



NOW

THE *broadside*

HOUSTON CHAPTER
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Vol. 4, No. 4

BROADSIDE

April 1973

HCWPC CONVENTION

April 28 is the date for the 1973 Convention of the Harris County Women's Political Caucus. Although plans are still in the rough, the agenda will include a business session for election of officers and adoption of resolutions, a panel discussion by female state legislators, and workshops on local issues.

Among those invited to speak are Frances Farenthold, chairperson of the National Women's Political Caucus, and state legislators Chris Miller (Ft. Worth), Sarah Weddington (Austin), Eddie Bernice Johnson (Dallas), Kay Bailey (Houston), Sefronia Thompson (Houston), and Betty Andujahr (Ft. Worth).

The business session of the HCWPC Convention will begin at 9:00 AM on the 28th of April at Agnes Arnold Hall, UH Campus. HCWPC President Ruth Milburn will serve as temporary chairperson. The usual order of business includes the election of officers, followed by division into priorities committees for drafting resolutions. After the priorities committees meet, the convention as a whole is reconvened to vote on resolutions and to nominate standing committees.

After the business session and a lunch break (sack lunches will be provided for \$1), the convention will hear a panel of state legislators, all women, who will discuss their own trials, tribulations, and glories as well as

how other women can be effective in state politics. Following the panel, workshops on local Harris County politics are planned. Each workshop will last 1½ hours.

Focusing on cutting through red tape, Judith Abbott, coordinator for the afternoon workshops, is organizing sessions on these topics:

SCHOOLS - HISD, universities, parent-teacher associations, TSTA

PROBLEMS OF THE AGED - housing, Social Security, medical care

CITY HALL - City Council, garbage and library departments, utilities

HOW TO MAKE MONEY - self-employment, small businesses, insurance, credit, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Judith has slyly titled her workshop manual, "How to Cause Trouble."

The Convention will be open to the public. Registration is \$1 for both members and non-members. Only those who have paid their dues at least three days prior to the convention will be allowed to vote. HCWPC dues are \$5.00 per year or \$3.50, if you waive the state lobbying fee and the national dues.

A fund-raising cocktail party will be scheduled for the evening.

broadside

SIMULTANEOUS DISCHARGE OF ALL THE GUNS ON ONE SIDE OF A WARSHIP . . . ANY STRONG OR COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK, AS BY CRITICISM . . . A SONG, CHIEFLY IN 16TH- AND 17TH-CENTURY ENGLAND, WRITTEN ON A TOPICAL SUBJECT, PRINTED ON BROADSIDES, AND SUNG IN PUBLIC . . . , BY A PROFESSIONAL BALLADEER . . .

THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, UNABRIDGED EDITION

Comment

One of our new members commented recently on how much difficulty she had finding Houston NOW. She suggested that we conduct a publicity program to recruit new members. Obviously this is a good idea as are so many other suggestions that I get. Unfortunately, the only NOW members I can find to accept the responsibility for projects like this are just overextended.

My plan when I became President of Houston NOW was to change our basic mode of operation. At that time Houston NOW was a large organization with a handful of people doing 95% of the work. I wanted to distribute the work so that each member could feel a commitment to NOW. So now we're a bigger group with an armful of people doing 85% of the work. Many of our projects show the successful involvement of the membership, most notably the Center. Other projects, perhaps less glamorous or more time consuming, are still being done by a few. I would just like to announce, "THE FEW ARE GETTING TIRED!"

We have over 400 names on the mailing list. The list is made up of members, Broadside subscribers and people who have contacted NOW within the past three months. That sounds like a likely group of workers, but somehow most are not actively supporting the organization projects. I am soliciting suggestions for involving more people as workers and leaders, but mainly I'm advertising for workers and leaders. The following areas are in need of support:

- (1) The Broadside. Sara McDaniel is being overwhelmed as the new editor. Help is required in all phases of producing the newsletter: writing, typing, layout and mailing.
- (2) The Center. We always need more people to take shifts. In addition, we need someone to form a group to finish decorating and finding furnishings. Another committee could take care of the sign.
- (3) Fund Raising. People are needed to lead and to work on fund raising projects. How about a "garage" sale at the Center?
- (4) Publicity. We need to let the community know about NOW. The what, where, when, who and why!

Contact me if you will work on any of these or if you have another project you want to pursue. However, if you have a good idea, don't just tell me. Follow up on it yourself or find someone (besides one of the "few") who will. NOW means something to you or you wouldn't be receiving this newsletter. How much will you give for a non-sexist society?

