

June 29, 1977

Dear NOW Members and Friends,

In the past few weeks, the women's/human rights movement has suffered severe setbacks on a national level: Supreme Court decisions against abortion funding and affirmative action, passage of the Hyde Amendment, and the rise to prominence of Anita Bryant and her witch-hunter allies. We in Indiana are now facing an immediate and extremely serious threat from the right wing, anti-rights groups who oppose everything we have fought for over the last 10 years: they have mounted a well organized, well-financed campaign to take over the July 16 Indiana International Womens' Year Meeting.

Many of us have been somewhat apathetic about the IWY proceedings, either because we assumed they would automatically result in pro-feminist proposals, or because we viewed the whole thing as too establishment oriented. Regardless of our individual orientations, we must now face the fact that the issue is not whether IWY will represent the radical or moderate views of the women's movement, but whether it will represent any views of the women's movement. Stop ERA, Pro-America, Eagle Forum, Right to Life, their allies and well-heeled financial backers have apparently been geared up for months with the single minded purpose of subverting the IWY Conference.

There is great danger that all the Indiana delegates to the National Conference will be right wing, anti-rights and that all the resolutions will reflect their views. Such an outcome will be disastrous in Indiana, as the IWY Committee has already arranged (a bit prematurely, we feel) to present the resolutions passed by the Indiana meeting to the Governor and the General Assembly. Indiana's ratification of the ERA hung on one vote -- clearly an anti-feminist outcome of the IWY Conference will be powerful ammunition for the recession forces, not to mention the effect it will have on all areas of legislation affecting women.

The extent of the right wing coalition's organization is mind-boggling. They call themselves the "Indiana Citizens' Review Committee for IWY" and have distributed a slick, obviously expensive brochure. This brochure gives no indication that they are anti-ERA, anti-right to choose, etc., but uses the subtle approach that they do not believe that women's concerns can be separated from those of society as a whole. They are, in effect, accusing us of being sexist. They have threatened legal action, claiming that federal funds for IWY have been used in a discriminatory manner (ie., to support women's rights.)

The "Georgia Eagles" have sent the "Indiana Eagles" a sophisticated plan of action, with detailed instructions on appointing poll watchers, floor leaders, etc. We were lucky to intercept it, as it outlines strategies we had not thought of. We have intercepted other more blatantly right wing mailings, for example, this excerpt from the Indiana Stop ERA Hotline:

"Plan to attend both your regional and state (IWY) meetings. It is URGENT that we send more women than the women's libbers do - so we can outvote them!...Be sure to apply for financial aid - if WE don't spend the (federal tax) monies - they will! ...WE NEED YOU! LOTS OF YOU!...If your daughter is 16 or older, bring her along, together with your friends, because 16 year-olds will be allowed to vote at the Conference."

Unfortunately, we have only recently learned of this anti-feminist blitzkrieg. This knowledge came too late in other states, catching the feminists off guard. In Missouri, the right wing coalition took all the IWY delegate slots. In Ohio, all but 2, and in Illinois it went 50-50, with all the alternates going to the right wing. But in Wisconsin and Michigan, NOW played a key role in developing feminist coalitions, for which the anti-rights groups were no match.

Clearly the only solution is to outnumber and outmaneuver our opponents at the IWY Meeting July 16. To do so, it is vital that all concerned groups and individuals in Indiana be united in their efforts. As a result of a June 19 meeting at our NOW Regional Conference, Indiana NOW has organized the Indiana Unity Coalition for IWY. In one week, we have enlisted the support of at least 12 other organizations and area coalitions and are contacting more. Obviously, time is a crucial factor. NOW has set aside half of our scheduled state council meeting in Muncie on July 9 for a Unity Coalition strategy session, to which we are inviting all pro-women's rights groups and individuals. Anne Saunier, Ohio IWY Presiding Officer, will conduct a parliamentary procedure workshop and discuss the Ohio IWY Conference. You are invited to attend and to bring other feminists. Please note enclosed details on this meeting.

