SENATOR SAM ERVIN \$\alpha \quad SAYS \alpha



The U. S. Supreme Court a few days ago struck down an Idaho law which discriminated against the appointment of women to administer estates. This ruling substantiates a contention which I have made that the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution afford the necessary protections to secure women's rights.

During the Congressional battles over the adoption of the equal rights amendment, I have suggested that if women are not enjoying the full benefit of their constitutional guarantees, it is

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due to a defect in the enforcement of Federal and State laws and Executive orders rather than the failure of the country to adopt this muchadvocated amendment.

Shortly after Chief Justice Burger delievered the Court's unanimous opinion affirming women's equal rights, the Senate Constitutional Amendments Subcommittee approved a substitute which I offered in lieu of the House-approved equal rights amendment. In essence, my substitute amendment would forbid any legal distinction between the rights and responsibilities of male and female persons unless such distinction is based upon physiological or functional differences between the sexes

While I believe that any unfair discriminations which the law has created against women should be abolished by law, I have the abiding conviction that the law should make such distinctions between them as are reasonably necessary for the protection of women and the existence and development of the human race.

I share completely this observation by Mr. Bernard Swartz, a noted legal scholar: "Use of the law in an attempt to conjure away all the differences which do exist between the sexes is both an insult to the law itself and a complete disregard of fact."

When He created them, God made physiological and functional differences between men and women. Thus, usually men have a greater capacity to perform arduous and hazardous physical tasks and women possess to an unusual degree an intuitive power to distinguish between wisdom and folly, good and evil. To say these things is not to imply that either sex is superior to the other. It is simply to state the allimportant truth that men and women complement each other in the relationships and undertakings on which the existence and development of civilizations depend.

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The physiological and functional differences between men and women empower men to baget and women to bear children, who enter life in a state of utter helplessness and ignorance, and who must receive nurture, care, and training at the hands of adults throughout their early years if they and the race are to survive, and if they are to grow mentally and spiritually. From time whereof the memory of mankind runneth not to the contrary, custom and law have imposed upon men the primary responsibility for providing a habitation and a livelihood for their wives and children to enable their wives to make the habitations homes, and to furnish nurture, care, and training to their children during their early years.

In this respect, custom and law reflect the wisdom embodied in the ancient Yiddish proverb that God could not be everywhere, so he made mothers. The physiological and functional differences between men and women constitute the most important reality. Without them human life could not exist.

For this reason, any country which ignores these differences when it fashions its institutions

and makes its laws is woefully lacking in rationality, and I am pleased that the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments has approved my substitute amendment which seeks to abolish all unfair discriminations against women without depriving them of necessary legal protection and without robbing Congress and the States forever of the power to make legal distinctions in favor of women where reason justifies their so doing.

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