

# WOMEN AND THE PLATFORM

As women, we historically have been denied a full voice in the evolution of the political and social institutions of this country, and are, therefore, allied with all under-represented groups in a common desire to form a more humane, compassionate society. We stand united against sexism, racism, institutional violence, war, and poverty.

At this time, to encourage adaptation of public and private institutions to the changing social patterns brought about by the humanizing of both sex roles, we wish to focus on the following issues of direct concern to women, the issues which must be considered in a Women's Plank:

## I. CIVIL RIGHTS

- A. A priority effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment;
- B. Amendment of existing civil rights legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Such changes are to:
  - eliminate discrimination against women in public accommodations and facilities;
  - eliminate discrimination against women in public education;
  - eliminate discrimination against women in all federally-assisted programs and federally-contracted employment;
  - extend jurisdiction of the Civil Rights Commission to include denial of civil rights on the basis of sex;

## II. HUMAN RIGHTS

- A. Implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. In consonance with this study, all laws that affect a woman's right to decide her own reproductive and sexual life should be repealed;



- B. Passage of comprehensive child care legislation;
- C. Comprehensive legislation to provide preventive health care for all Americans, including provisions for maternity, abortion and birth control aid regardless of age or marital status;
- D. An immediate and concerted effort to end hunger and malnutrition for all Americans;
- E. Fair treatment in housing to assure adequate shelter for all Americans, giving special attention to the elimination of discriminatory practices against women and families headed by women;
- F. Reform of the criminal justice system, especially in those areas directly concerned with women;

### III. ECONOMIC RIGHTS

- A. Elimination of all tax inequities that affect women and children, such as higher tax for single women;
- B. Amendment of the Social Security Act to provide equitable retirement benefits for families with working wives, widows, women heads of households, and their children;
- C. Extension of temporary disability benefits to cover pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, abortion and recovery for the above;
- D. Extension of equal pay, minimum wage, overtime, and unemployment insurance to cover all workers;
- E. Amendment of the Internal Revenue Code to permit families to deduct from gross income as a business expense reasonable amounts paid for a housekeeper, nurse, or related services for care of children or dependants;
- F. A guaranteed adequate income for all Americans;

### IV. NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO WOMEN

- A. Appointment of women to positions of top



responsibility in all branches of the Federal Government to achieve an equitable ration of women and men. Such positions include Cabinet members, agency heads, and Supreme Court justices;

- B. Inclusion of women advisors in equitable ratios on all government studies, commissions and hearings;
- C. Passage of the Women's Equality Act to implement the recommendations of the President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities;
- D. Passage of the Women's Education Act of 1973 which authorizes the Secretary of HEW to make grants to conduct special educational programs and activities concerning women;
- E. Enactment of legislation authorizing Federal grants on a matching basis for financing State Commissions on the Status of Women.

# WOMEN & COMM'S

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