Parrish Hirasaki

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If you have a question about Houston NOW or any aspect of women's rights, call one of the following numbers:

A.M.	P.M.
748-5369	524-5743
664-4121	332-4247
	748-5369



JOIN **NOW** SUBSCRIBE TO THE BROADSIDE (Members receive issues free)

- I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NOW (\$15)
- I WANT TO JOIN BUT CAN AFFORD ONLY \$____ (\$2.50 MIN.)
- I AM NOT A NOW MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSPAPER (\$3.00)
- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$____ TO NOW
- I PLEDGE \$____ A MONTH FOR THE WOMEN'S CENTER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
 P. O. BOX 58202
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

t.f. reports

POLITICS

This month Politics and Lobbying began the tedious task of filing the names of NOW members and participants according to precinct, legislative district, etc. This file will facilitate the organization of letter-writing campaigns and other protests on local, state, and national levels.

Helen Cassidy, head of the Politics and Lobbying Task Force, urges NOW members to write their state legislators about the many bills concerning women now before the State House and Senate. See this issue of the BROADSIDE for details on the bills and how to write to legislators.

REPRODUCTION

With plans for setting up Houston's first self-help clinic, the Reproduction Task Force is gathering information from the Los Angeles Self-Help Clinic. The women from the LA Clinic have been instrumental in helping to start self-help clinics in many parts of the country.

Reproduction is also investigating the implementation of the new Supreme Court abortion ruling in Houston hospitals. Abortion clinics are desperately needed to provide inexpensive, medically-safe abortions.

Rape counseling is another new project for this task force. At present they are considering training rape counselors to work in coordination with the local Hotlines.

The physician referral file, compiled by the Reproduction Task Force, is now available by calling the Women's Center, 524-5743.

EDUCATION

In conjunction with the YWCA, WEAL, HWPC, and other women's organizations, NOW's Education Task Force is planning a conference on sexism in education to be held May 12 in the administration offices of HISD. Members of the task force recently attended a planning session in Austin for a statewide Sexism in Education conference, also to be held in May.

The task force is drafting a letter to Alfred R. Neumann, chancellor of UH, and to the UH Board of Regents protesting the "housewife degree" to be offered soon at the UH at Clearlake. With courses in sewing, graphics, and nutrition, this degree will omit the normal requirements of math, science, and economics courses. If you have a degree from UH or are incensed by this putdown of the mental capacity of housewives, please write to Chancellor Neumann.

FUND RAISING

Sponsorships for the Feminist Film Festival are still needed. We have \$957 and need \$900 more to put the Festival in the black. All Houston NOW members are requested to sell sponsorships at \$50 each. Contributions of less than \$50 are, of course, welcomed. (And more than \$50 would be heaven!) Checks should be made to NOW.

Since fund raising is vital to the existence of NOW, the Fund Raising Task Force will combine its monthly meeting with the business meeting next month.

...WRITE NOW!!

The Human Resources Subcommittee of the Texas House is sitting on some very important bills, introduced by Sarah Weddington (Austin). Eddie Bernice Johnson, chairperson of that committee, needs some letters from those of us who support these bills. (She's already received many letters opposed to these bills.) Write now.

HB 148 allows minors to consent to termination of pregnancy.

HB 149 allows sterilization without spouse's signature requirement.

HB 150 provides that minors can consent to contraception information and devices and prenatal care without parental signature.

IS REVOLUTION NOW?

The emphasis at the sixth national conference of the National Organization for Women held this February in Washington was equality with men throughout society, not on establishing an autonomous women's culture and politics in their own right.

This direction was expressed in the keynote address of NOW president Wilma Scott Heide and in the press conference she gave afterward.

"Every social issue, every public policy, every institution of our society needs feminist analysis and leadership and we will provide it as a basic requirement of a humanist world." She called the "masculine mystique" the dominant ethos of our society, which needed to be overturned by a "profound universal behavioral revolution" and advocated more militant tactics such as sit-ins and teach-ins. Speeches and selective consumer boycotts have continued to be "substantively non-persuasive," she said.

NOW members, for instance, should educate the Federal Communications Commission by takeover actions of broadcasting stations if the FCC fails to develop adequate affirmative action programs demanded by the current NOW licensing challenges.

When asked by a newsman whether this was really necessary, she answered that she advocated "anything short of violence" to implement action mandated under law.

Such tactics are clearly not directed at the liberation of a free space for women, a women's culture, or variants of lesbian separatist proposals, but at joining the "man's world" which Wilma considers "our world."

