

Over 40,000 ERA Backers March on Hill

Demonstrators Seek Extension of Time For Ratification

By James Lardner
and Neil Henry

Washington Post Staff Writers

More than 40,000 shouting and clapping supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment, many dressed in the traditional white of the suffragette movement, marched down the Mall to the Capitol yesterday to exhort Congress to give the states seven more years to ratify the amendment.

They marched despite hot, hazy, breezeless weather with temperatures hanging in the low 90s.

The organizers of the tightly disciplined march proclaimed it the "largest parade for feminism in history."

Their purpose is to gain additional time to persuade at least three state legislatures to approve the Equal Rights Amendment. A deadline set by Congress calls for the amendment to die next March unless more time is granted. The supporters of ERA say they cannot get the necessary votes in the next nine months.

The theme of the demonstration was sounded again and again in dozens of short, emotional speeches.

"We need an extension of time to fight the lies about the Equal Rights Amendment," said Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.). "... It is a fulfillment of the American dream and not a threat to anyone ... Time is on our side and we will win."

Organizers vowed to besiege members of Congress at their offices today. "We must not leave Washington ... without having a firm commitment, yes or no, from every member of this body," declared Patsy Mink, president of Americans for Democratic Action and a former congresswoman from Hawaii. "And if they dare to turn us down ... we will turn them out on the next election day."

Presidential assistant Midge Costanza told the crowd she had brought them a message of support from her boss, immediately prompting a mixture of moderate applause and widespread boos and cries of "Where is he?"

But later Costanza won an ovation with an attack on anti-ERA leader Phyllis Schlafly "here is a woman in



By Larry Morris—The Washington Post

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MIDGE COSTANZA
... message from boss



ELEANOR SMEAL
... rally organizer

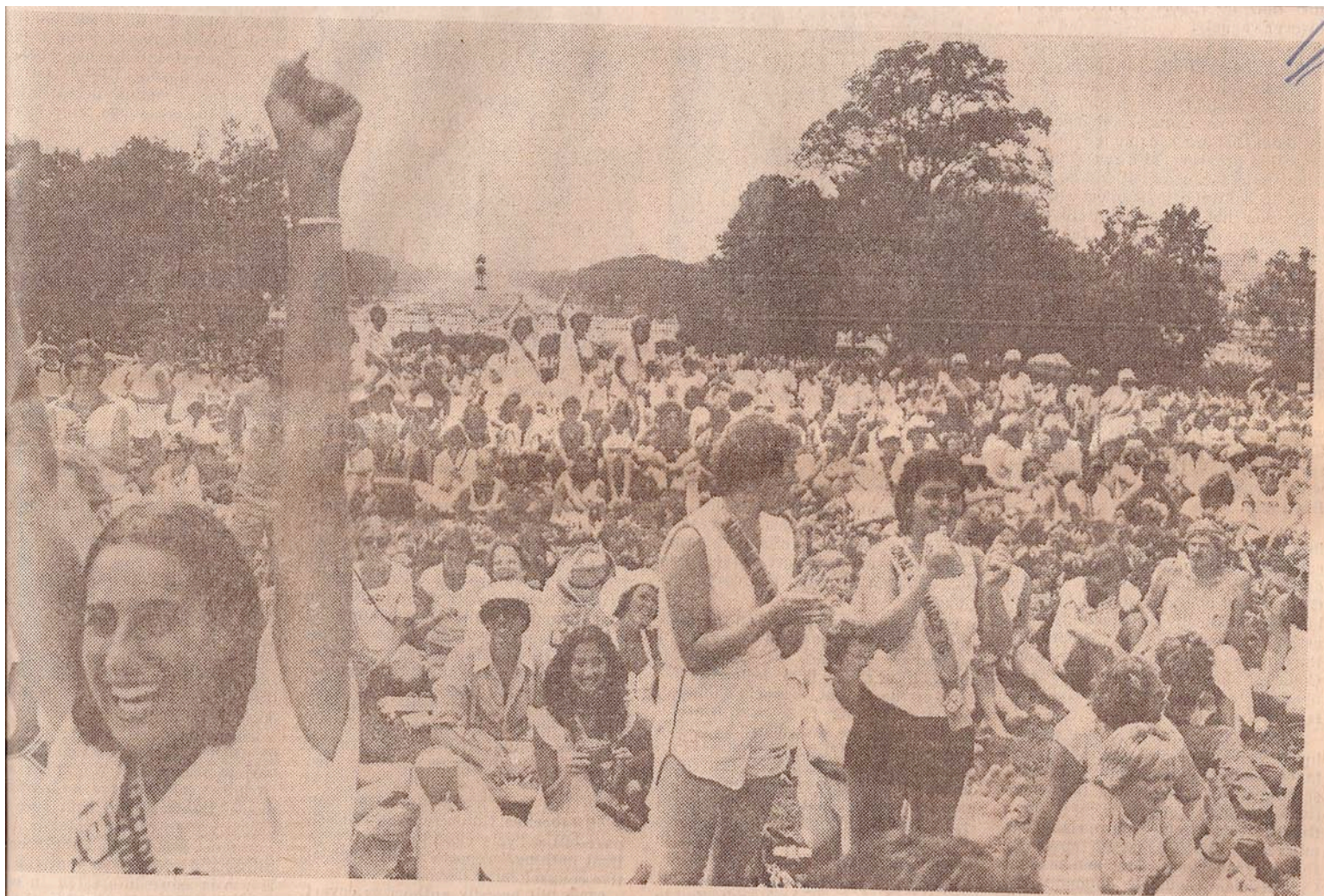
But later Costanza won an ovation with an attack on anti-ERA leader Phyllis Schlafly "here is a woman in this country who does not want her rights and who has become a spokesman for women who do not want theirs," said Costanza. "Our message for you, Phyllis Schlafly is that we paid for this ourselves. We wish you could say the same thing."

