

As the Equal Rights Amendment for women nears final ratification by the states, Human Rights Party congressional candidate Phil Carroll is urging that intense pressure be put on Congress to see that the women's equality law is vigorously enforced.

Carroll made this point while talking with students on campus of the University of Michigan. He is running for Congress in the 2nd District which includes Livonia, Plymouth, Monroe County and parts of Washtenaw.

"It is important to see that the ERA is more than just a statute on the books."

"Many times laws are passed and then ignored by government," Carroll gives the example of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision on school desegregation as an example of a ruling which is still not being followed in much of the U.S.

He proposes that Congress set up an agency administered by women to oversee enforcement of ERA. "This agency should be given generous funding so it can adequately do its job."

"It should not only accept complaints of violations of women's civil rights, but should actively investigate and test compliance. We must see that strong legislation — with stiff penalties for violators — is introduced. Without congressional leadership, the ERA may very well go through years of litigation before it begins to have any real effect."

CARROLL ALSO supports congressional action to fund women's clinics and child-care centers, remove remaining obstacles to immediate health care for women who seek abortions, give assistance to local all-women anti-rape squads, and require equal job hiring, pay, and promotion policies.

Carroll also points out that a male dominated House and an all-male Senate are unlikely to take implementation of the ERA seriously. "We need more women — many, many more — running for and elected to Congress before women's rights are given the priority they deserve."

Carroll criticizes the Democratic and Republican parties for failing to seek out and actively recruit women for all levels of elective office. He pointed out the state tickets of both major parties have very few women candidates.

"The Human Rights Party is proud it is running two well-qualified women for attorney general and lieutenant governor, plus for other posts throughout the ticket," HRP has more women than men on its statewide ticket, he added.

HRP LEADERS, assessing this year's political opportunities, point out that in 1972 Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti gave more than 8,000 votes to the HRP candidate for U.S. Senate.

That same year, there was no HRP candidate for Congress in the 2nd District — the year Rep. Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) beat Democrat Marvin Stempin of Livonia 32,500 to 21,000 in a national Republican landslide.

In a message to members, the HRP predicts: "With an HRP candidate running this time, 8,000 plus votes are going to come from one of those party's vote totals and will significantly affect the outcome of the race."

Esch against gasoline tax

U.S. Rep. Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) states Federal Energy Chief John C. Sawhill's proposal to increase federal gasoline taxes by 20 cents per gallon deserves the widespread criticism it provoked in congress.

The proposal is certain not to be adopted in congress, said Esch whose 2nd District includes Livonia and Plymouth. He defined the tax as repressive.

THE TRIAL BALLOON lofted by Sawhill was "a cruel hoax on our citizens who need their cars to get to work," adds Esch.

Esch stated his opposition to this approach in a letter to President Ford shortly after receiving the Sawhill proposal.

Esch urged Ford to either "get rid of Sawhill or tell him to 'keep his big mouth shut'."

Esch says this tax would automatically increase the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and add to evidence of increasing inflation. "Moreover, it would bring additional unpredictability into the automobile marketplace resulting in possible increased unemployment for our auto workers."

"Worst of all, it would be an unjust tax on wage earners for whom a car to get to work, preferably in car pools, isn't a luxury but a necessity."

Although opposed to the gasoline tax, Esch cautioned Americans to recognize that the strongest possible energy conservation measures must be undertaken to make the nation less dependent on increasingly expensive and "unreliable" foreign energy sources.

"Indeed, recent reports that gasoline consumption is up and not down are alarming."



Common concerns

SISTER MARY DANATHA, president of Madonna College, met with Congressman Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) and Dr. Gary Quehl of Washington D.C., president of the Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges, this week to discuss problems of small colleges.

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