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Letter: Vicki Wengrow to Gerri Lipowitz, Pres. B'nai B'rith Women

Vicki L. Wengrow

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October 30, 1972

Gerri Lipkowitz, Pres.
B'nai B'rith Women
2912 Justina Rd.
Jacksonville, Fla. 32211

Dear Gerri,

I'm putting my request to you on behalf of the Alliance for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment on paper. As a representative of the Alliance, I have been asked to invite B'nai B'rith Women of Jacksonville to participate in activities to ratify the ERA.

What the Alliance for Ratification of the ERA is asking of its participants is:

- 1) That the organization pass a resolution in support of ratification of the ERA.
- 2) That the organization send a copy of their resolution in support of ratification to members of the Duval Legislative Delegation and, preferably, to all other Florida legislators as well.
- 3) That the organization send copies of the resolution in press release form to the local press.
- 4) That the organization find several members who will participate with representative from other groups in the Alliance for ERA in making personal visits to members of the newly elected Duval Delegation in the weeks between the election (Nov. 7) and the Special Session of the Legislature (Nov. 28).

The ERA was introduced into 50 consecutive sessions of Congress. It was passed in the 1972 session. It takes 38 states to ratify an Amendment to the Constitution; to my knowledge, 21 states have ratified the ERA so far. The ERA is on the agenda for the Special Session of the Florida Legislature, Nov. 28, 29, 30.

The proposed 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads as follows:

SECTION 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

B'nai B'rith nationally has a position for the ERA, so we thought the local group would like to participate. In asking for volunteers to go on visits to legislators, it's possible some people will be interested but will feel they don't know enough. There is a lot of factual material around on the ERA; we are putting together the best information from two excellent information materials: one put out by the Labor Dept. and one by Common Cause. We plan to leave copies of the paper with legislators we visit; but we certainly, too, can get the material to women who plan to visit legislators prior to their going. What I'm saying--in the middle of a lot