



50th Anniversary Issue



The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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1967-2017: The *Phyllis Schlafly Report* Celebrates Fifty Years of Continuous Monthly Publication

When the first issue of this newsletter was published by the Eagle Trust Fund in August 1967, Phyllis Schlafly was already nationally recognized as a speaker, writer, and conservative leader. Her book *A Choice Not An Echo*, published in April 1964, sold more than 3 million copies that year. It's recognized as one of the 10 most important books of the conservative movement because it persuaded so many people to become active in conservative politics.

Phyllis' next books — *The Gravediggers* (1964) and *Strike from Space* (1965, revised and expanded 1966), which together sold more than 2 million copies — established Phyllis' expertise on the greatest challenge of the Cold War: defending America against nuclear attack from Soviet missiles. She was also known as a political activist, having held many Republican party positions, and she was expected to become president of the 500,000-member National Federation of Republican Women.

Phyllis believed that political activism is part of good citizenship because, as she often said, "politics is where the action is." We have a two-party system, she would say, and every American should actively participate in **one** of the two major political parties.

Phyllis began her own political activism in 1946, managing a successful campaign for Congress when she was just 22 years old. She also wrote speeches for her candidate, Claude Bakewell, who upset the Democratic incumbent and served in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress led by Senator Robert A. Taft.

In 1952, as a young wife, mother, and herself a candidate for Congress in what was then the 24th district of Illinois, she attended her first Republican National Convention — and every subsequent

convention for the rest of her life. From 1952 to 2016, she actively participated — usually as a Delegate, but always as an influential leader — in 17 national conventions, an astounding record that surely will never be equaled. The *P.S. Report* predicted that 2016 would be "America's Last Chance" and rejoiced when "Americans Elected 'A Choice Not An Echo'."

The *P.S. Report* is more than just a unique and successful publication. Under Phyllis Schlafly's leadership and direction, it became the lifeline and communications channel of a movement which has grown to be one of the most formidable forces in American politics. From the first issue — more than eight years before the creation of Eagle Forum — Phyllis' subscribers and supporters called themselves Eagles and proudly wore the eagle pin she designed.

Over its 50 years, the *P.S. Report* has provided readers with reliable information on a wide variety of subjects, fulfilling Phyllis' promise to provide "more facts in fewer words than any publication in print." The original subscription price of \$5 is now \$20, but the original format, which was modeled on the weekly newsletter of the Manion Forum, has never changed. Following Phyllis' death on September 5, 2016, the *P.S. Report* is being continued by her sons, with John Schlafly serving as editor and publisher.

More than 700 issues of the *P.S. Report* were published in the last 50 years (there were two issues in many months). These issues were timely, topical, and often political, but also reflective of Phyllis' Christian faith and her lifelong commitment to the American way of life. As we reviewed this vast output, three major themes can be found, which are summarized on the next three pages of this 50th anniversary issue.

Defending the Constitution

“Of all the classes of people who ever lived, the American woman is the most privileged.” So begins the most famous issue of the *P.S. Report*, “What’s Wrong With ‘Equal Rights’ for Women?” (February 1972), which refuted the feminist falsehood that women are not fully represented and protected by the U.S. Constitution. It was followed by “The Fraud Called the Equal Rights Amendment” (May 1972), which explained how ERA would eliminate important benefits, protections and exemptions for women under existing federal and state laws.

Subsequent issues analyzed the harms that would (or could) result from adding the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, such as “The Precious Rights ERA Will Take Away From Wives” (August 1973). The *P.S. Report* explained “What Sex-Equality Means in the Military” (September 1979) and warned that “ERA Would Mean Women in Combat” (February 1982). Other issues addressed “How ERA Will Affect Social Security” (October 1974), and “How ERA Will Affect Churches and Private Schools” (March 1975). “How Will ERA Change State Laws?” (April 1973) and “The Tremendous Powers of ERA’s Section 2” (December 1981) showed how ERA would transfer power over marriage, children and the family from the states to the federal government.

From 1972 to 1982 some 85 issues of the *P.S. Report* addressed different aspects of the ERA, in addition to ten 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. Armed with the information given in the *P.S. Report*, ERA was ultimately defeated after a decade-long struggle by the women and men of the emerging pro-family movement. “A Short History of E.R.A.” (September 1986) is still the best available summary of that ten-year battle.

After ERA expired and was buried on June 30, 1982, Phyllis turned her attention to other threats to the Constitution. In “CON CON: Playing Russian Roulette with the Constitution” (December 1984), she highlighted the risks of calling a convention to amend the Constitution. “Combating Chicanery About the Constitution” (September 1987) exposed the “bait and switch” of misleading legislators to apply for a convention in the guise of supporting a balanced budget amendment.

