

Police Chief Ira White said that at approximately 10 p.m. Friday, the assistant manager of the store, Miss Jacqueline Conover was approached as she was closing the store.

A man, approximately 20 years of age, wearing a ski mask and armed with a small handgun demanded that she turn over the store's bank deposits.

She complied and the man ran off heading west. Miss Conover told police that he was joined by a second man.

She called police headquarters from the store.

Investigating the robbery are Sgt. James Maletto and Patrolmen Michael Hanoway and Robert Piantanida.



Register staff photo

CONFERRING NOW — Honey Cole, Marlboro, left, coordinator of the state conference of the New Jersey chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in the Unitarian Church, Lincroft, last Saturday, checks some literature with Judy Knee, right, who was reelected state NOW coordinator, and Diana Radcliffe, Bordentown, who was elected state co-coordinator.

Womanspirit conference May 1

NEW BRUNSWICK — A conference, "Womanspirit '76," focusing on contemporary women's issues, will be sponsored by the National Organization for Women of New Jersey on Saturday, May 1, at Hickman hall, Douglass College.

It is designed to provide women with information on such topics as family law and the legal status of homemakers. The program is open to the public, and the registration fee will be waived for women unable to afford it. Free child care will be provided, and lunch will be available.

"Laws affecting the family and the housewife are of vital concern to women," said Judy Knee, state coordinator of NOW-NJ. "Unfortunately, few of us ever have an opportunity to learn about our legal status. 'Womanspirit '76' will give women that opportunity."

The day-long conference will include workshops on such issues as the problems of working class and minority women, how to get into the job market and women and health. A play, "Oh, Those Revolutionary Women," will be presented. Betty Wilson, state deputy commissioner of environmental protection, and Eleanor Smeal of Pennsylvania, chairman of NOW's national board, will speak. Registration will begin at 9 a.m.

Action committee plans conference

Members of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO Women's Affirmative Action Committee, will meet June 26 and 27 at Howard Johnson's Regency Hotel, Atlantic City.

Objectives of the conference, according to president Robbie L. Cagnina, are to explore the issues before the nation; to take

action; and to provide an opportunity for women and men of all ages from unions, churches, organizations, institutions, agencies, to meet and share ideas with those whose fields of endeavor vitally affect their daily lives.

Theme of the conference is "People: 1976 A Year of Decisions."



4

Women: Byrne's emasculating our agency

By Steve Greenhouse

Staff Writer

On August 26, 1974 — the 54th anniversary of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote—dozens of feminists crowded into Gov. Byrne's office to watch him sign a bill creating the state Division on Women.

"Everyone there had high hopes that the division would go a long way towards helping women," said Kitty McGrath O'Neil, who now serves as the division's acting director.

Byrne said then that he hoped the division would work effectively to ensure equal treatment for women.

But today, two years after the ceremony, many feminists complain that the division hasn't been effective enough.

They blame the division's shortcomings on the governor. They're angry at him for slashing the division's budget and for failing to name a permanent director to the division.

"Byrne just never gave the division the clout, money, and staffing needed to do an effective job," saidl Judy Murphy, coordinator of the Bergen Chapter of the Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Murphy lobbies for the creation of the division in the belief that women require a special unit to deal with their special problems including:

• The unemployment rate for women in Jersey is estimated at one to two points above the 10.8 per cent statewide average.

• Division of Youth and Family

Service officials say there are more than 300,000 New Jersey mothers who need daycare for their children and are not getting it.

 It's estimated that more than 100,000 Jersey women are alcoholics.

A tall order

That's a tall order, and Acting Director O'Neil says her overworked staff is doing a lot, but can't do everything.

Ms. O'Neil, a 30-year-old South Brunswick resident with 10 years government experience, says, "The constraints on us are horrendous and getting worse. Originally, the governor cut our budget to zero, but the appropriations committee restored us. Still, we're only getting \$80,000 this year, compared to \$110,000 last year.

"It was already difficult to exist under last year's budget. My staff has gone that extra mile, and I don't know if we can go any further."

Ms. O'Neil, who earns \$19,500 a year, has a staff consisting of a program director and two secretaries.

Accomplishments

The division counts among its accomplishments the publication of pamphlets on Jersey women in American history and on unemployment and disability rights for pregnant women.

Other activities include:

 Paying the State Department of Labor \$1,000 to train job counselors in each of the state's 38 employment ser-



Right to vote sought in 1912.

vice offices to help unemployed women.

• Cosponsoring conferences for women on alcohol, and campaign techniques, and organizing ones on women and old age, and on women in jail.

 Coordinating an affirmative action program for the state's universities.



A 1974 protest in Atlantic City.

• Lobbying for the Equal Rights Amendment to the state constitution and for insurance and pension programs that don't make women pay more than men. They've also pushed for the recently signed rape law that sharply limits cross-examination of rape victims about their past sexual conduct.

Perhaps the division's biggest success, though, has been the \$50,000 federally funded job program that it supervised at 10 New Jersey colleges.

With its \$5,000 grant, the Ramapo College women's center organized classes on how to write a resume and be assertive, seminars on careers for women, and support groups for women who are frustrated by the bleak job market.

About 2,200 women participated in the 10-college program, and about 200 found jobs through the program.

