

# Delegates support pro-life, pro-family, oppose ERA

By Tam Lee

A sampling of 10 of the 16 Nebraska delegates to the National Women's Conference in Houston shows they are pro-life, pro-family and most are against passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, most are concerned with civil rights for homosexuals and birth control for teenagers. Most delegates also say they are in favor of expanded rights for women, at least in some instances.

The conference, Nov. 18-21, is a federally funded meeting in which delegates from each state and U.S. territory will come together to develop recommendations on how women can best achieve equality. These resolutions will be presented to Congress as proposed legislation in March, 1978.



The delegates were selected at a state women's meeting in June. Although all the delegates and alternates were elected on a pro-life slate, the conference passed resolutions favoring the ERA, rights for lesbians and federal funding to help economically deprived women control their health care, considered to be a pro-abortion resolution.

Donna Polk, chairwoman of the coordinating committee for the Nebraska conference, said the delegates can not be forced to support the resolutions passed at the state conference.

### Meetings for delegates

Delegate Ann Bowen of Omaha said the delegates have had four meetings since their election. They had workshops on some of the issues and plan to schedule more in an attempt to better educate themselves on the issues they think will be brought up at the conference. Among these are economics, estate planning, the ERA, reproductive freedom, abortion, homosexuality, child pornography and Robert's Rules of Order, Bowen said.

The delegation does not have a platform or resolutions to present, she said.

**'God put me here to take care of a husband and children, and I would hate to be deprived of that privilege.'**

Bowen, president of the Nebraska Coalition for Life, Inc., said she does not support the ERA, but does not have a strong opinion about it.

Della Brauer of Lincoln said she is against the ERA because it may do women more harm than good.

Although she said she supports the idea of the amendment, equal opportunity for women, she is opposed to some of the protections the ERA may take away from women. For instance, she said she would hate for her daughters to be forced to serve in the military.

"It's bad enough for a young man to have to leave his family, but the mother is the main influence on how the children grow up, and I would hate to see them have to leave the family.

### Oppose day care centers

"God put me here to take care of a husband and children, and I would hate to be deprived of that privilege," she said.

She also is opposed to day care centers, she said. She wants her daughters to raise their own children, but she would like the possibility of day care centers for women who must work, she added.

She also said she feels the laws already protect the rights of women in employment, so the ERA is not needed.

"There's no way men and women can ever be equal. Men and women are different, and were put here for dif-

ferent purposes," she said.

Brauer works for her husband as a secretary for the Nebraska School Improvement Association.

### Pro-Family

Naomi Brummond of Rosalie is the chairman of the delegation. She describes herself as pro-American and pro-family. She is a co-worker with her husband on their farm.

An issue she is especially interested in is estate taxes. She explained that farm women put in as many hours on the farm as men do. But he is the legal owner. If he dies before his wife, she has to prove that she was part owner, she said.

Delores Bundy of Gretna also supports estate tax reform.

She said she does not support the ERA because it is misleading. She said the laws already on the books protect women against job discrimination.

She added that she feels the ERA will benefit only lesbian women because they do not care about their sex. For instance, lesbians would be the only women to support unisex bathrooms, she said.

**'I don't go along with kids being taught that homosexuality is super neat.'**

She said homosexuals are not discriminated against in employment.

### Abortion immoral

She doesn't believe that abortion should be legal because it is immoral, she said.

"I'm a Christian. God got me on the ticket," she said. "How else could I have gotten a higher vote than (State Sen.) Shirley Marsh or Donna Polk?"

Waneta Dankert of Lincoln did not want to discuss the conference issues, but said her views have not changed since the state conference.

Jane Martin, an Omaha delegate, said she is against the ERA because that would put the responsibility for enforcing laws in the courts. She would rather see responsibility in the hands of legislators, she said.

She does not believe in discrimination against homosexuals but she also does not think homosexuality should be promoted.

"I don't go along with kids being taught that homosexuality is super-neat," she said.

### Supports rape center

She also is interested in setting up support centers, such as the Omaha Rape Center, for pregnant teenagers, she said.

She said she thinks age should be a factor in deciding whether teenagers should be able to get contraceptives without parental consent.

She also is in favor of displaced homemakers' centers, she said. Martin sells real estate, and in the past has been active in local and state right-to-life organizations, she said.

Rita Perez, a Scottsbluff homemaker, said she is against the ERA because it is too ambiguous and too much controversy surrounds it. She said women do not know what they are getting themselves into with the ERA.

She does not favor giving contraceptives to teenagers without parental consent, she said.

### Planned Parenthood

She blames organizations like Planned Parenthood for what she called "abuse of sexuality," she said. They should encourage young people to be responsible rather than to abuse their sexuality, she said. Homosexuals should not be allowed to marry each other or adopt children, she said.

"We must respect them (homosexuals) and try to help them," she said.

Perez is the area director of the Northwestern Right to Life and secretary of the Scottsbluff county Democratic Party, she said.

Mary Alice Pratt, a Lincoln delegate, said she is against the ERA because it is not broad enough and does not say enough. She said she thinks it would be better to enforce existing laws, which already protect women.

Pratt is the director of Birthright, an organization which counsels pregnant women, she said. It considered to be a pro-life organization.

### Law too broad

Diane Sarver of Lincoln was elected as an alternate. She became a delegate when State Sen. Bernice Labeledz announced she would not be able to attend the conference.

She is against the ERA because it is open to many different interpretations, she said.

"I couldn't support a law that broad," she said. She is for equal rights for women in some instances, she said. For example, she said she has found discrimination in the job market, and this should be eliminated.

Barbara Zapotocky of Columbus said she is for women's rights, but there is no need for an amendment to the Constitution. Women have ample protection in the 14th amendment, she said.

She does not think teenage women should be able to get contraceptives without parental consent, she said.

"Sex education must begin in the home," she said. "A lot of social problems go back to family problems."

She said preventing pregnancy by abstaining is a better solution than birth control.

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