



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

Date: June, 1976

TO: Friends and supporters of the Democratic Task Force & Democratic Women's Agenda

FROM: Millie Jeffrey, Chair, Democratic Task Force
Koryne Horbal, Chair, Democratic Women's Agenda

This report is directed to women Convention delegates who have indicated an interest in working with the Task Force, NWPC leaders, labor groups and others who have supported Task Force projects and members of the Democratic Task Force. We want to bring you up to date on the status of women's issues in the Democratic Platform and Rules Committee reports and suggest ways in which you can help the Task Force realize its objectives.

Platform - We substantially achieved our platform goal: almost all points outlined in the Democratic Women's Agenda are included in the platform. However, only the strenuous efforts of the Women's Caucus, aided by other pro-choice groups, resulted in inclusion of opposition to a Constitutional Amendment banning abortion. The enclosed sheet summarizes language pertaining to women contained in the Platform.

Rules - 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." (Emphasis not in original.)

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. For an objective report on the committee meeting, see the enclosed New York Times article.

A minority report with 49 signatures has been filed with the Rules Committee by the maker of the motion, Committee member Jane Patterson of North Carolina. The filing of this report assures each side of ten minutes to present its views on the issue at the Convention. In order to develop the best plan for promoting the goal of equal representation, it is important that we carefully assess the sentiment of the delegates on this issue. We need your input and your help to do this. Please contact Joanne Howes, Pat Ballard or Fredi Wechsler at the Democratic Task Force, 1921 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, 202/785-2911 with your information.

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.

Women's Caucus at the Convention - We hope to see you at the convention. Here's where we'll be and when:

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

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

RECEPTION HONORING WOMEN DELEGATES-Sunday, July 11 5 to 8 p.m.
Metropolitan Opera House
Lincoln Center
65th Street and Broadway

Women's Caucus Meeting Sunday, July 11 3 p.m.
Statler Hilton - Room will be posted
Monday, July 12 10 a.m.
Statler Hilton - Room will be posted