

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
 ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
 JOINT ERA HEARING
 FEBRUARY 8, 1975

Senator Melvin D. Close, Jr., was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Melvin D. Close, Jr., Chairman
 Senator Norman "Ty" Hilbrecht
 Senator Richard Bryan
 Assemblyman James Banner
 Assemblyman Nash Sena
 Assemblyman Karen Hayes, Vice-Chairman
 Assemblyman John Polish
 Assemblyman Thomas Hickey

SENATOR CLOSE: Each side will have 15 minutes to present their particular side's position. Those in favor will speak for one half hour, and those against will speak one half hour and alternate until everyone that desires to speak will have an opportunity to speak to the Committee. There is a limit of three minutes per speaker except for the two prime speakers. The prime speakers and the speakers that will follow will receive a sign from Cheri informing them that they have 30 seconds left to speak. They then will receive another notice to stop. Five seconds thereafter, we will turn off the microphone to encourage them to limit their remarks.

I hope that I can have the sign-up lists for speakers. And, if not, there will be a person in the back of the room to collect them. If you have any other lists that I do not have indicating people who want to speak I would appreciate if you would bring them down to me now. There may be people in the room who do not desire to speak, but who desire to be on record either for or against the measure.* We will have available sheets for those people to sign and that will indicate your position on the issue - either for or against; but, you will not be speaking.

I would encourage you to let each person speak his mind in this matter. We will not countenance any laughing or negative comments of any type in regard to any speaker, and we hope that you will follow this request. And if so, we will have no difficulty in the meeting. We would ask you to limit your applause because we have found that it takes alot of time to wait 30 seconds after each speaker before the next speaker can begin. We have several hundred speakers today, and it will take as many hours to get through the meeting. And, I am sure that the quicker we are able to proceed and the more expeditiously - the better it will be for all of us.

I will call the name of the speaker - and then I will call the name of the next speaker, and he or she will come down to the front and be able to follow the previous speaker. The succeeding speaker will sit in the chair on the aisle. This will save us quite a bit of time.

The first speaker for the proponents will be Rennie Ashleman. He will be their prime speaker.

RENNIE ASHLEMAN, Attorney - I'm here to speak for the passage of the ERA. I have seen the material sent to the legislature both pro and con. This is not a woman's rights measure - this is an equal rights measure. It is neutral as to sex. There are laws in this country unfair to both men and women, but those unfair to women outnumber those of men. This reminds one of the suffrage movement giving women the right to vote. We find this now to be antique and amusing in its aspect. People still find it controversial that women should be treated as equal. People are not against the amendment per say; but, against what they think will or might happen. I don't think there is a person in the legislature who has not sought out the woman's vote. I think there are very few that have not gone to the Democratic or Republican Woman's Club and give a speech. They had women volunteers. They were then equal to the men. In fact, they were far better when it comes to that kind of work. I would find it very sad that we do not recognize equality with the passage of this amendment.

GRANT SAWYER, Attorney - I'm sure this committee over the past two years has heard every argument pro and con on this amendment. I cannot believe in the America in the 1970's there are many who do not believe that there is a society equal for all. An equal society is desirable and we really want it. I would like to say that freedom and equality go hand in hand. You can not have one without the other. However, we have learned that the U.S. Constitution is not infallible. There are a myriad of laws in the states that discriminate on sex alone. If we believe in a free and equal society we know that there are laws that frustrate that end and that the conclusion of this committee and the legislature should ratify this amendment and pledge Nevada in support of such a national goal. We know that in this great country that freedom doesn't come naturally, nor does it come easy; it is something that we have to continually work at all of the time in order to accomplish what we all believe to be our national ideal. The problems are miniscual compared to the indescribable to the advantages of a free society.

ROBERT McNUTT - I'm representing the State Central Committee of the Republican Party. The Republican Party of both the State and County levels have urged the passage of the amendment. The Clark County Republican Party reaffirms its support of the principles of equal equality of all citizens and urges passage of the ERA in the 1975 session of the Nevada State Legislature. The state adoption language is equally the same. The time is now for all persons to be treated with equal equality.

VIRGINIA CASTT- Democratic National Committeewoman for the State of Nevada. As you are aware the Congress passed this amendment 354 to 23, the Senate of the U.S. adopted it 84 to 8; it has been endorsed by both the Democratic and Republican National Committees, on the state level both parties have endorsed this amendment. There are women who feel that this will not be harmful to them we are asking you for this privilege. For all of the work I have done for the Democratic Party I have never asked for a favor, but today I am asking for you to support this amendment.

