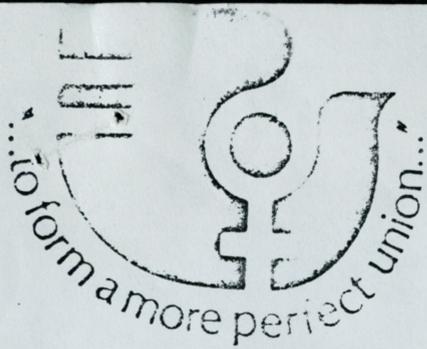


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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Office of Public Information
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
(202) 632-2978 or 79

UPDATE ON THE STATE WOMEN'S MEETINGS & THE NATIONAL IWY CONFERENCE

Update 6

July 25, 1977

A CAPSULIZED LOOK AT THE STATE MEETINGS, FEBRUARY 26 - JULY 10, 1977

VERMONT - February 26

Kick-off state meeting which attracted large numbers of women who have never before taken part in a women's meeting. Turn-out all the more spectacular because of heavy snowfall in the area. Passed resolutions in support of ERA, affirmative action, scholarships for older women students.

ALASKA - May 6-8

Outreach highly successful in a state one-fifth the size of the U.S. Diverse constituencies reflected in make-up of delegation: 4 Caucasians, 3 Tlingits, 2 Eskimos, 1 Athabaskan, 1 Black, 1 Japanese. Extensive follow-up after meeting, including fund-raising effort to send women to National Conference.

GEORGIA - May 6-7

Much discussion about ERA. Delegation to Houston praised as being well-balanced in statewide representation. Sixty-four workshops produced 50 recommendations to be taken to Houston.

IDAHO - May 21-22

Voters passed key recommendation urging creation of a national commission to develop and promote support for uniform set of laws designed to protect legal and economic rights of homemakers, to be used as guide by states. Homemaker rights strongly endorsed by actress Valerie Harper ("Rhoda") in keynote address.

-More-

100

June 2-5

ARIZONA - In addition to IWY Core Agenda, passed 104 Arizona Plan of Action recommendations. Delegation reflects racial diversity of state: 6 Chicanas, 4 American Indians, 1 Black, 1 Japanese, 1 Chinese, 5 Caucasians.

COLORADO - Recommendations introduced in Colorado Plan of Action developed during 2-year period by 7 task forces. Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, noting success of meeting, recalled some Congressmen opposed IWY meetings on grounds women could not organize such a project.

MINNESOTA - One of largest gatherings -- 4,500 attended. Confrontation between anti-abortion and pro-choice groups. Resolutions supported all IWY goals. State resolutions added, including one calling for wages for housework and another recommending self-defense courses for girls.

30 anti-ERA delegates MISSOURI - Coalition of anti-abortion, anti-ERA groups successfully campaigned for election of 30 delegates. All IWY recommendations adopted. ERA received overwhelming endorsement. Highlighted by performance of all-woman symphony conducted by Maria Tunicka.

NEW MEXICO - Parliamentarian so impressed with meeting she turned back her fee to committee and is conducting classes on parliamentary procedure for Houston-bound delegates.

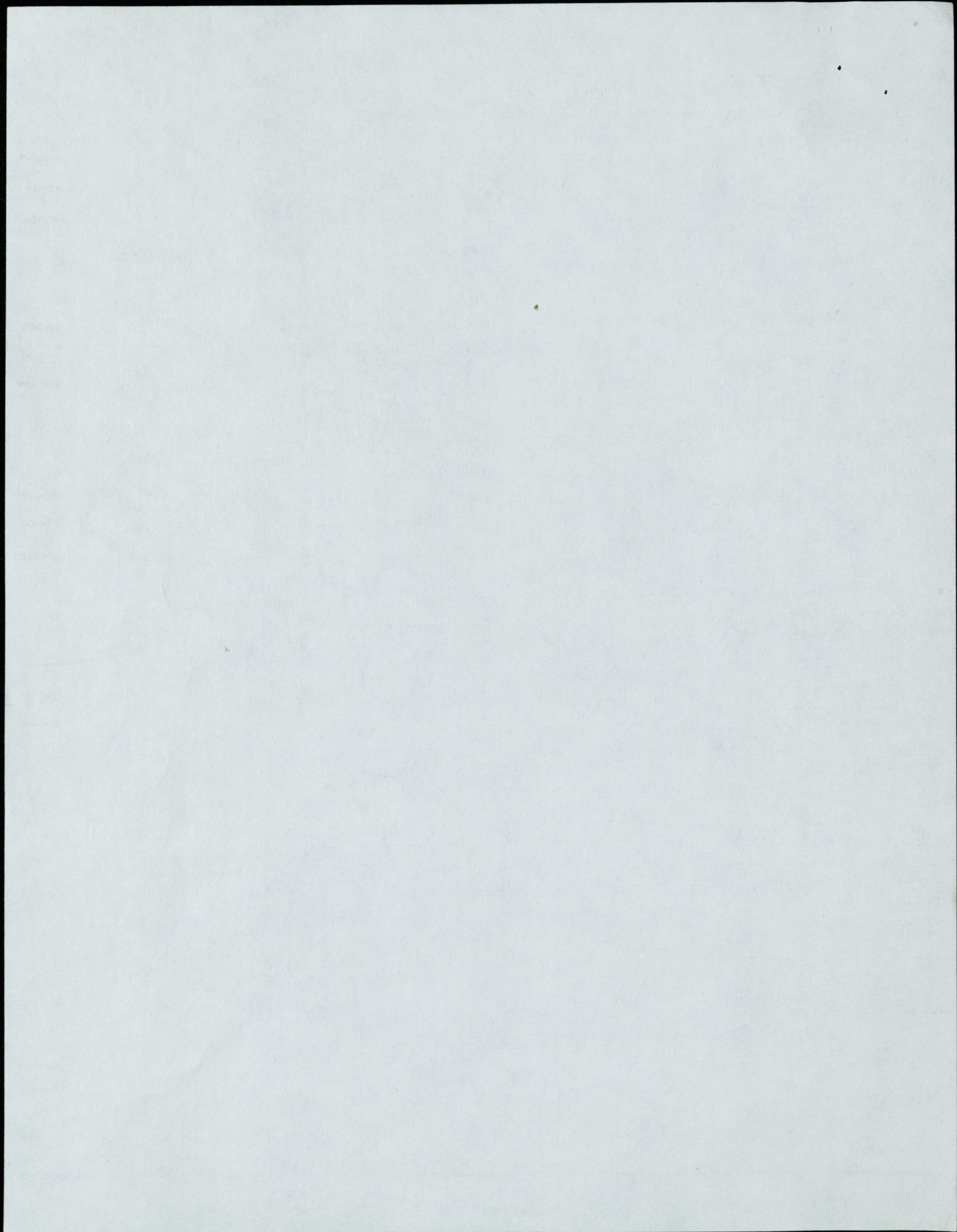
NORTH DAKOTA - Most diversified cross-section of women ever assembled. Described as "loving, caring, sharing" meeting despite opposing viewpoints.

