S0437 Missouri Equal Rights Amendment Coalition, (1969-1982) Records, 1973-1982 113 Folders

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The records of the Missouri ERA Coalition were donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri-St. Louis by Coalition members Jean Berg and Margo Gavin.

In 1969, the Missouri ERA Coalition was founded as an umbrella group to coordinate the efforts of organizations supporting the ERA. These groups included the League of Women Voters, the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Missouri Chapter of the Women's Political Caucus, the National Organization for Women, and the St. Louis Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The Coalition focused its efforts on lobbying in Jefferson City. The steering committee appointed statewide and regional coordinators to lobby and carry out the functions of the coalition as established by the executive and steering committees and to coordinate the lobbying plans of other organizations. The Coalition organized rallies in Jefferson City, wrote letters to legislators, helped in the formation of outstate coalitions, and sought endorsements from other organizations.

In 1973, Governor Bond, a strong supporter of the ERA, helped launch a ratification campaign. A House sub-committee headed by DeVerne Calloway held public hearings on sex discrimination in eight Missouri counties. The Senate Judiciary Committee in 1973 voted not to send the amendment to the Senate floor. Due to efforts of the Missouri ERA Coalition and Governor Bond, however, the Missouri House of Representatives passed the ERA in 1975. The amendment was defeated again in the Senate that year and suffered defeat each time it came up for a vote for the next nine years.

The Coalition monitored individual legislators and began organizing in those districts whose senators voted against ERA. In 1975 the Coalition formed the Missouri Citizens for Constitutional Democracy, a political action committee. The MCCD provided financial support to pro-ERA candidates for the Missouri state legislature, especially those in five districts with anti-ERA senators.

In 1976 the Coalition focused its attention primarily on fundraising activities such as "Give A Day's Pay For The ERA," wine and cheese parties, and dinner parties. One fundraising event featured actor Alan Alda. The Coalition also established "Shadow Senators" in every district to monitor the elections of the Missouri Senate.

The Coalition began developing grass roots support across the state in 1977, and for the first time it initiated a membership fee to help raise money for its activities. The Coalition enlisted

the support of business and labor groups such as the Temasters Joint Council 13, the Communications Workers of America, the UAW, and the Missouri State Labor Council. These groups helped with fundraising and lobbying in Jefferson City, as well as organizing and educating their own rank and file members about ERA.

Lobbying activities included house parties, letter writing and persuasion campaigns, local fundraisers, phone banks, and canvassing. The "Show Me Equality Caravan," modeled after a successful campaign in Indiana, toured every county in Missouri, held public meetings, and provided educational materials and assistance to out-state coalitions. The phone banks increased membership, kept existing members active and rallied support of individuals and organizations. Despite such efforts, the Senate voted against the amendment by a 22 to 12 margin in 1977.

In 1978, the Missouri ERA Coalition worked with the United Labor Policy Committee, comprised of affiliates from the AFL-CIO, UAW, and the Teamsters, to develop a joint strategy for the next legislative session. It also joined the Coalition of Labor Union Women in November 1978 as co-sponsor of an "Anti-`Right To Work'- ERA Rally" prior to the defeat of the proposed "Right To Work" referendum to the Missouri Constitution.

Former Women's Political Caucus lobbyist, Pam Rich, became the Coalition's Jefferson City lobbyist in 1979. She concentrated on those legislators who might be persuaded to change their "no" votes. Coalitions such as the League of Women Voters, and the Missouri Women's Political Caucus began to gather lists of people who might influence legislators to vote for the ERA. Also in 1979, the Teamster Joint Council 13 offered the Coalition free office space at the Teamster Council Plaza.

The 1980 election provided the last opportunity for electoral changes in the Missouri legislature before the 1982 deadline for ERA ratification. The Coalition failed in its efforts to remove incumbents who voted against the ERA in the Missouri Senate. In 1980 sponsors of the ERA struck the amendment from the senate calendar because there were not enough supporters in the legislature.