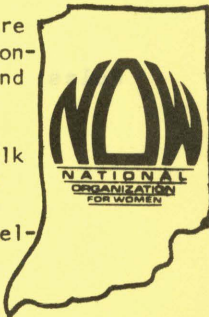
Indiana NOW has already gone to considerable expense to set up the Unity Coalition, which necessitates bulk mailing of this letter. Therefore, if you receive this too late for the July 9 meeting, please circulate this information to enlist as many participants as possible for the July 16 Conference. It is important that everyone who receives this mailing not only attend the IWY Conference, but that you bring friends, relatives -- anyone you are sure will support the goals of the Unity Coalition.

If you or your organization wish to contribute toward the costs Indiana NOW has incurred in the coalition effort, please send checks payable to Indiana NOW to Sharon Boothby, 7102 McIntosh Lane 1-B, Indianapolis, IN 46226. The Coalition is thus far funded only by Indiana NOW and we are not in any way affiliated with the Indiana IWY Committee, which must follow strict federal laws to ensure impartiality in the conference proceedings. For further information, please contact me at the above address (phone 317-547-2014) or Sue Errington, NOW State Coordinator, 3200 Brook Dr., Muncie (317-282-3581.)

For equality,

*Sharon L. Boothby*  
Sharon L. Boothby  
Indiana NOW Coordinator  
Unity Coalition for IWY

OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS  
Memorial Hall-East  
Indiana University JUL 6 1977  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401



INDIANA

N.O.W.

Now



# Opponents Organize Over IWY Issues

"We are a people society," declares Kathy Nikou, Indiana chairman of the Citizens Review Committee for IWY.

"There is no public issue or public matter which does not concern women. But to identify certain matters as 'women's issues' implies that there are other public issues that do not concern women, and that these subjects do not affect men.

"We oppose publicly funded and sponsored meetings which purport to deal with 'women's problems' and 'women's issues,'" she continued. "Certainly we believe women can move mountains through committees with consistent work, but without public funding."

Forty representatives of Citizens Review Committee, the Eagle Forum (organized by Phyllis Schlafly of Illinois), Indiana Pro-America, the Right to Life Committee, Inc., and Stop ERA met last week in a strategy session at the Indianapolis home of Beulah Coughenour.

"Some recommendations to be voted on at the IWY Conference already have been sent down from national level, and

therefore do not represent grass roots expression which will be developed in workshops," Mrs. Nikou said. "We will be looking carefully at all parts of the conference, and we will have representatives in all workshops. Certainly, we will observe closely the election, and we will have candidates for national delegates."

Attorney Evelyn Pitschke, national spokesman for Stop ERA, said, "The programs set forth for 'discussion by the IWY executive committee (from the IWY book, 'To Form a More Perfect Union') are not designed to give women equality with men as citizens in a free republic, but to give certain women an advantage over other women and men.

"Those who support the programs do not want to be equal," she continued. "They want to be 'more equal' than everyone else.

"The commissions in each state are subject to regulations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires a balance of viewpoints without being unduly influenced by special in-

Continued On Page 14

Monday, June 27, 1977  
THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

## More About Opponents

Continued From Page 13

terests," she said. "The committees are stacked with pro-ERA persons."

Rolena Jackson, another spokesman for Stop ERA, said: "There is no workshop scheduled on the ERA, but it certainly is not a dead issue in Indiana. Even though it passed, we plan to ask for a bill in the legislature to rescind ERA. We will have our own workshop.

"Twelve states are lined up to rescind, and we feel that there is need at the conference to discuss this," she added.

On arts and humanities, Jean Patton, Bloomington, is checking carefully on the feasibility of a request of individual NOW members who want "equal number of male and female characters in plays."

"Can you imagine rewriting Shakespeare and Shaw, just to name two?" Mrs. Patton asked. "What is the an-

swer? Take out some characters or put more in?

"I am concerned about grants for the arts and humanities which provide so much Federal control just to provide some so-called fulfillment of women," she said.

Mrs. Patton will attend the workshops on arts and humanities, and she is doing a great deal of homework in preparation.

Alice Beutler, Fort Wayne, voiced concern about the IWY recommendation that "the Federal government assume a major role in providing voluntary child development programs with ability-to-pay fee schedules and direct parental involvement . . ."

"We don't want or need day care centers for everyone, regardless of income, and besides, the government can't afford this. We certainly see the need for day care centers, but private ones with qualified staff do excellent work," she said.—M.M.P.