DOROTHY FRANER - The status of women is questioned today. The ERA will not do what the proponents propose it will not abolish all of the wrongs.

all of the inequalities that exist today with a magic wand.

TERRY LONG - I support the ERA and have become a member of the THEY Society by the anti-ERA people, as supporting de facto marriage. I do not. I do not agree with the many so-called facts they pronounce. This amendment will help countless numbers of women, especially those who have to work to support their families.

Deede Carson - Vice-Chairman of the 13 Democratic Western States. Vice-Chairman Democratic State Party and member of the Democratic National Committee - Women achieved the vote - but not equality. They pay the same taxes and are living under the same laws, they hold the same jobs as men but do not receive the same pay. If liberty, democracy and equality is to be in our government it will be when all receive the same rights. There can be no political prostitution - there can be no cop out - you must cast your vote in favor of ERA.

REV. CHARLES COATH - What is ERA saying and what does it symbolize. I think it is saying something very deep about each of us. It is saying that before we look upon our fellow human beings as female and male - we first see them as human to be as fully human as you and me. A society that promotes free rights at birth is a full society. It's to guarantee at birth that I'm o.k. - but all are not. Human people - richly joined together to be human.

MARGUERITE SEGRETTI - First elected chairwoman of the Clark County Democratic Central Committee - We and the state party have endorsed the amendment. Women should have the same rights as men. The amendment if passed does not mean that a woman has to go to work or be drafted - it guarantees she may do so if she wishes. It's time to put away the idea that she has to stay in the house. I urge you to approve the ERA. We could not survive without men - just as they could not survive without us - we have earned this right.

LAMOND MILLS - ATTORNEY - I am against the ERA. Being a criminal attorney I have to speak about people who already are unprivileged. I think we have to determine rightly whether we should here in this state legislate our own laws or federal laws. If this body and the legislature affirms this issue then the state right to govern is lost - and the federal government will determine equal rights. He quoted from Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act concerning discrimination in employment because of sex. If the ERA is passed there is no way the military could discriminate on who would be drafted.

SENATOR CLOSE - I would like to introduce some of the members of the legislature that have arrived such as: Assemblyman John Polish, member of the Committee; Assemblyman Jean Ford; Senators Joe Neal, Gene Echols and Jack Schofield.

LAMOND MILLS - I'm not impressed that if the ERA is passed we will have to share lavatories - however, in the military those segregated units would have to be integrated and assigned on a non-basis of sex. We have to maintain social privacy. I would say change our state laws if there is discrimination in them. In a community property state in case of a divorce they would share equally in ERA such as bills. It would be very unfavorable to the woman who is a housewife when the man is making the money. Problems would arise for the mother in the Tender Years Doctrine, etc.

I think the dangers that would arise in the ERA passage would far outnumber those that would be able to be taken care of by local legislation to handle any of our problems.

RANDALL MAYNER - Former legislative aide to Senator Howard Cannon, a FBI agent, Deputy District Attorney, and I am an Attorney by profession. I am definitely against inequality and inequities - But I am in favor of laws that give protection. I am against ERA - but I am not against women. I am in favor of protecting our people regardless of sex, religion, work, etc. The danger in this amendment in the inequities that might be felt.

MAHLON EDWARDS - I do not oppose the philosophy of equal rights - I do oppose the wording of the amendment. Spoke of a modification of the amendment that was stricken and should have been included.

RENEE WALKER - wife, mother, grandmother, business woman. Being a woman has not hindered me in my profession. I feel men say if women want equal rights let them fend for themselves. We have let a few speak for the majority. The amendment would take away the legislation it has taken us two hundred years to get for the protection of women. I realize the inequities in the treatment of women - but I do not want our rights taken away from the state and put into Congress.

BRUCE COX - The ERA needs further modification before its passage. Referred to draft - I am attorney and a CPA. The proposed amendment needs standards in it. I do not like the wording. I'm afraid the interpretation would deprive women some of their rights. It would result in some families paying more taxes. Related taxation pressures on women if the ERA passed. I am against ERA and would urge you to continue on bill by bill.

DR. JUANITA WHITE - I am a member of an equal rights family. My father supported me on my education because he felt the women if often the members that supports the family. She gave an example of what her income did for them during World War II. I hope you support the ERA because the women need it.

GARTH WINKLER - The changes ERA passage would have on our society. We cannot legislate change in the family structure. In 1954 there were 750,000 divorces in the U.S. The ERA can be instrumental in changes in the family so a person can develop in what he or she wants to be. The ERA passage for our country has many positive benefits.

