

Feminists vow to pass E.R.A.

Reversal may be start of trend

WASHINGTON — Feminists fear recent Supreme Court setbacks to the women's movement may represent the reversal of a court trend that had been beneficial to emerging women's rights.

They say, however, that such defeats will only rekindle efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution as a means of introducing "a different constitutional standard."

"It's hard to believe those nine men can reach decisions like they did today and then go home and face their wives," an angry feminist said Monday. "Those decisions were disastrous."

The nine men are the justices of the Supreme Court, which Monday dealt two blows to women's rights groups. Those groups were still smarting from the court's ruling last

week that employers with employee disability programs are not legally required to provide women with pregnancy benefits.

The court ruled unanimously Monday that divorced women are not entitled to all the Social Security benefits that go to married women.

The justices also let stand a Kentucky law requiring married women to adopt their husband's last name before receiving a driver's license.

Together with last week's decision on pregnancy benefits, these decisions are being pointed to by leaders of the women's movement as evidence that the court may no longer be as receptive to their complaints as it recently was.

Whether there is in fact a new trend on the court should become clearer in coming months when the court hands down decisions in some pending cases that have interested the women's movement.

The women's movement had fared well in the courts since 1971, most notably advancing when the Supreme Court ruled in 1973 that abortion is the private right of any woman in her first three months of pregnancy.

The court has since struck down various attempts by states to regulate abortions in the first three months.

Women's rights also made strides before the high court in areas such as equal pay for equal work, equal opportunities in education, including school sports, and equal treatment in the business community in hiring and credit practice.

But this month's decisions are being viewed as a drastic reversal.

Feminist leaders called the court's pregnancy decision the greatest single setback to the women's movement in the past five years.

Judy Lichtman, a spokeswoman for the Women's Legal Defense Fund, said after Monday's two decisions: "We have been hit by the legacy of some rather conservative appointments to the court."

"If this series of decisions says nothing else to us, it ought to raise the effort of feminists to work all the harder for passage of the ERA. We now see the need to operate with a different constitutional standard."

Refillable case of beer \$2 less than throwaway

By JIM LUTHER  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — A soft drink in a refillable bottle costs an average of five cents less than in a throwaway bottle or can. Beer in returnable containers costs \$2 a case less than a case of throwaways.

Those are the key finds of a 28-city survey conducted by the League of Women Voters. The study provides further ammunition for groups seeking to ban throwaway bottles and cans to save energy and protect the environment. In some states and localities, voters will be asked to decide whether to adopt laws or constitutional amendments designed to discourage throwaway containers either through outright bans or economic incentives. The issue is expected to be hotly contested in Congress next year.

The League of Women Voters found that a six-pack of soft drinks in 7- to 16-ounce refillable bottles costs about 30 cents less than the same size of throwaway containers. The biggest saving potential is for users of 32-ounce soft drinks: refillables cost

an average of 16.8 cents less than throwaways.

Of 37 direct comparisons, all but one found refillable bottles were cheaper. The 37th, at a market in San Francisco, had a 28-ounce refillable bottle of ginger ale at the same price as a disposable.

The biggest price spread between the two types of containers was found in Roseville, Minn., where a quart of 7-UP in a refillable bottle was 66.7 per cent cheaper than in a throwaway.

Nationwide, the savings per refillable ranged from one to 10 cents per container of up to 16 ounces when purchased in six- or eight-packs. The range on quart bottles was from 14 to 18 cents.

The survey showed that a beer drinker could expect to spend from 30 cents to \$2 a case less for beer purchased in refillable containers. The saving for premium beer would be slightly less.

However, the League found that beer in refillables is available in only a few areas.

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