OREGON - Governor Robert Straub reaffirmed commitment to women's rights and said highest priority would be appointment of a woman to top judiciary position.

WISCONSIN - Program potpourri included 55 workshops, art exhibits, theatre, sports, parades, humor, singing. Delegates represent racial and ethnic diversity. Strongly contrasting viewpoints heard throughout meeting. Race between University of Wisconsin crew team and crew from Boston added to spirit of excitement.

June 10-12

ARKANSAS - IWY Core Agenda passed with amendments, in addition to 23 diverse recommendations included in Arkansas Plan of Action. Delegation represents diversity in religion, income, occupations and age.



CONNECTICUT - Resolutions all support women's rights; excellent recommendations on unions, health, aged and handicapped. Anti-abortion group voted in bloc against all recommendations.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Active campaigning by both feminist and lesbian groups. IWY recommendations incorporated into D.C. Plan of Action. Key recommendation urges IWY Commission to produce study of impact of welfare on women at both state and national level.

ILLINOIS - Confrontation between pro and anti-ERA groups. All IWY and workshop recommendations passed. Over 800 persons attended ERA workshop.

IOWA - Minority participation evident in state which has few minorities. Some 132 recommendations adopted in addition to IWY Core Agenda. Working sessions interspersed with acrobatics, drama, music, spoofs, art exhibits.

KENTUCKY - IWY recommendations easily passed despite some disruption throughout weekend. Delegation reflects diversity in age and religion. Speeches by Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and author Caroline Bird well received.

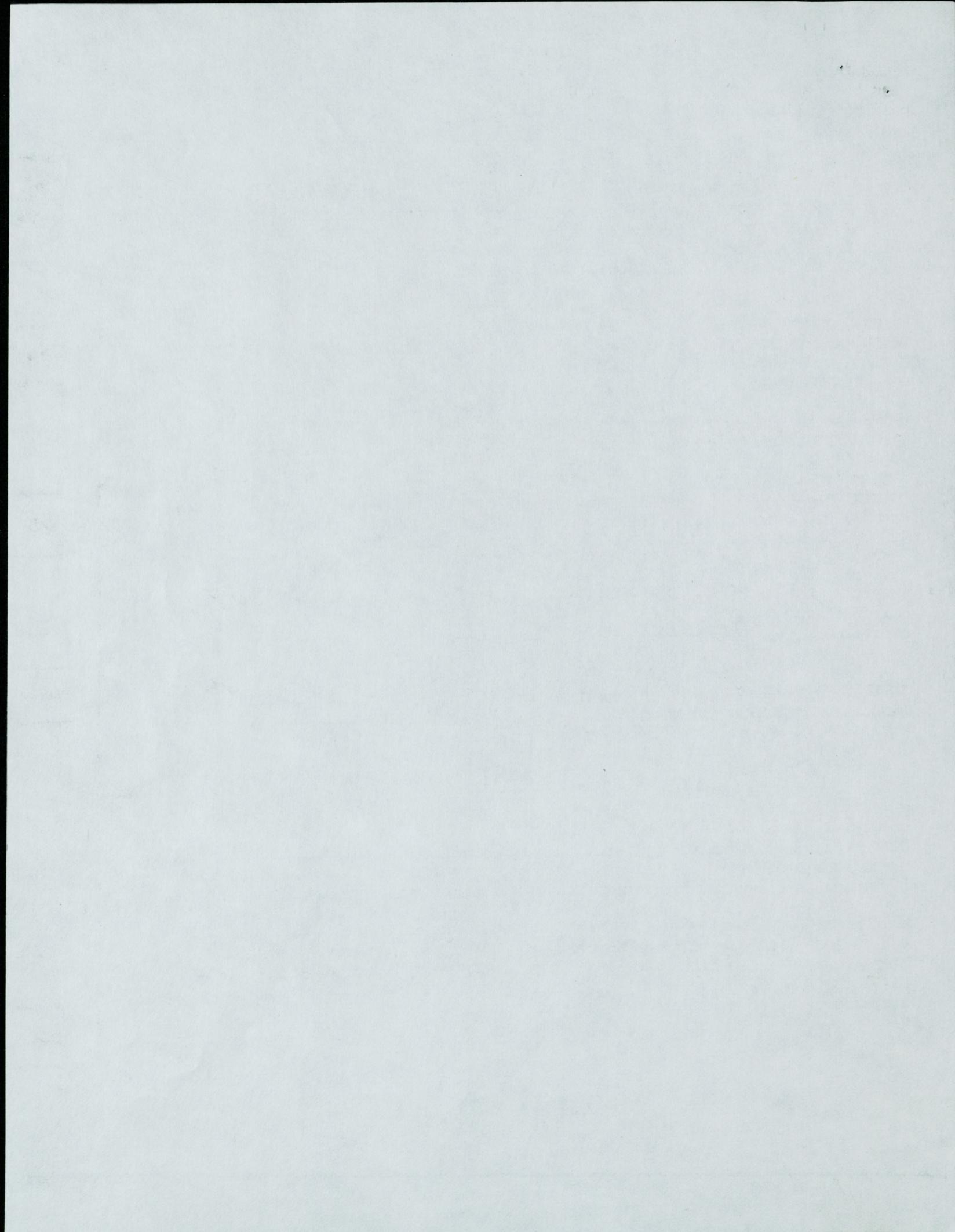
MARYLAND - Every Congressional district represented in delegation. Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski highlighted meeting in keynote speech. Total of 246 recommendations adopted, including those in support of national core agenda.

MICHIGAN - Delegates reflect diversity in all categories. National recommendations passed with some debate. Anti-ERA sentiment expressed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Resolutions passed in form of New Hampshire Plan of Action. Diverse religions, incomes and occupations in make-up of delegation.

OHIO - Resolutions halted by parliamentary challenges but national recommendations passed by wide margins. Delegation reflects strong anti-abortion viewpoint which was emphasized in individual campaigns for election.

PUERTO RICO - Recommendations concerning ERA and those addressed to federal government agencies discarded as not applicable. Challenge to bar men from participating or voting loudly rejected. Substantial outreach in 5 mini-conferences prior to meeting.



[July 25, 1977]

RHODE ISLAND - High attendance in ERA, abortion, lesbian and assertiveness training workshops; some disruptions. Total of 127 recommendations passed, including national. Plenary videotaped.

SOUTH CAROLINA - Talking histories of participants taken by roving tape recorders. Women who had been the first to trailblaze in accomplishments or women's rights wore badges saying, "I broke a barrier. Talk with Me." Anti-ERA groups active. All national recommendations adopted. Support voted for ERA.