ANN LYNCH - I am a mother - but most of all an individual. This is not a moral, religious or sexual issue - it's an issue of belonging to a Democratic society. It is an individual right and individual freedom to fail or succeed. This cannot be legislated. I want to be treated as an individual to succeed or fail. I want the freedom of choice for all women and today's children for their future.

ROSEMARY CLARK - Elected member of the state Board of Education, now serving as President. I am very involved in social causes and programs in the State of Nevada. I feel ERA is a progressive piece of legislation long overdue.

CHARLOTTE HILL - I serve on several state, regional and national boards. This gives me the opportunity to see many brilliant women, who are giving them of themselves and I think we should give them something - their equal rights. I urge you to vote the ERA so that sex will not determine equal rights of men and women.

DONNA SELNICK - Senior in high school. Emotion and hysteria is losing sight of the ERA. It will not change social custom - but will force equality under the law. I am in favor of its passage.

CARLA FORD - I feel I have benefited by political parents. I want to know that whatever choice I make for my life is mine. I want the ERA.

AMY WEINSTEIN - Senior Valley High School - Without the ERA my high goals I have set for myself will just be dreams. Please vote in favor.

MAURICE RICHMOND - World War I veteran and civilian employee for the Navy In Pearl Harbor. I have seen women exploited for years and years and it's too long. We in Nevada owe much to our women. Do you think if you deny them this right they will help to reelect you??? Think about it!

JANET SMITH - Past state president of Association of Women. This ERA will usurp our state laws. It is said this will give women their rights. We already have agencies to protect women's rights. The state's rights concept protects private interests not people. State's right is an ideal propaganda phrase. It is a myth in this campaign.

CLARE KEEFNER - A member of the Las Vegas Women in Radio and TV. On the Board of the Voluntary Action Center - Own business. Represents many businesses at Chamber of Commerce. Speaking for Henderson Toast-mistress Club. We voted to favor Nevada's ratification of this amendment.

DOROTHY JACKSONS - Secretary of the active Republican Women's Club - also member of the Clark County Women's Cmte and registrar of voters. Women of Nevada should investigate what these women's groups are doing. We are sending a resolution to the Senate that we have endorsed the ERA. This is not a consensus of every Nevada woman.

ADELINE BARTLETT - I want to say that both the Democratic and Republican Party's putting pressure on you members of the committee is pretty raw. You have the right to make up your own minds without favors of those who worked to elect you. There are many ramifications to this law. It was sneaked through Congress without women even knowing what it meant. We are not stupid-we have been uneducated on this.

DEBORAH NESS - Senior in College. Some have criticized the emotions of the speakers. I feel when the liberties and the rights of the women of this country are threatened - there should be emotion. I ask you to examine what equality really is when it comes to women. She spoke of the harms draft will do to women.

SAMUEL DAVIS - I feel ERA is a social drug and cannot be tested. It should be banned for the effects it will have on the family. Forcing mothers to go to work to pay for her family's livelihood. We must do all we can to keep mothers at home and ERA won't help. Vote No. I favor equivalent rights and responsibilities.

LOIS DARLING - Symposiums on ERA have been held all over the United States and lobbyists for this pay big money to be in the halls for or against. Spoke on state taxes supporting this. President's budget on the Status of Women is \$80,000. Unfair way our tax dollars is being used. The STOP national ERA office is privately funded to stop this movement

JACK FURCELL - I am in opposition to the ERA. Our objection is to have equality of rights and that's why we are here. I am an attorney, active in practice here for 25 years. This amendment would only open the door to the interpretation of the law in family rights. And, we don't need this. Spoke of women being thrust into the business world due to the death of her husband and what the ERA would do. Spoke of women in Wars.

JEANETTE CLARK - I am opposed to the ERA because it is too broad and very vague. A tremendous number of Nevada laws could be effected with passage of this amendment. It will work to the disadvantage of both men and women.

ROGER HUNT - Attorney - The bill attempts to say many things and says nothing. No one disputes the equality of individuals. Many issues have been discussed - not the goals. We are not dealing with a statute we are dealing here with a Constitutional amendment. Everyone wants equality of rights but with the right method. We have the power to correct the constitution, but not by the federal government.

ALBERT EDWARDS - I speak against the amendment because it will not give equality. It provides a framework for the federal government. The people of Nevada would give up power they now have and which we control to a national government which we cannot control.

MARLENE MOODY - I speak for the amendment. Everyone agrees that minorities should have equal opportunities - but when it comes time to do something about it all prejudices urge us to delay. Everyone holds prejudices and what constitutes equality - but views are not the same. I urge you to ratify ERA.

