

ERA backers need lift after setback

WASHINGTON — Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) are looking for a psychological lift following setbacks in South Carolina and Virginia, while opponents are hoping they can stall the ratification process for another year.

Six years after Congress approved the ERA, the amendment is still three states short of the 38 needed for ratification. And with the March 22, 1979, expiration date little more than a year away, the opponents believe time is on their side.

Thirty-five states have approved the amendment since 1972, when it cleared Congress. Idaho, Tennessee and Nebraska have sought to rescind their ratification votes, but the Justice Department has said that rescissions are not binding.

Supporters of the ERA are conceding they have been disheartened by the developments in South Carolina and Virginia last week. But they are regrouping and vowing to work for the defeat of elected officials who voted against the ERA.

The year-long battle involves a simply worded proposal which reads: "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

So emotional is the issue that two pro-ERA women were arrested after staging a sit-down protest of the actions of a committee in the Virginia House of Delegates, which refused to send the ERA to the House floor. The ERA was defeated 25-20 in the South Carolina Senate.

And in the Kentucky House, a furor arose over the distribution of graphic literature purporting to show that ratification of the amendment would bestow new rights on lesbians.

Kentucky ratified the ERA in 1972 and attempts in the last two legislative sessions to rescind were revived this session, but have not met with success.

University's grants total \$9.6 million

During the first six months of the 1977-78 fiscal year, the University has received more than \$9.6 million in sponsored funding for research, instruction and extension services.

According to a report released by University officials, the University has received 188 grants totaling \$9,660,678 since July. By the end of January a year ago, the University had received 172 grants totaling \$8,535,169.

Proponents of ERA, undaunted by the refusal of the legislatures in the two Southern states to ratify the amendment, say they hope to lay the foundation for pro-amendment activity in other legislatures later this year and in

early 1979.

Because of parliamentary procedures and scheduling, however, there won't be many opportunities to vote on the question this year. A vote is likely only in Illinois, where the House last June fell six

votes short of the three-fifths majority needed to pass the amendment.

Votes on ERA are likely early next year in Oklahoma, Florida, North Carolina and possible in Arizona, Nevada and Missouri.

Quartet cancels

The Los Angeles String Quartet has cancelled its two weekend performances at Beall Concert Hall due to the injury of its first violinist.



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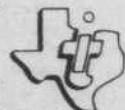
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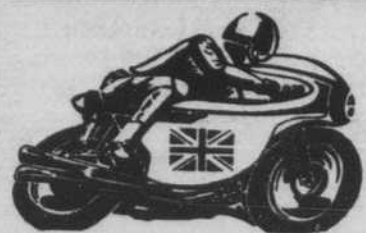
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