

CLUW helps mobilize unionists for ERA rally

By Suzanne Haig

CHICAGO—*The AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers, and the Teamsters have all endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment as a statement of commitment to the principle of equality that working people need to eliminate employment discrimination against women. The ERA is a union bread-and-butter issue. We need numbers on our side. With the weight of the labor movement behind us, we can win. That's why we need you. Come to Springfield. For your union. For ERA. For yourself!*

So reads the leaflet issued by the Coalition of Labor Union Women in an effort to enlist trade-union support for the May 16 national ERA rally in Illinois.

CLUW has opened an office in Chicago, in the same suite as the National Organization for Women, to

coordinate the work of building union participation in the rally.

In addition to the labor leaflet, the CLUW office has other materials available to local unions: buttons, a transportation information sheet for unionists going to Springfield from Chicago, and a sample letter urging union locals and officials to support the rally.

This letter points to the recent statement by AFL-CIO President George Meany. "Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment . . . must be a priority matter to the entire trade-union movement," Meany said.

CLUW is suggesting that unionists:

- Get their unions to support May 16.

- Put out a mailing to union members urging them to come to the rally.
- Have their union make signs and

banners for their delegation at the march.

- Contribute funds to CLUW to help with costs for printing, staff, and office supplies. (Checks should be made out to ERA Mobilization Fund.)

- Organize transportation for union members through the union newsletter. Darlene Kemmerer, who is coordinating transportation in Illinois, told the *Militant* that unions on the East Coast and in Chicago should encourage their members to go on the Freedom Trains being organized from these areas.

To get the union outreach campaign moving in Chicago, CLUW members held a meeting here on April 3. On hand were representatives of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks; United Auto Workers; Hotel and Restaurant Work-

ers; American Postal Workers; United Electrical Workers; and American Federation of Government Employees.

Union ERA activities are stepping up in other cities as well. In Detroit, the Wayne County chapter of CLUW is organizing a meeting to publicize the labor movement's commitment to ERA ratification. The event, which will feature key leaders of the Detroit labor movement, will be a powerful answer to current efforts to rescind Michigan's 1972 ratification of the ERA. The CLUW chapter is also encouraging its members to participate in the May 16 national rally.

Unionists from across the country can find out more information about the national demonstration and order materials by contacting: CLUW-ERA, 5 S. Wabash, Suite 1614, Chicago, Illinois 60603. Telephone (312) 236-8148.

Thompson, Bakalis argue finances in first TV debate

CHICAGO (AP) — Seizing the banner of beleaguered local property taxpayers, Gov. James R. Thompson and Democratic challenger Michael J. Bakalis both have emerged satisfied with their first face-to-face debate before a television audience.

Renewing a myriad of early campaign charges, Thompson sought Tuesday night to characterize Bakalis an outrageous spendthrift, who is backing proposals to add up to \$225 million to the state's proposed fiscal 1979 budget.

IN TURN, Bakalis described Thompson's budget as full of "gimmickry and broken promises" and said the state is losing between \$600 million and \$900 million in waste and uncollected revenues.

Bakalis, whose opening statement began the one-hour debate televised statewide, accused Thompson of creating a "budget without a heart" that increases state debt and shifts the costs of running schools and gov-

ernment increasingly to local taxpayers.

Thompson said that averaged out, Bakalis' plan would provide only \$17 rebates to some 2.5 million Illinois households and would create a whole new, money-wasting bureaucracy in Springfield.

"It would not bring \$17 back to people, it will be close to \$28 to \$30 for senior citizens..." responded Bakalis, as he scored the governor for describing the state's property tax burdens as about average compared with other states.

Both candidates told newsmen afterwards they were satisfied with the debate. Neither claimed a win.

Bakalis scored Thompson twice for not taking responsibility for the recommendations or inactions of gubernatorial commissions. But Thompson also hammered away at Bakalis for proposing tax rebates costing millions at the same time he is seeking costly new programs—a tactic often used by opponents of

incumbents.

THOMPSON SAID he appointed a special gambling study commission partly at the request of Chicago Mayor Michael A. Bilandic and that he was not responsible for the fact that the panel recommended the state operate off-track betting parlors.

The governor has declined to endorse or oppose the recommendation.

"It wasn't my commission," said Thompson. "I set up the commission at the request of municipal officials around the state, but principally at the request of the mayor of Chicago."