Schlafly, had charged earlier yesterday, on the ABC-TV news program "Issues and Answers," that the ERA demonstrators were "the same crowd who went down to Houston last November (for the National Women's Year Conference), a combination of federal employees and radicals and lesbians who spent \$5 million of our taxpayers' money. . ."

Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, which put together yesterday's rally, said it had been financed by contributions from more than 300 organizations, in-

See ERA, A10, Col. 1

ERA demonstration includes suffragettes from 1919 march. Page C1.



ERA supporters at the Capitol: "It is a fulfillment of the American dream and not a threat to anyone . . . Time is on our side and we will win."

By Larry Morris—The Washington Post

Large 'Feminism Parade' Seeks Extension for ERA

ERA, From A1

cluding unions and educational, church and women's groups.

Demonstrators began gathering on the Mall, near 14th Street, at about 9 a.m. yesterday, with each of the hundreds of delegations meeting under its own purple, yellow and white banner. Marching out onto 14th Street at noon, the procession had the look of a huge army advancing into battle.

Alongside the National Archives building at 8th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, the marchers paused to applaud a group standing on the archives steps with a banner bearing the amendments full text: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

"ERA now!" was the chant most often repeated by the marchers, but at other times they shouted, "One two three four, we need three more (three more states to ratify), five six seven eight, Congress must extend the date!"

When the front of the column reached the Capitol half an hour later, there was a continuous line of marchers all the way back to 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, and a few thousand were still waiting patiently in neat rows to leave the Mall.

Almost to a woman—men composed a substantial minority of the throng—participants refused to be downcast about prospects for ERA's ratification. Thus far, 35 states have voted to ratify the amendment, but only Indiana has voted for ratification since 1976. In that time, three state legislatures—Idaho, Nebraska and Tennessee—have reversed earlier ratification votes.