Connie Woodruff, who heads the state Advisory Commission on the Status of Women, an 11-member appointed panel which advises the Division on Women, commented, "The job program worked out very well. Unfortunately, we're not able to fund it again. With programs like these, it's clear that the division is trying to fulfill its mandate. They've done a fantastic job with their skeleton staff."

However, not everyone is so enthusiastic about the division's performance.

Judy Knee, coordinator of New Jersey's chapter of the National Organization for Women, saud the division should have aggressively opposed state legislation, stayed by the courts, that would prohibit Medicaid from paying for abortions.

But Kitty O'Neil says that because the division represents not only feminists, but female Right-to-Lifers, too, it can't take too strong a stand on abortion

Many feminists say the division

hasn't done enough to fight female joblessness, which is often called the worst problem women face. They say that although the 10-college job program — the division's most ambitious program so far — was a good start, it hardly helped the more than 150,000 unemployed women in the state.

Instability is another problem confronting the division. Byrne's original selection for division director withdrew her nomination after it became known that she had written several had checks.

Byrne next appointed Commissioner of Community Affairs Patricia Sheehan to serve as head of the women's division. However, in a suit brought by NOW, a state judge ruled that Ms. Sheehan had to step down because the division required a full-time director and that in her dual role, she could serve only part-time.

After this second putdown, Byrne appointed Ms. O'Neil acting director. She had been the division's deputy director, and before that worked for the State Manpower Council.

For 15 months, the division has remained without a permanent director. Feminists say Byrne's attempt to cut costs by not appointing a permanent director displays his lack of concern for the women's movement.

Kathryn Forsyth, a spokeswoman for the governor, said, "Perhaps in better economic times we can make a bigger financial commitment to the women's division. This wasn't the only division whose budget was cut."

Miss America ignored by feminists

By JAN ZOLLINGER Home News staff writer

ATLANTIC CITY—Here on this beachfront, the verbal volleys heard nearly a decade ago are only an echo today. Though the battle lines are still drawn, hardly a powder puff is being lobbed among the antagonists.

The annual Miss America Pageant—a bane of feminists—opens on the Boardwalk Tuesday with the traditional, full-dress parade. But the feminists say they'll ignore the entire regalia.

There'll be no counterattack, no protest similar to the "bra-burning" in the late 1960s when feminists attacked the beauty pageant promoters for stereotyping and packaging women as "commodities." The feminists say their troops have advanced to more important causes — "bread and butter" issues like job and educational opportunities through the ERA campaign.

They've left the beachfront to the pageant promoters, the commercial interests, the fans, the gawkers and the focus of attention — the 50 contestants who will battle among themselves for the title of Miss America. That victor will be crowned before an estimated TV audience of 80 million at midnight Saturday.

But the feminists' battle hasn't ended without repercussions. Pageant promoters have developed a more formidable line of defense.

Although conceived strictly as a bathing beauty contest (55 years ago by Atlantic City tourist promoters), the pageant is no longer being touted as a parade of womanly flesh.

It's now hailed as a scholarship pageant through which more than \$1 million is distributed through contest preliminaries nationwide to help deserving young women attend colleges and universities. Miss America herself gets \$15,000 in scholarship or cash.

But to feminists, that's just a diversionary tactic.

"The pageant is a real symptom of the way in which women in our society are seen as physical beings, while men are not," says Judith Knee of Verona, a New Jersey coordinator of the National Organization of Women (NOW).

"Our sentiments certainly have not See MISS AMERICA, page A20

Miss America contest still thrives

Continued from page one

changed over the years," she says. "The pageant overemphasizes the physical aspects of women to the exclusion of the woman as a total person.

"We don't condemn those individual women who choose to participate in the pageant. It would be inimical to our very organization to do so. They are making a choice; that's their right.

"But we do condemn those men who are making profit off showing women's bodies; men who are packaging women in a very stereotyped way...It's viewing women as commodities in this society, not as complete human beings," the feminist leader says.

"Those are pat cliches which must be written down on a card of instructions somewhere," retorts Albert A. Marks Jr., a 63-year-old stockbroker who reigns as king of the Miss America pageant here. "We're a nonprofit organization and always have been."

Marks says Miss America's selection is based on talent, personal interview, swimsuit and evening gown competition.

"Our judges are instructed to seek a composite, of which the body is only one fourth of a part...The swimsuit competition is not to judge the body, but the girls' poise and actual physical appearance. And everybody's body is part of their physical appearance," he says emphatically.

"I do not exploit the girls," Marks maintains. "I'm a backer, not an entrepreneur."

Besides the scholarship money, Marks says the "average Miss America" earns about \$85,000 in bookings for personal appearances. "And a state winner earns \$20,000 to \$25,000 in her own state. This is exploitation?" Marks adds quizzically.

Marks says pageant officials had their "last visit from NOW in '74." That was the year NOW held its regional conference in Atlantic City to coincide with the Miss America Pageant. NOW's conference theme then was "Wonder Woman Conference: No Myth America."

"Our theme was to point out that the pageant was a myth, a lack of reality," Judith Knee recalls. "We didn't picket the pageant. But our presence was a protest; a positive one...But we've done what we've needed to do in the past."

That past action included a startling counterattack during the pageant of 1968, when feminists paraded on the Boardwalk and dumped brassieres into a trash can. Although their plan was to burn the bras, no fire was lighted in deference to city fire officials. However, that protest sparked the term "bra-burner."

The only battle skirmishes expected this year will be between the pageant contestants themselves, who will enter preliminary judging Tuesday, after official registration tomorrow in Convention Hall.