Although affirming a need to make leadership and participation in NOW independent of personal economic resources, Wilma, once a mutual funds representative, said that "absence of structure and impoverishment from inadequate dues imposes a tyranny that is even less healthy." (A resolution to create a sliding

scale of dues payments based on financial means, however, was passed at the final plenary session of the conference.)

Wilma said she preferred the term "feminist movement" to "women's movement" and that what is needed is a strong national organization (which NOW is considered both within and outside of the women's movement), from which men who choose the difficult task of living feminism and liberating themselves from the masculine mystique will not be excluded. (She advocated retaining some aspects of masculine mystique such as decisiveness, objectivity and bravery and added that some good feminine qualities were "caring and sensitivity.")

Citing as a model Martin Luther King, Jr., who, she said, insisted that whites be part of the civil rights struggle, the NOW president included men, "even Richard Nixon, in our struggle." So far he has not taken her up on her invitation to meet with NOW, Wilma's third attempt.

Although Wilma stopped short of saying that sexism is the primary cause of oppression, she did conclude her speech by saying that the absence of women at every level of public life may be the problem in our society.

When asked whether NOW is not structured to a rich, white, middle class movement, she countered with "We're not all that affluent. NOW doesn't speak for all women, girls, or men, but for the potential in them."

Asked about what role class can play in the creation of a more humane society, she admitted that class analysis has important values, but doesn't have the same social value as balancing men and women in institutions.

"We've never tried feminism," she said.

The conference itself brought together the casually dressed, meagerly employed and the well-groomed professionals, though there seemed to be substantially more of the latter. They met in thirty odd workshops, most of

them chaired by task force heads, some proceeding according to pre-written agendas and lecture type formats. Opportunity for the expression of diverse concerns depended on the sensitivity of the individual coordinator.

The resolutions pounded out at the workshops and presented for approval at the Monday plenary, however, dealt with just about every aspect of life. Comprehensive proposals to utilize legal, legislative and educational means to eradicate the injustices faced by women in this country included: a minimum wage of \$2.50/hour extended to all workers, including domestics; federalization of the welfare program; introduction and support of legislation to end discrimination based on sexual orientation; lobbying against federal funding of psychosurgery operations and research on humans designed to control emotional or social behavior; the decriminalization of prostitution; research into and revision of rape laws.

Most of the resolutions were preceded by lengthy "whereas" sections, the language of which clearly reflected what feminists outside of NOW have been saying for a long time. NOW, with its 15,000 members and political respectability, may have the leverage to effect institutionalized change that local radical feminist collectives cannot bring to bear.

The question, of course, is what kinds of changes NOW will concentrate its forces on effecting. The organization is top heavy with executive officers, a national board, an advisory board, and task force heads; resolutions approved in principle by the membership are not necessarily acted upon by those in power ...; its major endeavors over the years since its inception in 1966 have been, as the application for membership states, "to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society," while allowing the basic structure of that society, which necessarily keeps most women in the mainstream of the home and low-paying jobs, to go unchallenged.

The resolutions presented at the conference ranged from one establishing a Stockholder Action Plan to one, buried in a pile of unattributed resolutions from "individuals and chapters" which read:

"Whereas NOW is not committed to any particular socioeconomic system except one which ensures and is premised upon full participation of all people; Whereas
cont. p. 8

RECOMMENDED FEMINIST READING

NON-SEXIST CHILDREN'S BOOKS

"Joshua's Day" by Sandra Lucas Surowiecki, illustrated by Patricia Riley Lenthall, lettering by Naomi P. Slifkin. Published by Lollipop Power Inc., \$1.00

Every working mother with a child in a day care center will appreciate having a book her child can relate to. In most children's books, Mommy wears a full-skirted shirtwaist dress and stays home to bake cakes and make dresses for sister. In this one, Mommy has long hair, wears slacks and a body shirt and goes to work while Josh stays in a day care center. At the center, he is cared for by both a man and a woman, and on this particular day he learns to cope with a difficult emotion, anger.

The total absence of a father in the story could be considered a drawback, but considering the fact that many children are reared only by their mothers this is more than offset by the pluses in this unique book.

"Did You Ever?" by Paula Goldsmid, illustrated by Janice Schopler, lettering by Jude Allen, Published by Lollipop Power, Inc. \$1.00

A challenge is issued to the child to be and do any number of practical and frivolous things regardless of their sex. A refreshing break from books that admonish girls to play with dolls and boys to play with trucks.

