

## "WOMEN IN THE MILITARY"

It is generally conceded that women will be conscripted on an equal basis with men and will serve in combat if the ERA is passed.

The Pro-Family Coalition objects to the concept of women in combat for the following reasons:

- (1.) Combat for women would be culturally repugnant to Judeo-Christian mores and the ethics of any society which respects the family as the basic unit of society. No civilized society places women in formal combat.
- (2.) Combat for women would pose severe morale problems. Co-mingling of the sexes under close, highly pressured circumstances, would undoubtedly hinder combat and defense effectiveness.
- (3.) Rigors of female prisoners of war would be infinitely worse than those of men. Rampant sexual abuse would undoubtedly result. According to Col. William Beckwith, head of the Army Research Institute, Buchloe, West Germany, women will be trained the same as men. The only difference will be in bayonet training which will be confined to men, while women receive rape-prevention training! (N.Y. Times, Sept. 19, 1977)
- (4.) There are many non-combatant military jobs for which women can volunteer in the regular army. However, since the express purpose of West Point, Annapolis or the Air Force Academy is to train officers to lead troops into combat, we believe it is a waste of time and money to recruit women to attend our service academies, unless they would be assigned to combat.

On June 4, 1975, NY Times, General Matthew Ridgeway (Ret.) warned against having women in the service academies, since it would "debilitate the reservoir of highly competent male leadership for our armed forces." General William Westmoreland (Ret.) also decried the over-reaction of Congress to militant feminist groups. (N.Y. Times May 31, 1975).

Former Secretary of the Army, Howard H. Callaway, had this to say: (Long Island Press) May 17, 1975) "We don't think it's a more effective army by putting women in the front lines. But of course, if required to by Presidential order, the courts, by E.R.A., of course we are going to do it. If E.R.A. passes, I will be in favor of whatever the courts say, because I'm in favor of the law of the land."

General Alexander Gatsis (Ret.) testified before the North Carolina House Constitutional Amendment Committee, Jan. 26, 1977, and indicated that male soldiers in our volunteer army are over-protective of female soldiers, helping them to the neglect of their own duties. General Gatsis also diffuses the notion that ground combat will be unlikely in future wars. He states: current army doctrine FM 100-5 recently revised by our military professionals at the Training and

Doctrine Command says the next war will probably be fought by independent, small-squad ground units and, in the first battle, the outcome of the fight will depend on the conduct of individual soldiers and squads as never before!"

The Women's Lib Movement is forcing the U.S. Government into a national policy to change the role of women in the military from non-combatant to combatant! The evidence grows daily, as witness the barrage of media and newspaper coverage on this topic.

We, therefore, call for a strong national policy, under Presidential leadership, which would prevent women from being trained for purposes of assuming a combat role, and being assigned to a combat unit, as an extended consequence of their training.

Mrs. Ceil Herman  
N.Y. "Operation Wake-Up"