

20th Anniversary Issue

The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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1967-1987: The *Phyllis Schlafly Report* Celebrates Twenty Years of Continuous Monthly Publication

In August 1987, the *Phyllis Schlafly Report* celebrates its 20th Birthday. The *P. S. Report* is far more than a unique and successful publication. It is the lifeline and communications channel of a movement which has grown through Eagle Forum to be one of the most formidable forces in American politics today. It is a tool for political action.

Over the 20 years, the P. S. Report has provided its readers with reliable, concise information on a wide variety of subjects. More important, it has been a significant trail-blazer, providing original, readable, and timely reports on three particular clusters of subjects: (1) the Equal Rights Amendment, women's lib ideology, and feminist legislative goals, (2) nuclear strategy, SDI, SALT, treaties, foreign policy, and summits, and (3) parents' rights in public schools, especially in relation to psychological classroom curricula. Other subjects frequently covered in this unique newsletter are economics, pornography, and family issues.

Over the 20 years, there were 344 different *P. S. Reports* because in many months two sections of the *Report* are issued. In addition, subscribers received 31 popular fliers on various subjects, plus the newsy Eagle Forum Newsletter, published since 1975.

Launched in August 1967 as a private enterprise project sold at an annual subscription price of \$5, the *Report* has grown to a national subscriber list of 45,000. The subscription price is now \$15, and the format has never changed.

ERA Defeated After 10 Years of Battles

The Equal Rights Amendment died at midnight on June 30, 1982, after ten years and three months of battles in state legislatures. Time ran out for ERA with only 30 of the 50 states still recorded as ratifying the controversial amendment, and five of those 30 states having demonstrated their second thoughts by voting against ERA on a state referendum. Many milestones marked the road to victory.

"What's Wrong With ERA?"

The P. S. Report mailed its most famous issue called "What's Wrong With Equal Rights for Women?" in February 1972. The libs made fun of it, but this Report quickly became a tool for subscribers to use in lobbying their state legislators against ERA. This was the first of 85 P. S. Reports on ERA plus 10 special fliers which presented the facts and arguments against ERA and radical feminist goals. This information was not available from any other source because of the heavy pro-ERA bias of the media.



STOP ERA Organized

One hundred women from 30 states gathered in St. Louis on September 26-27, 1972, at the personal invitation of Phyllis Schlafly. They organized STOP ERA for

the sole purpose of stopping ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which had been voted out of Congress on March 22 that year and was being rapidly approved by state legislatures.

New York and New Jersey Defeat ERA

In a smashing upset to ERA, the voters of New York and New Jersey overwhelmingly defeated ERA in the November 1975 election. The blow sent shock waves through the women's lib movement. Bella Abzug complained that the New York vote set the women's movement back 100 years.

White House Lobbies for ERA

Indiana ratified ERA by one vote in January 1977 after Rosalynn Carter telephoned Senator Wayne Townsend and persuaded him to change his vote. That was the last time ERA ever won anywhere. A few months later, an Indiana man was convicted of contributing to the delinquency of minors and sentenced to 90 days in jail for hiring 8 high school pupils at \$20 per day plus lunch to forge signatures of persons listed in the Fort Wayne and Valparaiso telephone books on petitions supporting ERA.

Other states where the Carter Administration lobbied for ERA were Montana, Virginia, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, and especially Illinois. President Carter promised grants of federal housing funds to the districts of Illinois state legislators who agreed to vote for ERA.

ERA Defeated in Nevada and Florida

On November 7, 1978, ERA was defeated in a referendum in Nevada by a smashing 2-to-1 margin. This was despite an illegal directive issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior (a major employer in Nevada) on October 23 ordering federal employees to support ERA "regardless of personal preferences or political opinions."

Florida also defeated ERA on November 7, 1978 despite a \$2 million advertising campaign spent to promote ERA. The victory majority over ERA was 60%.

Congress Passes Unfair ERA Extension

Congress passed the ERA Time Extension bill on October 6, 1978. It was muscled through Congress by White House arm twisting, lobbyists from every government agency, and the use of federal funds to persuade Congressmen to vote for ERA.