Thompson defended his fence-sitting on the recommendation for state-run, off-track betting operations. He said one question holding up his decision on whether to endorse OTB is what the Illinois Supreme Court will determine on the legality of private off-track, bet-

services.

If the private firms are ruled constitutional, it could invalidate the favorable findings of the study panel, Thompson said, because they would be draining off bet revenues from the state and track owners.

BAKALIS SAID he had no philosophical feelings about OTB one way or the other, despite Thompson's assertion that the Democratic state comptroller "endorsed OTB without even knowing what the bill looked like."

At another point, Thompson said he was not responsible for the fact that a Cost Control Task Force he appointed failed to complete a report by an April 15 deadline the governor himself set.

Just before the debate began at 8 p.m., President Carter sent Bakalis, a fellow Democrat, a telegram of support. "I believe your opportunity tonight to be as great as mine was in 1976," the telegram read in part.

A group of 20 pro-Equal Rights Amendment pickets greeted both candidates as they arrived at the studios of public television station WTTW for the telecast. The pickets shouted "ratify ERA" but did not come in contact with either Bakalis or Thompson.

"We're going to continue to hold them to task for failing to deliver votes on the ERA," said Darlene M. Kemmerer, Chicago chapter president of the National Organization for Women and leader of the pickets.

IN DEBATE, Bakalis described as "reasonable" his four-year program for general property tax rebates to homeowners. He acknowledged that the total annual cost would have to be borne by the state by its fourth year.

Asked whether the revenue loss from such tax rebates could be handled from existing sources or would require new taxes, Bakalis respond-

ed: "No one can look four years ahead."

Thompson defended the more limited rebate proposals he is backing.

"It doesn't make any sense to me to give tax relief out of one pocket if we have to pay for it out of another pocket," the governor said.

THE ONE-HOUR debate was telecast throughout much of the state via the Illinois Public Broadcasting Network of five stations plus KETC, Channel 9 in St. Louis. But it competed for viewers with at least two pro-baseball games, a feature movie, a TV movie and a highly rated situation comedy.

Three other televised debates, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Illinois, are scheduled. They are set for Sept. 6 in Carbondale, Sept. 19 in Peoria and Oct. 12 in Chicago.

5.5% Chicagoans expanding the bonds of family

Large family: Kinnerks

WITH THE EMPHASIS on zero population and harsh economic realities, large families are declining in popularity — but not among those who have them.

"I get encouragement from my family," says Phyllis Kinnerk, mother of seven children ranging in age from 9 to 29, all living at home in the family's four-bedroom house in Chicago Lawn. "I work full time, but we consider ourselves a traditional family. Our work hours have changed, not our values. I don't know where I'd get the support my husband and children give me. I go home not just to relax but to be renewed. People laugh when I say that. 'Relax in that zoo?' But it's true."

John and Phyllis Kinnerk were high school sweethearts. They've been married for 23 years and are active in community and church work. An electrician, John was in construction until 1972. When he switched jobs, Phyllis went to work full time to help out. And when Phyllis wanted to complete her college degree at St. Xavier College, her whole family pitched in to help her. "When I finally was graduated," Phyllis says, laughing, "John gave a huge catered affair with an orchestra."

The Kinnerks are supportive, but John is pessimistic about other families. "They're getting the hell beat out of them," he says. "People are going in different directions. There's a lot of selfishness. I love my family. Otherwise, why would I work so long and hard and work all the overtime I can do? There'd be no sense in beating my brains out, would there?"



Phyllis and John Kinnerk and their children Kevin, Peggy, Julie, Brian, Eileen, Johnny, and Betsy.

Kin: The Ramseurs

JERRY RAMSEUR, 19, lives with his sister, Beatrice Ramsey, 33, and her daughter, Rachel, 12, on the West Side of Chicago. The Ramseurs are among the 4 per cent of American households that consist of relatives other than spouses living together.

Neither Jerry nor Beatrice had planned to live this way, but the death of their mother last April and the subsequent relocation of their father to another state changed all that. "My mother began to fail in health, so I came home from college to be with her," Jerry says. "My sister was at (University of Illinois) Circle Campus, and she dropped out, too."