The boardwalk parade will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday, followed by more preliminaries Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 p.m. in Convention Hall.

The contestants are interviewed privately by a panel of judges Wednesday through Friday. Contest finals begin Saturday at 9 p.m. in Convention Hall, with NBC-TV cameras tuning in at 10 p.m.

The perennial emcee Bert Parks will return as the TV pageant host, sharing that mission this year with Phyllis George, Miss America of 1971 and cohost of TV's "Candid Camera."

Judging the contestants will be an eightmember panel consisting of actress Gail
Brown, who appears on the TV soap "Another World"; Katherine C. Corbett, an
educator from Portland State University in
Oregon; Frank Deford, senior writer for
Sports Illustrated; Don Galloway, screen
writer and TV actor known to "Ironsides"
fans as Sgt. Brown; Robert Lewine, president of the National Academy of Television,
Arts and Sciences; Jeanne Meixell, national
president of Dance Masters of America;
Petr L. Spurney, president of Freedom
Train Foundation, and Susan Starr, internationally known concert planist.

And when the spotlight hits Miss America in her moment of glory, millions of Americans will be tuned in and turned on to the pageant. Marks maintains.

"The popularity of the pageant is stronger today in terms of both participation and interest. The 18- to 24-year age group which was turned off—in the kids' own words—in the late '60s has returned in force with today's nostalgia," he says.

"A lot of people continue to watch the pageant out of tradition and to enjoy it for its entertainment value," concedes feminist Knee. "But I think many people today have a much-raised consciousness about it.

"Today a mother might say, 'Gee, it'd be nice for my daughter to be Miss America some day.' But she's also saying '...or a computer operator, or a lawyer.' "

COMMENT



Women's division wins respect

TRENTON — The state Division on Women, the neglected and sometimes battered wife of Brendan Byrne's administrative family, is about to get the respect and attention it has been demanding.

The years haven't been easy for the young division. Formed by the governor Aug. 26, 1974, to quiet the demands of feminist groups for state programs aimed at improving the status of women in New Jersey, the division has been hindered by leadership controversies and little money, and has never reached it's full potential.

Byrne's attempt to name state Community Affairs Commissioner Pat Sheehan the division's first director ended in a court battle where the judge ruled in favor of a National Organization for Women (NOW) arguement that she could not hold both jobs.

Kitty O'Neil of South Brunswick became acting director in 1975, but with a \$110.000 budget and a staff of three was not able to launch the programs feminist organizations envisioned.

Byrne turned his back on the division earlier this year when he wiped it out of the state budget. Sen. Bernie Dwyer of Edison was able to push through an emergency appropriation of \$80.000—enough to keep the division breathing.

Even now, Senate Majority Leader Joe Merlino, D-Mercer, is using senatorial courtesy to block the appointment of Eileen Thornton of Trenton, national head of the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), as the division's first full director. It seems Byrne didn't ask Merlino what he thought of the nomination and the senator is dragging his feet to show he's mad.

"It would be very difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of the division," says Judith Knee of Verona, NOW state



INSIDE TRENTON

By TOM HESTER

coordinator, "the division was never really put into effect. Considering the inadequate money and staffing, and controversy around the directorship, the fact it has been able to accomplish anything is remarkable."

But 1977 - election year for the governor and legislature - is coming and bringing with it the end of hard times for the division.

The division's proposed budget for next year, a record \$191,000, has passed the governor's office without problem and is before the Office of Fiscal Afairs which will recommend it's fate to the legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee.

The budget calls for \$110.000 to pay a staff of six, including a new program development specialist and a director who would get \$25,000. The remaining \$81,000 would go to support the division's programs.

Mrs. O'Neil wants to get the "Women in Crisis" telephone hotline going and launch rape prevention and day-care programs. She points to the employment centers on 10 New Jersey college campuses which have helped over 300 women find work as the division's most successful project.

Dispite all it's problems, Mrs. O'Neil estimates the division has helped over

2,200 women since it's inception.

Mrs. O'Neil is the wife of state Democratic party executive director Tom O'Neil who is on the side of the party warring with Byrne, and the governor's passing over of her for the division directorship was seen as politically-inspired.

Mrs. O'Neil said she hasn't decided if she'll stay on as second in command once Miss Thornton takes over. She wants to hear what the woman would have in mind for her and the division.

The acting director had no comment when asked if she thought her division's proposed budget was having clear sailing because a state election year is coming up, but she confirmed she was happy to see a sizeable appropriation coming its way. "There is only \$300 left in this year's budget," she noted.

NOW leader Knee may be speaking for feminist groups happy at finally seeing the women's division is getting some attention when she says. "If the governor's motivation in doubling the division's budget relates to an election year. I really don't care as long as its beneficial to women."

Tom Hester is State House correspondent for The Home News.

https://www.newspapers.com/image/481980643

Judge: Hubby Raping Wife Not Illegal

A Superior Court judge in Newark yesterday dismissed what is believed to have been the first indictment in the state charging a New-ark man with raping his wife. The judge ruled that, under state law, such action by a husband with his wife is not unlawful.

Essex County Criminal Assignment Judge Nicholas Scalera made clear his displeasure with the law in a 16-page opinion.

"The law discriminates against the wife rape victim," he said.

Women's interest groups protested the decision. "The judge missed an opportunity the grand jury took in handing the indictment in recognizing

that women are not property, are not chattels," said Judy Knee, state coordi-nator for the National Organization for Women.

