

Women's Party Hails Equal Rights Bid

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

President Eisenhower's recommendation to Congress for the passage of an amendment to the Constitution insuring equal rights for women is hailed by the National Women's Party as a historic milestone in the progress of its cause.

Miss Alice Paul, founder of the party, compares this occasion with the one on which President Wilson went to Capitol Hill in 1918 to ask Congress for adoption of the equal suffrage amendment.

President Eisenhower is the first President to appeal for passage of an equal rights amendment in a message to Congress, his plea being included in the budget message.

In that document, he said: "The platforms of both major parties have advocated an amendment to the Constitution to insure equal rights for women. I believe that the Congress should make certain that women are not denied equal rights with men."

The President was following through on a campaign promise

made in his Madison Square Garden speech Oct. 25, just before the election when he said:

"We shall ask, as we promised in our platform, to insure women everywhere in our land equality of rights." To an Miss Paul feels that the President's direct reference to an equal rights amendment in his message to Congress will greatly increase the prospects of its passage.

The National Women's Party is practically certain of the required two-thirds majority for passage of the amendment in the House, with the count of known and announced supporters totaling the required 290.

On the Senate side, the women claim 61 votes for their side. Two-thirds of the Senate calls for 64 votes, leaving three more to be won over to the equal rights cause.

Senator John Marshall Butler (R) of Maryland will be the chief sponsor of the amendment in the Senate. Representative Katharine St. George (R) of New York already has introduced an equal rights amendment in the House. This amendment has been introduced in each Congress since adoption of the women's suffrage amendment in 1919.

DENVER POST, January 21, 1957

Washington Post
Times Herald

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1957.

Ike to the Rescue

A TWENTY-THIRD amendment to the United States Constitution may be submitted to the states for ratification in the not distant future. Last week President Eisenhower became the first president to urge the adoption of an amendment insuring equal rights for women. His support may give the proposed amendment the boost it needs to get through both houses of congress by a two-thirds majority.

In lending his influence to an equal rights amendment, President Eisenhower pointed out that the platforms of both major parties have endorsed such a constitutional guarantee. Sponsors of the amendment claim they need only four more votes in the senate and four more in the house to insure its submission to the states.

The nineteenth amendment to the constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote, was ratified in 1920. In every session of congress since then an amendment to give women equal legal rights with men has been introduced.

A large number of organizations, including the National Women's Party, has been working constantly for the amendment. Most of the opposition has been based on the argument that equality for women might endanger special benefits they now enjoy, as, for example, under the laws of some states which fix shorter working hours for women than for men.

THE proposed amendment, when introduced in the last congress, provided:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress and the several states shall have power, within their respective jurisdictions, to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Sponsors of the amendment insist that a grant of "equality of rights" could not possibly be construed to take away from women any special protections they now have.

As Congresswoman St. George (R) of New York puts it, "Why should equal rights take away any special rights necessary for women, any more than they are taken from veterans, members of the armed forces, the blind, the indigent, the sick, the insane, and numerous other citizens, men, women and children, for whom special legislation has been passed and will continue to be passed, whenever it is found necessary to do so?"

The equal rights amendment is aimed at a variety of discriminations. Five states do not permit women on juries. Twenty states have different qualifications for men jurors and women jurors. Five states require a husband's consent before a woman may go into independent business.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY,

JANUARY 17, 1957.

Equal Rights Mentioned In Message First Time

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—General Eisenhower became today the first President to mention the equal rights amendment in a message to Congress.

"The platforms of both major parties have advocated an amendment of the Constitution to insure equal rights for women," he said. "I believe that the Congress should make certain that women are not denied equal rights with men."

Miss Alice Paul is the author of the amendment and the founder of its most constant sponsor, the National Women's party.

The amendment has been introduced in each Congress since adoption of the women's suffrage amendment in 1919. Miss Paul said her last count had shown that the support of four more Senators and four more Representatives would give it a two-thirds majority.

Ike Urges Equal Rights For Women

Associated Press

PRESIDENT Eisenhower today urged Congress to amend the Constitution to guarantee that women won't be discriminated against because of their sex. In doing so, he used the language of the Democratic platform.

Eisenhower, in his budget message to Congress, noted that both the Democratic and Republican platforms had dealt with this matter.

Both major parties, he said, "have advocated an amendment of the Constitution to insure equal rights for women."

The Democratic platform, adopted at the party's national convention last August, uses the same phrase—"equal rights for women."

The GOP platform speaks of "equal rights for men and women."

Eisenhower, in the second of two sentences devoted to the subject, made it clear that men weren't excluded from his thinking. He said: "I believe that the Congress should make certain that women are not denied equal rights with men."

In community property states, a man may will half of the common property but a woman may not. In these states, management and control of property is vested in the husband. In two states a husband is the owner of his wife's earnings.

Sponsors of the amendment suspect that most opposition stems from those who do not want women to receive equal pay for equal work. In any event, President Eisenhower has given the equal rights amendment a powerful boost and prospects for its adoption are brighter than ever before.