

"IoWoman"

An Occasionally Printed Newsletter

from the

Iowa Governor's Commission of the Status of Women

Volume II, Number 3

April, 1972

The final week of the 1972 session of the Iowa General Assembly was a momentous one for women. Many of us are still finding it difficult to realize how extraordinary the events of that week were, and what broad effects they will have.

Statutory  
Commission on the  
Status of Women

First passed was the bill providing for a statutory commission on the status of women. At so many points during the final week of the session the bill was considered dead that we just about gave up hope. The bill was passed by the House on March 13 by a 59 to 31 vote. The measure received the support of the House chiefly through the efforts of Representative Elizabeth Shaw (Rep-Davenport).

On the Senate side, Senator Arthur Neu (Rep-Carroll) was largely responsible for the successful passage of the bill. The bill was placed on the Senate calendar on March 9, through Neu's efforts as a member of that body's Judiciary Committee. Later, Neu was able to gather enough support to have the bill placed on the Senate's Non-Controversial Calendar, from which it was struck by the action of a single Senator, Eugene Hill (Dem-Newton), returning the bill to its position near the bottom of the Senate calendar. On March 22, the Senate removed from its calendar all bills that were not House-passed measures. Since the Senate Judiciary bill, and not the House-passed bill, had been placed on the Senate calendar, it was removed, effectively killing any chance of the Statutory Commission bill being passed this year.

However, Senator Neu received sufficient support from the Judiciary Committee again - this time to place the House-passed version on the senate calendar, and to convince the Senate Steering Committee to place the bill on the priority Steering Calendar.

On the final day of the session, Senator Neu brought the bill up for discussion and guided the debate on the measure. By a 41 to 4 vote the measure was sent to Governor Robert Ray for signature. The Statutory Commission on the Status of Women will come into being on July 1, 1972.

Equal Rights  
Amendment

The ratification of the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Equal Rights Amendment, by the Iowa General Assembly, was equally involved.

On March 22, the United States Senate voted 84 to 8 for final congressional approval to the Equal Rights Amendment. Both Iowa Senators Harold Hughes and Jack Miller voted in favor of the amendment that had already passed the House by a vote of 354 to 23.

On the same day that the U.S. Senate took action on the Amendment, Iowa Senator Arthur Neu, anticipating Senate passage of the Amendment, requested that the Legislative Service Bureau draft a ratification resolution. On the day following U.S. Senate approval of the Amendment, the Iowa Senate attempted to take up for consideration the ratification resolution, but became entangled in a parliamentary impasse, since the resolution had not first been considered by the appropriate standing committee of the Iowa Senate.

The next day -- and the last day of the 1972 session of the Iowa General Assembly -- the Senate resolved the impasse by dissolving into a committee of the whole, where it considered the measure, reported the resolution to the Senate for passage, and then rose from the committee of the whole, and voted on the resolution. Senators W. Charlene Conklin (Rep.-Waterloo) and Minnette Doderer (Dem.-Iowa City) piloted the resolution through the Senate to passage by a 44 to 1 vote, and sent the resolution on to the House.

Within hours, Majority Leader Andrew Varley (Rep.-Stuart) moved that the House of Representatives suspend its rules to consider the measure as one of its last acts of the 1972 session. That motion carried 54 to 30.

Representative Joan Lipsky (Rep.-Cedar Rapids) then managed the resolution through the House, noting that an Iowan, Carrie Chapman Catt, the founder of the League of Women Voters, was one of the first women to fight for equal rights for women many years ago. The House responded, voting in favor of the resolution by a 72 to 14 vote.

#### What Next?

The best answer to this question is the message that Betty Durden, Chairperson of the Iowa Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, sent to the commission members after the Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by the Iowa General Assembly: "Before these events happened I had intended to write to you and say, "All is not lost." Now, however, my message is, "All is not won." After the passage of the women's suffrage amendment, its supporters thought all had been accomplished. Some say the women's movement died then and was not reborn until the early 1960's. We cannot allow this to happen again! There is still much to be done."

There is so much left to be done that once again priorities must be drawn. It is still unknown how far the coverage of the Equal Rights Amendment will extend once it is ratified by 3/4 of the states. Much of this will be decided by the courts. There are certain to be tests in several areas:

- 1) The provisions of the Social Security Act will be questioned; much of it will likely be declared unconstitutional. In some cases this will be unfavorable to women; but in most cases, the rulings will be favorable to women.
- 2) The differences in penalties dealt to men and women for crimes of violence will be erased. At present, women are incarcerated for longer periods for such crimes than are men.
- 3) Women will no longer receive different exemptions than men from jury service.
- 4) The role women will play in the armed services is going to be loudly debated. Note that the question is not whether or not women are to play a role, for they have long participated in the armed services of this country, in volunteer capacities.
- 5) Present protective labor codes will be eliminated or extended to cover men as well as women.
- 6) New bases will be sought for alimony and child support, and they will be granted to men as well as women.