Lollipop Power, Inc. is a womens liberation collective that works for the liberation of young children from sex stereotyped behavior and role models. For a list of currently available books, send a self-addressed envelope to:

Lollipop Power, Inc.
P. O. Box 1171
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

FANTASTIC LESBIANS

by bonnie moore

A women's newsletter is a particularly sensitive medium because women permeate all sectors of the culture and are thus as disparate in opinion as the culture itself. Since opinions on homosexuality tend to be extreme, a report on the gay community runs the risk of offending everyone.

For those who find homosexuality too touchy an issue it is important to remember that liberating people involves creating a world in which each person is free to do what suits him (him indefinite, not Him). It is our business as a widely inclusive movement to learn to handle disparity. It is our business, as a force of cultural change to be unfrightened by taboo.

The current culture is a hostile environment for the gay woman. Gender stereotyping, within the gay community, can become exaggerated to a rather pathetic parody of decidedly pathetic roles. It is not surprising that many gay women are working actively toward women's liberation. The standardized shoe pinches pretty tightly on that foot.

From the gay community I'd appreciate contributions to this report. I am in no position to decide what news is news. I intend to report on the Montrose Gaze Community Center, social dislocation, and gender roles in the gay community. I hope to receive suggestions, reports, and comments.

This issue I'd like to introduce FANTASTIC LESBIANS, a whole culture nightmare.

From a stag film --

Woman A and Woman B are fondling and kissing. A penis crosses the screen. A and B gasp and fondle

and kiss it and the rest of its body.

Is one of these women you?
From a pornographic book --

Woman A, in a suit, is raping Woman B, a passive 13-year-old virgin. Finished, A says, "I know exactly how to get them."

Has anyone met these women?

From a Triple X movie --

Women A and B are best-friend, next-door-neighbor, nymphomaniacs. While the boys are away the girls will play seems to be the message. Woman A, "You're so soft." Woman B, "You're better than Joey." Enter a burglar who is accommodated.

Has anyone tried to be these women?

Such distorted fantasies make me wonder how we survive. These books and films do sell. Humans write, film, and buy them. Not, I might add, female homosexual humans. However, these fantasies are coarse exaggerations of standard fare in this culture. Our culture. And when we react to a gay woman, self or other, we often react to some form of these fantasies. I think liberation involves a good bit of tracking such nonsense to its lair within and ridding ourselves of it. Women who love women are just that. They are not women trying to be men (how silly) or women out to turn women (themselves) into sexual objects. Homosexual women do not conform to the gender role woman, or at least not in all particulars and they do love women. If we could only learn to let it go at that we would never be, meet, or try to be fantastic lesbians. Maybe we'd even stop hearing about them.

★ W O M A N I N F I L M ★

by...pat dowell.....★★

Film Festival showings in April:

April 6: SINCE YOU WENT AWAY- Written and produced by David Selznick; directed by John Cromwell; starring Claudette Colbert, Jennifer Jones, Shirley Temple, Joseph Cotten, Robert Walker, Monty Woolley, Hattie McDaniel, Nazimova, Lionel Barrymore, and the nuclear family. 1944.

April 13: DOUBLE INDEMNITY- Directed by Billy Wilder; written by Wilder and Raymond Chandler; starring Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurray, and Edward G. Robinson. 1944.

April 27: ALL ABOUT EVE- Written and directed by Joseph Mankiewicz; starring Bette Davis, Anne Baxter, Celeste Holm, Gary Merrill, Hugh Marlowe, George Sanders, and Charles Coburn. 1950.

The wildly disparate images of American women reflected in SINCE YOU WENT AWAY (and DOUBLE INDEMNITY are fantasies created in the same town in the same year - Hollywood, 1944. By this time the "career women" of the Thirties (Rosalind Russell in HIS GIRL FRIDAY or Bette Davis in MARKED WOMAN), women who worked for a living, even as prostitutes, have given way to the matronly figures of the Forties. Even the murderess of DOUBLE INDEMNITY is a bored housewife. Movies in the United States were (and are) almost completely fashioned by men, whose particular fears and expectations assumed the status of myths, acutely sensitive to the reactions of an enthralled public, who demanded the satisfaction of seeing social directives made fleshly and real as they seldom were in life. ("Today's ethic will be tomorrow's aesthetic." - Andre Bazin.)

