

ERA opposition attends hearings

28 speak before amendment committee

by Tim Pittman
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — Opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) came to last Tuesday's public hearing ten busloads strong with "Stop ERA" signs on their jackets — preaching, pleading and petitioning for the defeat of the ERA.

Over 600 anti-ERA spectators jammed into the Legislative Building auditorium where the House Constitutional Amendments Committee heard 28 speakers, mostly women, call the ERA everything from a communist threat to a denial of religious freedom. The committee must pass ERA before it can be brought to a vote in the House.

The public hearing lasted two hours, an hour longer than the pro-ERA forces were allowed to speak the previous week.

In order to become a constitutional amendment, 38 states must ratify the ERA by March 1979. Thus far, 34 states have

approved it. North Carolina is considered a vital state in the ultimate ratification or defeat of the amendment.

Dorothy Slade of Reidsville, state chairman of the Stop-ERA movement, said the ERA did not have the popular support to achieve ratification in North Carolina, but added, "If it is ratified, we'll be back next session asking you to rescind it."

Slade and Mrs. John L. Matthews of Rocky Mount presented committee chairman Hartwell Campbell, D-Wilson, with two stacks of petitions containing, according to the women, 54,000 signatures of women opposed to the ERA. Slade said the signatures proved the "women back home don't want ERA."

Patricia Williams, publicity director of the Wilson County Speedway and a professional author, called the ERA a dangerous amendment, and said to the committee, "you are toying with the idea of passing a law that would take away your (the Legislature's) handling of our lives and put it in the hands

of the Supreme Court."

"And we all know what the Supreme Court can do," Williams added.

Rocky Mount lawyer Don Evans said, "ERA will turn every legal difference between men and women into a Supreme Court case — and there are no legal precedents for courts to use as guidelines."

Evans urged the legislators to use common sense and fairness and to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment.

"It is inconceivable to me that an amendment which is so harmful to women could be ratified in North Carolina," he said. Rev. James C. Loy, pastor of the Raleigh Macedonia United Methodist Church, said, "the underbelly of this Equal Rights Amendment is a radical, immoral, social philosophy. In the light of social morality, it is our social obligation not to ratify ERA."

In closing, Loy said, "We want no commercial womanhood and no institutionalized family life."

Loy and other ministers said the amendment could cripple churches if they

refused to marry two men or two women.

According to Loy, the federal government could remove the tax-exempt status of churches if a minister refused to marry two individuals of the same sex.

Phyllis Schlafly, national chairman of the Stop ERA movement, met with her North Carolina ERA opponents earlier in the week. During her visit to North Carolina, Schlafly predicted the Legislature would defeat the ERA.

"American women don't want ERA," Schlafly said in a recent television interview. "It will take away rights we already have." She cited military obligations, loss of credit for unemployed women, loss of women's special labor laws and the possibility of churches losing their tax-exempt status.

Campbell said his committee would examine all the legal implications of the amendment before voting on it. The committee will meet with former U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin this week. Ervin was a major opponent of ERA in Congress.

Campus Calendar

Today's Activities

Young Democrats Club meeting 7:30 tonight, 217 Union.

Yoga meditation 8 tonight, Presbyterian Student Center.

Delta Sigma Pi, professional business fraternity, will meet tonight, South Lounge meeting room, Union.

SCAU interviews will be held today and the rest of this week in Suite 8, Union. Interviews are for the selection of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Complaint Investigator, Food Quality Chairperson, Housing Chairperson and Special Projects Chairperson.

Full Gospel Student Fellowship meeting 7:30 tonight, 5th floor lounge, Greenville.

Ver's Club meeting 7 tonight, 202 Union.

Phillip Berrigan will speak at 3 today, Pine Room.

Elections Board meeting 9 tonight, Suite C, Union. All district organizations must attend.

Alpha Epsilon Delta, pre-med, pre-dental honor society, will meet at 7 tonight, Berryhill.

Student Academic Affairs Committee meeting, 8:30 tonight, Suite C, Union.

IRSS Short Course, APL for Social Scientists, 2 today, 106 Saunders.

Upcoming Events

Students interested in federal summer internships with the Department of the Army meet 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, 210 Gardner. Majors requested: computer science, journalism, business administration, psychology and counseling.

Items of Interest

Applications for editorial positions on SHE available through Friday at the Union Desk.

Recruiters scheduled

The following organizations will be recruiting on campus the weeks of March 24-April 23, 1975 at the Career Planning and Placement office, 211 Gardner Hall:

Monday, March 24:
Regional Administrator of National Banks Prudential Insurance Co. of America University of Tennessee (Library)

Tuesday, March 25:
Xerox Corp.

Wednesday, March 26:
Aetna Life and Casualty Institute of Paralegal Training

Thursday, March 27:
Peebles

Friday, March 28:
S.C. Department of Mental Health (Camp Logan)

Wednesday, April 2:
The Northwestern Bank

Friday, April 4:
Union Carbide Corp.

Tuesday, April 8:
Camden City Schools

Thursday, April 10:
Rose's Stores, Inc.

Tuesday, April 15:
Ferguson Enterprises

Monday, April 21:
St. Vincent's Medical Center

Interviews to be held for WCAR manager

The Media Board will hold interviews for general manager of WCAR radio beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, in the Union. Applicants should have previous experience in radio. For more information contact Mark Dearmon, Media Board chairman, (967-7608) or Gary Rendsburg, station manager, (967-2718).

Berrigan to speak

Father Philip Berrigan, the ex-Catholic priest and anti-war activist, will speak in the Pine Room today at 3 p.m. Berrigan, who was jailed during the 1960s for destruction of draft records, will speak on "What It Means to Be a Radical Christian in Today's World."

Symposium committee to decide topic for '76

The Carolina Symposium interim committee will meet Thursday at 6:30 in the

Union. The committee is open to any member of the university community who is interested in helping select the topic for the 1976 Symposium. Anyone who would like to submit a topic is asked to be present or to send suggestions to Box 14, Carolina Union.

For further information, contact Carol Eller (942-8235), Steve Whisnant (967-3736), or Larry Robinson (968-9062), or write to the above address.

(or put one in yourself!)

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Offices are at the Student Union building, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. Telephone numbers: News, Sports — 933-1011, 933-1012; Business, Circulation, Advertising — 933-1163.

Subscription rates: \$20.00 per year; \$10.00 per semester.

Second class postage paid at U.S. Post Office in Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

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