No one knows yet what other areas will be affected by the Equal Rights Amendment. And there are many areas that appear unlikely to be immediately affected; it is these we must begin to work on:

- 1) Tax deductions for day care costs;
- 2) Maternity leave;
- 3) Increasing the budget of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission;
- 4) Abortion reform;
- 5) Adequate funding for the Statutory Commission on the Status of Women;
- 6) Federal funding for neighborhood day care facilities;
- 7) Increased participation by women in government and politics, at all levels;
- 8) and many other areas.

Keep these areas of concern in mind during the remaining county, district, and state conventions to be held this spring and summer. You might also keep in mind the voting record of your state senator and representative on the statutory commission bill and the Equal Rights Amendment:

The Vote in the  
House on HR1140  
(Statutory  
Commission on  
Women)

Ayes (59)

Republicans (40)

Alt, WDM; Anderson, Sioux City; Bergman, Harris; Camp, Bryant; Campbell, Washington; Clark, Keokuk; Curtis, Cherokee; Edelen, Estherville; Egenes, Story City; Ellsworth, Dubuque; Fisher, Grand Junction; Grassley, New Hartford; Hamilton, Tipton; Hansen, Cedar falls; Hill, DM; Holden, Davenport; Kelly, Sioux City; Knoke, Council Bluffs; Kreamer, DM; Lipsky, Cedar Rapids; McElroy, Percival; Menefee, Fayette; Millen, Farmington; Miller, Marshalltown; Moffit, Mustic; Mielsen, Defiance; Nystrom, Boone; Pelton, Clinton; Schroeder, McClelland; Schwieger, Waterloo; Shaw, Davenport; Siglin, Lucas; Stanley, Cedar Rapids; Strand, Grinnell;

Stromer, Garner; Taylor, Dubque; Trowbridge, Charles City;  
Varley, Stuart; Waugh, Whiting; Winkelman, Lohrville.

Democrats (19)

Blouin, Dubuque; Cochran, Eagle Grove; Dougherty, Albia;  
Doyle, Sioux City; Dunton, Thornburg; Gluba, Davenport; Kennedy,  
New Hampton; Larson, Ames; Mayberry, Fort Dodge; McCormick,  
Manchester; Monroe, Burlington; Patton, Aurora; Sargisson, Salix;  
Schmeiser, Burlington; Schwartz, Ottumwa; Skinner, Altoona;  
Small, Iowa City; Wells, Cedar Rapids; Willits, DM.

Nays (31)

Republicans (18)

Christensen, Kent; DenHerder, Sioux Center; Fischer, Wells-  
burg; Kehe, Waverly; Kruse, Sheldon; Logemann, Northwood;  
Mendenhall, New Albin; Mollett, Council Bluffs; Pellett, Atlantic;  
Pierson, Oskaloosa; Rex, Ellsworth; Roorda, Monroe; Stokes,  
LeMars; Strothman, New London; Tieden, Elkader; Welden, Iowa Falls;  
Wirtz, Emmetsburg.

Democrats (13)

Bennett, DM; Ewell, Waterloo; Husak, Toledo; Kinley, DM;  
Knoblauch, Carroll; Middleswart, Indianola; Priebe, Algona; Radl,  
Lisbon; Rodgers, Adel; Scott, Thornton; Uban, Waterloo; Wyckoff, Vinton.

Absent or not voting (10)

Republicans (5)

Drake, Muscatine; Freeman, Storm Lake; Goode, Bloomfield;  
Harbor, Henderson; Lawson, Mason City.

Democrats (5)

Anania, DM; Bray, Davenport; Franklin, DM; Jesse, DM; Johnston,  
Iowa City.

The Vote in the  
Senate on HF1140

Ayes (41)

Republicans (31)

Anderson, Beaconsfield; Bass, Malvern; Brownlee, Emmetsburg;  
Carlson, DM; Conklin, Waterloo; Curran, Mason City; Davis, Keokuk;  
DeKoster, Hull; Erskine, Sioux City; Graham, Ida Grove; Griffin,  
Council Bluffs; Keith, Algona; Kyhl, Parkersburg; Lamborn,  
Maquoketa; Laverty, Indianola; Messerly, Cedar Falls; Milligan,  
DM; Mowry, Marshalltown; Neu, Carroll; Nicholson, Davenport;  
Ollenburg, Garner; Potgeter, Steamboat Rock; Potter, Marion;  
Rabedeaux, Wilton Junction; Rhodes, Chariton; Riley, Cedar Rapids;  
Shaff, Camanche; Shawver, Fredericksburg; Smith, Paullina;  
Stephens, Crawfordsville; Van Drie, Ames.

