

# Democratic women seek unity

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — About 200 Democratic women, led by 11 members of Congress, began plotting a course Saturday aimed at making women a major force at the national Democratic Convention next year.

"For the first time, women will participate as someone else's other, wife or daughter but as delegates in their own right," said Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., chairman of the conference of Democratic elected women.

She said the party's new rule, requiring that half the convention delegates be women "gives us the opportunity to exert some real influence in 1980."

The day-long conference, sponsored by the 11 Democratic women in Congress, included pep talks to encourage women to run for delegate spots, workshops on delegate selection and strategy sessions to make sure women were elected who could wield power at the conventions.

"You are proof that we can advance from stuffing envelopes, lick-

ing stamps and making coffee to making the important political decisions," Chisholm said.

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman, also of New York, stressed the importance of building coalitions, saying "if it hadn't been for the congresswomen working together, we never would have passed the ERA ratification extension."

She said, "Women working together in coalition can achieve miracles."

The consequences go beyond the ability of women to hold power, she said. "There are vast issues that remain to be addressed," including justice under the law for women and equal pay for equal jobs.

The women — state and local elected officials and party leaders — were advised repeatedly to align themselves with a candidate as soon

as possible, particularly in primary states. Under current party rules, they were told, candidates for delegate positions had a slim chance of being chosen if they ran uncommitted.

But, Rep. Patricia Schroeder of Colorado said she would "use my prerogative as a woman and say court me."

She cautioned against supporting a candidate on the basis of promises alone and advised the women to ask what specific steps the candidates planned to take to help obtain ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Schroeder also advised the women to begin immediately forming networks so they wouldn't be faced with disorganization and disunity once they reach the convention.

## Olympic supply firm probed for Arab ties

**United Press International**  
ALBANY, N.Y. — Federal and state authorities are investigating claims that a security equipment firm contracted for the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics may have ties to Arab terrorists.

The state Senate Committee on Crime and Correction is looking into the possibility that the company, Communications Control Systems Inc., supplied guns and equipment to Arab countries, a committee attorney said Friday.

Counsel for Sen. Ralph Marino, the committee chairman, said the federal probe involves a claim that CCS has tried to ship more than \$200,000 in security equipment and guns to Arab countries, possibly for terrorist purposes.

And NBC News in New York reported Friday that Ben Jamil, who heads CCS, is the target of a grand jury investigation.

NBC said that last March, customs agents at Kennedy Airport seized 40 cartons of highly sophisticated sniper scopes and electronic devices bound for Beirut.

The network quoted sources close to the investigation as saying that the equipment was assembled at CCS in New York.

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## Children to wear costumes to church

**United Press International**  
CUMBERLAND, R.I. — The pastor at St. Joseph's Church wants children to wear their costumes to mass this Halloween.

The Rev. Francis J. Keefe said the Halloween night mass will be held to observe the Roman Catholic All Saints Day Nov. 1. It will focus on "why people wear costumes on Halloween and what the meaning of All Saints Day is."

Keefe has invited children to wear costumes — but not their masks — to the mass. He plans to award prizes to the best outfits in age groups.

As to why people wear costumes, Keefe explains All Saints Day is a descendant of All Souls Day. The night before, on All Hallows' Eve, people dressed up in costumes and masks to frighten away evil spirits.

"They used these as comical things so they could laugh at death," Keefe said. "Now Christian, they understand that death was nothing to fear or worry about."

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## Snoopy free hound after court dogfight

**United Press International**  
ATHENS, Greece — Snoopy, of "Peanuts" fame, landed in a lawsuit in which the beagle was acquitted of insulting Greece's flag.

Cartoonist Kostas Mitropoulos depicted the beagle in a cartoon atop a flagstaff carrying the Greek flag.

Mitropoulos, whose cartoon of Snoopy appeared in the Athens newspaper earlier this year, was sued by magazine publisher Gregory Michalopoulos.

"The investigating magistrate asked me why I drew a dog above the Greek flag and I said that's no dog, that's Snoopy," said the cartoonist.



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