The amendment needs the approval of three more legislatures in order to become part of the Constitution. Supporters concede that this will not occur before the deadline set

by Congress of March 22, 1979. ERA backers are trying to get Congress to approve a seven-year extension for state ratification until 1986.

"Everybody's for it but we don't have it," said Bella Abzug, former congresswoman from New York and now cochairwoman of the National Advisory Commission on Women. "They have allowed a highly organized minority to stop the will of a majority. We assumed that we would have it without any difficulty and that was a mistake."

ERA "will set a principle of simple justice where you and I know that getting simple justice has been no simple matter," said Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) "We must be prepared for a very long haul. We will work this summer like we have never worked before . . . We will march into history . . . Mrs. Schlafly, wherever you are, eat your heart out!"

Other speakers included Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairwoman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Mary Ann Krupsack, lieutenant governor of New York who is running against Gov. Hugh Carey; feminist author Betty Friedan, and actresses Marlo Thomas and Jean Stapleton.

Rank-and-file demonstrators echoed the speakers' expressions of faith in ERA's ultimate victory. "Even if we have to start again and get the whole 38 states again, it is going to come," said Marilyn Boll, a public relations executive from Washington.

Few of the interviewed demonstrators foresaw any immediate practical advantage for themselves coming from ERA's passage, but many said it would symbolize and solidify the gains women have achieved.

"Just having it down there . . . on the books," said Nancy Gross, a counselor for a lesbian group called "Am-

See ERA, A11, Col. 1



Marchers, from left: Bella Abzug, Katie Pottinger, Gloria Steinem, Dick Gregory, Betty Friedan, Elizabeth Holt

"LOSING WEIGHT ISN'T SO HARD WHEN YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO WORK"
(No Diet) OVERWEIGHT (No Diet)

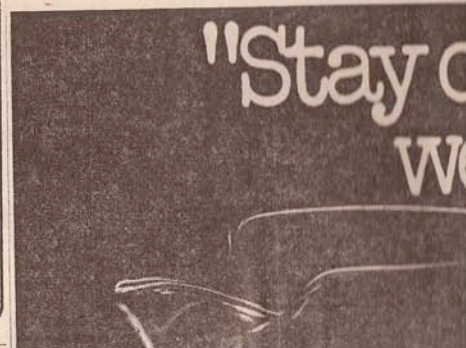
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Demonstrators Vow to Besiege Offices on Hill

ERA, From A10

gious Amazons" in Bay City, Mich. "I think it's really important to have it in the Constitution."

A few participants criticized the role played by lesbian groups in yesterday's rally. One marshal said she would have to tell a group to put away a banner that read "Rites for the Lesbian Nation" because, by not mentioning ERA, the banner violated parade permit rules. "I'm a lesbian myself, but I'm also a marshal and I'm going to have to ask them to take it down," she said. Eventually the banner was allowed to remain.

One of the most demonstrative of yesterday's demonstrators was Marcia Karklin, a painter and photographer from Guilford, Conn. "I was born a feminist," said Karklin. "I came out of the womb with a clenched fist at St. Joseph's Hospital in Providence, R.I." "Where's Shirley Chisholm? Where's Barbara Jordan?" Karklin shouted insistently at a group of celebrities gathered on the podium. "Where's Eartha Kitt? Where's Gloria Steinem?"

"I'm here," replied Steinem, seated a few yards away.

"No kidding, you're Gloria Steinem?" said Karklin. "I saw you in

Philadelphia. You look different."

A few minutes later, Steinem, editor of Ms. magazine, told the crowd that "the lawful and peaceful stage of our revolution may be over. It's up to the legislators. We can become radical, if they force us. If they continue to interfere with the ratification of the ERA, they will find every form of civil disobedience possible in every state of the country."

"We are the women our parents warned us about, and we're proud," said Steinem to loud cries of approval.

March organizers periodically revised their estimates of the crowd's size, from 35,000 in the early afternoon to 90,000 by the time the rally was at full strength.