One of Phyllis’ proudest moments came in 1985 when she was appointed by President Reagan to serve on the 23-member Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution, which was chaired by Chief Justice Warren Burger after he retired from the Supreme Court. Phyllis used her position to teach about the Constitution and protect it from further attacks, including unwise amendments. In the famous “Burger letter,” reprinted in “Mischief-Making about the Constitution” (September 2013), Chief Justice Burger gave Phyllis his written opinion that an article V convention cannot be restricted or limited.

When then-Senator Hillary Clinton called for abolishing the Electoral College, the *P.S. Report* defended “The Way We Elect Our Presidents” (December 2000). Some 25 years earlier, “American Election Procedures” (January 1976) had exposed the effort by Senators Birch Bayh and Ted Kennedy to eliminate the Electoral College.

“Beware of Attacks on the Constitution” (May 2009) warned that the National Popular Vote would consolidate political power in a few major cities, making the states irrelevant. In the fiftieth year of publication, “Why We Need the Electoral College” (December 2016) showed why Donald Trump, not Hillary Clinton, was properly elected by the Electoral College.

Phyllis recognized the importance of the states in our system of government. In “The D.C. Ripoff Amendment” (October 1978) and “Statehood for the District of Columbia?” (March 1988), the *P.S. Report* explained why “the District of Columbia should not be admitted to the Union as a state.”

In “Liberal Plans to Subvert the U.S. Constitution” (December 2007), the *P.S. Report* opposed giving D.C. a voting representative in Congress. It condemned the “deceitful tactics to make Puerto Rico a state” and the unconstitutional idea of allowing native Hawaiians to exercise governmental powers as if they were Indian tribes.

“Protect Our Constitutional Patent Rights!” (May 1997) is an example of how the *P.S. Report* led the fight to protect inventors who are entitled to “the exclusive right” to market their inventions. “What Americans Owe to Inventors” (July 1997) contained a version of Phyllis Schlafly’s award-winning presentation on how our unique patent system is largely responsible for America’s high standard of living. In “The Ominous Attack on Inventors” (March 1998) the *P.S. Report* opposed legislation that would infringe the rights of inventors by reducing the strength of their patents, and “Unconstitutional Attack on U.S. Inventors” (June 2011) identified a key issue which the Supreme Court has agreed to decide in 2018.

In “Congress Must Curb the Imperial Judiciary” (February 1997) and “It’s Time To Hold Federal Judges Accountable” (March 1997), the *P.S. Report* called for limiting judges to their proper role under the Constitution, which designed the judiciary to be “the least dangerous” of our three branches of government. With the challenge “Don’t Let the Courts Draft Women” (January 1981), the *P.S. Report* led the legal battle which resulted in winning “The Supreme Court Case on Drafting Women” (November 1980).

As the Supreme Court and other federal courts grabbed more power to decide social issues, the *P.S. Report* declared that “We Must Reject the Rule of Judges” (March 2004). Phyllis explained that “Congress’ Power Over the Federal Courts” (January 1981) is well established in the text of the Constitution and respected by many Supreme Court decisions. In “How to Stop the Tyranny of Judges” (June 2006) the *P.S. Report* gave specific ways that Congress can take back power from the courts.

Defending American Sovereignty

“American freedom absolutely depends on maintaining our independence and sovereignty,” Phyllis Schlafly wrote in “Allegiance” (November 2000), the landmark *P.S. Report* which summarized more than two dozen threats to U.S. national sovereignty through treaties, international conferences, unilateral executive orders, and one-sided trade deals.

Since all multilateral treaties chip away at U.S. sovereignty, the *P.S. Report* highlighted the special dangers from United Nations treaties such as the “Genocide Convention: Threat to American Rights” (September 1977). “The UN Genocide Convention Is Dangerous to Americans” (January 1985) proposed strong reservations and understandings, which fortunately were adopted by the U.S. Senate, in order to protect our constitutional rights. “The Many Assaults on U.S. Sovereignty” (June 2002) explained the dangers of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and supported legislation to protect American service members from being brought before that court.

During the Reagan administration, the *P.S. Report* explained why the “U.S. Should Sink the Law of the Sea Treaty” (August 1982). In the Bush and Clinton years, the *P.S. Report* warned readers of “The Follies of the UN Treaty on Women” (September 1990), also known as CEDAW, which would have been an “ERA Enforced by the United Nations” (March 2007). “The New World Order Wants Your Children” (March 1993) warned parents about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. “Beware of the Lame Duck Session” (November 2012) exposed the dangers of the UN Arms Trade Treaty (UNATT) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Due to the influence of these widely distributed issues of the *P.S. Report*, the U.S. Senate has wisely refused to ratify any of these UN treaties.