JANET BUDNIS - I support the ERA. Fears forcing women out of the home and into the business world. Spoke on custody of children in divorce cases and what effect ERA would have.

SANDY DURGEN - I am in favor of ERA. Spoke of a personal experience. Bachelor's and law degree. I was not allowed to apply for a job in a local law enforcement agency. A woman had to serve time as a file clerk or secretary before she was able to get the position. That is discrimination. Please vote in favor of ERA.

TED HENDERSON - I favor ERA. It is the only way we can effectively eliminate the criminal neglect of the females of this state and this nation. My wife and I were both interviewed for one job and in the same capacity and she was offered \$100 less than I. That is unfair.

NANCY MOORE - I favor the ERA for equal pay and equal opportunity. I urge your vote for this amendment.

CAROLYN REED - I am working with dissocialized and deprived people. There is discrimination in the job market. This is really no different than the Civil Rights Act. We are leaving our young people with many problems. We could leave them with a legacy of the equal rights of all for tomorrow.

HELEN JESTRUP - Teacher at Variety School for the Physically Handicapped Children. One of my daughters is in the military service stationed in Washington, D.C. at the Pentagon. Made remarks about women going into combat. Legislators should do what is right and just - not act by the measure of mail they receive. Please vote in favor.

MARY ROBERTS - I am for ERA. I want to speak on RIGHTS for men and women. The only thing we have to leave to the women is bearing a child.

MYRNA WILLIAMS - I have been involved in Social Services for the past ten years and the past six years in an educational and professional basis. I am also a law enforcement officer. It has been 55 years since women have had a law passed dealing with them (Woman's Suffrage).

DIANA CRITES - Southern Nevada Home Economist - The ERA will benefit families greatly. We need equal opportunity. Passage of the ERA will not undermine homemakers. Spoke of widows from middle class families.

KAREN SCIANNA - I speak today on behalf of the Women's Democratic Club of Clark County, a group of over 300 members. We feel that the ratification of the amendment is a top priority issue. Read a letter on behalf of Lloyd Catts in favor of the amendment.

JESS ROBINSON - I am in favor of any equal rights for all women. If there is false legislation in this state I urge you to end it.

REV. RICHARD HICKLEY - He spoke on a religious basis. Spoke of problems in our country and referred to the New Testament. We are asking the legislature to do something against God's Law. I believe we are asking for trouble. Once we pass this it cannot be retracted.

SYLVIA SPIEL - I am opposed to ERA. Names organizations that are against ERA.

JOE BOWLER - Member of Clark County Classroom Teachers. The ERA is ill advised and destructive. ERA is the wrong approach. I feel state legislation could do more.

JUDY RALESBERG - I am opposed to the amendment. ERA will bring social disruption. Read views of various people.

GENEVIEVE SMITH - Spoke of the emotions of people on the issue. Please vote no on the ERA.

LEWIS CASEY - Secondary teacher of mathematics and physics. Spoke on discrimination of people as to sex. If passed it would take away state legislative power. People are trying to increase the power of the federal government and take it away from the states.

MRS. ANDREW MITCHELL - I am against the ERA. We have trust in you that you can stand on the termination of these hearings. There's nothing the ERA can do for us that can't be done now - including wages.

MARGE GRAY - Equal rights does not exist for women - regardless of the passage of the Civil Rights Act. We ask that our talents and skills be judged on their own merits.

JIM HAYES - Mr. Tom Blankenship, president of the Las Vegas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, has asked me to represent him and the Chapter. Overwhelmingly voted to support ERA.

HARRIET COPELAND - It takes two pay checks to care for a household. The women did go out and work. I'm proud of the fact that I raised my daughter and she is a freshman at UNLV on my culinary income. I think church & law should be separated.

THOMAS DICK - Minister - I urge your vote for the ERA. The women are asking for their rights and it is long overdue. All faiths favor ERA. Never before in history did one amendment have as much support from many religious body's as we do today. Clark County Association is in favor of it.

LADONNA FORD - A housewife does not retire she dies. If liberation without legislation were possible our founding fathers would have been buried in England. Please give women equal rights.

HARDY CANNON - President of Soroptomists of Henderson. The ratification is necessary. The equality of women must be clarified. How could anyone say that this amendment is undesirable - it is so desirable.

MARGARET ANN KAY - Freshman at Eldorado High School. We want you to realize that your future is in your hand. It will give every women an equal chance. Support the ERA.

ANNETTE BREMNER - UNLV Woman's Caucus. Only two women out of 44 professors at UNLV.-of 88 associate professors only 10 are female, etc. Urge your vote for the amendment.