Jerry, a former high school football star and outstanding student, had a scholarship to the University of North Carolina. But after the death of his mother, he decided not to return. Instead, he got a job at a Chicago bank to keep their family home intact, allowing his sister to complete her second year of college. "We've lived in this house all our lives," Jerry says. "We're living the life of our lives."

"We really haven't gotten over our mother's death," Beatrice says. "It's so nice having Jerry around. Friends are OK, but nothing takes the place of family."

In January, Jerry enrolled at Circle Campus, where he will major in business economics and work part time. Beatrice is looking for a full-time job and will return to college in September.

"I'm young," Jerry says. "I have plenty of time. We're a nice little family, my sister, my niece, and I. It's worth it."



Jerry Ramsey with sister Beatrice and her daughter Rachel.

Extended family: The Rottos

"I ENJOY SEEING my daughter surrounded by relatives who love her," says Jeannine Riggio, a teacher. Jeannine, her husband, Joseph, a banker, and their infant daughter, Raffaella, live in a second-floor apartment in a two-flat on West Montrose Avenue. The building is owned by Joseph's parents, Charles Riggio, 53, a church sexton, and his wife, Giuseppe, a seamstress, who live on the first floor. Joseph's sister and her family, Phyllis and Giorgio Romanosky, and Jeannine's parents, Rose and Ted Hickenbroich, live nearby and are a part of the close-knit clan.

With three generations living under one roof and scores of nearby relatives, the Rottos are an extended family. It is estimated there are 1,093,000 families in the United States with grandparents present — but the number has been decreasing at each count.

"It's important for the family to stay together, to have a strong family, to raise the children right," says Charles Riggio, who came to this country from Sicily and worked in the Pennsylvania coal mines before settling in Chicago. "My family is beautiful."

Jeannine Riggio says she and her husband chose their living arrangements for financial reasons, to "get a good start in

life." Any privacy they may give up is far outweighed by the benefits of an extended family, says Jeannine, who was raised with "overwhelming" sense of family. "My mother and father are retired, so they baby-sit for me," she says. "I don't know what I'd do without my family. I did my master's dissertation on the subject. I had long conversations with my maternal grandmother, Filomena Colangelo, who emigrated from Salerno, Italy, at the age of 17, who had little formal education but raised 12 successful children in her adopted land. My daughter will know all these stories."

Jeannine, who recently earned her doctorate in education, says without her extended family, getting her degree would have been difficult. "But everyone pitched in to help me," she says. "Sometimes I'd come home at night and someone in the family had already made dinner for us, and all we'd have to do is eat it."

Joseph Riggio feels he's lucky to be able to live with his parents and his family under one roof. "It's a unique feeling," he says. "A good one. Italian families tend to group together to help one another. If, when my daughter grows up and has her own family and would want to live with us, I would be very happy."



Rose and Ted Hickenbroich (left), Giuseppe Riggio (center), Joseph Riggio with daughter Raffaella, Jeannine Riggio, and Jennifer Romanosky. Standing are Charles Riggio (from left), Phyllis and Giorgio Romanosky.

Homosexual couple

HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES with long-term commitments also are family. Because of fears of losing jobs and social ostracism, many gay people are hesitant about "going public." But not Darlene Kemmerer, 33, a production coordinator for a film company, is a lesbian with strong family ties. She and her lover, a financial planner, have been together for two years.

"We are a family and our core extends to friends we both have taken, friendships that go back in time," says Kemmerer. "We are as intimate with our own blood relatives, not because we don't feel great affection, but because we are not acceptable as a couple."

Kemmerer's mate is not comfortable about being interviewed. "There are different roles people play in making social change," says Kemmerer. "And people have different ways of doing it."

The couple is active in the women's movement, babysit for friends' children, and have growing friendships with the children. "We camp, ski, play tennis," says Kemmerer. "But our greatest joy as a family is having dinner with friends and with other lesbian couples. We entertain all the time. Our friends are always welcome. Our friendships and family go beyond Chicago to other states."

The nuclear family hasn't existed except as a myth, Kemmerer believes. "My family is bonded by strong emotional attachments and commitments," she says. "That means no matter what you give in the way of financial and emotional assistance, the good times and hard times, you also celebrate the joy of sharing living space."

The way I live means home, the kind of place I go in, shut the door, and time is suspended, where I can be whatever I am able to be."



Louis and Laura Ames and her daughters Jennifer, Mary, and Nathalie, and their son Zachariah.

