

## Power to women

Many terms were pedagogically thrown around during Kate Millett's speech in the Nebraska Union Tuesday. Some were from the lexicon of psychology, others from sociology.

But beneath the terms with which laymen and laywomen may not be familiar, easily understandable messages emerge.

Women are oppressed; they are discriminated against. And the more intelligent a woman, the less likely she is to find a job that is not mentally demeaning.

Look at the lack of opportunities for women in the professions. It still takes a lot of courage for women to enter either the legal or the medical professions. And many other areas of job discrimination exist. As Millett observed, there is discrimination in industry, in technology, in science and most unfortunately, in the military.

To date, women have been rebuffed in these areas. The so-called progress is more definitively "tokenism."

For the most part, women are relegated to menial positions: secretaries, waitresses, teachers.

Outside of these areas, opportunities are slim. Without dynamic perseverance and twice as much determination as her male counterpart, a woman must settle for second best or nothing.

Worse than these inequities is women's conditioning (Millett said inculcation) by the American system to be subordinate. And for the

most part, many women do not reject the conditioning which is at the very roots of their oppression.

Finally however, women are organizing. They are starting to feel the power of sexual politics and to do something about their unequal status.

This does not mean that women are only beginning to do something about their sexual quandary. That battle has been going on for centuries. But in a more political sense, women's liberation is just starting to move. But it is moving.

As Millett observed, the movement will not achieve success through violence, but it can be successful. Perhaps it is the electronic media through which the women's movement will arrest traditional sexism.

But first the women's liberation movement must be understood for what it is and what it wants.

A major obstacle to achieving that understanding is the American system itself, the system which perpetuates sexist conditioning. When women and men in this country understand their prejudices, a new voice in American life and politics will be born.

It's going to happen. Women will organize and increasingly demand more. They will demand what is theirs: equality.

Depending on their speed, women may be an important force in the 1972 presidential election. If so, power to the women.

*Mick Moriarty*



William F. Buckley, Jr.

# Nixon and the conservatives

It is much written about that American conservatives have lost their sense of discrimination by backing Richard Nixon so roundly. One critic observes scornfully that

we defend Nixon "so long as he is anything but (on ideological premises) downright indefensible." Concerning this criticism, a few observations:

### Welfarism

1. On the matter of welfarism, the American people, as Whittaker Chambers wrote many years ago, have, like the Russian peasants in 1917, written the peace with their feet. They will have social security, in all 57 varieties, and the function of the conservative becomes not to quarrel with the man who is elected by the rightist-majority to do their will, but to criticize specific proposals, so as to leech the worst factor out of the proposed new welfare plans. The weaknesses of centralized welfarism in any event become palpable. What has all but killed the so-called war on poverty is not the conservative critique of it, but its collision with reality.

Post-mortems are very much in order, such as for instance was so brilliantly provided by Professor Martin Anderson in his book, *The Federal Bulldozer*, aimed at examining the wreckage of urban renewal programs. But except insofar as Richard Nixon is thought to be a teacher rather than a chief executive, it is difficult to fault him for any failure to help in the task of demonstrating realities to a people still stoned, for the most part, on the hallucinations of the New Deal. Barry Goldwater was the last such to have tried the double role of politician and philosopher. I do not doubt that he will be honored in the future for his endeavors, and do not doubt at all that he lost

the election.

### Foreign Policy

2. In the judgment of this conservative, Richard Nixon's greatest test in foreign policy lies ahead of him, maybe just ahead of him. All other matters are subject to compromise: but not the independence of the United States and the maintenance of the power necessary to ensure its independence. Mr. Nixon has handled competently the gradual disengagement of U.S. military forces from Southeast Asia, and he has stood resolutely against the hysterical, whose performance after Cambodia can only be compared to the housewives' reaction to the report by Orson Welles in the 30's that the Martians had landed.

But Indochina is not where the action is. The action is the attrition of our strategic deterrent. The enemy continues to build up his power, such that the day looms when it will have achieved a convincing first-strike capability. It is almost impossible to believe that Richard Nixon could be President of the United States when that day dawns, but apart from his successful stand on ABM a year ago, is he preparing us for what is happening? Or does he have reason to suppose that at just the right moment, say at Helsinki, he can pull the plug, and drain Soviet power?

Unfortunately, to believe such a thing requires confidence that the United

States is developing a new weapons system, which in fact is nowhere in sight. Unlike atom bombs, the kind of stuff you need to tip the balance of power is about as easy to conceal as the pollution of Lake Erie. I know a man who should know (if he doesn't, forget it), who believes that we have about one year to go, at this rate, before our strategic deterrent is effectively undermined. After that, a few years of crystallization: and then, Soviet preeminence. I must believe that Richard Nixon, before 1972, will need to present the alternatives to the American public, and to make his own recommendations. This is the moment of crisis, not merely quadrennial, but historic, for American conservatives.

### Stability Through Authority

3. In the last two or three years, America has faced a crisis of stability. During such crises, conservatives do and should, look kindly on the preservation of authority: the authority of the chief executive, of the laws, of the lords spiritual, yes even of college deans. For that reason Richard Nixon, as president, and as the outspoken critic of the greening of America via the convulsing of America, was naturally attractive to American conservatives. It may be that, having apparently won at least a precarious victory over the revolutionists, Mr. Nixon will now need to do more to appeal to the conservatives.

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