VIRGINIA - Voted to boycott Virginia products until ERA is ratified. Balanced geographic representation in delegation, along with diversity of racial and religious groups. Entertainment highlight was "Athena, from the Forehead of Zeus," comic opera about pregnant male god.

WYOMING - IWY recommendations adopted separately; about 55 recommendations in Wyoming Women's Agenda also passed. Plenary sessions chaired by two women legislators. Anti-abortion faction opposed all recommendations. Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers and known as the "Wrinkled Radical," captivated audience in keynote address.

June 16-18

AMERICAN SAMOA - First women's meeting ever held. No vote taken on IWY recommendations. Resolutions passed included 3 on social concerns, 4 on politics and 1 concerning economics.

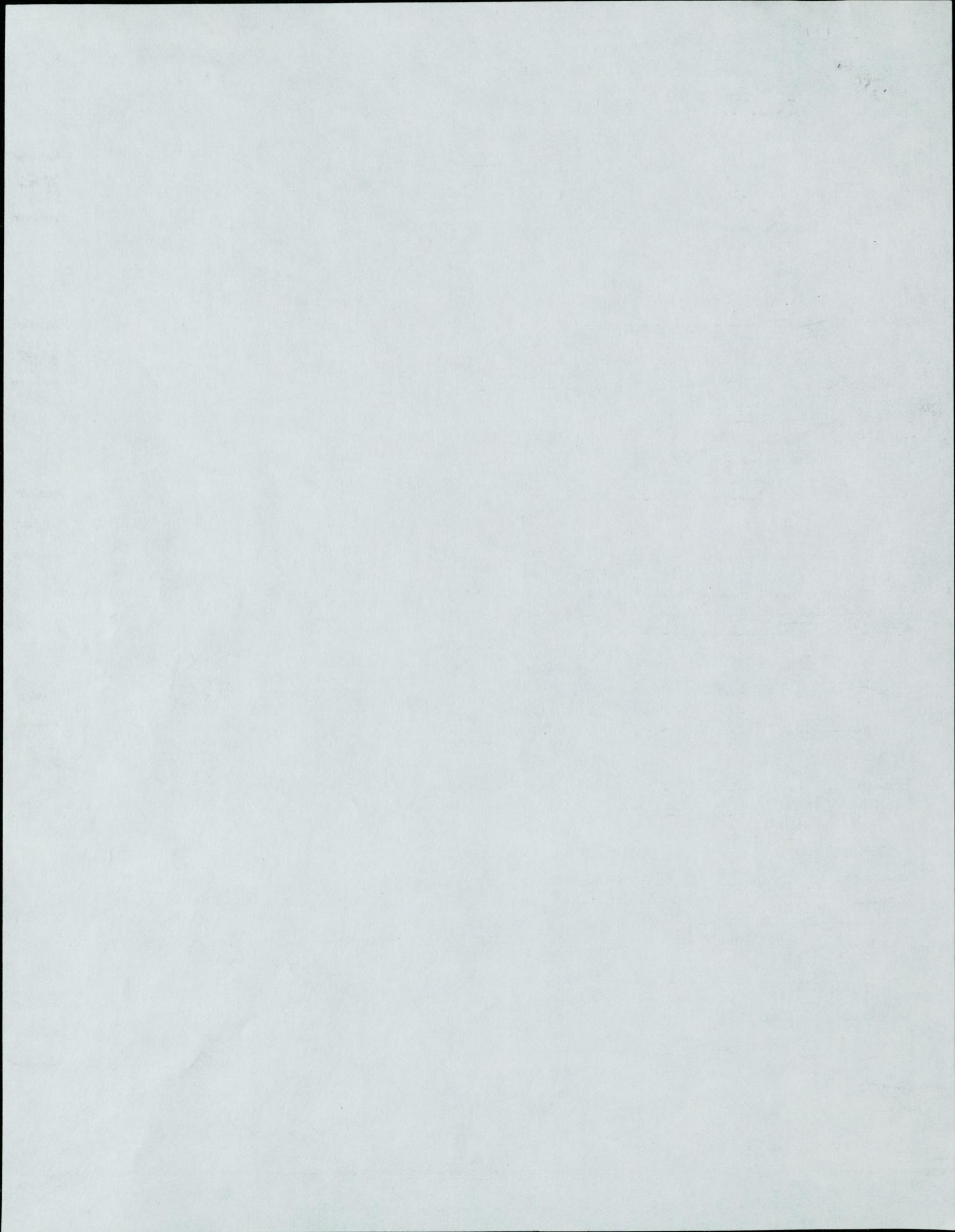
CALIFORNIA - Key resolutions passed included those on ERA, politics, politics/minority women and on lesbianism. IWY recommendations not acted upon. Participants reflected entire spectrum of diversity.

DELAWARE - Excellent child care facility allowed children to create and present puppet show for other youngsters. IWY Commissioner Addie Wyatt delivered moving keynote speech.

LOUISIANA - Extensive Louisiana Plan of Action established, in addition to action on national recommendations. Activities included a debate featuring both pro and con views on ERA.

MAINE - Recommendations adopted included 55 drawn up earlier in regional meetings. Highlights included a keynote speech on cultural conditioning of women via advertising.

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NEVADA - Large attendance by Mormons. About 38 resolutions amended and approved. Luncheon address by Gloria Steinem attracted more persons than the number pre-registered for the meeting.

NEW JERSEY - Passed resolutions on ERA, abortion and lesbian and battered women. Workshops on ERA and human reproduction very heated; ERA workshops had to be adjourned. Creative Children workshop generated much interest.

NORTH CAROLINA - Theme, "North Carolina Women are Valuable Resources." Delegation includes excellent representation of blacks, working class and homemakers. Overwhelming support of national recommendations.

entire RA delegate slate
OKLAHOMA - Groups opposing ERA successfully campaigned for an entire anti-ERA delegate slate. Resolutions rejected IWY recommendations.

SOUTH DAKOTA - Under a "Celebrate South Dakota Women" theme, sponsors presented pageant about Dakotan women, whose "characters" included missionaries, suffragists, pioneers and Indian women.

June 22-26

MASSACHUSETTS - District meetings held simultaneously in 5 locations. Similar programs but distinctly local input made each special to its area.

NEBRASKA - Large attendance by individuals opposing abortion. Disruptions in plenary sessions. All elected delegates supported by anti-abortion groups. ERA and other resolutions contested but passed. IWY Commissioner Addie Wyatt highlighted with keynote remarks.

