

Anti-ERA speaker fears loss of rights

If there's one name connected to the anti-Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) movement, it's most likely Phyllis Schlafly.

Since the Hayden clause which kept current women's rights intact was dropped from the ERA, Mrs. Schlafly's vocal opposition to the amendment has not only made her a national figure but has yielded a great deal of success in state legislatures.

She is out to stop the ERA before, she believes, women's rights are wiped out.

In town recently for the "A.M. Detroit" television show and to address the Michigan Stop ERA action group at the Bloomfield Township Library, Mrs. Schlafly reiterated her opposing arguments.

Passage of the ERA will, she said, take away the rights of wives and women athletes, force women into the draft, force churches to ordain women as priests, legalize homosexual marriage, take away social security benefits for wives, eliminate freedom of choice and do nothing to free women if, in fact, they are oppressed.

"I DON'T THINK there's any oppression of women at all. There are certain problems, though."

Those problems, such as obtaining credit and receiving equal pay for equal work, should and are being taken care of by individual legislation, she said. The ERA would not solve the problems and would, according to Mrs. Schlafly, eliminate many benefits women now have, including financially supportive husbands or, in case of divorce, alimony along with child support.

That distribution of responsibility

is, said Mrs. Schlafly, only fair. "The woman bears the physical result of the sex act. There's no reason why the man can't carry the financial burden."

The ERA would make financial responsibilities equal among husbands and wives, she said.

"For sure the financial support of the family will have to be equal but how that will be equal is under dispute."

Mrs. Schlafly categorizes her projected results of the ERA passage into sure, possible and probable.

"ABSOLUTELY WOMEN will have to register for the draft. No one can dispute that and it's never been disputed at hearings," she said.

Another sure result is the elimination of single-sex colleges, which Mrs. Schlafly said, will deny freedom of choice. "Why do you have to make it (co-ed) 100 per cent," she asked. "Why take away that freedom of choice?"

Though many women oppose Mrs. Schlafly's viewpoint, there is one group she thinks should be entirely supportive of her efforts — women athletes who according to her, "will be wiped off the map."

"Co-ed is the mandate of the ERA and if there is anyone who ought to be against it, it is women athletes."

She said ERA would eliminate strictly female contests, either on amateur or professional levels. Consequently, men could compete against women for prize money and, she said, the men would probably win.

ANOTHER AREA concerning

money involves the church. According to Mrs. Schlafly, proponents of the ERA would probably use the amendment and the federal government via the internal revenue service to force churches to accept women. Explaining, she said, that tax-exempt status would be threatened if there was discrimination.

Also, homosexual marriages would probably be legalized, she said. "The very language of the amendment will give it to them because it is precisely on the basis of sex that marriage is denied."

Such marriages go against the basic unit in American society, the family, said Mrs. Schlafly. And it is the family that Mrs. Schlafly is concerned about.

"THE FAMILY is under attack now," she said. "That's the saddest part of it. Women have been told that the greatest fulfillment is every place but in the home."

The jobs people get into are not as nice as the homes they leave. If a wife wants to take a job there are no prison bars. I do object to the attitude that the home is confining."

She also objects to the idea of government-funded day care centers.

"The baby is the responsibility of the mother not the government," she said. "I totally reject the thought that the government is to bring up babies."

Some governments run nurseries because their system is geared to keeping women in the work force. That's not our system, the family is the basic unit."

When Mrs. Schlafly arrived on the ERA scene, the amendment was well on its way to ratification

in state legislatures. Her involvement and growing support has slowed its momentum primarily because, she said, "We have all the arguments."

She said she has also drawn to her side women who once sup-

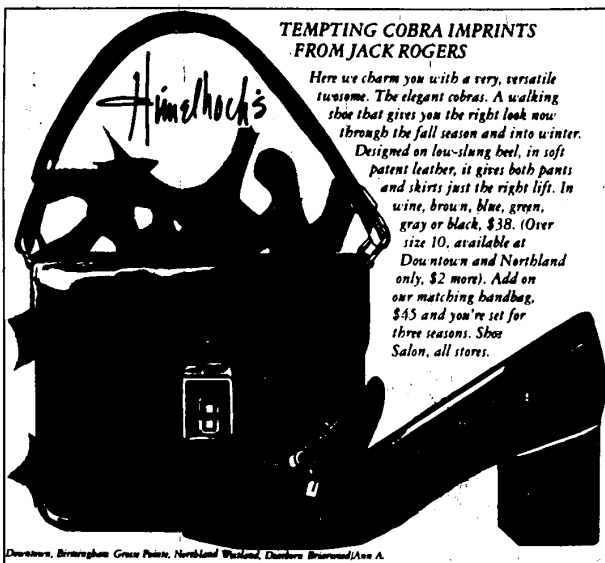
ported the ERA without understanding what she presents as the consequences of its passage.

Ultimately, she said the ERA and its proponents are destructive, anti-family, anti-children and radical.

"American women are extremely well off," she said. "A woman can be anything she wants and I don't think that it's a decision society should make. I feel there is nothing good about the ERA at all."

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Workshop offered

A one-day workshop on alternative career options for teachers will be held Saturday, June 26, at Oakland University, Rochester.

Participants will explore career options which build on their previous preparation and experience. Although job placement is not provided, information on job seeking and resume writing will be available.

Speakers from business, placement, and educational backgrounds will participate in the day's agenda. The program will include experiences in decision making and values clarification.

The workshop is being offered by the Continuum Center for Adult Counseling and Leadership Training for the second time this year, due to its popularity.

The workshop will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a lunch. For advance registration and information please call the Continuum Center.

Children attend camp for week

Children attend camp for week

The Foundation for Mentally Ill Children and the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham are sending 45 adolescent boys and girls with staff from Fairview Center, Clinton Valley, Portage, to Skyline Camp for a week. Skyline is owned and operated by the church.

Mrs. Paul John of Oxford, Miss. is the new president of the foundation.

The foundation finances the project with support from local donors. Profits from a July 1 Alex Karras Celebrity Golf Classic at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester will benefit Fairview youngsters.

Highland Park reunion

The Highland Park High School class of 1945 will hold its 30-year reunion at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Troy Hilton Inn. Members of the January and June classes may contact Russ Vahlbusch, 1808 N. Pleasant, Royal Oak, 48067, for reservations and further information.

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