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SENATOR SAM ERVIN

☆ SAYS ☆



WASHINGTON - Two versions of the constitutional amendment to give women equality of rights are before the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is conducting initial hearings on this complex issue. Recently, the House-passed Equal Rights Amendment won that body's approval without hearings and little more than a formal debate.

In truth, however, the House-passed amendment recites in cryptical phrase, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," and the fact is now dawning on the nation that those 23 words are so broad that no one can be sure that any of our society's protective laws for women will survive a court test if that amendment is adopted.

On August 21, 1970, I, therefore, introduced a substitute amendment for the House-passed equality amendment to preserve reasonable legal protections based upon physiological and functional differences between men and women. I did so because I do not believe that the nation is ready to deprive women of the countless necessary protections afforded them under the legal fabric of our society.

I must confess that I am somewhat puzzled by the arguments by some militant advocates of the House-passed Equal Rights Amendment who urge that what they want is an amendment which will make men and women identical legal beings and make all laws apply in exactly the same manner toward men and women under all circumstances. This argument seeks to ignore all differences between men and women, and the rationale which created laws relating to abortions, pregnancy, and rape.

Moreover, as Professor Paul Freund of Harvard Law School says, the adoption of this House-passed Amendment will "open up a Pandora's box of legal complications." Consider only the little thought out problems which will be fostered upon American women by a literal interpretation of the House-passed Amendment and the plea that women should be compelled to render compulsory military service and go to the battlefronts in combat. This issue has been shunted aside on the fallacious ground that perhaps it is a moot one if we soon abolish the draft. Still the issue is a real one today and all future ages when we must fulfill our military commitments. We have not yet abolished the draft, and constitutional amendments cannot be judged by the prophecies of the day, but must be reckoned with for all future ages.

Despite all the assertions of some advocates of the House-passed Amendment, I still adhere to the view that the overwhelming majority of women share my view that unfair legal discriminations against women should be abolished, but legal protection based upon reasonable grounds should be continued.

If militant supporters of the House-passed Amendment could obtain their hearts' desire without having their sisters robbed of their necessary legal protection, I would keep silent. If such were possible, they would merely reap the fate of those mentioned in the Apocrypha: "They digged a well, and made it deep, but fell themselves into the pit which they prepared." Unfortunately, the consumation of their hearts' desire requires that millions of American women who do not wish to be made identical legal beings with men in all respects would be dragged into the pit with them.

In my judgment, the Senate Judiciary Committee should take time to review the proposed Amendment, and make sure that the nation knows where it is heading before it sends to the States any proposal of this nature.

Traffic Bureau Created At Town Hall

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involved citing a violator to the district court. This would have subjected the violator not only to the prescribed \$1.00 fine

but to court costs in addition, making the total fine, in effect, \$16.00. This seemed too steep for the Town Board.

The new ordinance re-
me-

ties these shortcomings. A Traffic Bureau is created at the Town Hall, where the Town Clerk will be empowered to deal with violators, and collect the prescribed \$1.00 fine. The Court costs may thus be avoided. If a car owner fails to comply with a notice of violation his case will be cited to the district court. Conviction in this court will automatically subject the violator to payment of court costs in addition to the fine. This would make a parking violation no laughing matter.

The new ordinance also prohibits the drinking of alcoholic beverages on the streets of the town. This provision will provide the police with some legal weapon to cope with the nuisance of having cars parked interminably at night with the occupants allegedly drinking beer. Beer cans discarded for the town's clean up force to pick up early the next morning are evidence of this dubious amusement.

Mass Screening Is Goal

(Cont'd from page 1)

cial microphone the computer listens to the heart sounds and registers whether the sounds are within normal limits or not. A physician is the only one who can diagnose a child's heart sounds and all children with sounds outside normal limits will be examined by a physician. Children in this program with suspected heart disease, will be referred to an appropriate medical center for further investigation, at no cost to the parent.