The case involved Albert Smith, 30, a Newark factory worker, who, the grand jury charged, had raped his wife, Alfreda, 29, on Oct. 1, 1975, in her Newark apartment.

The couple had been living apart for

13 months, but had not sought a legal separation, authorities said. Lawyers yesterday said they are still married, though not living together.

though not living together.

Smith also was indicted on charges of beating his wife, private lewdness and impairing the morals of a minor. The grand jury charged that Smith had forced his son, Albert Jr., then 6, to "gaze upon the nude body of his mother." A trial date has not been set on those counts. those counts.

Judge Scalera said altering the law was up to the Legislature, not the courts: 13 Htg q 331

Newspapers™

Amendment (ERA) to be members, the keynote Ms. Wilson, a former

Rights advocates to address rally

AREA - Two prominent held Saturday, beginning at address and WalkAThon are women's rights advocates, 9 a.m., at Jefferson School, designed to raise both en-Betty Wilson and Judy Virginia and S. Ridgewood, thusiasms and money to Knee, will keynote a fund- Rds., Maplewood. To be assure passage of the raising WalkAThon for the attended by a number of proposed Constitutional Federal Equal Rights Summit Area N.O.W. Amendment.

State Assemblywoman and presently Assistant Commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Protection, is a long time advocate of women's rights.

Ms. Knee, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of

N.O.W., will share the platform. The walk and the picnic

afterwards are open to the public; those in the Summit Area who are interested in participating should contact: Janie Lisa, 379-2630

(evenings).

Walkathon Earns About \$5,000

Women From Seven Counties March For Equal Rights

By JUDY POKRAS

MAPLEWOOD TWP. - Clad in hiking shoes and green t-shirts saying "Walk for ERA," an army of Equal Rights Amendment supporters earned about \$5,000 to support their cause in a Northern New Jersey walkathon yesterday.

The 110 walkers came from seven counties, including Morris, Essex, Union, Somerset, Bergen, Hudson and Middlesex.

Speakers at the kick-off rally, held behind the Jefferson School, included Betty Wilson, assistant commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection, Judy Knee, director of the Midlantic Region of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and Mayor Robert Grasmere.

Grasmere read a resolution the town of Maplewood passed in support of the equal rights amendment and said his town was proud to serve as the starting and finish point of the walkathon.

Rights Amendment 200 years overdue. She said it is desperately needed to bring the constitution in line with reality.

"We've learned very painfully the past year that what the courts giveth the courts can taketh away," she said, apparently referring to the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year not to require states to provide Medicaide funds for abortions.

Many people believe the court

thus eroded its previous decision saying states can not prevent women from having abortions during the first trimester of their pregnancies.

Estimates of the walkathon pro-Ms. Knee called the Equal ceeds last night were \$5,000. They will be sent to NOW's national fund to support the ERA which must be ratified by three more states by March 1979 to become

> Among the Morris County women at the walkathon was Summit NOW's president Janie Lisa, who expected to collect a total of \$10 a mile in pledges she had collected from 21 people, if she completed the 10- mile route.

There was at least one Morris County man among the walkers, Steven Patt, marching with his wife, Debbi Jamison.

She said she had gotten promises totaling \$14 for the walk, while his totalled \$71.

Ms. Jamison teased her husband, "You've got richer friends."

Patt, a chemist at Varian Associates, Florham Park, said he collected most of the pledges from co-workers, both men and women.

He said he ran into ERA critics in his attempts at getting sponsors for the walkathon, but he managed to convince one to contribute anyway.

"She said she didn't want the ERA because she wanted doors opened for her, but I told her that

was ridiculous," he said. The ERA won't prevent men from opening doors for women, he said. She pledged 10 cents a mile.

Patt said another woman opposed the ERA, saying the constitution already protects everyone. "But I assured her the Supreme Court didn't agree with her," he

Carol Sawyer, who works in

Hanover Floral, East Hanover, said a lot of people feel the Equal Rights Amendment will break up the family. But it will have no effect on personal, family relationships, she said. Those who say it will cause divorce are only using scare tactics, she said.

Ms. Sawyer said she thinks opponents resort to ridiculous arguments like"the ERA will result in

unisex public bathrooms" because they can't win with the facts.

There were children at the walkathon too. Connie Gilbert-Neiss decorated her baby son's carriage with a sign "Let me grow up equal." She said sexism puts a terrible burden on men too. A nonsexist society will certainly contribute to the health of men too, she said.

NOW conventioneers may be 'greeted' by protesters

When the statewide convention of the Pennsylvania National Organization for Women (NOW) gets down to business this morning at the Americus Hotel in Allentown, participants most likely will be greeted by picketers from opposing groups.

Allentown has granted permits to three organizations to carry banners and distribute literature on the sidewalk of Hamilton Mall, which "technically only includes the canopied area from 10th to 6th streets," the city's Office of Information and Services said yesterday.

The protesters will be from Stop ERA in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvanians for Human Life and the Pennsylvania Federation of Parents and Others United for Separation of Church and State in the Public Schools, a group that lists a box number in Coopersburg as its address.

The convention itself is likely to have "a

Papers offer reward in vendor thefts

In recent weeks many Call-Chronicle newspaper vending machines have been burglarized with heavy damage to the vendors.