The P. S. Report immediately proclaimed that this unprecedented, unfair time extension proved that ERA did not have the support necessary to amend the Constitution. It also proved that the real purpose of the time extension was to provide time for (1) the Carter Administration to browbeat the states by granting or withholding federal tax funds, and (2) the ERAers to rev up a secondary boycott against convention cities in unratified states, and thereby cause millions of dollars of harm to innocent employees of hotels, restaurants, and retail stores.

Federal Court Rules ERA Time Extension Unconstitutional

The Federal District Court in Boise, Idaho ruled on December 23, 1981 that the Time Extension voted by Congress in 1978 for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment was unconstitutional, which meant that ERA really died on March 22, 1979, when the original 7-year time limit expired. In the 81-page opinion, the Federal Court also ruled that it was constitutional for a state to rescind its earlier ratification of ERA so long as the rescission took place during the ratification period. The decision involved

Idaho's rescission of ERA, but would apply also to the other four states that rescinded ERA: Nebraska, Tennessee, Kentucky, and South Dakota.

Stop ERAers Celebrate "The End Of An ERA Gala"

It was truly a Night to Remember forever. The 1,200 friends of Eagle Forum who jammed the ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. on March 22, 1979 celebrated the successful conclusion of their 7-year battle against incredible odds to keep ERA out of the U.S. Constitution. They had overcome unprecedented White House pressure and the expenditure of millions of federal tax dollars to promote ERA.

This date was the original 7-year deadline set by Congress when ERA was passed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

March 22, 1979 was not the end of ERA because Congress had voted the unfair 3year time extension to continue the battle until 1982. But March 22, 1979 did turn out to be the end of the era of conservative defeats. When Phyllis Schlafly proclaimed victory over ERA (calling it morally and constitutionally dead), the conservative movement suddenly shed its psychology of defeat, and began to believe that it could win its legislative and candidate battles despite great odds. The proclamation of "victory" over the liberals and the libs on March 22, 1979 showed conservatives that victory was possible, and energized the pro-family/conservative coalition that triumphed in the election of Ronald Reagan and the Republican Senate in 1980.

FRA Removed from Republican Party Platform

One of Eagle Forum's most spectacular victories was the removal of ERA from the Republican Party Platform at the Republican National Convention in Detroit in August 1980. The media blitz in behalf of ERA, led by Michigan's Governor Milliken, made ERA the biggest news event at the opening of the Convention.

Despite overpowering predictions by the media that ERA would have to remain in the platform if Republicans were to win the November 1980 elections, the Human Resources Subcommittee rejected the pro-

ERA plank written by the party bureaucrats and media appeasers. The full Platform Committee then approved the deletion of ERA by a vote of 90 to 9 (with only 6 out of 50 women on the Platform Committee voting for ERA).

Illinois Says NO for 11 Years

The Illinois Legislature defeated ERA for the eleventh straight year on June 22, 1982. The unfair time extension was designed to force an extra vote in Illinois, but the Legislature held steadfast despite the pro-ERA hunger strike and other demonstrations. Florida, North Carolina, and Oklahoma were also the targets of desperate attempts to pass ERA in 1982, but they all voted NO.



"Over the Rainbow" Dinner Marks Second Death of ERA

More than 1,400 Eagles and pro-family leaders filled the ballroom at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 1982, to celebrate the second death of ERA. Even the unfair time extension (which had extended the time period to a total of 10 years and 3 months) was now over.

An enormous rainbow made of balloons was placed behind the 110-person speakers table to symbolize the fact that Eagle Forum, having won one of the most spectacular political victories in the 20th century, was looking to the future and to new battles to conquer. Eagle Forum was now established as the most effective and successful volunteer activist organization in the country.

The next day, July 1, 1982, Eagle Forum outlined its agenda for the future: economic fairness for families, a defense against nuclear attack, parents' rights in education, and the restoration of moral principles.

Congress Defeats New ERA

The attempt to revive ERA and start the amendment process all over again was defeated by the U.S. House on November 15, 1983. The ERAers had made a strenuous, year-long effort, with the full support of Speaker Tip O'Neill, to get Congress to pass ERA again. ERA failed in a dramatic floor vote in the House.

