## Democratic women come to the aid of their party

NEW YORK — On the podium it was a man's world on the closing night of the Democratic National Convention.

A male presidential nominee nam A male presidential nominee named Jimmy Carter, a male vice presidential nominee named Walter Mondale, intro-ductory speeches by male governors and senators and congressmen, opening and closing invocations by male clergy. The men were in the big slots.

"I don't know that women made an "I don't know that women made an effort to get on the speakers platform," said Kennedy delegate Carolyn Forrest of Westland. She pointed instead to two major amendments to the platform—abortion and sanctions against politicandidates who fail to support the Equal Right Amendment—saying, "They wouldn't have been passed without women."

FIFTY PERCENT of the delegates and alternates on the floor were women, under a new party rule, and three Michigan women are convinced the female voice is being heard.

Ann Mastey, a Carter delegate from Livonia, went even further. "We (wom-

en) are working closer together than the men because we were not heard for

workers union screening committee.

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so many years."

A quiet, grandmotherly sort who lives in a Livonia apartment, Ms. Mestey explained how Democratic women

work together:
"Women listen to the women. If a
woman is not meeting standards, they
(other women) tell her."

woman is not inecting standards, they conter women Jell her.'
Ms. Mastey is treasurer of two groups — United Steelworkers Retirees and the 2nd Congressional District-Wayne Democratic organization. She is on a state Democratic task force on accountability in which the party is making an effort to measure how well its candidates do in support of the platform, and she is on the Steel-volves union screening committee.

KAY BEARD, a Kennedy delegate and Wayne County commissioner from Inkster, agreed women are really lis-tened to, but added: "It depends on which women's voice. The majority have been heard but not

the minority."

A Catholic, Ms. Beard was unhappy that the convention supported a plank on "reproductive freedom as a funda-

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mental human right." Its purpose was to endorse government-funded abortions for poor women although the word "abortion" was never used.

The voice of Democratic women that male party leaders and reporters heard was the Gloria Steinem type. That made M.s. Beard unhappy.

"But we women have an equal number of convention voices. That's the bottom line. And we have had more worn speakers than I've ever seen at a national convention," she added.

"I WAS HERE in 1976 when we were one of only two delegations with 50 percent women," said teacher Gail Nol-

One measure of women's status in Michigan may be that the party chair is Olivia (Libby) Maynard of Flint Last year Ms. Maynard was the party's nominee for lieutenant govenor, the first woman in Michigan history to be nominated for that office.





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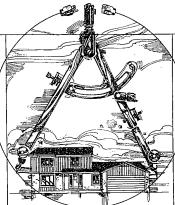
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