Note: NOW, of course, has never demanded "equal numbers of male and female characters in plays," but has asked the broadcasting & motion picture industries to deal affirmatively with the problem of underrepresentation of women in realistic roles (ie, women as active achievers, rather than passive victims.)

### IWY INDIANA STATE MEETING, JULY 15-16

You should have received a registration form from IWY with details on the conference. Unfortunately, the pre-registration deadline is July 1 - too late for those who have just decided to attend. However, you may still register as a voting participant at the Convention Center July 15 after 6 pm or Sat. morning from 8 to 9 (possibly extended to 10 am) Further details:

Place: Indiana Convention Center, Capitol & Maryland sts., Indianapolis

Fee: \$2.00 for participants and observers

Schedule: Fri, July 15, 6 pm - Registration. 7 pm - Welcoming Session

Sat, July 16, 8 am - Registration. 9 am - Gen. Session, Keynote, Delegate Nominations (National IWY Conference Delegates) (Note: Nominated delegates not officially slated by IWY Committee must inform the Committee before 10 am that they still wish to be on the ballot.)

Workshops - 10 - 3:45 (staggered times), Voting for Delegates - 2-5pm, Business Session, voting on resolutions 4 - 7 or later (plan to stay later)

Rules: Will be printed in the program. Vote to adopt as the 1st order of business (opposition will use delaying tactics here.)

No signs, demonstrations, etc.

All voting participants must be over 16 (male or female), residents of Indiana or enrolled in In. learning institution. Participants must be credentialled before 10:30am Sat. (Must have proof of Ind. residence/student status & age)

Non voting observers will be seated separately from participants (including workshops)

Each participant will be allowed to attend only one workshop. Workshops will be closed to new participants 15 min. after they begin.

Resolutions will be voted on in each workshop & only workshop resolutions will be accepted from the floor during the business session.

Roberts Rules to be strictly followed. There will be a parliamentarian in each workshop

Services: July 1 was the cut-off date, but you might call IWY (Bloomington 812-336-9155) to see if you can still get free childcare, transportation or special hotel rates.



## JULY 9 NOW STATE COUNCIL MEETING

(Morning session on IWY open to all Unity Coalition participants)

Time: 10 am. Meeting will begin promptly. Please make every effort to be on time.  
(Overnight accommodations available, if travel time is a problem.)

Place: Muncie YWCA, 310 E. Charles St. See map for directions.

Guests: Please call Sue Errington, Muncie 317-282-3581 so she will know how many to expect.  
Indicate if you wish to have lunch (\$2.00, provided by Muncie chapter) and if you  
will need child care. Also call Sue for free overnight accommodations.

### AGENDA

9:30 - 10 am: Registration at door. Contributions are requested from non NOW members to  
defray NOW's expenses (\$1 minimum suggested.)

I. Parliamentary Procedure Workshop - Anne Saunier, NOW National Board, Ohio IWY Presiding  
Officer. Ensuing meeting will adhere to Roberts' Rules as training for IWY.

II. IWY - Strategy for July 16

- A. Discussion of problems in Ohio and other states - Anne Saunier.
- B. Formulation of Indiana Unity Coalition Strategy
  - 1. Review of official IWY delegate slate, discussion of alternatives, if necessary.
  - 2. IWY workshops and resolutions - strategy.
  - 3. Specific assignments of floor managers, other workers, etc.

III. Lunch (NOW Legislative Committee will meet informally during lunch.)

IV. Indiana NOW State Council Meeting (NOW members only)

- A. Officers' Reports
- B. Chapter Reports
- C. Task Force Reports and Establishment of new Task Forces
- D. Regional Conference Report
- E. State Conference Planning (includes Nominating Committee Selection.)
- F. ERA
- G. Announcements
- H. Other

### UNITY COALITION STRATEGIES, ETC.

Specific strategies will be discussed at the July 9 meeting in Muncie. The official IWY slate of delegates will be published July 6, so check your local newspapers, then try to find out the positions of these candidates on all women's issues (not just ERA) and bring this information to the Muncie meeting. We will then review the list name by name and decide who we can support. Also, bring information about nominees not slated, who you wish to be considered for the Unity Coalition slate. Hopefully, the Unity slate will correspond to the official IWY slate, but some substitutions will be necessary if all slated candidates are not pro-feminist. Election of delegates to the National IWY Conference is the key part of our strategy, because delegates will not be bound to support the resolutions passed in Indiana. For example, if the Indiana conference voted for a right-to-choose resolution, an Indiana delegate could still vote against abortion rights in Houston. We must know the candidates' personal stands on all the issues.