In 1982, the Senate Constitutional Amendments Committee failed to achieve the majority vote needed to pass a ratification resolution, thus prohibiting the amendment from ever getting to the senate floor for debate. Harriett Woods, the only woman in the Missouri Senate, said to the committee, "a body dominated by men should not deny a vote on this issue, which is so significant to both men and women." The Coalition disbanded in June 1982 when the time limit for ratification was not extended. The amendment was never ratified in Missouri and fell three states shy of the necessary thirty eight to become an amendment to the United States Constitution.

Presidents of the Missouri ERA Coalition included Barbara Harrison (1973-1974); Rosemary Smithson (1975-1976); Doris Quinn (1977-1978); Mary Ann Sedey (1978-1979); and Mary Lou Anderson (1979-1982).

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Missouri ERA Coalition Records, 1972-1982, document the Coalition's efforts to get the

ERA ratified in the Missouri Senate. The collection contains budgets, bylaws, campaign strategies, correspondence, funding requests, local fundraising material, meeting minutes, literature from workshops and rallies, conference notices, newsletters, newsclippings, and papers.

The bulk of the collection documents the Coalition's development of grass roots support from 1977-1982, in particular, canvassing activities (caravan, phone bank and house party kits, letter writing and lobbying instructions). The collection also includes political profiles of Missouri Senators opposed to the ERA, public opinion polls on the amendment and House and Senate voting records. The records also reflect the efforts of the UAW, the Teamster Joint Council 13, the Missouri State Labor Council in assisting the work of the Coalition and the Coalition's contribution to defeat the state-wide "Right To Work" amendment.

There are two folders containing testimony on the statewide sex-discrimination hearings.

The collection is divided into eight series: (1) Administration, 1973-1981; (2) Finances and Fundraising, 1974-1981; (3) Activities, 1972-1982; (4) Support Groups, 1972-1982; (5) Media, Papers, Publications, Speeches, 1972-1982; (6) Artifacts, 1972-1982; (7) Photographs, 1976-1981; (8) Audiovisual Material.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE, 1973-1981, FOLDER 1-22

Divided in two subseries: 1) Bylaws, Committee Minutes, and Membership Lists, 1973-1982, folders 1-12; 2) Correspondence, 1976-1981, folders 13-22. Arranged chronologically. Principal correspondents include Doris Quinn, Coalition President (1977-1978); Mary Ann Sedey, Coalition President (1978-1979); Mary Lou Anderson, Coalition President (1979-1982), Ann Boyce, St. Louis Coordinator (1979-1980); Diane Delevette, Statewide Coordinator (1978-1979).

SERIES 2 - FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING, 1974-1981, FOLDERS 23-40

Divided into three subseries: 1) Administrative Finances, 1974-1981, folders 23-26. Contains budgets, treasurer's reports, Coalition's tax status, requests for funding, prospectus and proposals for funding, correspondence. Arranged alphabetically; 2) Membership Drive, 1976-1981, folders 27-29. Form letters to organizations and individuals, contributions, membership dues, volunteer phone bank instructions. Arranged alphabetically; 3) Fundraising Events, 1974-1981, folders 32-40. Flyers, programs, newsclippings, press releases, itineraries, memos, fundraising guidelines, and correspondence. Arranged chronologically.

SERIES 3 - ACTIVITIES, 1972-1982, FOLDERS 41-69

Divided into 4 subseries, arranged alphabetically within each series. 1) Publicity Strategies, 1976-1979, folders 41-42. Contains proposals for campaign strategies to ratify ERA and requests for proposals; 2) Canvassing, 1976-1980, folders 43-49. Contains caravan, house party, and phone bank and instructions, correspondence, flyers, petitions, and public opinion polls (statewide and senate districts 1 and 8); 3) Legislative, 1972-1981, folders 50-65. Contains Adult Abuse Remedies Bill, memos, newsclippings, newsletters, statements,

extension of deadline correspondence, Missouri House hearings on ERA, and 1973 sex discrimination hearings testimony and correspondence, Missouri Legislature voting results, Missouri Senate profiles, correspondence from Pam Rich, lobbyist in Jefferson City; 4) Conferences, Rallies, Visits, 1978-1981, folders 66-69. Contains People of Color Conference, and Women of Color Conference flyers, programs, newsclippings, list of participants; miscellaneous flyers on rallies and workshops and planning meetings; Judy Carter visit, press releases, programs, itinerary, newsclippings.