Sky CAMPBELL - 17-year-old. This amendment will be helpful to me. In my younger years I say my mother hold down two and three jobs to support us. Give me a chance to have the same opportunities as my brother. Clark High School Government poll 107 out of 115 were for it.

FRANK DAUGHERTY - Labor Relations Consultant - I support ERA. 38,000,000 women working in America today. They have protective labor laws and men nothing.

JIMMIE WARREN - Wife and mother and supporter of the ERA. The State of Nevada will lose one right and that is the right to discriminate. Is this so precious a right? I urge ratification of the ERA.

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Carol McCormick - President of the Las Vegas Branch of American Association of University Women said there are 200 women full or part homemakers. Their goal is to continue their intellectual growth to inherit the advancement of women. She explained the discrimination of women seeking their doctoral or post doctoral research in medical and legal fields. We support the ratification of ERA to give women a meaningful lifestyle, utilize talents in the best way possible. It is time for equality of men and women to be the law of the land.

Lavonne Lewis - Spoke as the ERA movement akin to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It will give equality to all colors and all religions throughout the country. She spoke of the earnings of men and women both black and white in the state of Nevada. Those who oppose the ERA movement are not believing the concept of equality. No piece of legislation could do more than this amendment to erase sex discrimination.

Maury Peer - Wife, mother, grandmother and nurse. Served three years in the European Theatre during World War II. She spoke on attitudes and referred to a letter in the Las Vegas paper from a veteran of World War II. She spoke of thousands of nurses that served in the war just as men fought. They didn't have to be drafted they volunteered. We need ERA for our equal rights.

Diedre Cool - 17 year-old senior from Clark High School. I cannot believe why people cannot support the ERA. I am a woman first. I cannot understand why I am deprived of my equal rights because of being a woman. She spoke on custody of children to mothers, draft for women only less than one half would ever be drafted. They would not go into combat. I find it annoying that the church should be brought into this. I attended the 1974 Girls State from high school and during our mock legislature we passed the ERA. Girls Nation also supported it. Our country is approaching its 200th birthday and women are still fighting for their rights - we cannot have this any longer. I urge your support.

Ruby Duncan - I feel that ERA should pass. I have a grievance in the system because I am in the role of a right to survive as a black woman. She spoke on child care stating that a woman has a right to stay home with her children or a right to work. I am a representative of the National Welfare Rights organization and a local representative. Support the ERA so we poor women can stay home and raise children - or if they wish to go out and earn enough money to raise them properly.

Tom Rice of 3833 Remont Drive, Las Vegas - I urge passage of the ERA not on emotional issues. You have heard emotional arguments, but I urge you to pass this on a legal basis of equality.

Florence Poisner, North Las Vegas - I am speaking for myself and my husband. I do not belong to any liberated organization. My husband feels that women have the right to do anything she wishes to do. Fairness, equality, justice - freedom to do what they want and can.

I urge your support for the ERA amendment. She spoke on women in the draft and women who served in very low capacities during the war. Women who worked in the factories, as nurses and etc. during the war had their rights denied. They did then and do now need their equal rights.

Robin Morgan - President of Women's League of Nevada, referred to past testimony on ERA by Phyllis Schaffley of Illinois, who said that it is an untruth that Illinois past the ERA. She referred to the law in Illinois regarding sex discrimination, but not as the 14th amendment. She asked for support of ERA.

Tina Past - Sophmore Political Science at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She spoke on the depth of ERA, stating it's not a law it a ratification of an amendment of the United States Constitution. State legislators must stand clear of pressures such as those that are here today. She spoke of the division of church and state. The 14th amendment states "God given rights" to all. Women as a whole need this amendment I refused to be considered as a second class citizen. I want to be in the ranks of the first class citizen.

Steve Frank - Vice-President Board of Directors, speaking on behalf of the Family Counseling Services of Clark County a United Way Agency. He said experienced has taught us that passage of this is important to families. He elaborated on preservation of the family. Existing laws put parties in adversary positions. Hopes of saving a family are greatly diminished.

Bill Bagley - Spoke on the absurdities in logic. The pro ERA side has said here how they have made it in the professional world. Referred to comments of past speakers and urged a no vote for the ratification of the amendment.

Mrs. Olive Casey - No purpose will be served in passing the ERA. She referred to a poll where the majority of women were not for ERA. She spoke of status and rights women already have and said should the ERA be adopted the federal government would be able to override state laws. I urge the state legislature to vote against ERA.