NOW and other coalition organizations will have rooms at the Howard Johnson Motel near the Convention Center, where we will caucus Fri. night. NOW will also have a booth at the Center all day Sat. Come to either location for information/instructions. A Unity Coalition slate will be handed out at these & other locations. Vote only for the Unity slate. Any deviation will strengthen the right wing slate. Coalition strategy on workshops and resolutions will also be available, as well as an identifying feature to be worn by all Unity participants. (The opposition will likely be wearing Eagles, red roses, or some such item.) There will also be a means to identify floor leaders.

Come to the Conference prepared with any resolutions you or your group has to offer and attend the proper workshop for that resolution. (We will need to divide up the workshops to ensure adequate Unity coalition representation in each.) Bring notes you may have from your regional conference workshops. If you can get a copy, read or bring IWY's To Form A More Perfect Union, specifically the section dealing with your workshop.

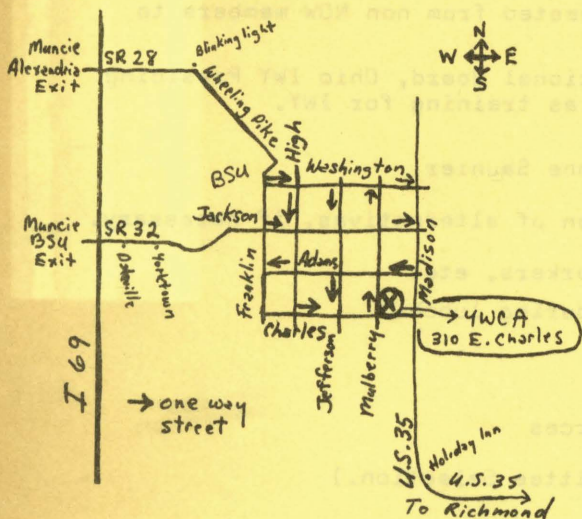
Please try to come Fri. night and stay at Howard Johnson's, if possible. For those who cannot afford hotel rooms, we will try to arrange sleeping space in Indpls. members' homes, but you may have to bring sleeping bags. Plan to stay all day Sat. and as far into the night as necessary. The opponents plan to do so. It is part of their strategy to delay everything, hoping we will go home when the meeting is scheduled to end.



# NOW MEMBERS:

Please note that the NOW Indiana State Conference will be held in Richmond on Sept. 17-18. Denise Walderich is setting up the nominating committee for election of state officers. Contact her to serve on the committee or submit nominations.

Chapter presidents: If you haven't sent your completed Legislative Interest Surveys to Barb Albert yet, please bring them to the July 9 meeting. Each chapter's Legislative Action Comm. representatives should attend the July 9 meeting, where they will meet during lunch. Also, it is important that at least 1 person from each chapter attend the IWY session of the meeting, as well as the general business session. At large members are also urged to attend.



## NOW STATE OFFICERS

### State Coordinator

Sue Errington  
3200 Brook Drive  
Muncie, In 47304  
317-282-3581

### Secretary

Carol Jones  
3314 Tara Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46224  
317-293-9574

### Legislative Coordinator

Barbara Albert  
334 S. Emerson  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317-353-8670

### Treasurer

Sharon Boothby  
7102 McIntosh Ln 1-B  
Indianapolis, IN 46226  
317-547-2014

### Associate Coordinator

Denise Walderich  
3530 Donald Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46224  
317-291-8671



INDIANA NOW  
3314 Tara Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 4508

15 0000 7612 47401LOVAND000A  
DEAN JESSIE LOVANO-KERR  
OFFICE WOMEN'S AFFAIRS  
INDIANA UNIV MEM HALL EAST  
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401

URGENT MESSAGE ENCLOSED