These vendors, in most cases, are situated in rural areas and have been placed there for the convenience of our readers. Continued break-ins have meant that many of these vendors were out of operation for several days at a great inconvenience to our readers and dealers.

The Call-Chronicle Newspapers is offering a reward of \$100 to anyone who can supply information leading to the arrest of the thieves. Any information given will be passed on to local police departments for action.

If anyone has seen a person or persons acting suspiciously in the vicinity of any of our vendors in the following locations, please call the Call-Chronicle Newspapers' circulation department at 820-6711 (days) or 820-6614 (nights):

Bally, Hereford, Wescosville, south and west Allentown, Bowmanstown, Berlinsville, Danielsville, Klecknersville, Treichlers, Egypt, Hecktown, Newburg and Bath. serious tone," according to Dixie White of Allentown, convention coordinator, who expects 300-500 at the event. The organization is in a "regrouping" phase, she said, and part of the convention's purpose is to devise strategies and policies to confront recent setbacks by legislatures, the courts and opposition groups.

"Recent 'backlash' has shown that the (women's) movement is being taken very seriously and that's good.... People have figured out that it is not a temporary phenomenon that will go away," she continued.

The petition to picket by Stop ERA in Pennsylvania was submitted by Cay Galgon of Allentown. She said that "about a dozen people" will be distributing leaflets. The other two organization's petitions were submitted jointly by Atty. Frank Doocey of Allentown.

The convention, which opened last night with caucus meetings and planning sessions, will include talks by prominent NOW leaders and workshops on feminist issues as well as sessions devoted to the adoption of policy and election of state-wide officers and an executive board.

Eleanor Cutri Smeal, who was elected president of NOW in April, will address the gathering at 10 a.m. tomorrow. A resident of New Lebanon, Allegheny County, she is a former president of Pennsylvania NOW.

A keynote address will be given at 9:30 a.m. today by state president Gloria Sackman-Reed of Williamsport. Judy Knee, regional director, will deliver a State of the Region message at 8 tonight.

Three issues that will receive most attention from the group — in workshops scheduled for this afternoon and in candidates' platforms and policy proposals — are ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), the rights of homosexuals and abortion, White said.

White is a candidate for state NOW president and has put together a slate of candidates for state offices that includes

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Carol Helenchild Swaim of Camp Hill, vice president; Susan Mitchell Brown of Clarion, secretary; and Christine Sellmann Schmidt of West Reading, treasurer.

A women's art show at Hess's Hamilton Mall store and a women's craft fair at the Allentown Art Museum also are being sponsored this weekend by Lehigh Valley area chapters of NOW.

The public may register either day for convention activities, which are not limited to NOW members, in the lobby of the Americus.

What's happening — NOW

Here is a schedule of events for the Pennsylvania National Organization for Women (NOW) Convention at the Americus Hotel, 6th and Hamilton streets, Allentown:

TODAY

9:30-10:30 a.m. — Keynote address by Gloria Sackman-Reed, state president.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Candidate speeches and question sessions.

1-3 p.m. — Memorial march and services, 10th and Hamilton streets to Center Square.

3-4:30 p.m. — Workshops: Equal Rights Amendment, Introduction to Ferninism, Ageism: Teen-age Women, Body Politics Theory, Battered Women, Mobilizing Minority Women, The Fear Merchants: Confronting Homophobia, Women and the Media: Image and Fact, Teachers' NOW, We Won't Lose the Right to Choose.

4:30-6 p.m. — Workshops: Equal Rights Amendment, Introduction to Feminism, Women's Health Concerns, Growth and Development in NOW: An Internal View, Battered Women, Homemakers' Rights, Mobilizing Minority Women, The Fear Merchants: Confronting Homophobia, Political Action and Pennsylvania NOW, We Won't Lose the Right to Choose.

6-8 p.m. — Caucus meetings and voting. 8-8:30 p.m. State of the Region address

by Judy Knee, regional director.

8:30 — entertainment with the Rhumboogie Band and Carol Morgan, composer and vocalist.

TOMORROW

9:30-10 a.m. — State of the State report. 10-10:30 a.m. — Address by Eleanor Cutri Smeal, national president of NOW.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Issue and action priorities.

2-2:30 p.m. — Election results and acceptance speeches.

2:30-4:30 p.m. — Resolutions and bylaws discussion.

4:30-5:30 p.m. - Closing remarks.

There will be continuous showings of educational feminist films all weekend.

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The Daily Register

SHREWSBURY, N. J. MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1976

15 CENTS

VOL. 98 NO.139

Betty Friedan

Parley approves feminist proposals

By Marcia Stamell

Staff Writer

HOUSTON — Delegates at the first National Women's Conference last night passed by overwhelming margins profeminist measures which included support of legal abortion and equal rights for homosexuals.

Late Saturday, a proposal endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) also was approved by a wide margin.

The gay rights resolution, thought at one time to be the most devisive at the federally funded conference, passed by a 9 to 1 margin.

Among those speaking for the resolution, which called for laws banning discrimination against gays, were Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and Betty Friedan, founder of that organization and author of "The Feminine Mystique."

Friedan's support may mark an end to a rift which has divided gay and

See FEMINIST, Page A-5

UPI Photo

Delegates at the National Women's Conference whoop it up after passage of a resolution backing the Equal Rights Amendment.