ERA Defeated in Maine

The ERAers next tried to get individual states to pass a state ERA, starting in the most liberal section of the country where it was expected to pass easily. To their surprise, Maine defeated ERA by 64% to 36% on November 6, 1984.

Vermont Finishes Off ERA

ERA was defeated in a referendum in Vermont on November 4, 1986. "Everybody" and all the polls had predicted that ERA would win easily in this most liberal state. In a year's effort, Eagle Forum changed public opinion from 70% pro-ERA to 51% against ERA. If ERA can't pass in Vermont, it can't pass anywhere.

Combating Carter's Plan on Combat

The *P. S. Report* exposed the Carter Administration's plan to repeal the federal laws that exempt women from military combat. Eagle Forum arranged for many informed witnesses to testify at the hearings of the House Military Personnel Subcommittee on November 13-16, 1979. As a result of this eloquent testimony (published only in the *P. S. Report*), the bill to repeal the combat exclusion was never brought to a vote in either house of Congress.

Coalition Opposes Drafting Women

Eagle Forum announced on February 1, 1980 a nationwide drive to oppose Jimmy Carter's plan to draft women, which he had announced in his State of the Union Message. The coalition was made up of Congressional, military, religious, and organization leaders united in their opposition to drafting women.

Many important statements against drafting women were published in the *P. S. Report*, and in a few weeks, Eagle Forum gathered a half million signatures.

Congress Defeats Draft Registration of Women

The Senate on June 10, 1980 decisively defeated the Carter proposal to require the draft registration of 19- and 20-year-old-women, along with men. The House had defeated it earlier on a voice vote.



Eagle Forum Wins Case Exempting Girls from Draft

After Jimmy Carter's proposal to pass legislation requiring the draft registration of women was defeated by Congress in 1980, and a male-only registration was passed, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit to force the drafting of women. The ACLU was joined by the National Organization for Women.

Since no one else was representing the interests of young women, Eagle Forum gathered 16 young women to represent all draftage girls, and filed a brief on their behalf.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-to-3 on June 25, 1981 in *Rostker v. Goldberg* that *all* women may constitutionally be exempted from the military draft. This was a tremendous victory for women, for families, for morality, for the combat-readiness of the U.S. Armed Services — and for Eagle Forum. All draft-age women of the present — and forever into the future — can thank Eagle Forum for leading the Coalition

Against Drafting Women to final success on this issue so fundamental to our civilization.

Phyllis Schlafly called this decision "a fantastic victory for our movement." NOW president Eleanor Smeal called it "tragic" because it makes women "second-class citizens" to exempt them from the draft.

Pro-Family Rally In Houston Attracts 20,000

The Pro-Family Rally at the Astro-Arena on November 19, 1977, in Houston attracted 20,000 people, coming from all 50 states. Thousands came by bus, many traveling 20 to 44 hours each way in order to attend the 3-hour rally. The chairman and organizer of the rally, Lottie Beth Hobbs, displayed petitions with 300,000 names endorsing pro-family resolutions. Speakers included Congressman Bob Dornan, Phyllis Schlafly, Nellie Gray, and Dr. Mildred Jefferson.

IWY: A Front for Radicals and Lesbians

Meanwhile, 99% of the media coverage was given to a smaller conference taking place on the other side of Houston: the International Women's Year Conference (IWY), which Eagle Forum labelled "a front for radicals and lesbians." The IWY was financed by \$5 million of federal tax funds. The IWY Conference passed resolutions supporting ERA, tax-funded abortions, privileges for homosexuals and lesbians, and comprehensive federal child care.

This federally-financed festival for frustrated feminists followed 50 state conferences which had been marked by rigged elections, railroaded resolutions, lesbian workshops, pornographic entertainment, and tax-funded lobbying for ERA.

On behalf of Eagle Forum, Phyllis Schlafly told the media: "The weekend of November 18-21, 1977 in Houston was the decisive turning point in the war between women's lib and pro-family. What happened in Houston proved (1) that we will defeat ERA, and (2) that the women's lib movement has sealed its own doom by deliberately hanging around its own neck the albatrosses of abortion, lesbianism, pornography, and federal control."

Mrs. Schlafly's prediction proved accurate. After Houston, ERA never won anywhere. It was defeated in about 25 different votes —in state legislatures, in Congress, and in state referenda.