Geraldine Stocker - Southern Nevada Chairman of Stop ERA. She spoke on the growing problems in the country and stated that ERA is a signed blank check. The proponents say problems will not occur and that is false. I am a strong state's righter and problems can be taken care of at home and not federally. I want equal rights for everyone, but we have to scrutinize this amendment thoroughly. It will upset the our social structure.

Kathy Martin - I am a high school senior. I'm speaking on behalf of the teenagers and we feel the ERA will benefit women in our society. I hope you pass the ERA. We are the generation that will have to iron out the problems if there are any with it. On behalf of all of us I urge you to pass this.

Anita DeMille - Women would be asked to provide equal support for her children. Mother of 6 children with no major problems. attribute this to husband supporting family and my rearing my children. Spoke mainly on a mother being needed in the home to raise her children. Please vote no.

Alta Beard - mother, wife , grandmother and has own business. 50% Russian labor force made up of women and most of them at hard labor in industry. with supervisory positions held by the men. Spoke on industrial armies in Agriculture being 90% made up of women. That is Russian full equality of sexes. We don't need that. Vote no.

Elaine Jewell - The family structure is being threatened. It is time for the church to act as far as rearing children in a Christian life. Children given to father in some states in a custody because he is a bread winner. That is not fair. If ERA passes the woman working in the casino will be asked to carry 50 lbs of coins to the basement. This is impossible. What's to prevent the boss from firing her if she refuses. If ERA passes we will be UNISEX persons. Vote NO.

Mrs. Owen Ossey - speaking for husband. I appreciate tight to speak. I was denied two years ago. I do want women to have their rights but not this ERA . Let's have equal rights now through the Nevada State Legislature not through the ERA movement. I did not vote for forced bussing or other issues. Do not let courts decide our private rights. Vote no.

Genevieve Lewis - Recapped religious issue from previous testimony saying that she was a Catholic. I am not a pawn of the federal government - I am a woman and will not be exploited. Related worry of draft, interpretation of Supreme Court of the amendment, etc. Please do not sell the birth-right of my 13 year old daughter at home. Vote No.

Marion Duffin - Maybe there will be things in the future that we don't want and if they pass this. Why can't we pass legislation ourselves to help us why do we need this federal legislation when we won't be able to do anything about it? There are too many questions unanswered about this amendment. We don't need it. Vote no.

David Nixon - Spoke on the diversity of rights of women. I don't want the determination of these rights to go to the federal government. Our cities have the right to govern themselves. We don't need federal legislation - we are not going to give away our rights. There are apparent dangers in the future with this action. Vote no.

Barbara Wakely - Mother of seven children and I'm proud my husband is the boss of our home. Spoke of keeping church and state separate. But referred to the nation's founding fathers. Suggest out state legislators ask help from someone other than themselves.

Helen Leplant - A veteran of three years military service in New Guinea and the Philippines. ERA means drafting women in the military service and this is nonsense. We have to think of the traditions of our country. She spoke on the needs for women

in every aspect in the armed forces.

William Gould - 16 years old, junior at Clark High School. There are all sort of laws to protect women on jobs but not men. Such as lunch breaks, 10 minute breaks, etc. Referred to the Civil Rights Act for the equality of groups pertaining to pay. Standards do have to be raised. The undecided legislators are worried whether or not the people wants it. Mentioned world problems such as economy, energy - and America can no longer move in the world with half power.

Mrs.

Bruce Donk - I've been working since I was 14 years old. We have to enforce laws. We have to protect the working women.

Glada Coke - Speaking for Shirley- Crumpler, Federation of Republican Women of Nevada - supports ratification of the ERA. Unanimous support.

Ted Quillen - Concerned with the country and its state of affairs. Mentioned resignation of President Richard Nixon and the thoughts of our people. Responsibility to guard our needs of men and WOMEN. We have to give every person the right for equal opportunity. I welcome every woman to have the same opportunity as men to advance to whatever heights they so desire.

Mildred Kaley - We have to have a certain amount of objectivity in making important decisions. We have to consider the timing - why should we go through these enormous costs of this again. The time is now. These objections I have heard are sometime ridiculous. The expressions are victorian. This is not a political movement is a human one. We need legislation and justice to all.

Loy McCrea - Seven children - 4 step-children all living with us. It is my right and my privilege to stay at home and raise at home and raise my children. I'm for ERA. For privilege for all to enjoy. Please ratify this amendment.

Judy Quillen - Pres. LV Chapter of Women in Radio and Television - My organization wished me to express their support for this amendment. The National Organization also wishes to express their support. There are 130 existing laws discriminating against men and women in this state. Freedoms of social and economic opportunities are needed now. Ratify ERA.

