

Housewife benefits proposed

By ROSE WEBER
Is it discrimination to allow a daily home cleaning worker the protection of the Social Security Act and deny it to a woman who spends her entire life doing the same work because she receives no salary?



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tion providing social security coverage for homemakers.
Under the bill homemakers would be classes as self employed workers and would contribute to the Social Security trust fund eight percent of their wages.

THERE WOULD be optional methods of choosing a yearly wage with the Social Security payments ranging from \$320 for the first year to \$1,120 by the third year, depending on the method.
If the homemaker chose to enter the fund the payments would be in addition to that paid by the husband.

"We realize it is not going to become law now. It will take 10 or 15 years but it will show everybody that the housewife has monetary value," Rep. Griffiths said.
The husband could benefit from the wife's participation in the program also, she added.

"IT WILL protect the young husband with children in case she is disabled or dies. He is given no monetary assistance in caring for his family currently," she said.
Rep. Griffiths admits it is a new tax, a double tax and that couples will at first resist it.
"But more than half of all working women are wives and are paying double to earn a double salary as a couple," she said.

REACTION TO the proposed

bill seems to follow traditionalist lines.
"As a woman you end up on the short side of the stick," said Mrs. Webster Owen of Lathrup Village.
"But between the Equal Rights Amendment and this we'd be where we want to be."
However, questioned as to her husband's willingness to pay the extra tax, she said flatly, "I doubt that."
"That's just a fact of life but my sons are different and they would be in favor of it," she added.

IN HER fifties, Mrs. Owen pointed out that the bill probably would not help women her age but was for younger women.
Mrs. William Stump of Birmingham does not approve of the bill.
"Perhaps because I am an old-line conservative Republican but I don't like the government doing everything for you. That's too socialist," she said.

SHE ALSO dislikes the idea of getting money for doing what she terms nothing.
"You knew what you were getting into when you got married," Mrs. Stump said. "You chose that life."
Norman Traub of Troy termed it a pretty poor investment.
"Social security covers poor people out of working class money and if I could get out of it I would," he said.

IN HIS thirties with a young family, Traub said he would prefer to invest the money in life insurance or other interest paying plans.
Asked if he would pay the additional tax he replied, "If I were asked I'd probably say no."
Harriet Alpern, vice-president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), was highly in favor of the bill.
"I have not read the bill but I am wholeheartedly in support of the concept," Ms. Alpern said.

SHE POINTED out that women can be homemakers for 30

years and then live in poverty if the husband did not provide for them through laziness or ignorance.

"People have an unrealistic view of marriage and child raising. The woman in the home has a monetary value," she said.
She said the NOW organization can help people understand the purpose of the bill.
"If people don't understand something they feel threatened by it. It's a matter of education," she stated.

THE BIG question in Mrs. Charles Barbour's mind is whether she would be working for her husband in an employer-employee relationship.
"I don't think this is the way marriage should be set up," she said.
As state director of Happiness of Womanhood, Inc. (HOW) Mrs. Barbour did not think their organization would support the legislation.

"I HAVE NOT studied the bill, but it sounds like an extension of more dependency on federal government," she said.
Mrs. Barbour also said laws that start as permissive usually become mandatory.
"Big brother is dictating too much already. I would not choose to apply and I would not ask my husband to fund it," she said.

THREE HUSBANDS in their late twenties and early thirties with young children acknowledged the possible benefits but said they would not be in favor of paying for their wives to join.
All three declined to be identified "because it might cause friction at home."

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Area salon hosts series

Gerald Haynes, the man who designed the "energy haircut," has come up with a six-week glamour series to be held at his salon, 32770 Franklin Road, Franklin.
Beginning Monday, the series will feature area models who will offer beauty advice to both career women and homemakers.
The program ranges from sessions on cosmetic application to capsule fashion shows demonstrating what styles are best suited to each participant and how to build, coordinate and accessorize a wardrobe that fits individual looks and lifestyles.
Affiliated Models, who will produce the series, have modeled the clinic after those given in New York, Dallas and Los Angeles. Registration information is available at 851-6626.



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