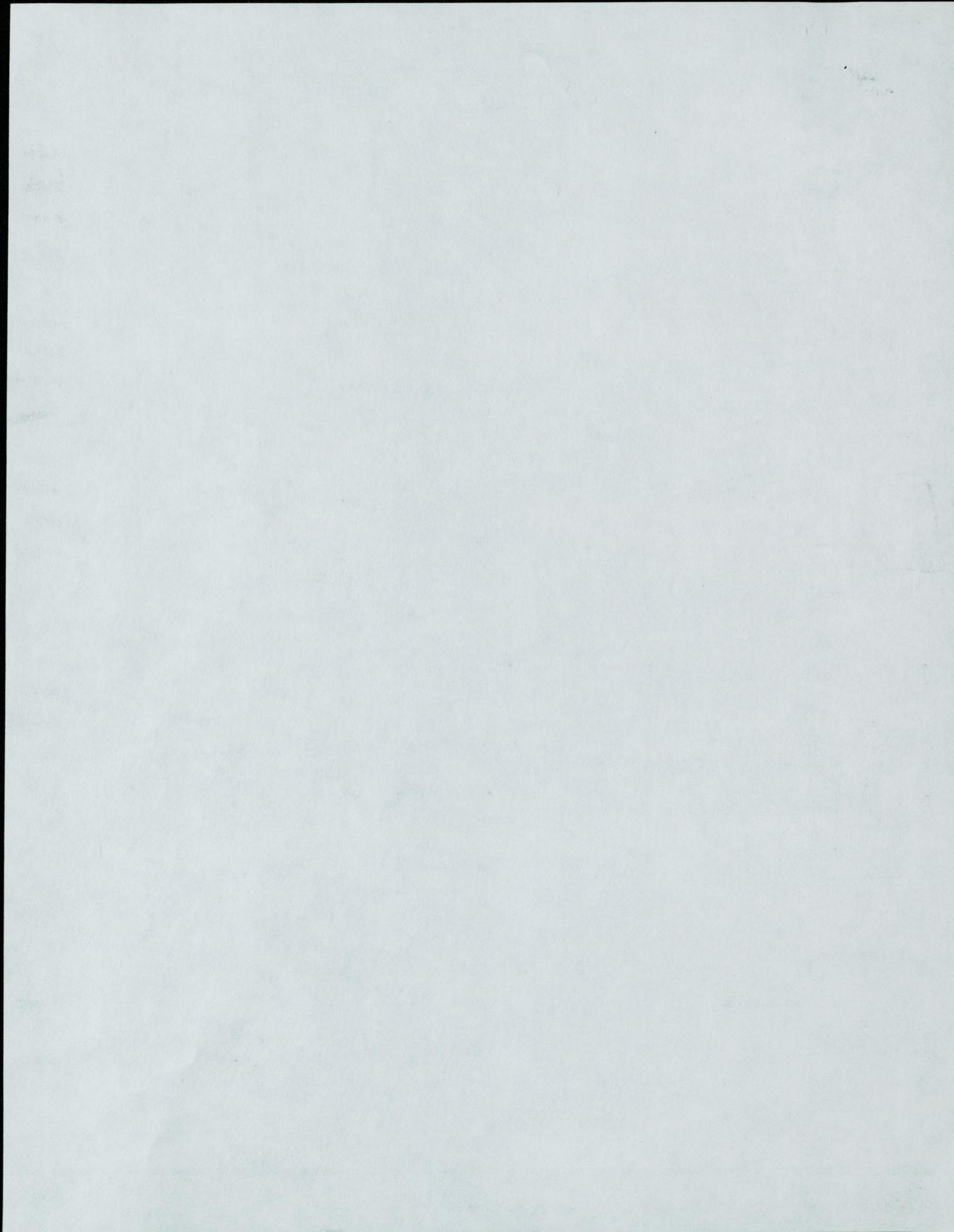
PENNSYLVANIA - Recommendations dealt with State Plan of Action, which incorporated national recommendations. Featured art exhibits by women painters, Ukrainian music and dance. Security guards provided by Pittsburgh Women's Collective and identified by hard hats.

TENNESSEE - National recommendations and state recommendations put on separate ballots and passed by 3 to 1 margins.

LOUISIANA - Extensive national recommendations not presented. ERA opponents assisted in conducting plenary sessions and in a Texas Talent Program.

TEXAS - Resolutions presented from workshops; national recommendations not presented. ERA opponents assisted in conducting plenary sessions and in a Texas Talent Program.

UTAH - Turn-out: 13,860. Mormon attendance in large numbers. All national recommendations defeated. One resolution urging repeal of suffrage was overwhelmingly defeated.



VIRGIN ISLANDS - Women from all islands attended. Resolutions strongly favored women's rights and included strong wording on topics of rape, credit and women in public office.

WEST VIRGINIA - Excellent outreach by widows of coal miners, who went door-to-door to spread the word about the meeting. National recommendations passed on separate ballot. Highlighted by exhibit of 200 West Virginia women writers, poets and dramatists.

July 8-10

GUAM - National recommendations adopted by 1,500 assembled.

NEW YORK - Coalition slate of 88 delegates elected. All IWY recommendations passed in addition to resolutions from workshops. Over 8,000 women present, many who had never attended women's meeting before. Superb gala featured appearances by numerous celebrities.

HAWAII - Large Mormon attendance. Coalition of traditionalist, anti-ERA and Mormons controlled voting under leadership of group of men. Delegation represents anti-ERA sentiment, IWY Core Agenda not considered, although one excellent resolution from education workshop passed.

(Remaining meetings will be featured in next update)

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WE GET QUESTIONS.....

Information on housing and child care will be mailed to elected delegates in August. Two hotels, the Sheraton Houston and the Hyatt Regency, are reserved for delegates.

Official certification of delegates to the NWC will take place in September. Credentialing, advance registration and distribution of issue materials will follow.