Mandy Pino - Homemaker and working mother. I am not president of anything. Many homemakers who do not work support ERA. Labor organizations have discriminated against women.

Laura Jean Miller - Henderson - Repetition today has been tiresome. I would want a soft job like some men and their higher pay. Homosexuality is acceptable now. Baby doesn't need the love he used to have. Open season on males with a nonrestricted ERA.

Denise Cody - Newlywed of four months. Referred to a Review Journal article. Referred to Government in Russian ruling everything. The bill can be twisted to anything you want it to.

Deborah Peoples - A domestic engineer and I'm very proud. In the amendment I see no where where it says I have the right to stay at home or I have the right to work. Do not feel two years is not long enough for protecting laws to protect us. Asked legislators for a right decision and we would support you.

Don Roundy: I feel very strongly against the ERA as it is presently worded. In its present irresponsible, non retentitive form we will lose many desirable laws we now enjoy and inherit many undesirable ones. Please do not ratify the ERA amendment as it is presently worded.

Douglas Johannsen - I am against the ERA amendment as it now stands. Spoke of rights that should be guaranteed not federally legislated. Spoke on portions of the amendment. Please do not ratify this amendment you will lose the confidence of the voters and myself.

Sharon Sorenson - My main objection to the ERA is that the federal government seems to be nibbling away more and more at our rights. (State's) Over 115 state laws will have to be changed to comply taking out all the benefits we have changed. Please don't pass this law.

Melva McGowan - Sole owner of a business. I am not a second class citizen. I have taken my freedom as a matter of fact. There are too many open ends that I do not support. I am not asking you to vote against equal rights - I'm asking you to vote against this amendment. Please Vote No.

Melvin Smith - Father of seven children - Member of the John Birch Society which exposes such things as this. I believe in less government control and more individual responsibility. I do not want Congress to legislate our personal life. The ERA will take away some of the rights women now enjoy.

Jean Cornwall - Housewife, mother of 4 children. I am opposed to the ERA. I am proud of being a mother and a woman and for having a husband who will support us so I can raise our children. I am worried about when my young daughters are grown. Please Vote No for ERA the way it stands now.

Mrs. Arthur Tesch - Mother of 6 children. I don't feel I want to sit back and let people who belong in Russia - take over America. living here in America trying to be patriots. I will not stand for it and my rights taken away as a wife and a mother. We are supposed to take the stupid pill that is not good for us. Referred to boys lost in Vietnam. Rights taken away from us will destroy us. Following very heated remarks she asked for No vote.
SENATOR CLOSE ASKED THAT REMARKS NOT BE REDUNDANT.

Lola Barton - I love this country and I'm proud of it. I love Nevada and I'm proud of it. As I traveled the East I felt a proudness and this country means something to me. This amendment is not good for us and I ask that you vote against this amendment.

Claudia Ryland - Equality of rights by the law have been denied me by the United States and by other states on account of sex. I am an American citizen. If you see contradiction in these two facts than I submit that you must support the ERA.

Patricia Vanbetten - Charles Levinson, President of the Consumers League of Nevada was not able to return and he asked that I speak as a member of the board to say that the board unanimously voted to support the ratification of the ERA. If I am to be a first class citizen in this country I have the right to be treated like an individual. She rebutted the statement that the Catholic Church in America supported the ERA. She said they did not.

Beth Farrell - I represent me and not an organization. I support the ratification of the ERA. Sole proprietor of a business in Las Vegas. Because we have lived or rather moved 20 times in 15 years I ask that I want to have equal protection in whatever state I live in. The only solution in this mobile society is the ERA.

I want my children to advance on their own abilities and not on their sex. My- daughters would be more of women than less. Please support the ERA.

Carolyn Snow - I am in my chosen profession of law enforcement in security. I believe I am the only women Deputy U.S. Marshall for border patrol agent. She related her background and many testings with various police departments in the Las Vegas area, and said there is now an investigation underway by the U.S. Department of Justice on discrimination against her in these areas. She wanted a Yes vote.

Sam Ford - I am in support of the ERA. I have two daughters and one testified here today. It's important that each child has an opportunity to develop to her fullest capacity. Maintaining the family unit is important, but to limit these women to a steno pool is not a free choice the ERA will help strengthen their choice. I hope that you support this.

Terry Harkins - I cannot help think but that passage of the ERA would strengthen a marriage. I have been in the journalism profession in Pennsylvania, and I have been discriminated against due to the fact that men in the same job received more money. I hope that you will vote for this amendment.

Sandy Petta - In the interest of brevity I'm just going to say that I am for the ERA. I hope you will consider the arguments for it.