Parley OKs feminist proposals

FROM PAGE A-1

straight feminists for nearly a decade. In endorsing the gay rights platform, Ms. Friedan said, "I have been known to oppose the lesbian issue in the women's movement and in fact I have. This issue has been used to divide us too much. Now our most passionate priority is the Equal Rights Amendment . . There is nothing in the amendment to give protection to homosexuals. We must give protection to lesbian women and their own civil rights."

Gesture of solidarity

Upon passage of the proposal the 2,000 delegates in the Albert Thomas Convention Hall stood and turned toward the hundreds of cheering women in the spectator gallery. It was one of the several gestures of solidarity that the delegates from 50 states and six territories demonstrated in the course of their deliberations.

"Times have changed," said Jean O'Leary, president of the National Gay Task Force and a delegate at this weekend's International Women's Year Meeting. "It [lesbian rights] is a viable civil rights issue. It is an issue which affects all women."

Passage of a proposal endorsing legal abortion prompted another emotional demonstration. But this time, antiabortion women from Indiana, Utah, Missouri, Montana, and other states formed to the front of the coliseum with placards and a billboard-size picture of an unborn child.

Their verbal objections were drowned by chants of "choice" from the floor and the gallery. The delegates also passed an elaborate proposal in favor of minority rights. This called for intensified federal efforts to improve education, child care, housing, and employment programs for blacks; an end to deportation of Hispanic mothers of American-born children, and an extension of the Indian Education Act of 1972.

Upon passage of this platform, the delegates linked arms in saying, "We shall overcome."

Passage of the proposal in favor of the ERA Saturday night prompted a Phyllis Schlafly of Illinois, national head of the anti-ERA drive.

The counter-rally did not seem to disturb the delegates at the women's rights convention. "Threatened by Phyllis Schlafly? Certainly not." said Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairwoman of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "Not in the face of what this is. This is clearly a movement which has come of age."

Debate proceeded according to parliamentary rules. There was little petty bickering and few lengthy tirades.

Much of this order was due to the ac-

tions of strong chairwomen, most nota-

bly Ruth Clusen of Wisconsin, national

president of the League of Women Vot-

ers: and Anne Saunier, a businesswom-

It also was due to sophisticated floor

organization on the part of the femi-

nists. Floor runners such as Theo Tam-

berlane and Judy Knee, both of New

an from Ohio.

who are here have been living with these issues for a long time."

Among other proposals approved by

Among other proposals approved by the convention were those calling for government-funded shelters for battered women and children, federally funded child care, and social security for homemakers.

Over the weekend, the convention passed 22 of the 26 original proposals with little or no amendment. Three proposals — those on minority rights, rights for welfare recipients, and rights for the disabled — were extensively amended. Consideration of the final proposal — the establishment of a cabinet level Women's Department — was deferred until the final plenary session today.

The completed plan of action will be forwarded in a report to President Carter. The law setting up the conference requires that he give his views on the plan by March 1978. The findings of the convention, however, have no binding effect on either the President or Congress; they are merely recommendations for legislation.

Feminists such as Gloria Steinem, however, pointed out that the federal government did pay \$5 million for the conference. "We are no longer a group outside some place, knocking on the door," said Ms. Steinem. "This is a group carrying out an assignment and we'll get an answer, which doesn't always happen."

"This is overwhelming. A lot of people thought women couldn't get together politically, but we are."

10-minute snake dance around the arena and a chorus of God Bless America (The ERA needs three more states to be ratified).

"This is overwhelming," said NOW President Ms. Smeal. "A lot of people thought women couldn't get together politically, but we are."

Nevertheless, an anti-ERA, antiabortion and antilesbian coalition was visible and vocal at the convention. The coalition, made up of between 10 and 20 per cent of the delegates, was headed by Joan Gubbins, a state senator from Indiana. The group agreed with the majority on only one proposal, equal credit practices for women, which passed unanimously.

Jersey, kept the majority informed of rumors and policy decisions.

"Obviously, we are in communication, but a lot of what happens is spontaneous." said Ms. Knee. "The people

Elsewhere in Houston Saturday, a rally of "antis" at the Astro Arena drew some 11,000 persons. This rally featured

ic and that it produced a group of

women representative of the

Jersey Delegation Displayed 'Togetherness' at Houston

LIMIT TWO PER SHOPPING FAMILY

TRENTON (AP) - New Jersey's delegation returned home this week from the National Women's Conference in Houston where with near unanimity it supported adoption of controversial positions on abortion, lesbian rights and the Equal Rights Amendment

Although almost the entire 44member state delegation supported the views expressed by the full convention, the question remains, as it does in other states, how representative were they?

Judy Knee of Verona, a member of the national board of the National Organization of Women and a delegate last week, believes the state delegates reflected the majority view in New Jersey.

Elizabeth Sadowski of Free-hold, an alternate delegate and board member of New Jersey Right to Life, and anti-abortion lobby, disagrees. She contends the convention and the state delegation represented an elite group of women who do not speak for the

majority of women or men.
"What happened in Houston was right down the line in sync with the New Jersey conference last June and was reflective of New Jerseyans," said Ms. Knee. Mrs. Sadowski said, "I was the

diversity in the New Jersey delegation," assessing the convention as "a giant step backward into radical feminism."

Their differences sum up the problems faced by the women's movement

The cutting issues that concern women activists - at least as expressed by the actions of the convention - seem to leave little room for agreement.

