



DEMOCRATIC TASK FORCE

National Women's Political Caucus
1921 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
202 785-2911

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S AGENDA '76

Democratic National Committee Women's Caucus
S-321 Griggs Midway Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
612 646-4004

Dear Delegate/Alternate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention:

Here's your pre-convention report from the Women's Caucus. A previous letter went only to women delegates -- this letter is being sent to all delegates to inform you about Women's Caucus plans for the Convention and invite you to join with us.

We hope to greet you at a reception honoring women delegates to be held from 5 to 8 p.m., Sunday, July 11 at the Metropolitan Opera House in Lincoln Center. All delegates and friends are invited to this gala event in one of New York's most magnificent settings. Your invitation is in the mail now. You can help us plan better by sending back your reservation card. However, tickets will be available at the door.

Prior to the reception, we will hold a women's caucus, 3 p.m., Sunday July 11 at the Statler Hilton Hotel, 33rd Street and 7th Avenue, across the street from Madison Square Garden. For those of you who can't be there, another caucus will be held 10 a.m., Monday, July 12 also at the Statler Hilton. The room number will be posted in the lobby. Please plan to join us for a full discussion of plans and priorities for convention week.

During the convention, drop in to see us at the Women's Caucus hospitality suite, Room 313A in the Statler Hilton. Our phone at the Statler will be 212/397-0140. We will also coordinate Women's Political News Service to provide the press with news and information about women delegates at the Convention. For this we need the help of the women delegates. Charlotte Klein, the professional publicist who will head up the news bureau, says we will be much more effective in telling the women's story if we have information about you. So please, women delegates, send us your biography and a black and white glossy photograph as soon as possible. The Press Service is for women delegates, so please feel free to come in, Room 317A, Statler Hilton. Phone: 212/397-0144.

We'd like to bring you up to date on the status of women's issues in the Platform and Rules Committee reports. We substantially achieved our platform objective: almost all points outlined in the Democratic Women's Agenda are included in the platform. Through strenuous efforts by the Women's Caucus and other groups, opposition to a Constitutional Amendment banning abortion is in the platform. Women's concerns are addressed throughout the platform. We have summarized this material for you on the enclosed sheet.

Many of you know that the Women's Caucus effort to assure women equal representation at the 1980 convention was defeated by the Rules Committee which voted instead for a substitute resolution introduced by Gov. Averell Harriman. The Women's Caucus resolution reads: "It is hereby resolved that, consistent with the traditions of the Democratic Party, the Call to future National Conventions shall require equal division between delegate men and delegate women from each state or territory and that where the number of delegates is not even, the variance between the delegate men and delegate women may not be greater than one." (Emphasis not in original.) The resolution

was based on Article 10, Section 7 of the Charter, which specifically permits "equal division at any level of delegates...between delegate men and delegate women..." and relied on 50 years of precedent during which women gained equal representation on the DNC and all standing committees of the convention.

The Harriman resolution, which prevailed by a 66 1/4 to 46 1/2 vote, reads: "It is hereby resolved that, consistent with the traditions of the Democratic Party, the call to future national conventions shall promote equal division between delegate men and delegate women from each state or territory. The implementation of this goal shall rest with each state party." Clearly this resolution achieves nothing for women beyond what is already guaranteed in the charter. Many committee members strongly supported the Women's Caucus resolution, as witnessed by the number who voted for the stronger resolution.

A minority report has been filed with the Rules Committee. We hope we can count on your support for the minority report.

A Charter Amendment strengthening affirmative action was introduced by the Black Caucus and strongly supported by the Women's Caucus. The resolution, which passed unanimously, mandates the establishment of goals and timetables to increase the representation of underrepresented groups in the Party.

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention!

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Jeffrey
Mildred Jeffrey, Chair
Democratic Task Force, NWPC

Koryne Horbal
Koryne Horbal, Chair
Democratic Committeewomen's Caucus

Patt Derian
Patt Derian
Co-Chair, Democratic National
Committeewomen's Caucus

PS: Women delegates -- The response to our first letter has been excellent. If you haven't sent back your card, there's still time to do so.

CAPSULE INFORMATION ON WOMEN'S CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Women's Caucus Hospitality: Rm. 313A - Statler Hilton - 212/397-0140 (after July 10)

Women's Political News Service: Rm. 317A - Statler Hilton - 212/397-0144 (after July 10)

Sunday, July 11 3 p.m. Women's Caucus Statler Hilton Hotel

Sunday, July 11 5 to 8 p.m. Delegate reception Metropolitan Opera House
65th Street and Broadway

Monday, July 12 10 a.m. Women's Caucus Statler Hilton Hotel

REMINDER: Women delegates: Please send biography and Photograph to Charlotte Klein, 11th Floor, 300 East 44th Street, New York, New York 10017.