Blended: The Sudlers

WHEN LAURA AMES and Louis C. Sudler Jr. were married, she had three children from a previous marriage and he had four. Today, they have a "blended" family of eight: his, hers, and theirs.

Louis, 49, executive vice president of a real estate firm, and Laura, 46, a real estate broker, were married in 1969. "At the time, I didn't have custody of my children," Louis says. "There were Laura and me and her kids, and we did everything together. Then, my children came to live with us. And then we had a child. At one time, we had eight children living with us."

"Often," Laura says, "it was like running a small camp. It's a picnic now with only three or five at a time. It was difficult at first when we had all the children at once — a combination of our being a new family and the problems of growing up in the '60s and '70s. But there are lots of joys and lots of fun. We take trips together, and seven of the children spent last summer with us in Greece."

The children are "his" — Susan, 24, David, 22, Dieter, 21, and John, 18, "hers" — Jennifer Ames, 18, Marian Ames, 16, and Nathalie Ames, 15, and "theirs" — Zachariah Sudler, 9.

The North Shore family tries to do everything together. "Families work when everyone participates," Louis says. "My kids had trouble settling down and accepting us as a family. It was hard. It takes time."

Laura believes in tradition and strong discipline. "It helps set up the next generation," she says. "I'm happy when the kids are doing well. When they're all around and acting as part of the family, it's delightful."

Community of nuns

PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 2047 W. Fargo Ave., is a three-story building owned by the Order of the Sacred Heart. Six nuns, administrators for the order, live in it. They are a family, part of the 13 per cent of Americans who live apart from traditional familial bonds, such as priests, boarding house and nursing home residents, and members of communes and collectives.

The six — Sally Brennan, Rosemary Dewey, Marina Hernandez, Rosemary Bears, Anne Wente, and Mary Bernstein — take turns cooking and cleaning, and they have a common budget and purse. They work together and they pray together.

"Our living here together is similar to married couples," says Sister Rosemary Dewey. "We do have our own families, yet we are also committed to the group. My family here means love and support. The greatest bond in the world is belonging to the same religious order."

Traditional families are valued by the women. "When you enter a religious order," says Sister Rosemary Dewey, "you realize you will not have a husband or children. It would be sad if that weren't something you would miss or long for. But, having made that decision, you adjust to it."

Sister Sally Brennan, a high school principal, has lived at Provincial for three years. "This is my first family," she says. "I love it. These are the people who know me, trust me, challenge me. This is where my life's blood is."

To Sister Rosemary Bears, family means a lot. "We enter into each other's lives in deep struggle," she says. "We share a common mission, a cause, a place we can call each other to when things get rough."

Sister Marina Hernandez has no living relatives. "I love it here," she says. "It's an easy kind of sharing the ups and downs of our daily lives. A sense of being loved — that's family."



Sisters Rosemary Bears (clockwise from top), Mary Bernstein, Sally Brennan, Rosemary Dewey, and Marina Hernandez.

Adoptive: The Days

"THE MOST IMPORTANT thing in life is making a family," says Joy Day, 33. That's why she and her husband, Charles, 35, a computer division manager, decided to adopt a baby. Charles "Chip" Day Jr., age 3, was adopted when he was 20 months old.

"We didn't care if we got a boy or a girl," says Joy, a suburban housewife. "We wanted a baby. We're so proud of Chip. The foster care he got before he came to us was excellent. They took pictures of him, even saved locks of his hair so we would have them. We're grateful for the good start they gave our son."

Joy and her husband, who have been married for 10 years, tried to have children for a long time. "I was a secretary, but when we settled here, we decided to concentrate on having a baby, so I stopped working," she says. "But it wasn't working out. We still weren't having children. We were really sad, really de-

pressed. In the back of our minds, though, was adoption."

Joy went to the library and researched adoption from all points of view. Then she and her husband went to the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois.

"They were wonderful in every way," Joy says. "We got Chip, and our house became a home."

When Chip's daddy starts talking about his son, he glows with enthusiasm. "Chip is an enchantment to our family," Charles says. "He broadens our growth, our love, and development. I come from a big family and I travel a lot to see them."

Being parents means sharing new emotions, Charles says. "I've enjoyed being married and now, there's another added joy. I call before I leave the office if I might be late so Joy will keep him awake so I can see him. I still love Chip and rock him to sleep and sing him a lullaby."

