

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF TIME TO RATIFY THE ERA

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The Miami Herald, June 12, 1978

"The fight for the ERA has been particularly handicapped by deliberate distortions by its opponents. As much as the issue has been discussed, the truth about ERA has had a difficult time emerging in some areas.

"This is one of the reasons why we believe the extension of the ratification deadline would be justified. In this democracy, the Constitutional guarantee of equal protection for all citizens is too sacred to be abandoned to unfounded fears based on ignorance or worse."

The Baltimore Evening Sun, February 21, 1978

"ERA has suffered more painfully narrow defeats in Southern legislatures, and in some states it has been bottled in committee for years. The only hope for this campaign lies in extension of the deadline for another seven years.

"The extension can be justified on legal and moral grounds; there is ample evidence that the majority of citizens of the recalcitrant states favours ratification."

WCAU/CBS RADIO, Philadelphia, November 10, 1977

"The way it looks now, March 22, 1979, could go down as one of the most shameful days in this country's history. On that day, unless there is a deadline extension, the Equal Rights Amendment will be dead.

"Boiled down to its basics, the ERA is nothing more than a legal guarantee that says women count just like men. Opponents of ERA have offered every specious argument in the world to defeat passage and they've been effective.

"As people who have already said 'yes' to this necessary legislation you'll have to do more to get ERA made law. Write and call your Congressmen and women urging them to fight on behalf of an extension to the ERA deadline. What will we tell our daughters and granddaughters if we don't?"

The Christian Science Monitor, June 16, 1978

"There is no constitutional bar to extending the deadline, according to the Justice Department. Congress should take timely action to ensure authorization of the proposed extension for another seven years. After all, ERA deserves no less consideration than many amendments for which no ratification deadline was specified. President Carter's state of Georgia did not ratify the original Bill of Rights amendments until 1939.

"These things take time, and many other matters compete for congressional and presidential attention. Yet the constitutional recognition of the equal rights of men and women under the law is of such fundamental importance that it should be fostered in every way."

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Grand Rapids Press, June 16, 1978

"Opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment no doubt cheered last week when the Illinois House failed to provide a necessary three-fifths majority for passage. But their victory was hardly something to brag about. If nothing else, it exposed the kind of irrelevant hurdle that this simple statement of sexual equality has had to surmount.

"The Illinois experience, however, lends substance to the views of Senator Birch Bayh, D-IN, who says the arbitrary time limit was adopted on the assumption that it was thought to be a reasonable period to assure full and open debate. Instead, parliamentary tricks, such as those in Illinois, and an organized campaign of misinformation and scare tactics have prevented the proposal from receiving objective consideration on several legislative floors.

"Eventually the Equal Rights Amendment will be adopted, and soon afterward everyone will wonder what all the fuss was about. And you'll still be able to look in vain for unisex toilets."