

Backers vow to reintroduce it

ERA rejected by Florida Senate

United Press International
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Senate's rejection of the Equal Rights Amendment apparently kills its last chance for national ratification, but angry supporters vow to drive the "no" bill from office and federal lawmakers say they'll quickly reintroduce the bill.

"We're determined to turn this tragic day for women into a triumph," Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, cried at a rally Monday's 22-16 defeat — the fifth time the ERA has been voted down in Florida.

She refused to talk about any

plans to salvage the amendment — still three states short of ratification — in the few days left before the June 30 deadline, but spoke of defeating the state senators who killed it.

"We plan to challenge as many of the no's as possible in the primaries and the general election, and we will challenge as many as possible with women," Smeal said.

Other ERA supporters said they would push for one more vote in Illinois to compile a similar list of lawmakers to replace.

"We will no longer beg men for our rights," Smeal said. "The next time they vote on equal

rights, we will be there in equal numbers pushing those buttons."

Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., said: "It looks like we're just going to have to start all over again. We'll reintroduce the amendment and next time, I predict, the ERA will be ratified. Proponents of ERA now know all the tactics of their opponents."

The ERA supporters began chanting, "Vote them out, vote them out," in the Florida Senate chamber when the decision was clear. Five people were arrested for trespassing when they blocked the doors to the chambers.

Thirty-five states have approved the ERA but three more are needed before the deadline to make the amendment part of the Constitution.

Florida was one of four states where ERA backers felt they had at least a chance of success. But the amendment was killed by a procedural vote in North Carolina, and the governor of Oklahoma said he would not call a special session of the Legislature to consider it unless two more states approve it.

Illinois, the fourth state, still has not acted.

Florida Rep. Roberta Fox, who had helped the amendment win approval in the House earlier, said she expected nothing but woe from the Senate — "A dark place, a secret place, a place not unlike a cesspool."

Phyllis Schlafly, national leader of Stop ERA, said from her home in Alton, Ill., "I'm very happy. There's no other state to vote now and, of course, this is what we expected."

Woman wins nation's richest lottery prize

United Press International
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Birthdays in Dorothy Thomas' family will be extra special from now on as she parlayed the dates into a \$5.5 million lottery jackpot believed to be the nation's richest lottery prize ever.

Thomas' new lucky number is 05-26-29-19-07-17 but her favorite number is 5.5 million.

"It feels great, wonderful," she said Monday after a two-day search to find the winner of the lottery.

She was due to arrive at the lottery headquarters Tuesday to pick up a check for \$5,500,000 and will receive a check for that amount each year for the next 20 years.

Despite her sudden wealth, Thomas said she probably would not retire. She indicated a "little vacation" and possibly a car were in her future.

For nearly two days the identity of the winner was unknown, but Monday state lottery officials

confirmed that Thomas, a customer representative for Girard Bank of Philadelphia and mother of four children, had won big — very big.

Thomas, 52, of Havertown, a Philadelphia suburb, did not know she won until she heard the winning numbers on a news-cast late Sunday night. Even then she was not 100 percent sure because she did not have her lottery ticket at hand.

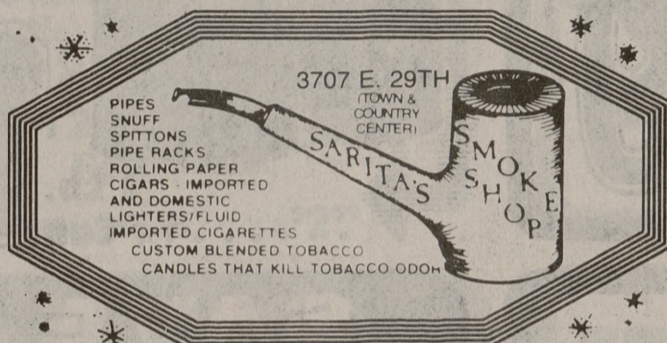
"We saw the number flashed on the 11 o'clock news and I said, 'Gee, I think I won,'" she said.

Lottery officials said the prize appeared to be the largest ever won in any lottery in the country. Previous known records were \$5 million in New York last November and \$4.6 million in New Jersey.

Thomas said she had not bought any lottery tickets for years, but when her husband had a hunch last week she went out and bet on numbers that

were all family birthdays.

Odds on picking the six two-digit numbers were 1 in 1.9 million.



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