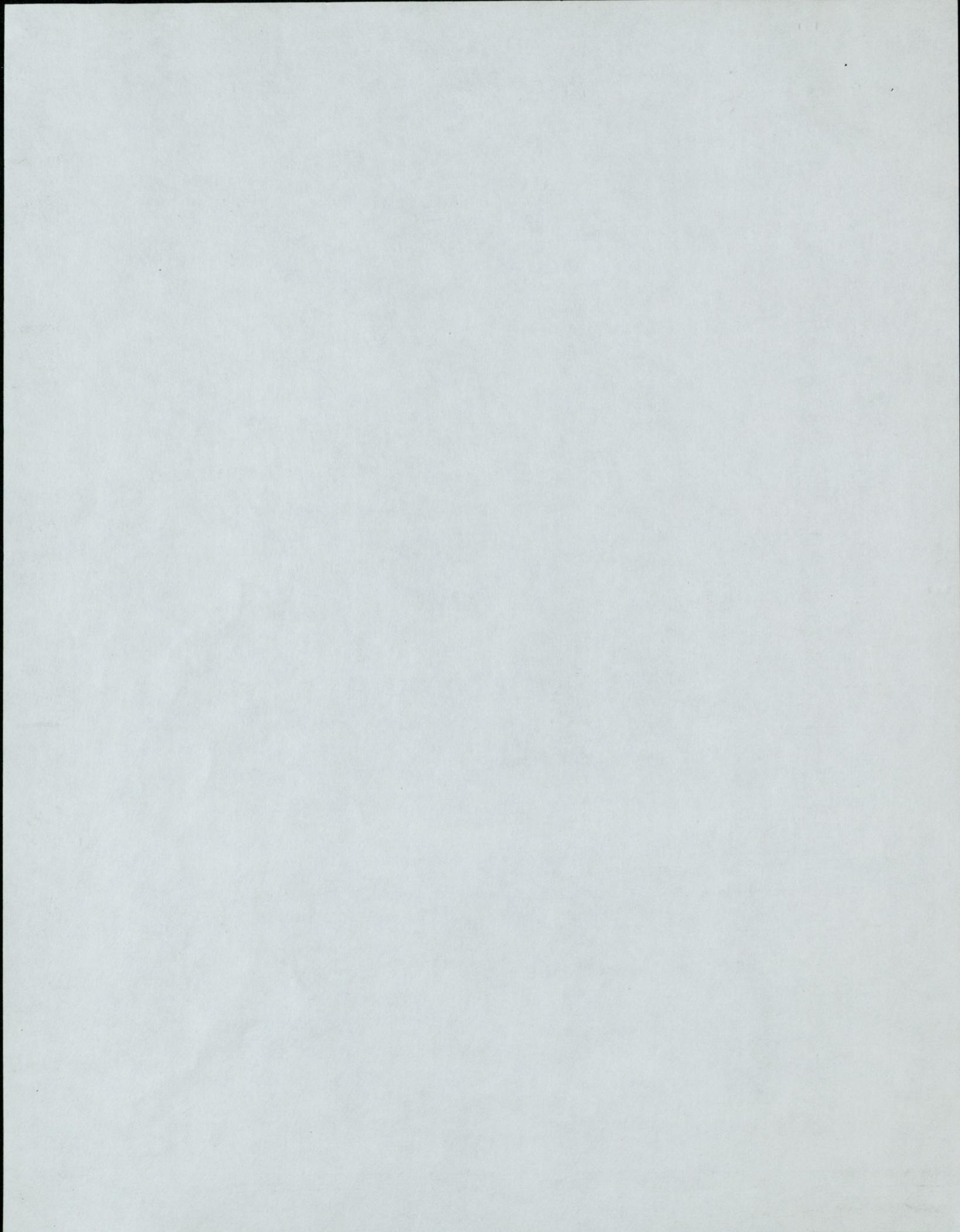
Inquiries and recommendations concerning delegates-at-large should be mailed to Carmen Votaw, National IWY Commissioner, care of Dorothe Dow, IWY Secretariat, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

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Application for booth space at the Houston Civic Center are available from David B. Humphrey Associates, Inc., Post Office Box 20533, St. Louis, Mo. 63139, (314) 966-6837.

Assignment of space will be determined by the postmark date of application, amount of space requested, special requirements and the general grouping of exhibits for maximum effectiveness.

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Rental cost of commercial or government agency exhibit space is \$600 for each 10' by 10' booth. Small businesses owned by women (five or fewer employees) are entitled to a \$50 reduced rate for a 5' by 10' booth. Cost to non-governmental organizations is \$50 for a 5' by 10' booth. Exhibit space is free to state and territorial coordinating committees.

* * *

The revised price is \$1.25 per booklet for state-by-state studies on the legal status of the homemaker. Thirty-seven booklets are now available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Booklets now in print include Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Seven booklets are at the printer and will be released soon: Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Utah and West Virginia.

Seven state books are not yet completed: Alabama, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Washington and Wyoming.

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REMEMBRANCES

The Smithsonian Institution has asked the IWY Commission to provide it with memorabilia from the state meetings and the NWC for display at a later date.

Requested are state posters, programs, buttons, tee shirts and other articles which were put on sale.

Those interested should first write to: Edith Mayo, Division of Political History, MHT 4109, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. The Smithsonian will supply franked mailing labels to persons who want to forward material.

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IWY APPOINTMENTS

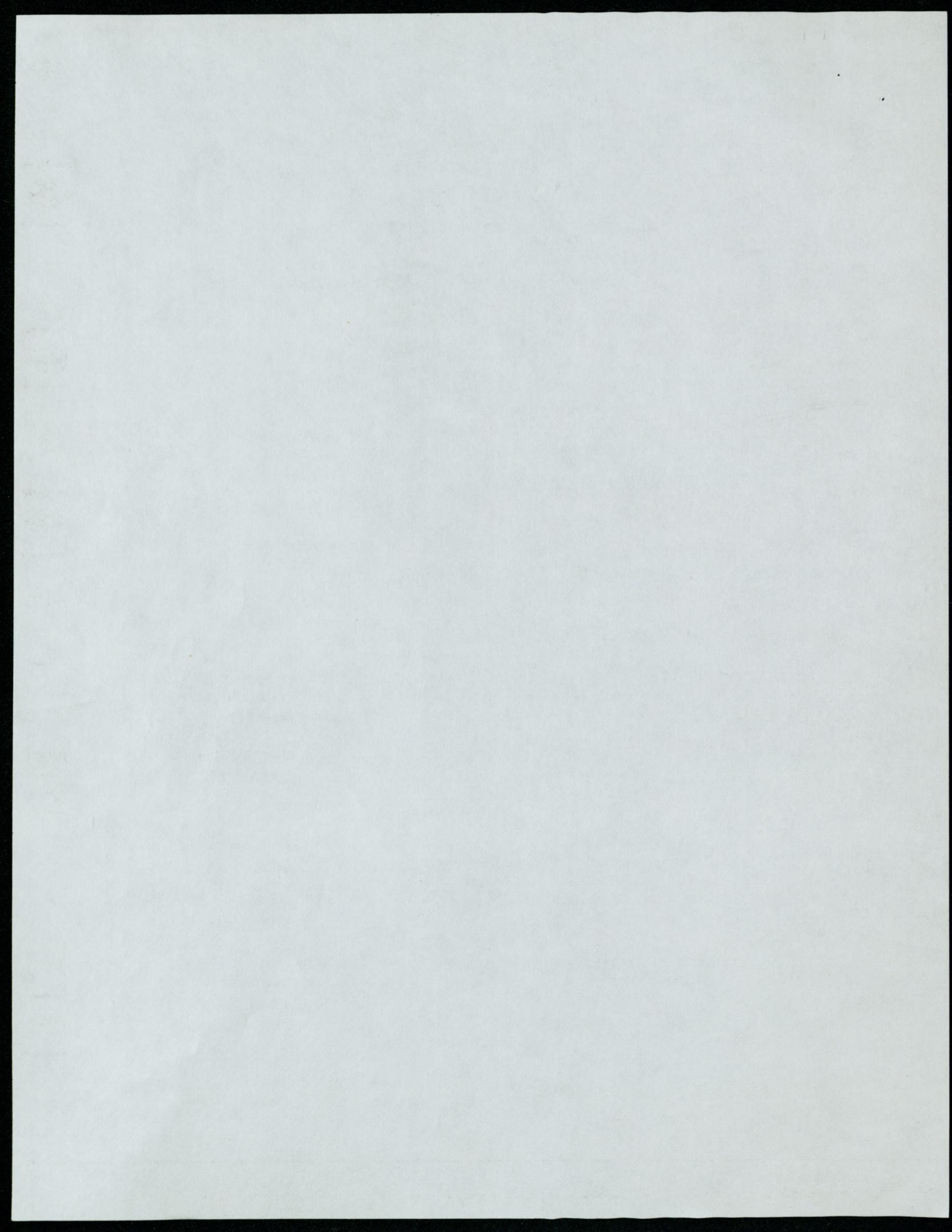
The IWY Commission has announced the appointments of Kathryn F. Clarenbach as Executive Director and Lee Novick as National Conference Coordinator.