SINCE YOU WENT AWAY, a celebration of "that fortress - the American home," was the carefully nurtured creation of David O. Selznick, whose previous work included the production of GONE WITH THE WIND and the discovery of Ingrid Bergman. He also discovered Jennifer Jones, and for him this film was to be the vehicle that would establish her as a lasting star (and as his creation) and would provide for him a properly successful follow-up to GONE WITH THE WIND. Sel-

znick wrote the script himself, cast the film, selected the technicians, and even directed a few days when Cromwell was ill. He took the same detailed and manipulative interest in Jennifer Jones, assigning her a personal consultant to change her looks, her gestures, her very self into an acceptable star image; he coached her himself in all acting details during the filming. She never protested. Before the year was out, he married her. Ostensibly, SINCE YOU WENT AWAY depicts the changes that one year of war wreaks on a typical American family (typical mother: Claudette Colbert; typical teenager: Shirley Temple). The focus is, of course, on the women, since the men are off at the wars; the women are patient, courageous, faithful, plucky, and passive. And ladylike (after all, it's Claudette Colbert as Mother Courage). This film is a deluxe example (a four-handkerchief job) of what is slightly known as a Woman's Picture -- which means that it is about things we like to do (mostly suffer) and therefore, since it pays special attention to our preoccupations and at a level we can understand, presumably we will pay to see it. And we usually did. Selznick had a great deal more emotional faith in its premise ("that fortress ...") than that definition would indicate, but that's the essential socio-economic principle that made SINCE YOU WENT AWAY a great financial success and an object of critical ridicule in 1944.

DOUBLE INDEMNITY was a success with everyone but the morally squeamish, who didn't like the idea of a blueprint for domestic murder being attended avidly by 30 million discontented wives. It made money for everyone concerned, and the critics (a misogynist lot) enjoyed the the open animosity toward women and the livid, if understated, dialogue. DOUBLE INDEMNITY is an American nightmare - the sexually independent woman (read "undependable") woman as demon. It is an explicit demonstration of the American axiom sex=violence=money in its most telling milieu, the mundane haunts of suburban Los Angeles.

Phyllis Dietrichson and Walter Neff (who plan to murder Phyllis' husband for his insurance) are the obverse image of Jennifer Jones and

Robert Walker in SINCE YOU WENT AWAY - courting lovers with a civil murder, rather than the ritual murder of war, to separate them. Barbara Stanwyck, who would subsequently become the embodiment of masochistic violence in Hollywood movies, created a lasting American heroine (much maligned) out of the caustic sexuality of Phyllis, with a glacial edge that made every gesture, line, and expression contradict "feminity" as we have always learned it. Neff's vision of her (and it's the only one we have, as the entire film is a flashback confession) is one of infinite malice and inexhaustible sexual fascination. She is a devourer, in the usual hyperbole of sexual fantasy, who must be herself destroyed. In American fiction, there have been only good women and bad women (or non-women like Thelma Ritter); Phyllis Dietrichson, bless her, was one of the worst.

From the Fifties we have two portraits of actresses in American films -- she who survived and she who did not. For Bette Davis, ALL ABOUT EVE was the last great moment in a strikingly aggressive career. In an industry where women either shut up, gave in, or put out, Bette Davis had the temerity to sue her studio for better parts in the Thirties (MARKED WOMAN was one of the better parts she got). Her wit and strength and sheer reality inform, once again, a predominantly masculine fantasy - the brilliant but emotionally insecure (because she is getting OLD) actress, who in this particular case is besieged by another stereotype, the beautiful, deceitful, and crushingly young aspiring actress Eve (the primordial female, in case you weren't paying attention.) As a matter of fact, Joseph Mankiewicz, who wrote and directed ALL ABOUT EVE, thought a lot about primordial females -- five years after EVE he exploited another such story (THE BAREFOOT CONTESSA) with Ava Gardner as the woman in question, and in 1962 he did what he could with CLEOPATRA and Elizabeth Taylor. And in 1948 he had taken on four women (three wives and one homewrecker-cum-correspondent) in A LETTER TO THREE WIVES, a film widely touted by critics as an incisive look at American marriage. cont. p. 8

film cont.