Charles adds, "Chip doesn't need that anymore, really — but I still do!"



Charles and Joy Day with Charles Jr.

Foster family: Schleifers

"I LOVE KIDS SO much," says Nancy Schleifer, a Western Springs homemaker. "We have two children of our own, Mark, 16, and Laura, 13. I couldn't bear it when I was told I couldn't have any more of my own. We couldn't afford to adopt, so we became foster parents."

In the last five years, Nancy and her husband, F.G. Schleifer, a respiratory therapist, have had 14 foster children. Stacy, 2, and Billy, 4, have lived with the family since infancy. Stacy has cerebral palsy, is blind, and his brain is not growing. "All those things are wrong with him but I don't care," Nancy says. "He's a precious little guy. He knows what love is and responds to that. I'd hate to give him up to an institution."

Billy is "quite a guy," says his foster mother. He is the child of a heroin-addicted and alcoholic mother. His father is unknown. "He has a fragile emotional makeup," Nancy says. "He is in special education and needs a lot of support."

"We're just a normal family," says F.G. "Our children consider the foster children their brothers and sisters. They've grown up with them. We started out with fairly normal babies, and each one got a little bit more severe. We're tired down, but our reward is seeing a kid off to a good start. There's more to family life than just your own kids."

"I want to be home with my own kids but still help others," says Nancy. "This is the perfect combination. But sometimes it is hard. I remember once we had two foster kids and our own kids down with chicken pox for six weeks. I wondered if I would last. I remember taking the healthiest one out trick or treating for Halloween — just to get away!"

The Schleifers live in a small house, filled with children and clutter. Nancy, who had two years of nurse's training, takes the foster children daily for medical treatment and psychotherapy. "I can't picture life any other way," she says. "It's my way of saying I love it."



F.G. and Nancy Schleifer with their children Mark (standing left) and Laura and foster children Stacy (left) and Billy.

Single: Goldstein

Continued from page 1

suburbs, lives alone "by choice." Some 21 per cent of U.S. households are single-person, but living alone does not mean a lack of close family connections.

Goldstein, who has never been married, is a devoted brother, uncle, and cousin. He shows up, laden with gifts, for birthdays, holidays, and special occasions. He takes his nieces, nephews, and young cousins out for treats and does "family" things with them. One of his brothers lives in Albuquerque, N.M.; the other in Sacramento, Calif.

"I see my brothers several times a year," he says. "Families are not necessarily those in proximity nor under one roof. My brothers, my Chicago cousins — I love them all. We have strong ties."

GOLDSTEIN SAYS he "just down roots" when he gets out of the Army in 1973. "I could have practiced medicine in Germany and England, but I didn't want to. You can't keep running. If you do, you're only running from yourself."

Most of his friends are married. "I like being with them and their kids," Goldstein says. "I'm not worried about being alone."

Work (he practices in Libertyville) is not his total absorption, he says. "I'm a serious photographer. I make rugs, and I have a busy social life." Of the latter, he says: "It's pretty rough in the suburbs because the single women are mostly divorced with kids."

Considering the people he could have married, he's better off single, Goldstein says, but adds: "I would like to get married and have a family. I think kids are the greatest thing going."

NOW hosts Kemmerer

Kem Kemmerer, the former president of Chicago Chapter of the National Organization for Women and a vice president of Illinois State NOW, will be the guest speaker at the Sept. 9 meeting of the DuPage East chapter of NOW.

Kemmerer will discuss the political and social implications of "Lesbian Rights and Lesbians as a Feminist Issue." The meeting is open to the public and will start at 7:30 p.m. The group meets at Community of Christ the Servant Church.

Kemmerer, who has served in many capacities in the state NOW organization, is currently the chair of the Lesbian Rights Committee and has been talking with many NOW chapters around the Chicago area on the subject.

Charmine Hantsch, president, will also make a report on the National NOW Conference that will be held in Washington D.C., Oct. 9-12 and announce the five delegates elected by the board to attend and represent the chapter and the membership.

The DuPage East chapter, composed of women and men from DuPage County and the northern and western areas of Cook, Will and Kane counties, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Community of Christ the Servant Church, across from the Yorktown Shopping Center.

The public is invited to all meetings. For more information contact Eugene E. Parvin, public affairs chair, 258 E. Church St., Elmhurst, or call 833-7012.