The adoption of planks in sup-port of the ERA, abortion, and lesbian rights grabbed the head-lines from Houston and are questions that so far seem to defy compromise.

Mrs. Sadowski cited two votes to support her contention that she is more in tune with the way New Jersey thinks on those matters than views of the other delegates.

She noted that in 1975 voters rejected a state Equal Rights Amendment by 40,000 votes and that since then the New Jersey legislature has overwhelmingly adopted a call for congressional action to add an anti-abortion amendment to the federal Constitution.

Mrs. Sadowski feels she was treated courteously by the other New Jersey delegates despite her obviously sharp difference of opinion with them although reports in state newspapers suggested she had been ostracized by the others.

"I reached out to them and they reached back," Mrs. Sadowski said. "I did not feel a sense of isolation." isolation.

She recognizes the difficulty in finding middle ground on the issue that concerns her most -

Mrs. Sadowski said the pro-IT-II

abortion women have called people like her "negative and regressive," to which she replies, The delegation had geographical and racial balance, she said, and included homemakers that does not mean they have a as well as professionals and memfranchise on progress.' bers of organized labor. The Ms. Knee said the process by group was selected last June at the New Jersey Women's Conferwhich the state delegation was selected was open and Democrat-

ence in Princeton. Mrs. Sadowski views the convention and the New Jersey delegation as "elitists," whether or not they agreed with her on the issues

The opposing views of Ms. Knee and Mrs. Sadowski on the ques-tion of lesbian rights are sypmptomatic of the division among women, and probably among men when it comes to the women's movement.

The convention adopted a plank expressing support for equal

rights for lesbians.
To Ms. Knee the action was consistent with policy adopted by NOW in 1971. Its support by the convention "is just as pressage of what's been happening in the women's movement," she said, suggesting it indicates a growing consensus on the positions taken at Houston.

Mrs. Sadowski said injecting

the gay rights issue into a forum on womer's issues would be "the death knell of the movement."

Perhaps the differences are summed up as well in the word each chooses to describe women who remain at home rather than working outside it. Ms. Knee calls such women homemakers.

Mrs. Sadowski says she prefers to be called a housewife.



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STATE & NATIONAL

Rally demands ERA extension

NEWARK (AP) — Chanting demonstrators marched in 36 degree weather through the heart of this city's central business district in support of an extension of the Equal Rights Amendment deadline.

About 150 men, women and children assembled outside of the Federal Building, which houses the offices of Rep. Peter Rodino, D-10th Dist., here in order to gain support for an extension of the March 22, 1979 deadline.

Unless three more state legislatures ratify the amendment by that date, it will be defeated.

Rodino is a co-sponsor of the ERA and has lent strong support to proponents of the measure.

Other rallies were planned throughout the state, according to a spokewomen for the New Jersey Chapter of the National Organizatioon of Women, which sponsored the afternoon demonstartion.

"We are concentrating heavily on generating support from congressmen," said Nancy Stultz, NOW's New Jersey coordinator.

After an hour-long rally in front of the Federal Building, the group heard

speeches from Stultz and NOW mid-Atlantic coordinator Judy Knee.

Knee stressed making the public aware of the "scarv situation" facing proponents of equal rights.

The demonstrators then moved their rally three blocks north into the heart of the business district handing out pamphlets and flyers to shoppers along the way

Posters and signs which read 'Let the majority rule: "Extend H.J. Res 638;" and "No Time Limits on Equality" accompanied "What do we want? Equal Rights. When do we want 'em' Now chants.

Most of the group had returned from a lobbying effort in Washington on Capitol Hill Tuesday

Of the 38 states needed for ratification of the controversial measure, 35 have already given their approval. The last to do so was Indiana which okaved the measure in 1977

"We're asking for an extension to insure ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment," said Steve Pratt, a spokesman for the group. "The ERA is obviously not a dead issue and legislators have been stalling rather than debate the issue."

https://www.newspapers.com/image/539579304

Local Women Join ERA March

Four local residents will be among the hundreds of individuals from Essex County traveling to Washington, D.C. on Sunday to participate in the largest demonstration in the history of the women's rights movement.

Judy Knee, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Organization for Women, and Elaine Dennis, both of Verona, and Cedar Grove residents Barbara Young and Paula Quinn-Regan will be a part of the

Essex contingent. Times reporter John Melille will cover the E.R.A. march.

The march and rally organized by NOW, will show support for the Equal Rights Amendment and for HJR 638, the bill to extend the time limit for the Amendment's ratification. More than a hundred nation wide organizations plan to send delegations to the march, according to a release from NOW

The local women and hundreds of other concerned individuals from the area will be gathering at the 14th St. end of the mall facing the Washington Monument at 11 A.M. on Sunday to March for the ERA.

July 9 was chosen as a tribute to Dr. Alice Paul of New Jersey, who authored the Amendment in 1923 and guided it through Congress. She died on July 9th, 1977, in her native Moorestown without seeing the ERA ratified.

Marchers will wear white in the tradition of early suffragists. Additionally, some will wear the tri-color suf-frage sashes of purple,

white and gold.

The march is being supported hundreds of local and national groups. Besides numerous local NOW chapters, some supporters are: YWCA, Ironbound Community Information Center, the Communications Workers of America, the Newark Teachers Union, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, The In-(Continued on Page 6)

Verona's 1st Annual Coupon Days Scheduled

Rights issues unite women's group

By RENA S. KLEIMAN Special to the Courier-Post

CHERRY HILL — With a philosophical unity uncommon in a diverse national organization, regional members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) approved resolutions this weekend supporting a wide variety of women's rights issues.