How the Pro-Family Movement Grew...and Grew

The Eagles Learn How to Fly

The original national political action leadership conference, called by Phyllis Schlafly for February 14-16, 1968 in St. Louis, was attended by 300 subscribers to the *P. S. Report* from 32 states. The conference was called "The Eagles Are Flying," but it was not a new organization — it was a training program for political activists. Speakers at that first gathering included Senator Strom Thurmond, Congressman John Ashbrook, and Goldwater campaign manager Stephen Shadegg.

Conservatives Inspired By Dean Manion

The *P. S. Report* initiated and sponsored a Testimonial Dinner to Dean Clarence Manion on May 15, 1974 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The occasion honored his 1,000th consecutive weekly radio broadcast on the Manion Forum.

This was the most prestigious gathering of conservatives ever brought together up to that date. The chairman, Phyllis Schlafly, admonished conservatives against succumbing to political "giveupitis" (despite Watergate), and she gave the message of hope that conservatives can win if they believe they can win and adopt the right strategy.

Pro-Family Movement Born

The pro-family movement was born in 1975 when church buses drove to the State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment. Eagle Forum put together something entirely new in American politics — a coalition of Catholics, Protestants, Mormons, and Orthodox Jews working together to STOP ERA. The first rallies attracted 1,000 people. By 1980, the crowds had swelled to 12,000.

The P. S. Report launched Eagle Forum as "the alternative to women's lib" in its mailing of November 1975. Like the P. S. Report, Eagle Forum chose the American eagle, our national bird, as its symbol, because it represents courage, strength, beauty, and patriotism, and because it is

almost the only creature in the animal world that keeps one mate for a lifetime.

The movement grew rapidly all over the country. It consisted of different segments working for various pro-family objectives, including STOP ERA, right-to-life, the coalition against drafting women, religious schools, anti-pornography, national defense, and evangelical Christians concerned about moral issues.

In 1980 the pro-family movement joined forces with the conservative movement, which had started during the New Deal years of Franklin D. Roosevelt, oriented largely around economic issues. By 1980, it had become obvious that the policies of tax and tax, spend and spend, had brought America to the brink of national failure, economically, politically, and militarily.

Eagle Forum Airs TV "Child" Spot

During the International Year of the Child, Eagle Forum provided TV stations all over the country with a beautiful TV spot showing a mother caring for her baby. This was aired as a public service announcement during 1979.

White House Conference on Families Exposed

The 1980 White House Conference on Families had been planned as a charade to go through the motions of some grassroots participation, but then to pass pre-scripted resolutions which called for more federal taxes, spending, and controls, plus social dignity for "alternate lifestyles." It was designed to assist Jimmy Carter's reelection by endorsing his big-spending social goals.

But the P.S. Report exposed it as a federally-funded free-for-all for a militant assortment of federal employees, feminists, homosexuals, and handout-seekers. Some state meetings bogged down in fractious controversy, while others just adopted prewritten resolutions. Its only achievement was to get more pro-family people involved in political action in order to defend their values.

Eagles Rejoice in 1980 Victories

The new coalition of pro-family and conservative groups, for which Eagle Forum was a major liaison because it was all-inclusive of both segments, worked effectively in the 1980 campaigns. That year Phyllis Schlafly spoke at rallies swelled by Eagle Forum members in TX, OH, MO, IL, MS, AL, NC, NY, TN, FL, SC, IA, ID, SD, AK, IN, and OK. This coordinated effort resulted in smashing successes in the 1980 elections. Gains were particularly sweet in those states where ERA had been defeated during the previous nine years: Illinois, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Oklahoma.

Eagle Forum members rejoiced in the results of the November 4, 1980 elections, and had good reason to believe that they had played a critical role in building the coalitions and the consensus that resulted in the landslide election of Ronald Reagan and the defeat of so many incumbent liberal Senators and Congressmen. For years, the *P. S. Report* had kept key volunteers informed on vital issues, motivated to political action, and reassured that victory was attainable.