Dr. Clarenbach is on leave from the University of Wisconsin where she is a professor of Political Science. She is Chair of the Wisconsin Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Novick served as Administrative Assistant to Congresswoman Bella Abzug from 1975-77. She is Vice Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus.

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QUOTABLE NOTABLES: SOME REMARKS FROM THE STATE MEETINGS

CAROLINE BIRD, feminist author and keynote speaker, told the State Journal in Madison, Wisconsin, that despite gains made during the last decade toward equality of the sexes, most working women are stuck in the "pink collar ghetto of pin money pay" and they "remain rarities in seats of power, contrary to some popular notions advanced by the news media."

"Women who are full-time homemakers are in a risky occupation with no unemployment insurance. One out of every three women under 30 is expected either to be separated or divorced in her lifetime, changes which can plunge women into unexpected poverty."

* * *

The Richmond News Leader, June 11, printed an interview with IYW Commission member MILDRED PERSINGER, who attended the Virginia meeting as an observer and as a resource to the Women in the World workshop. Ms. Persinger described women in developing countries: "When a woman has no worth except as a mother, and the more children the more worthy, she's not going to pass up that prestige. It doesn't matter how many pills you give her. She's still going to have 18 babies."

Another concern around the world is wife abuse, Ms. Persinger said. Women don't want to tell about abuse because they are afraid it would hurt the children. They're afraid that if they told their mothers, they'd be asked, 'What are you doing to antagonize him?'

* * *

DR. BENJAMIN SPOCK told the Is the Family Changing? workshop audience in Arkansas that he had been forced to change his old sexist attitudes after being picked out as a target by the women's movement for some of the assumptions present in his famous book on the family. Said Spock: "From 1970 to 1976, it took me those (6) years to digest women's objections and get them through my thick male head." -- Little Rock Gazette, June 13.

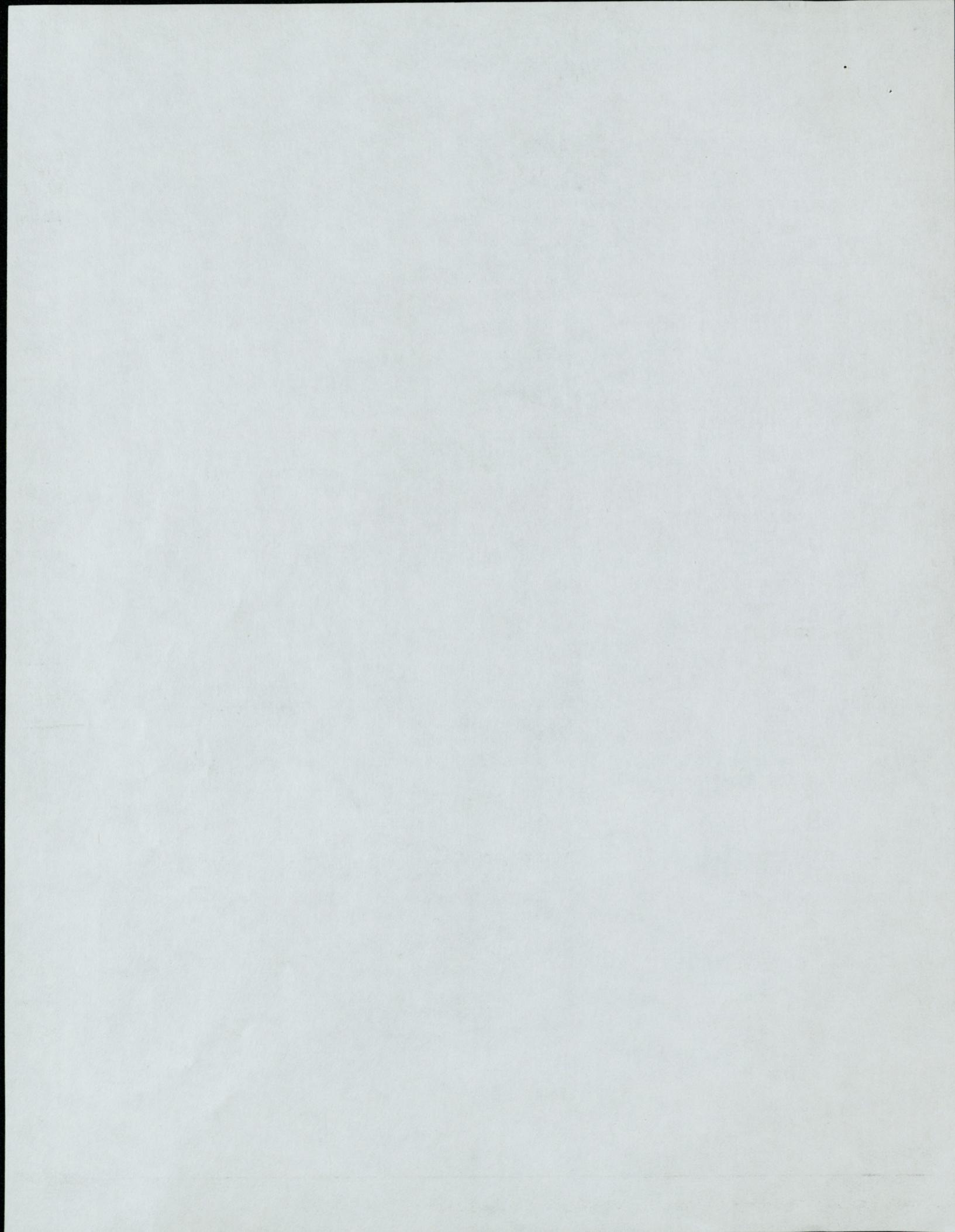
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IYW Presiding Officer BELLA ABZUG told the Illinois meeting, "We don't live in mansions or on pedestals. We live in the real, very tough world, and we need a legal guarantee of equal treatment. They (present laws) neither protect you nor respect you. They judge you by your genes."