An objective of the Heart Sounds Screening Program is that, after two years of screen-

ing approximately 26,000 school children, a tested and evaluated program be available for the mass screening of children for heart disease in the State of North Carolina. In order to achieve this objective the urban area of Charlotte - Mecklenburg County and the rural areas of Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties have been designated for the program.

North Carolinians who may wonder from time to time what becomes of their Heart Fund donations, will be seeing ample evidence of "money well spent" in this vital program being developed for the children of our area.

Sharing The Responsibility

"Those who have encouraged hatred, militancy and abuse of members of the establishment must share the responsibility for the rising number of killings of policemen in various parts of the country. In several cases... particularly ugly killings have struck down policemen, sometimes more than one in the same shootout. In New York City... two policemen were brutally killed in the same week--one shot through the heart and the other stabbed as he sat in his patrol car... Unless the nation considers its peace-keeping officers friends, to be helped and supported, there is little chance America will be a peaceful, stable society of order and progress."

..Lafayette, Ala., SUN

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FERTILE FIELD FOR WOMEN'S LIBERATION

JOHN J. SYNON

Paul Ticer is a mate on an American cargo ship that plies between this country and the orient. He is just back from delivering a load of bombs to our forces in Vietnam.

As every sailor since Noah, this merchant-marine officer, whenever the opportunity affords, goes ashore to see what's up.

That is how, a couple of weeks ago, Ticer found himself on Saigon's Tu-Do street, pushing into The Kingston Bar.

The Kingston is a commodious operation, to hear Paul tell it, made popular by the thousands of GIs who have come to know its recessed, dark corners and the almond-eyed B girls who sit as low-voiced vultures awaiting them.

There is nothing remarkable about the place, actually, not per se - The Kingston has counterparts all over America, wherever there is a military installation - nothing remarkable except those girls; how they got there, and the life they lead.

Vietnam, more than most places in the world, has pockets of poverty. Whenever - which is always - there is a market for fresh young things, girl buyers fan across the countryside offering "loans" to hard-up parents. Said loans to be repaid by (alas) their dutiful daughters.

Thus the girls wind up in Saigon, bespangled and enticing, getting their percentage from such sales as they make - paying off the "debt" of the old folks back home.

And to hear the observant Paul Ticer tell it, that pay is remarkably lucrative, by oriental work-horse standards.

Trouble is, you see, the money the girls receive is in Vietnamese piestras and is not worth a tinker's dam outside the country, and worth very little within it. Its official rate of exchange is 118 to the dollar, but any of the girls will give a GI 400 piestras "worth" for one

green buck.

So, as the obliging little night people accumulate American dollars - as they do - the heady ones invest their personal share beyond the borders of Vietnam; any sort of investment. They buy unseen land in Hawaii, for instance. Anything.

It is their hope, one day, they will get to Never-Never.

Which isn't likely.

Those not so smart, when the work is done, closet themselves behind the shuttered doors of The Kingston Bar and gamble away their money and whatever is left of the night.

Rather dreary, wouldn't you say? But that isn't the extent of it.

"Whenever an unknown Vietnamese male enters the joint", the big mate told me, "the little ladies disappear like quail in the brush".

It seems the girls fear the unknown is Viet Cong "intelligence" making note of "sympathizers" - in which case the "guilty", in time, may find themselves dangling from the end of a noose. Either "intelligence" or one of the Cowboys.

Cowboys don't work; neither do they spin. Instead, they prowl until they locate a "popular" (i.e. money-making) B girl and, having lassoed her, arrange a little heart-to-heart. Thereafter, she will pay over to the bully boy a sizeable share of her earnings or she may find herself, as some have found themselves, beaten out of shape, there in the alley, alongside her "sympathetic" sisters.

Such is the position in life of certain women in the orient.

If this new American outfit, Women's Liberation, wanted to be taken seriously, it seems to me, they would open a Saigon branch. Do that instead of doing what they did, louse up McSorley's Old Ale House, the last male sanctuary in New York.