Child Pornography Bill Passed

President Reagan signed the Child Protection Act into law on May 21, 1984 — a new federal law designed to wipe out the evil of child pornography. Eagle Forum had been working for the passage of this law since the opportunity was opened up by the Supreme Court decision in *New York v. Ferber* on July 2, 1982. Eagles sent more than 7,000 letters to their Congressmen in behalf of this law, which passed the House 400 to 1.



The *P. S. Report* led a nationwide campaign to get American citizens to read and sign the Declaration of Independence during its Bicentennial year of 1976. Half a million Americans signed onto the Report's publication of the Declaration.



Trail-Blazing for Defense

The *P. S. Report* has played a key role for 20 years in publishing the most readable, accurately concise, timely and prophetic materials on national defense, the need for a defensive system to protect American lives, the danger from the shift in the strategic balance, and the follies of summits. While many officials and publications now recognize the mistakes of Robert S. McNamara, Henry Kissinger, and SALT I and II, the *P. S. Report* exposed their mistakes while they were taking place. For 20 years, the *P. S. Report* has nurtured a nationwide network of Americans who speak up in support of a militarily strong America.

Why SALT Was A Bad Deal

The *P. S. Report* published a series of six reports in 1979 explaining what was wrong with SALT II in language all Americans could understand. These reports were a significant force in persuading the Senate NOT to ratify this treaty.

The *P. S. Report* had likewise published a series of three *Reports* in 1972 explaining what was wrong with SALT I. Unfortunately, it took most people 10 more years to recognize the folly of SALT I and its premise of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD).

SDI Campaign Launched

The *P. S. Report* launched a national campaign for a defensive system to protect American lives in October 1982. Originally called High Frontier, this system is now called SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative). The SDI concept was adopted by President Reagan on May 23, 1983, by the Republican Platform in 1984, and polls now show about 75% support of the American people. The seven *P. S. Reports* on SDI were a significant factor in building this public opinion.

Nuclear Freeze Campaign Exposed As Flim Flam

The P. S. Report scooped the entire news media in publishing a secret memo of the "Monday Group" in April 1983 which revealed a cleverly orchestrated campaign to

manipulate Senators and Congressmen by making them think there were many organizations in favor of a nuclear freeze. The secret memo proved that it was just a handful of mostly tax-funded lobbyists who "wore different hats" appearing to represent different groups in lobbying on Capitol Hill. This was an important factor in discrediting the nuclear freeze movement and defeating their Congressional resolution.

Freedom Fighter Friendship Kits Aid Contras

Just before Christmas in 1985, Eagle Forum made national news when its members started making Freedom Fighter Friendship Kits to ship to the fighting Contras in Nicaragua. These kits were small pouches stuffed with soap, razor, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, foot powder, hand-kerchief, aspirin, insect repellent, comb, a Spanish Bible, etc. During 1986, Eagle Forum members made more than 8,000 of these kits and shipped them to the Contras who sent word that they were most grateful for these necessities.



Raising Tax Exemptions for Children

In November, 1982, the *P. S. Report* was the first national publication to point out how the value of a child in the federal income tax code had been secretly reduced by ³/₄ths over the last 30 years.

The Republican Platform Committee in Dallas in 1984 (of which Phyllis Schlafly was a member) called for increasing the exemption from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Due to persistent lobbying by the pro-family movement, this proposal was endorsed by the Reagan Administration on May 29, 1985. Finally, the \$2,000 figure was included in the bipartisan tax reform package that became law in 1986.

Homemakers' Social Security Benefits Defended

Jimmy Carter's Social Security Administration published a book in 1979 called Social Security and the Changing Roles of Men and Women which advocated eliminating Social Security benefits for dependent wives (homemakers). This was a feminist

plan to allow women to receive Social Security benefits *only* (a) if they are employed and pay their own taxes, *or* (b) if a husband pays double taxes for the privilege of having his wife as a fulltime homemaker. This radical and cruel change in policy would have been a powerful inducement to force all wives and mothers out of the home and into the labor force. This plan was backed by most leading feminists and by the Commission on International Women's Year.

When the Carter Social Security Administration tried to sell this radical notion to the American people by staging regional hearings across the country in 1979, readers of the *P. S. Report* were already well informed about this complicated subject. Members of Eagle Forum became articulate and effective witnesses in testifying in defense of the wife's benefits.