"For the first time we are making the diversity of our needs and demands know to the Congress. And we expect not only to be heard, but we expect to be heeded." -- Chicago Tribune, June 19.

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DR. ALLIE HIXSON, chair of the Kentucky Coordinating Committee, told the Louisville Courier Journal, "The women's movement is made up of regular people with legitimate concerns who are less a threat than a source of hope to organized society." --June 11.

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Keynote speaker C. DELORES TUCKER, Secretary of State for Pennsylvania, called for unity among women, observing, "Too many of us put our energy into rejecting other women as rivals, instead of supporting each other and working together as friends and allies." Sunday Advocate, Baton Rouge, La., June 19.

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"VIRGINIA LOCKLEAR runs the Cut 'n Curl Beauty Shop in her home near Maxton, and with her son she is farming 133 acres of tobacco, corn, beans and cucumbers. She has spent six years working in a textile mill. She is married and has 4 children, 10 to 24 years old. She is a Native American Indian.

"In the mills, women sometimes do more work than the men but don't get paid as much. It's probably the positions they hold...walking in there with their white shirt and tie." She wants to know 'why a woman does her eight hours of work and a man does his eight hours of work...then the man props up his heels with a newspaper and the woman has 4 or 5 more hours of work. It's not fair.'" Goldsboro (N.C.) News Argus, June 18.

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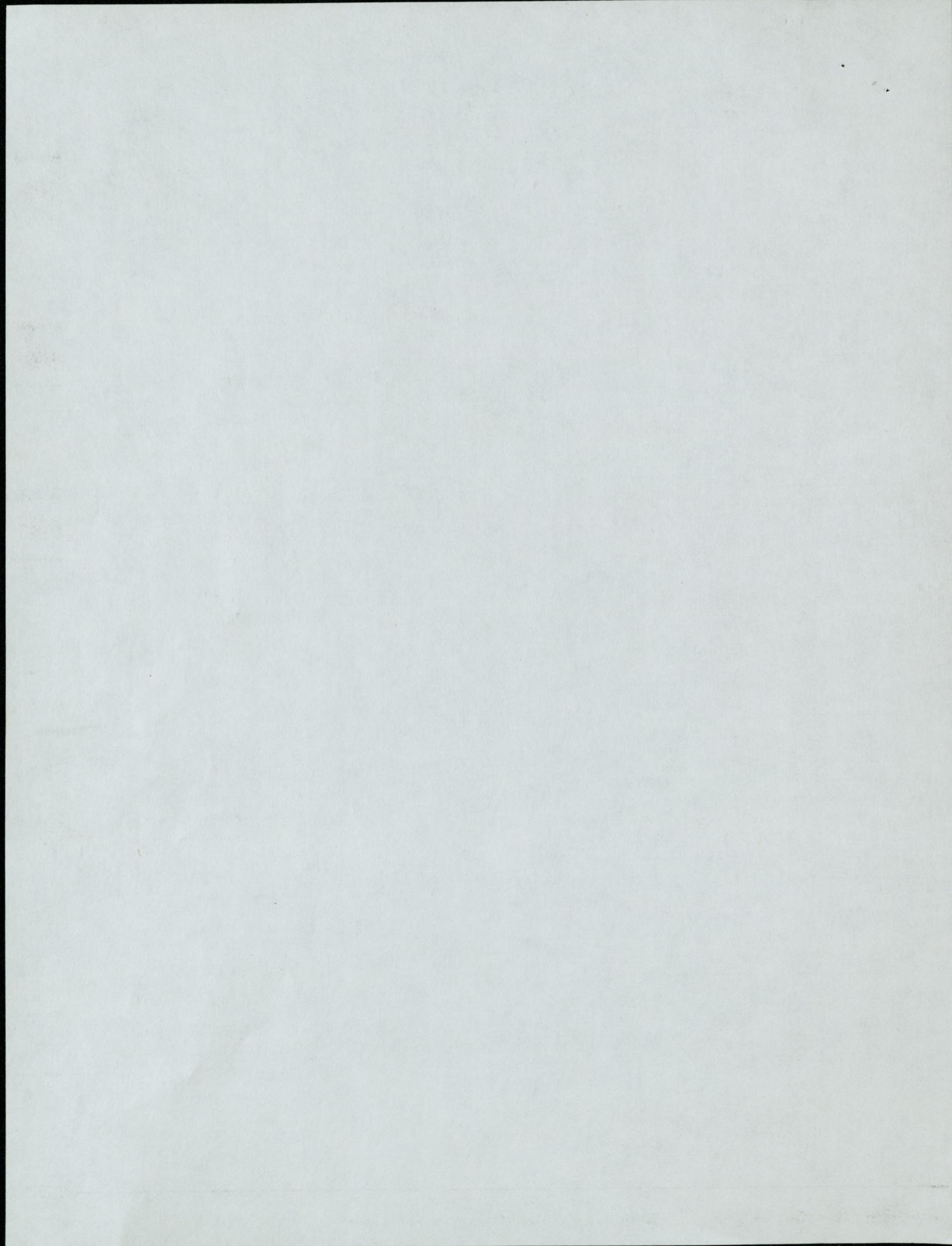
HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE...

IOWA -- Some women protested being housed at a Ramada Inn because a "very insulting" nightclub act was also booked there. Their complaints reached the plenary session, which passed a resolution to boycott Ramada Inns.

ILLINOIS -- Following the State meeting, an Alton woman called the Illinois IWY office to say she wanted to open a pro-ERA office. She said she had never before been to any type of women's meeting and "had no idea this was what the struggle was about." And she promised: "You can count on me." During the plenary session, professional organizers (usually male) constantly passed notes to their female anti-ERA followers. If they did well at the microphone, the men congratulated them; if they performed poorly, they were severely reprimanded. One moderator intervened: "I see the gentleman is asking some woman to speak for him. Let the man speak for himself. Why is he telling her what to say?"

CALIFORNIA -- Phyllis Schlafly held a meeting to give specific instructions to 700 people on how to disrupt the upcoming State meeting.

MONTANA -- On the day preceding the meeting, Native American women from the State's seven tribes assembled together for the first time in an Indian caucus. Representatives of all tribes attended the meeting.



ALASKA -- One participant in a workshop on the legal status of homemakers in that State complained she had overslept (she got up at 6:20 a.m.) but had managed to do four loads of laundry, changed two beds and tend to her 93-year old mother before coming to the 9 a.m. conference. "I'm just waiting for someone to ask me why I don't work," she said.

COLORADO -- The warden at the Women's Correctional Institution in Canyon City was persuaded to send two women inmates to participate. They came without supervision and stayed in the dormitory. One was nominated to be a delegate, although she was not elected.