ALL ABOUT EVE, for all its wit and gleeful cynicism, is really an extended version of that masculine myth about women, the cat fight, with gratuitous reflections on the vanity of women laced around the edges. In one scene a woman is introduced as "a graduate of the Copacabana school of dramatic art". That woman was Marilyn Monroe, and she - unlike Bette Davis - did not survive her life as a public commodity. In 1956 she proved her genuine and unique gift for sensual, heart-felt comedy in a film written by William Inge called BUS STOP (or sometimes, THE WRONG KIND OF GIRL). That film will be shown May 11, and more information about it will appear in the May BROADSIDE.

revolution cont.

the time has come to raise fundamental questions concerning the structure of society, particularly a society premised on profit and competition, to ascertain whether it can achieve the human goals that NOW stands for; Be it resolved that a special committee, consisting of persons whose political philosophy is change-oriented, be established to undertake a serious in-depth study of the economic, social and political philosophy of our society to determine how or whether NOW's goals can be effectuated within the present framework. The special committee shall report its findings and recommendations directly to the next National Conference."

That resolution if implemented by the women's movement as a whole would go a lot further towards the liberation of women than the numbers game NOW advocates.

(Reprinted by permission from off our backs.)

addresses

Other representatives from Houston are:
 Bob Casey
 1514 Longworth Office Building
 Jack Brooks
 2239 Rayburn Office Building.
 Bill Archer
 1608 Longworth Office Building
 Bob Eckhardt
 1741 Longworth Office Building

NO MORE FEMALE HELP WANTED!

The date March 5, 1973, will be long remembered in the history of Houston feminists. After more than a year of struggle by Houston NOW, the Houston Chronicle agreed to eliminate its sex-segregated want ads.

Although it is not against the law to have sex-segregated want ads, it is unlawful to advertise in them. Studies have shown that persons seldom apply for jobs listed for a different race or sex.

Until recently, many newspapers also had column headings for "Male Help Wanted, Colored." The "Female Help Wanted" columns have the same effect that racially segregated columns once had.

In the opinion of EEO Task Force Chairone Parrish Hirasaki, "Sex-segregated want ads are yet another way our society encourages the myth of differences in ability between the sexes, i. e., that women can best type, answer the phone, and

make coffee in the business world."

The campaign to force the Chronicle to halt its discriminatory policy began early in 1972 through a series of letters to management. When letters and polite meetings had little effect, the Houston NOW Equal Employment Opportunity Task Force filed sex discrimination complaints against major Chronicle advertisers.

In order to further publicize the Chronicle's failure to change its discriminatory policies, members of Houston NOW picketed the Chronicle building on August 26, 1972. This too failed to elicit any response.

Jack Johnson, head of the classified advertising department, stated repeatedly, "The policy will be changed only when our advertisers want it changed." He stated on March 5, "We have changed policy at the request of our advertisers." Draw your own conclusions.

IF YOU CARE...

Have you ever made a mental note to write to an elected official and then never did it, mainly because you didn't know how to open the letter or address the envelope? Delay no longer! Here are the answers.

When writing a state senator (or representative), address the envelope:

The Honorable John/Joan Politician
 Texas Senate
 (or Texas House of Representatives)
 Austin, Texas 78711

When writing a US senator, address the envelope:

The Honorable John/Joan Politician
 Old Senate Office Building
 Washington, D. C. 20510

The senators from Texas are John Tower, ranking member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and Lloyd Bentsen.

When writing a US representative, address the envelope as in this example:

The Honorable Barbara Jordan
 1725 Longworth Office Building
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Open the letters with Dear Mr./Ms. Politician. Remember that you need not limit your barrage of letters to your own area representatives or senators. You can also express your views to a particular committee. If you want a copy of a certain bill, write either to the appropriate committee or the person(s) sponsoring the bill. For names and addresses of officials or committees, call the Reference Department of the Houston Central Library at 224-5441 or your representative's Houston office.

If you prefer, send a telegram by calling Western Union at 1-800-325-5300. You can send a Public Opinion Message for \$1.00 to any state elected official and \$1.25 to a federal elected official. The charge can be placed on your telephone bill. You must give your name and address. You need know only the official's name and title. The message itself is limited to fifteen words.

Do it now!

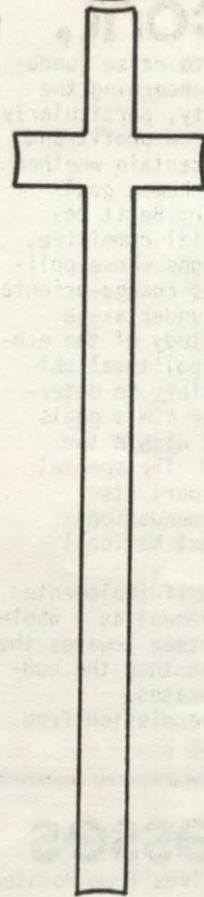
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