As a result, the National Commission on Social Security unanimously rejected all proposals to wipe out the wife's benefits. Whenever this radical plan has since surfaced, Eagle Forum members have shot it down. When Social Security was overhauled with a bipartisan revision in 1982, no change was made in the wife's benefits.

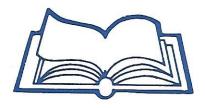
This important victory was possible because of the specialized information provided exclusively in the *P. S. Report.*

Unisex Insurance Defeated

Unisex Insurance was defeated in the House Energy and Commerce Committee on March 28, 1984. This had been the #2 goal of the National Organization for Women (right after ERA). Eagle Forum explained to Congressmen that Unisex Insurance, which would force women to pay rates equal to men's, would actually cost women hundreds of dollars extra per-year for no additional benefits. The Congressmen realized they would look pretty silly telling their female constituents that they voted them a new "right" to pay higher insurance premiums so they could be equal to men.

Eagles Expose Comparable Worth

On October 17-18, 1983, Eagle Forum sponsored the first conference ever held that showcased arguments against Comparable Worth. The five *P. S. Reports* subsequently published became effective tools in the hands of Eagle Forum lobbyists at State Capitols and in Congress. As a result, Comparable Worth has been defeated in most states (notably Illinois, Texas and North Carolina).



Eagle Forum Launches Phonics Reading Project

Recognizing illiteracy as a terrible national problem, the *P. S. Report* launched a Phonics Reading Project in June 1981 to encourage parents to teach their children to read. Since then, thousands of parents have successfully taught their children to read using the authentic phonics course provided by Eagle Forum. The *P. S. Report* has been a national leader in the promotion of phonics as the cure for illiteracy.

Classroom Curricula Exposed

Again and again, the *P. S. Report* exposed the psychological curricula forced on public school pupils, and the fact that the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment passed by Congress in 1978 had never been enforced. Finally, as a result of national pressure generated by readers of the *P. S. Report*, the U.S. Department of Education issued regulations for this law and scheduled seven days

of hearings in March 1984 to receive public comment. Hundreds of parents and teachers testified about the psychological abuse of children by classroom curricula.

The P. S. Report then demanded in May 1984 that the Education Department publish the hearings. When it refused, Phyllis Schlafly excerpted 100 of the testimonies and published them in the book Child Abuse in the Classroom. This book quickly became a national best-seller and has educated parents, teachers, and school board members all over the country about how classroom materials sabotage the religion, ethics, and values of their children.

The *P. S. Report* has published ten different reports describing various psychological curricula that offend parents and children in areas of drugs, sex, death, suicide, war, and incest. These *Reports* are powerful tools in the hands of parents who work to investigate curricula and protect their children.

Bias in Nuclear War Courses Revealed

In August 1983, the *P. S. Report* was the first to expose the biased and inaccurate curricula on the subject of nuclear war, and to activate people to protest this type of political indoctrination in public school classrooms. The *Report's* analysis of four major curricula (by the NEA and others) was so devastating that few schools ever adopted their use.

Sex Ed/Sex Clinics Exposed

The *P. S. Report* in February 1981 exposed what is really going on in the name of "sex education," and gave parents and teachers a useful checklist with which to evaluate sex curricula.

In June 1986, the *P. S. Report* exposed the foundation-financed drive to install clinics in all the public schools to dispense contraceptives to minor children. This *Report* became a tool parents used to stop the powerful clinic movement, and very few additional sex clinics have since been installed.

Eagles Show Why Con Con is Bad

In December 1984, the *P. S. Report* scored another "first" in exposing the dangers to our U.S. Constitution inherent in the drive to get state legislatures to call a Constitutional Convention (Con Con) because it could not be limited to the purpose of passing a Balanced Budget Amendment.

Using the *P. S. Report* as a tool, Eagle Forum volunteers defeated Con Con resolutions in MI, CT, ME, KY and MT. Eagle Forum was credited with turning the Montana Senate against a Con Con; the Con Con resolution was decisively defeated on March 19, 1987 by 46 to 4. No state has passed a Con Con resolution since the *P. S. Report* revealed its dangers.