SERIES 4 - SUPPORT GROUPS, 1972-1982, FOLDERS 70-92

Contains flyers, newsclippings, memos, correspondence, newsletters, and canvassing materials, of groups involved in the Coalition, and groups endorsing the ERA, such as the St. Louis Men's Project and various women's groups including the UMSL Women's Center and the New Woman's Workshop. Contains Attorney General Ashcroft's suit against the National Organization For Women (NOW), for boycotting unratified states.

SERIES 5 - MEDIA, PAPERS, PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, 1972-1982

FOLDERS 93-111

Divided into five subseries: 1) Media, 1972-1982, folders 93-100. Contains editorials for radio and tv, correspondence, an ERA media campaign packet, the campaign against KMOX Radio correspondence, and anti-ERA broadcasts, newsclippings from the Post Dispatch, Globe-Democrat and statewide papers covering the years of the coalition's existence; 2) Papers, 1974-1979, folders 101-104. Contains essays about ERA, Phyllis Schafly, and the Women's Movement in the United States; the position papers of the coalition; and the publications, papers, and correspondence of the University of Missouri-Columbia Professor of Law, Joan M. Krauskopf; 3) Publications, 1974-1982, folders 105-110. Contains anti-ERA literature and correspondence; the Missouri ERA Coalition Handbook; the Coalition's newsletters from 1984 to 1982; the St. Louis Coalition's Newsletter and miscellaneous newsletters from 1977-1979; 4) Speeches, n.d., folder 111. Contains the speech, "ERA In Perspective" by Mary Lou Anderson, president of the Coalition from 1979-1982. Arranged alphabetically according to subject.

SERIES 6 - ARTIFACTS, 1975-1982, FOLDER 112

Contains bumper stickers, buttons, decals, pennants, and posters of the Missouri ERA Coalition.

SERIES 7 - PHOTOGRAPHS, 1976-1981, 437.1-437.34

Contains photographs of Alan Alda's visit to St. Louis in 1976 for a fundraising dinner; Judy Carter's visit in 1978; the St. Charles Coalition at a rally in Jefferson City in 1978; and author Jane O'Reilly, who was part of a fundraiser in St. Louis in 1981. Arranged chronologically.

SERIES 8 - FILMSTRIP AND TAPE; SLIDES, 1977, 8298-8335

Contains "What's All This About An ERA?" The filmstrip (V-46) and tape included in the House Party Kit, also contains slides for House Party Presentations.

FOLDER LIST

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- 2. Bylaws, Sept. 1973 June 1976
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- 4. Lists of Coalition Groups, Sept. 1973 Sept. 1981
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- 10. Steering Committee Minutes and Agendas, Oct. 1974 May 1977
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- 14. Ann Boyce, St. Louis Coordinator, Aug. 1979 Jul. 1980
- 15. Diane Delevette, State-Wide Coordinator, Jun. 1978 -Nov. 1979
- 16. General Correspondence, 1974-1981
- 17. Out-State Coalitions (from), Sept. 1977 Mar. 1979
- 18. Out-State Coalitions (to), Oct. 1977
- 19. Doris Quinn (to) Jan. 1977 July 1978
- 20. Mary Ann Sedey (to), Mar. 1976 Apr. 1981
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- 22. Student Intern Requests, School Contacts, Apr. 21, 1979 May 1980

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