The commander of the U.S. Park Police demonstration unit put the figure at 90,000 to 100,000—based on "years of experience," according to a spokesman—but three other police estimates were in the range of 40,000 to 55,000.

A Park Police officer aboard a helicopter said the crowd appeared to number about 50,000 at 4 p.m. D.C. police offered a lower figure of 40,000 based on "educated guesswork," and Capitol Police put the number at 55,000.

Where Amendment Stands

So far, 35 states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, 3 short of the 38 necessary for full ratification.

But the future of the hotly debated ERA depends on two questions: whether the March 22, 1979 deadline—set by Congress for ratification by the states—can be extended, and whether the states that have already voted in favor of the amendment can constitutionally vote to rescind ratification.

Supporters of ERA urge a seven-year extension of the deadline, and the question is currently being debated in the House Judiciary Committee.

Three states that once ratified ERA have since voted to rescind the amendment. They are Idaho, Nebraska and Tennessee. In another state, Kentucky, the legislature voted to rescind ratification, but the bill was vetoed by the acting governor.

The Justice Department, in a now binding advisory opinion, has said that states do not have the

right to rescind approval once they have given it. But the issue would become more complicated if Congress votes to extend the ratification deadline. According to the Supreme Court, Congress has the right to determine if the ratifications constitute a "contemporaneous consensus," and ERA opponents say that the three rescissions are evidence that the amendment lacks a consensus.

The 35 states that have ratified ERA are Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Idaho, Nebraska, Tennessee, Alaska and Hawaii.

Fifteen states have not ratified the ERA. They are Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Winding Down a Day for the ERA

By Joseph Dalton

Gloria Steinem couldn't make it. Bella Abzug didn't show, although her hat went on the block in a charity auction. And although Judy Goldsmith, vice president of NOW (National Organization for Women), kicked off last night's ERA benefit in the stifling Washington Armory with a rousing, "No other single group has more fun than feminists," it was obvious that most of the overwhelmingly female crowd—some still in their whites from the march earlier in the day—was just glad to get off its collective feet.

The benefit, featuring the auction and folk music by feminist singer Margie Adam, didn't get under way until 9:30 p.m., an hour and a half later than expected. "We never expected so many at the march," Eleanor Smeal, president of NOW, said. "We only had two weeks to organize the party, and I won't be disappointed no matter how few come."

The armory, festooned with blue plastic streamers, never held more than 400 during the evening. The organizers had hoped for 1,500.

And some thought the \$10 ticket may have kept more than a few away. "This is a benefit," Smeal said. "Do you know how much this place costs?"

But Allard Lowenstein, special representative to the United Nations and an unannounced candidate for Congress from New York, came and had to leave, as did Angel Tompkins, the actress who had flown in from California for the march and who flew out again last night.

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.), cosponsor of the House bill to extend the time limit for passage of ERA, told the crowd that they had to "see your congressman tomorrow. Courage is not something you find an abundance of in an election year." And presidential assistant Midge Costanza told the cheering audience, "We won't achieve full equality with men until they appoint mediocre women to high positions."



From left, Norma Bork, Rep. Doug Walgren and Eleanor Smeal, by John McDonnell—The Washington Post

Costanza went on to say that, dressed in her whites, "Three people thought I was a doctor." She ended by saying that "I wanted to make bookends out of [anti-ERA leader] Phyllis Schlafly and Anita Bryant, and Liz Carpenter told me she had just the book to put between them—'Mein Kampf.'"

It was a genial meeting. The feeling of success from yesterday's march appeared to bind the crowd together

through endless listing of names and contributors.

Perhaps the most tired of all the marchers who made it to the armory last night was 8-month-old E.R.A. McCarthy, who had been carried the full length of the march by her mother, Judy McCarthy of Phoenix, Ariz.

McCarthy had a large color portrait of her child that had been signed by Costanza, Steinem, actress Marlo Thomas and other activist luminaries

in attendance and not in attendance last night.