Democrats (10)

Coleman, Clare; Doderer, Iowa City; Gaudineer, DM; Glenn,  
Ottumwa; Gross, Sioux City; Kennedy, Dubuque;

Miller, Burlington; Palmer, DM; Tapscott, DM; Van Gilst, Oskaloosa.

Nays (4)

Republicans (3)

Arbuckle, Jefferson; Gilley, Maynard; Balloun, Toledo.

Democrats (1)

Hill, Newton.

Absent or not voting (5)

Republicans (3)

Briles, Corning; Thordsen, Davenport; Walsh, Dubuque.

Democrats (2)

Robinson, Cedar Rapids; Schaben, Dunlap.

The Vote in the  
Senate on SJR 1008  
(Equal Rights  
Amendment)

Nays (1)

Democrats (1)

Hill, Newton

Absent or not voting (5)

Republicans (5)

Arbuckle, Jefferson; Erskine, Sioux City; Keith, Algona; Rabedaux, Wilton Junction; Shaff, Camanche.

Ayes (44)

All 44 other Senators (32 Republicans and 12 Democrats) voted in favor of the resolution.

The Vote in the  
House on SJR 1008

Nays (14)

Republicans (10)

Holden, Davenport; Kehe, Waverly; Logemann, Northwood; Menefee, Fayette; Miller, Marshalltown; Rex, Ellsworth; Roorda, Monroe; Taylor, Dubuque; Tieden, Eldader; Welden, Iowa Falls.

Democrats (4)

Husak, Toledo; Middleswart, Indianola; Radl, Lisbon; Wyckoff, Vinton.

Absent or not voting (14)

Republicans (9)

Camp, Bryant; DenHerder, Sioux Center; Goode, Bloomfield; Hamilton, Tipton; Lawson, Mason City; Mendenhall, New Albin; Mollett, Council Bluffs; Nielsen, Defiance; Pellett, Atlantic.

Democrats (5)

Bennett, DM; Larson, Ames; Mayberry, Fort Dodge; Patton, Aurora; Priebe, Algona.

Ayes (72)

All 72 other Representatives (44 Republicans and 28 Democrats) voted in favor of the resolution.

New Jersey Abortion  
Law Unconstitutional

The New Jersey Federal District Court ruled early in March that that state's abortion law, permitting abortions only to save the life of the mother, is unconstitutional on the grounds that it violates a woman's right to privacy, and that it is unconstitutionally vague. The court said that up until the

fourth month of pregnancy, a mother's right to privacy, including the right to control her own body and decide whether to have a child, Transcends that of the embryo.

- Discrimination in Insurance Representative Edith Green (Dem., Ore.) has brought to light a discriminatory practice of insurance companies against women: their refusal to give professional women the same protection against loss of income that is granted to men. Men who make up to \$60,000 a year can take out disability income insurance up to \$1,000 a week. Some insurance companies permit professional women no more than \$100 a week in commercial income insurance, regardless of income.
- Union Suit for GE Maternity Benefits The AFL-CIO International Union of Electrical Workers filed lawsuit against the General Electric Company to win maternity benefits for women employees, that the company has heretofore refused to provide. The suit was filed in Richmond, Virginia, in mid-March.
- U.S. Naval Academy Two young women had their sights set on enrolling at the U.S. Naval Academy, with the help of a U.S. Senator from New York and a U.S. Congressman from Michigan. Navy Secretary John H. Chafee has rejected the appointments but said the Navy is opening its college ROTC program to women and hopes that up to 100 women will participate, starting this fall.
- House Page A U.S. Representative from Montana has nominated the first girl to serve as a page in the House of Representatives. The Congressman explained that his action was a result of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The United States Senate already has four female pages.
- Women in Political Campaigns Many women are playing major roles in the nation-wide campaigns being conducted by presidential candidates. A woman is in charge of scheduling for the Humphrey campaign. Another woman heads Citizens for Senator Edmund S. Muskie. John Lindsay's deputy campaign manager is a woman, as is the vice-chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of President Nixon. All of the campaign organizations have a special women's rights division, and most of these are headed by women. Such feminist issues as abortion reform, child care, maternity benefits, and the Equal Rights Amendment figure prominently among the issues being discussed and debated by the candidates.
- Fold-out Nominations Now Open And in closing this issue of IoWoman, the editors wish to announce that they are searching for a male subject to be featured in the next issue..... after all, look what it's done for the circulation of Cosmopolitan!