

ERA foes: Walkathon exercise in frustration

By Mitchell Locin

AS SUPPORTERS OF the Equal Rights Amendment conduct walk-a-thons this weekend in their largest fund-raising push before the deadline for ERA ratification, Phyllis Schlafly suggested that the walkers will gain no more than exercise.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is sponsoring the walks in Chicago and dozens of other cities and is counting on more than half million persons to participate as walkers, sponsors, and supporters.

With the June 30, 1982, deadline for ratification of ERA approaching, NOW officials hope to raise the money needed to mount a campaign to win ERA ratification in three more states, including Illinois. Thirty-five states have ratified the proposed amendment, and 38 are required for it to become part of the U.S. Constitution.

"WE'RE NOT GOING to stop fighting until June 30, and we're not going to stop fighting even then," said Judy Nedrow, an official of NOW's Chicago branch.

Schlafly, however, branded the marches as no more than "media events" which will not boost public support or threaten the success of her Stop ERA movement in stalling ratification of the amendment.

"Their only support is in the media," Schlafly said. "The ERAers do not have the support of the general public or the legislature."

The Chicago walk-a-thon Sunday (Aug. 23) will be preceded by a rally at 12:30 p.m. in Gill Park, 825 W. Sheridan Rd. (3900 north at Broadway) at which Mayor Byrne is expected to speak. She is then expected to start off the marchers at 1 p.m. on a route that will take them weaving through Lincoln Park and ending back at Gill Park 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) later.

SPRINGFIELD, PEORIA, KAN-

kakee, Elgin, Rockford, and Chicago suburbs are the sites of other marches in Illinois.

Although the walk-a-thon is a project of NOW, timed to commemorate the August 26, 1920, anniversary of when women won the right to vote, it is not an undertaking of ERA-Illinois, a one-issue coalition geared solely to ERA.

"NOW is a national organization and they are always working on an increase in membership and on other issues," explained Edna Shade, president of ERA-Illinois. "There are bound to be differences in our ratification work."

SHADE SAID THAT "prospects are better now than in previous years" for the Illinois legislature to ratify ERA. She said a vote is probably not expected in the fall session of the General Assembly and will wait until the spring.

By then, she said, lawmakers will be aware of the new districts they will have to run in after reapportionment or be convinced that they do not have a chance to return to Springfield because of the legislative cutback.

"I think certainly they could be persuaded more easily if they see their constituency has fallen away," Shade said.

Schlafly countered in an interview: "They also might be more willing to vote against ERA."

AS THE SPRING session closes in, NOW will be setting up ratification offices in Chicago and Springfield and ERA-Illinois will be establishing phone banks.

Schlafly said she sees no need now to mount a major anti-ERA campaign in a legislature which has continually failed to provide the three-fifths vote required in Illinois to ratify constitutional amendments.

"We think the ERAers do not have the votes to pass ERA," Schlafly said. "People are fed up with ERA. I think we should move on."

ERA supporters stage rallies around nation

CHICAGO (AP) — A crowd of 400 marchers — including one man costumed as a non-chauvinist pig — rallied in Chicago yesterday to raise money to lobby for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

"We are the real moral majority — and we'll keep marching until the ERA is part of our Constitution," Charlotte Cooper, president of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization of Women, told the crowd.

ERA supporters gathered in about 100 cities around the nation over the



Byrne

weekend for "The Last ERA Walk-a-thon," the final ERA fund-raiser organized by NOW.

The amendment, which has been ratified by 35 states, would bar discrimination on the basis of sex. ERA must be ratified by three more states by June 30, 1982, to become part of the constitution.

Mayor Jane M. Byrne told the marchers at a rally that she disagreed with those who say women who stay at home have sufficient protection.

"What happened to me at the age of 22 — widowed with a child to raise — was not 'protection,' " she said.

Associate NOW Director Judy Nedorow estimated the number of Chicago marchers at 400. She said the walkers

raised more than \$30,000 in pledges.

On Saturday, walkathons drew 2,250 ERA supporters in Washington, 500 in Atlantic City, N.J., 400 in Cleveland and 6,000 in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles rally in Century City drew celebrities like Ed Asner, Jack Klugman and Marsha Mason. In an auction of television and movie scripts, the *Dallas* script when J.R.'s assailant was identified went for \$200 and a script for *Hellcats of the Navy*, starring Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis, went for \$280.

Boston ERA supporters raised about \$19,000 Saturday and the crowd that turned out for a city hall rally included actress Lee Remick and television host Gene Rayburn.

——— SEXIST SEWING

CHICAGO (UPI) — The sewing needle has become an instrument of sexual discrimination.

Spokeswoman Judy Nedrow said Wednesday a suit had been filed March 17 against Marshall Field & Co. and Carson Pirie Scott. It claims the two department stores practiced sex discrimination by charging women — but not men — for clothing alterations.

Fran Korval, one of the NOW members who filed the complaint, said the stores' practice stems from the "underlying assumption that women have the time and skill to alter clothing. It is time to end this unfair and outdated practice."