"I want to auction it off in Phoenix," McCarthy said of the picture. "One of her bonnets already brought \$25 there."

"She's sunburned," said one woman. "She's been sunburned three times for equal rights," McCarthy said. Just then young E.R.A. cried.

"Hush," McCarthy said to her baby daughter. "We won today."

1919 Suffragettes Join in ERA March

By Judy Luce Mann
Washington Post Staff Writer

They were grandmothers, daughters, and granddaughters with a common political goal that transcends the differences of generations. They wore casual shorts and shirts, tennis dresses of the suburban housewife, and the dresses and pantsuits becoming to the mature woman.

There was Lilian M. Grigg of Bethesda, an 83-year-old woman who marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in 1919 behind the suffragette Inez Mulholland. "She was the leader," Grigg recalled yesterday. "She was wearing white and rode on a white charger. White was always the color."

"White was for purity," explained Elizabeth Grace Keebler, a suffragette who marched yesterday. "We didn't wear it all the time, of course. Just in parades. It shows up well. It's always clean. It's effective for a parade."

"I'm here today mainly because of my daughter and granddaughter," said Grigg. "They wanted me to come. I've always been interested in getting equal rights."

With Grigg yesterday was her daughter, Ida Jo McKenney, 52, of Cambridge, Ohio. She wore under her skirt the same ruffled petticoat her mother had worn in the 1919 march. She displayed it proudly.

"It was mostly women marching back then," said Grigg. "Men already had the vote. I'm surprised to see as many men as there are here today."

Among the men was Rob Gruenler of Falls Church who accompanied his wife and 2-year-old twin daughters. Gruenler, a printer at the Organization of American States, said his family is "for the ERA. My wife is big in the movement. We thought we'd come down today and march." Resting by his daughters' stroller was Gruenler's homemade banner: "Give the next generation equality."

March participants and onlookers, such as Phyllis Trapp of Arlington, who was there with her daughter, Tiffany, 4, and her twin sister, Beryl Morgan, 38, of Oakton, repeatedly talked about their hope that this generation will bestow a more equal world on the next generation of women.

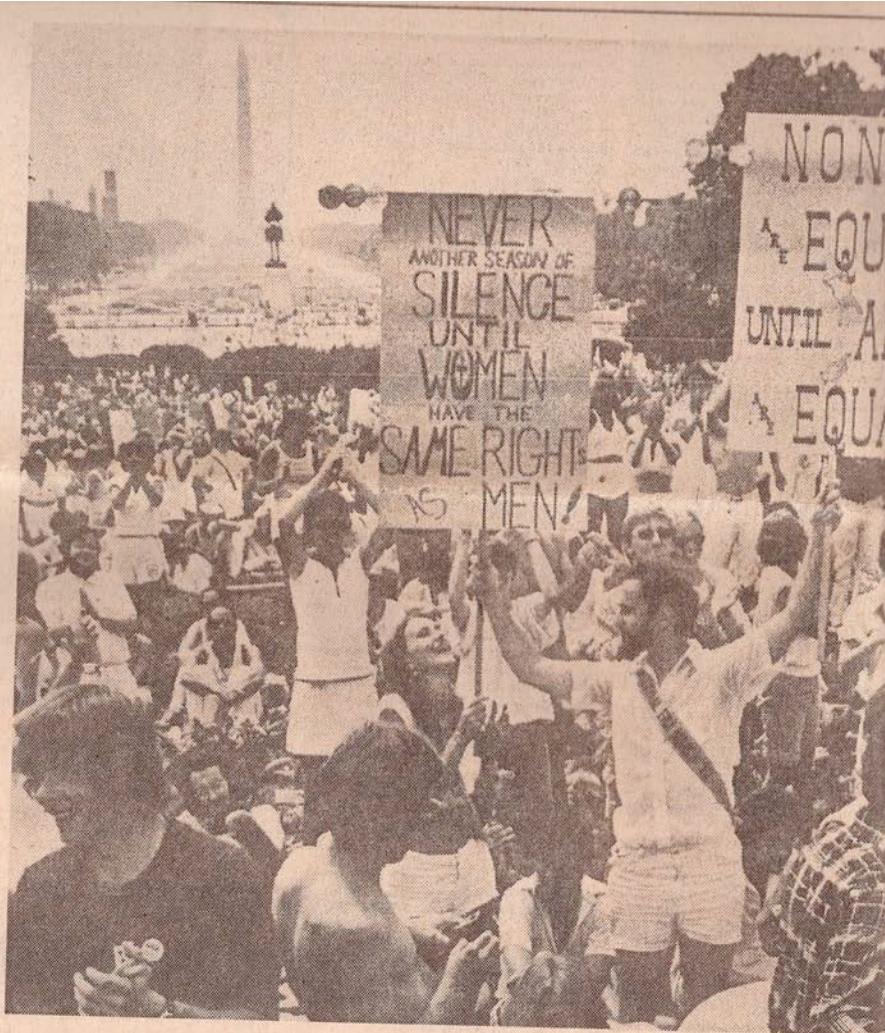
"I want this one to grow up in a more equal world than it's been for us," said Trapp, nodding toward her daughter. "In a married situation when we were growing up it was proper to not really think of yourself, not to follow your own career, but to be more supportive of your husband. Those things are important but I think now women can think of their own careers without tremendous feelings of guilt. Things (responsibilities) are more divided now. I know they are in my household."