Carol Cunningham - ERA would reduce the crime of rape to a misdemeanor is not true. Rape is listed as the number one crime by the FBI. I urge you to vote yes for the ERA to insure both equality for men and women.

Harold Cunningham - Employed husband and father and I am very much concerned that there are men and women in our state that are very opposed to ERA. Related past fights for women such as the right to vote. This is a state's rights problem. Please ratify this amendment.

Brenda Bowles - Relating to past speakers she said that women stated that they either have or have not the right to work. I want to know is this is passed if my rights will be taken away. I do not feel that this is right. I have not heard specifically what good this will do for us. I am for education and for equal opportunities and everyone should have the right to do as they pleased. Everyone has the opportunity to go out and work if they so desire.

John Updike - I do not feel that ERA is necessary. We all have our equal rights now. Referred to Supreme Court meanings. There are equal rights under the law now. I have not heard many specific new rights mentioned that we do not have now. Spoke of the difference of male and female physical makeup when it comes to a women doing a man's job. I oppose the passage of the ERA.

Mrs. Updike - As a member of a large family with little money I had very little opportunities as a child. However, I was graduated from high school and worked as a secretary, and saw repeated female discrimination. Spoke on abortions in hospitals in California, and what psychologically it did to the victims. Creation of men and women is equal and no amount of legislation can change that.

Laura Kelly - We do not know the intent of the Congress. Spoke of the majority and minority report and the way the Supreme Court Justices make and base their decisions. Women have never positively been confirmed exactly what there equal rights are. I urge a do Pass.

Cynthia Cunningham - Resident of Senator Close's District. After hearing all of the testimony one feels that she has to stand here and defend her rights after hearing what some people have said. Spoke of how ERA is funded in Nevada. Requested that those who have not read the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights do so.

Florence McClure - Wife, Mother and grandmother - community active. Thirty years of experience in the business world. This is not a state's rights thing this is a part of a law that has to be passed uniformly. This is human rights history. People are fearing our government. I ask them to read the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence. I ask for ratification so all people can live in a free governmental society.

William J. Moody - Social worker-For the ERA. Leaving women in a legally inferior position will give them a false sense of security. Spoke on the individual rights of every person to choose as he or she pleases. Elaborated on the homemaker who does not want to go out and work. Related facts from a Child Abuse Conference. Said half of the women under 65 years of age are employed outside the home.

George Zalkin - Physician with most of his life in the military service. Having spent most of my life in the military service I feel qualified to speak on Women in the Military. Congress has the power to reinstate the draft now. It can enact all laws drafting single men, married men or fathers, if necessary. They have the authority now to draft women if circumstances are necessary. Referred to women in England in military during WW II. Related how and in what positions women could serve.

Candice Kerns - Degree in History from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Wife and mother - Spoke on the admission of men and women's standards in entrance in the Universities. Standards for women are higher than for men. The ERA would correct this. Women have not been hired for good positions because they are women. Spoke on Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act. The amendment would bring a uniformity in laws. The family structure would not be harmed but strengthened. I urge your support for the ERA.

Patricia Kulkulski - We've heard much about our forefathers and I want to talk about our foremothers of our country. The women in my family were proud to serve in the problems in the settling this country. I ask you to consider the ERA amendment and let the women before you help you to solve any problem that may arise.

Harriet Zulkan - Women in the military service information left with the Committee. She reverted her statements to rebutt those of past speakers. Do not waste your talents to that only of wife and mother. Your daughters will not accept this in the future. Do not continue the second class citizen women are under.

Walter Morgan - Physicist at the Nevada Test Site - Summarizing what has been said here is that women do not have equal LEGAL rights. Related thoughts of his children especially his daughter, who would prefer to be a housewife than go to college. He will allow her to make her choice just as everyone women should have that same right. I Urge the support of the ERA.


Artes Kerns - I kept hearing today the inequities that exist and I regret this. The youth today are looking for the leadership for the future and I am sure the way the ERA vote develops will determine their leadership. It would take the change of 41 bills to erase these inequities. This one bill would take care of all of that. I urge your consideration Mr. Chairman for us and our daughters who will live by this.

Eilene O'Neil - Former President of the North Las Vegas Democratic Club. I am not authorized to speak for the organization and I am speaking for myself. I would appreciate an affirmative vote on the ERA.

John Orenshall - I request Nevada ratification of the ERA. Spoke on two laws which guarantees equal rights.

The meeting was adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


CHERI KINSLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED BY:

SENATOR MELVIN CLOSE, CHAIRMAN