Nearly 300 women and a small group of men from NOW's Middle Atlantic region voiced support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), affirmative action, reproductive rights, homosexual rights, an antinuclear resolution and other issues.

Featured speaker at the conference was Sonia Johnson, who recently was excommunicated from the Mormon Church for her outspoken support of the ERA.

Johnson — who founded a group called Mormons for the Equal Rights Amendment — spoke about the church's well-financed opposition to the amendment.

The two-day conference, held at the Holiday Inn this weekend, was the Middle Atlantic region's largest convention ever. The region has about 22,000 members, with more than 6,000 from New Jersey.

For the most part, there were no surprises or substantial changes in the philosophy or policies of NOW members in the allday policy decision-making.

The only vote to spark debate was a proposed affirmative action amendment to the organization's by-laws, which would prescribe a number of minority representatives on the organization's national board.

Last year's 23-member

"There is no disagreement on goals...The only question is the best methodology to get to a particular goal...There is an amazing overall concensus about what we want. The goals haven't changed. We're all in favor of the same things."

— Judith Knee, national NOW board member

national board had no minority representatives, but two black women were elected yesterday to the national board — Brenda Frazier of Pennsylvania and Collette Roberts of Massachusetts.

Two other resolutions were passed quickly, one reaffirming the national organization's opposition to draft registration and the continued fight for reproductive rights — including the rights to abortion, family planning, birth control and issues in sterilization and contraception.

"There is no disagreement on goals," said regional director and national board member Judith Knee. "The only question is the best methodology to get to a particular goal."

Noting the diversity of the membership at the biennial regional convention, Knee said "there is an amazing overall concensus about what we want. The goals haven't changed. We're all in favor of the same things."

Knee pointed to the increased credibility and impact the orga-

nization has had on political and social events as the only substantial change in the movement.

"Our membership is increasing steadily," Knee said. "But what's more important than the numbers, is the increase that occurred in the political clout of the organization."

She cited the activities that followed the region's previous convention in April 1978, just prior to an organized march in Washington to support extending the time allowed for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

NOW leaders attribute the extension of the time limit to improved lobbying skills and political savvy by women activities

Knee also noted the success of local women's rights groups in rallying for the defeat of legislation opposing homosexual rights in New Jersey.

In addition to the election of regional representatives to the organization's national board, those attending the conference participated in a variety of seminars on women's issues including a workshop on changing newspaper use of non-sexist language.

The New Jersey Women Against Nuclear Power Task Force sponsored a "no-nuke" run along the Cooper River Park yesterday morning in conjunction with the convention.

National NOW President Eleanor Smeal, who is from Allentown, Pa., and a member of the Middle Atlantic region, was expected to attend the conference, but regional leaders said Smeal was in Illinois campaigning for an upcoming vote on ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment there.

NOW Assails Reagan's 'Medieval Stance on Women,' Withholds Support for Carter

By BEVERLY BEYETTE

Times Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO—Denouncing what it called Ronald Reagan's "medieval stance on women's issues," the National Organization for Women voted Sunday to picket Reagan and running mate George Bush wherever they appear between now and the Nov. 4 election.

The 125,000-member 'OW, the nation's largest feminist organization, also endorsed the Democratic Party platform as it pertains to women's rights but did not endorse President Carter's reelection bid.

It did, however, soften its anti-Carter position at its annual convention here by withdrawing a resolution passed in December that stated NOW's opposition to Carter no matter who opposed him.

There was some sentiment among the 1,100 delegates for an endorsement of John B. Anderson, who has embraced feminist issues, but the majority thought a vote for the independent candidate would be a vote for Reagan.

Condemnation of Reagan by acclamation set off a floor demonstration with delegates clapping and chanting, "ERA, here to stay. Ronald Reagan, no way."

Unacceptable to NOW were Reagan's stands against

abortion and the equal rights amendment. The anti-Reagan resolution called him a "captive of the radical right" and said he wants to "return women to the 19th century."

NOW's refusal to endorse Carter stemmed from his opposition to federally funded abortions for poor women and from what feminists perceive as his having given only token support to passage of the ERA and other women's issues.

The overall sentiment here regarding the three presidential contenders was summed up by Judy Knee, a Virginia delegate, who said during the floor debate, "We are between a rock (Reagan) and two hard places and our job is to smash the rock."

While voting to "work in every state" to ensure that Reagan does not win in November, NOW members also pledged all-out support to pro-ERA state legislators.

A number of delegates conceded that they probably will vote for Carter. One, Frances Lear, wife of TV producer Norman Lear, said, however, that she thought NOW's refusal to endorse a candidate was "very courageous," adding, "you can't endorse when there's nothing there."

NOW delegates also voted a "state of total mobilization" to win the necessary three more states for ratification of ERA by the June 30, 1982, deadline and pledged to develop "new techniques of creative non-violent protest."

A number of delegates said they were prepared to move to an unratified state and to take leaves of absence from their jobs to work for ERA's passage.

Delegates defeated a resolution that opposed the Selective Service and draft registration and said that men, as well as women, should be exempt. NOW's position remains anti-draft and anti-registration and against laws that exclude women on the basis that it is sexual discrimination.

An anti-nuclear resolution did not reach the floor for a vote before the general session ended.