The women said they have never marched for any cause. "This is the first one I've felt strongly enough to come out for," said Beryl Morgan. "We're watching and maybe we'll slip in. It's beautiful to see this. It's amazing the number of people that came from all parts of the country."

They came in large groups, such as the 700-member delegation from Detroit, and in small groups such as the group of seven people from Old Fort, a town in the mountains of North Carolina. "A lot more people showed up than we thought," said Kim Taylor, 25, a schoolteacher from Old Fort. "A lot of people came, therefore they must have thought it makes a difference."

Odessa Komer, 54, a vice president of the United Auto Workers Union and a grandmother, flew in with the Detroit delegation. She is a veteran of the Equal Rights Amendment struggle and, as she rested on the grass outside the National Gallery,

See VOICES, C4, Col. 6



Supporters of Equal Rights Amendment applaud and hold signs as they listen to a speaker on the Capitol grounds



March on Capitol Is Second Time For Suffragettes

VOICES, From C1

she proclaimed that yesterday's march "bests it all."

ERA, she said, "is not just going to die and go away. I think today proves that it's not dead." She said she will remain in Washington today to lobby the Michigan delegation in Congress to vote for a seven-year extension of the ERA ratification deadline. "I think if it's not extended there's going to be a real problem in this country. A lot of these women rode for 20 hours on a bus to get here, like the group from Grand Rapids, Mich. They came here on a bus. It's 20 hours each way. They'll leave at 6 p.m. and go back. It's rough. These women have to feel very strongly to go through something like this."

"So many of our critics attack us on sexual and moral grounds," said Anne Follis, head of Housewives for ERA, from Urbana, Ill., "when we're probably more for the family and American flag than they are."

"I mean, look at me," she said. "I'm just a suburban housewife from Urbana, as middle class as you can get. I campaigned for Goldwater back in 1964."

Middle class and upper middle class is the way cab driver Bernard Quinton described the fares he was getting at the Capitol. "They're going to the Hyatt, the Shoreham, the Hilton. This is the upper middle class. Yesterday they went sightseeing all day. Last night they went to the Flagship, Hogate's, Blackies. You have a different type of person here for this demonstration."

By Laura Levine—The Washington Post

Demonstrators stage march along the mall en route to Capitol yesterday in behalf of Equal Rights Amendment.