

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
June 6, 1979

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

A one-day labor conference in support of the Equal Rights Amendment will be held Sunday, August 12, in Norfolk, Virginia. Comrades in the South, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast should begin discussing ways of maximizing unionist participation in this important conference.

Virginia is one of the unratified states which has seen the most activity in favor of the ERA, including a labor-sponsored march and rally in Richmond in January 1978. Virginia is also of course a right-to-work state, and the Newport News strike makes Virginia a place where the linkup between the fight for the ERA and against right-to-work can be made most strongly. Newport News is only a short distance from the site of the August 12 conference.

The conference has been organized by a group of Virginia unionists, and its sponsors include the major labor organizations in the state. The conference is also being built outside the state, however, and its organizers expect to attract unionists from other cities, especially in the South, but in places like Boston and Pittsburgh as well.

Within the region, comrades should be discussing how to bring the conference into their union locals or women's committees. It may be that some union locals even further away will consider flying representatives to this conference. There is nothing comparable taking place anywhere else in the country in support of the ERA.

Resolutions can be introduced for our unions to endorse the conference. We should do whatever we can to encourage individuals to attend, and to help with transportation arrangements. The conference also provides an excellent framework for discussions about labor's stake in the ERA, the role of the unions in fighting around social issues, the relationship between ERA and right-to-work.

One of the keynote speakers at the conference will be NOW president Eleanor Smeal, and we should look for ways to have discussions within NOW about the importance of this pro-ERA initiative on the part of the labor movement. We should encourage NOW chapters to help publicize the conference and NOW members to attend. The conference is open to all supporters of the ERA, including those who are not in unions.

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This conference will occur the day following the end of the party's national convention. Because many comrades will be at Oberlin ~~some~~ or all of the week prior to August 12, it will be important to begin discussing who will be able to attend the Norfolk conference as soon as possible, in order to make necessary transportation and scheduling arrangements.

Attached is a copy of the leaflet being used to build the conference. Areas may want to duplicate the leaflet or write to the Labor ERA conference for more.

Comradely,

  
Matilde Zimmermann  
Women's Liberation Director

# CALL TO A LABOR-SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." -- Text of the Equal Rights Amendment

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS :

**MARSHA ZAKOWSKI—**

Staff Representative, Civil Rights Department,  
United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO

**ELEANOR SMEAL —**

President, National Organization for Women (NOW)

## LUNCH SPEAKER:

**CHARLES HAYES:**

International Vice President, Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union,  
AFL-CIO  
Executive Vice President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
(CBTU)

TIME: 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.  
DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1979  
PLACE: HOLIDAY INN SCOPE • NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

SUPPORTERS OF THE ERA ARE STRONGLY URGED TO BE PRESENT AT THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE!!

PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ACTION PROPOSALS AND RESOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY: The Virginia State AFL-CIO • Virginia Education Association  
United Auto Workers Region 8 • Teamsters Joint Councils 55 and 83  
United Mine Workers District 28

ENDORSED BY: Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU)

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//REGISTRATION FORM//

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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THIS FORM, TOGETHER WITH \$10.00 REGISTRATION FEE, WHICH PAYS FOR REGISTRANT'S LUNCH, MUST BE  
RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 8, 1979

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER: AREA CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNATIONAL UNION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL UNION NUMBER: # \_\_\_\_\_ CITY & STATE OF LOCAL UNION: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK FOR \$10.00 PAYABLE TO: LABOR ERA CONFERENCE; 5240 PORT  
ROYAL ROAD; SUITE #213; SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22151 (PHONE: 703/321-7715)

NOTE: FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, WRITE OR CALL: HOLIDAY INN SCOPE (REFER TO LABOR ERA CONFER-  
ENCE); 700 MONTICELLO AVE.; NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510 (PHONE: 804/627-5555)

(Reservations for night of August 11 should be made early to assure room  
availability. Singles: \$28.00; Doubles: \$34.00)

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