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A TORCH RELAY

A cross country torch relay is scheduled to begin in mid-September in Seneca Falls, New York, and culminate in Houston, November 18th to open the National Women's Conference. As many as 3600 hundred runners will participate, running approximately one mile each. Runners will include volunteers from various women's groups, celebrities, high school and college women, local and national athletes, and some political figures. A tentative route is planned through New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York City, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. A large publicity effort will be organized along the way and all runners will wear AMERICAN WOMEN ON THE MOVE tee shirts.

Anyone interested in helping organize the relay or becoming a runner, please contact Pat Kery, D/IWY, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

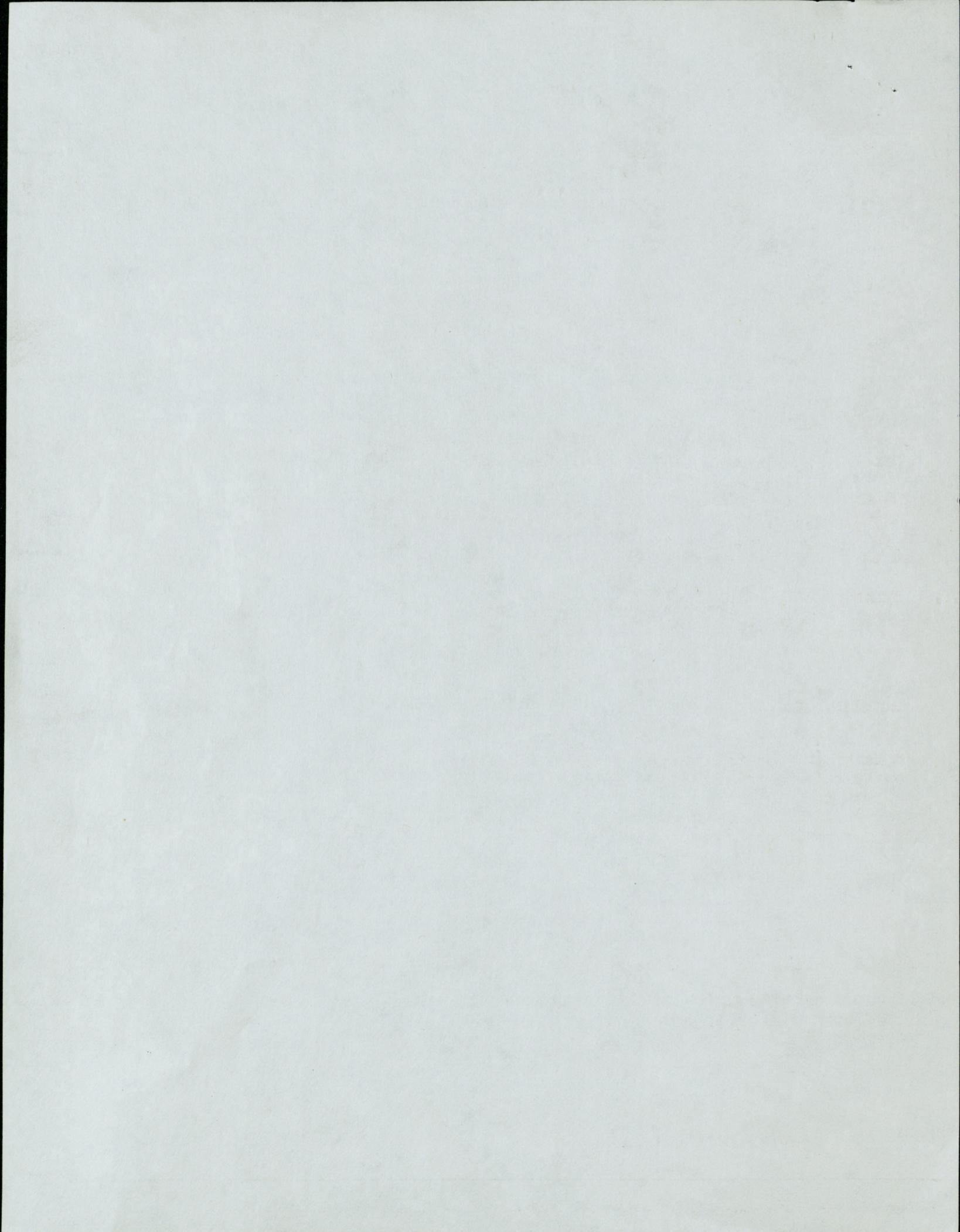
The National Commission on IWY will consider any documentation that purports to show that the election of delegates to the National Women's Conference at the State Meetings for Women did not comply substantially with the requirements of Public Law 94-167 or with the regulations established by the Commission on IWY (45 CFR 1901 through 1904) if that documentation is received by the Commission on or before August 8, 1977. All materials submitted should be addressed to: National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520, Attention: General Counsel.

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IN CASE THIS IS THE FIRST ISSUE OF UPDATE YOU'VE EVER SEEN.....

Congress has designated the National Commission on IWY as sponsor for 56 State and Territorial Women's Meetings leading up to a National Women's Conference November 18-21 in Houston, Texas. This newsheet is a progress report.

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DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Total elected delegates: 1,442
Five alternate delegates per State

Alabama	- 24	Maryland	- 26	Rhode Island	- 14
Alaska	- 12	Massachusetts	- 34	South Carolina	- 22
Arizona	- 18	Michigan	- 48	South Dakota	- 14
Arkansas	- 18	Minnesota	- 26	Tennessee	- 26
California	- 96	Mississippi	- 20	Texas	- 58
Colorado	- 20	Missouri	- 30	Utah	- 14
Connecticut	- 22	Montana	- 14	Vermont	- 12
Delaware	- 12	Nebraska	- 16	Virginia	- 30
Florida	- 40	Nevada	- 12	Washington	- 24
Georgia	- 30	New Hampshire	- 14	West Virginia	- 18
Hawaii	- 14	New Jersey	- 40	Wisconsin	- 28
Idaho	- 14	New Mexico	- 14	Wyoming	- 12
Illinois	- 58	New York	- 88	American Samoa	- 12
Indiana	- 32	North Carolina	- 32	District of Columbia	- 12
Iowa	- 22	North Dakota	- 12	Guam	- 12
Kansas	- 20	Ohio	- 56	Puerto Rico	- 12
Kentucky	- 24	Oklahoma	- 22	Trust Territories	- 12
Louisiana	- 26	Oregon	- 18	Virgin Islands	- 12
Maine	- 14	Pennsylvania	- 60		

The number of representatives was computed on the basis of 10 per State plus two for each Congressional District in that State.

"Delegates-at-large" will be added under Public Law 94-167, Section 4, Line 5.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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The National Commission on the Status of Women is pleased to announce that the election of delegates to the State Meetings for Women, pursuant to Public Law 94-167, on which the National Commission was established, will be held on or before August 1, 1977. The National Commission on the Status of Women is located in the Department of State, Washington, D.C.

IN CASE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME

Congress has designated the National Commission on the Status of Women and Territorial Women's Meetings for November 18-21 in Houston, Texas.

