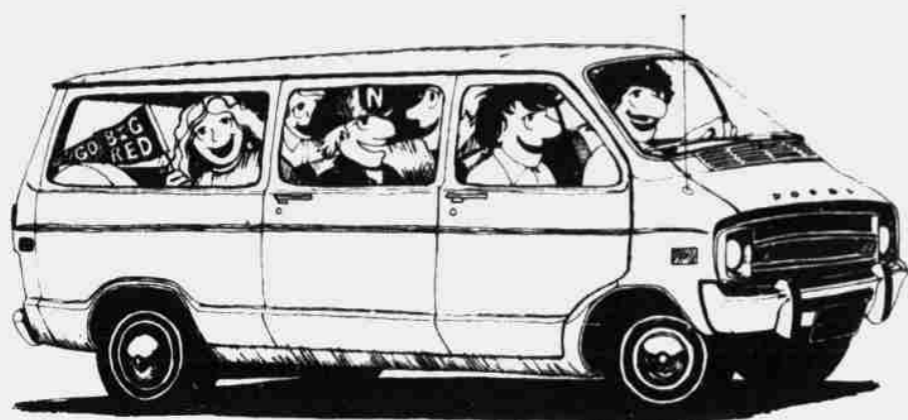


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## Extension . . .

Continued from page 4

But the Congressional extension diluted the contemporaneousness of ERA support. As opposition stiffens—only five states have approved ERA in the past five years—by the time it is finally ratified, the overwhelming support demanded may no longer exist.

Except on paper, that is. Among those states listed as supporting the amendment will probably be four states who have rescinded their ratification. It is the wisdom of Congress that state legislatures should be able to reconsider "no" votes on ERA for 10 years without a single chance to ever reconsider a "yes" vote.

If ERA supporters were as confident of popular support as they claim, they would allow the current proposal to die and begin a new ERA campaign following proper procedure and time limits. Such a move, however, is as likely as a move to lower UNL parking permit prices.

Undoubtedly, the methods used to ratify ERA have alienated many people; they will also spark a massive court battle over ERA's validity.

And that's a shame. Few people in their right minds believe that one sex is inherently superior to the other; few support discriminatory laws.

### Litigation and reform

But those laws will be overturned only through litigation and legislative reform, whether the ERA is approved or not. By devoting their efforts to promoting the amendment ERA supporters have stalled their own cause.

For what in the ERA is not already in the Constitution. Why do we need an amendment stating "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied . . . on account of sex," when the 14th Amendment mandates no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"? Of what value is sheer repetition?

ERA supporters said their cause is so special it justifies a special amendment. They requested (and got) the first special ratification deadline extension in U.S. history. They insist on rejecting state rescissions of ERA, and thus deny their opponents the right to dissent.

Indeed, it seems that those clamoring loudest for equal treatment and protection are the most eager to deny it to others.

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