During the Cold War years, when intercontinental ballistic missiles were aimed at our cities by the Soviet Union, many issues of the *P.S. Report* dealt with the need to defend America against the threat of nuclear attack. Rejecting the defeatist policies of Henry Kissinger, who was the most powerful man in America during the eight years of the Nixon and Ford administrations, Phyllis asserted that it is “Our Moral Duty to Build Nuclear Weapons” (April 1972) and explained how the Kissinger-negotiated “SALT Treaty Freezes U.S. As a Poor Second” (June 1972). During the Carter administration, “The SALT-Selling Campaign” (February 1979), “Questions on SALT II” (June 1979) and “The Costly Lessons of SALT” (September 1979) helped insure that Jimmy Carter’s SALT II was never ratified.

After Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1980, Phyllis supported his efforts to win the Cold War and protect America from the Soviet nuclear threat. In “Our Moral Duty to Defend Freedom” (May 1983), the *P.S. Report* rallied conservatives to support Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). In “We Must Deploy SDI Now” (January 1987), the *P.S. Report* explained why missile defense is “How To Make Nuclear Weapons Obsolete” (March 1986) as President Reagan promised in his March 23, 1983 address to the nation.

As President Reagan turned the tide against the communists, the *P.S. Report* was there to cheer him on. In “How to Wage a Successful Summit” (January 1986), Phyllis praised the president for his courageous and shrewd negotiations at the Geneva Summit with Gorbachev. She praised President Reagan for “Reaffirming the Monroe Doctrine” (May 1987) in dealing with communist aggression in Latin America. When the victories under the Reagan administration led to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, the *P.S. Report* declared that “The Anti-Communists Were Right, After All” (April 1990).

Phyllis believed that it’s not enough for the United States to have a *strong* military; our military forces must be *superior* to any potential adversary. The importance of overwhelming superiority (also known as “overkill”) was one of the “Lessons of the Gulf War” (April 1991). Even after the Supreme Court upheld the power of Congress to exclude women from combat, the *P.S. Report* warned about “The Feminization of the U.S. Military” (September 1989) and reproached President Bush for “Sending Mothers to the Gulf War!” (March 1991).

As far back as the Cold War, the *P.S. Report* opposed globalist trade that put the interests of Americans last. “Subsidizing the Soviets with the Trick Called Trade” (August 1972), “Why Give U.S. Loans and Technology to Russia?” (November 1979) and “Selling the Rope to the Soviets” (June 1980) warned about the transfer of America’s technological advantages to a potential enemy, a concern that is equally applicable to China today.

“New World Order, Clinton Style” (June 1994) warned about the dangers of the new World Trade Organization, “a sort of Economic United Nations” in which each member country would have one vote. On the UN’s fiftieth anniversary the *P.S. Report* proclaimed “The United Nations — An Enemy in Our Midst” (November 1995). “Globalism: Enemy of the Middle Class” (February 2007) was followed by “Economic Integration on the March” (August 2007) and “Self-Government in Peril from the Globalists” (October 2007). “Trump Battles the Globalists of Both Parties” (August 2016) cheered Donald Trump’s successful campaign that vindicated Phyllis’ lifelong opposition to globalism.

After the United States was attacked by foreign terrorists on September 11, 2001, the *P.S. Report* began to address immigration with issues such as “Security Starts at Our Borders” (November 2001), “We Must Reform Border Policies” (January 2002) and “Dangerous Holes in Border Security” (March 2006). Turning to immigration more generally, the *P.S. Report* criticized fellow Republicans for “Pretending Immigration Isn’t an Issue” (September 2002), documented the “Rising Costs of Tolerating Illegal Aliens” (February 2003) and showed how “Diseases Cross Open Borders” (June 2016)

When big business lobbied for open borders, the *P.S. Report* asserted that “Guest-Worker/Amnesty Is Immoral” (January 2006) and documented how “Guest Workers Aren’t Cheap; They’re Expensive” (July 2006). When leading Republicans abandoned the party’s commitment to secure borders, the *P.S. Report* showed why “Amnesty = Suicide for Republican Party” (April 2013) and asked, in a widely quoted issue, “Does the Republican Party Have a Future?” (November 2013).

Defending the Family

Ever since the ten-year battle against the Equal Rights Amendment, the *P.S. Report* has opposed the radical feminist movement, defended the economics of the family, articulated the critical importance of fathers to the family, and advocated parents' rights in the education of their children.

In "Defending the Economic Life of the Family" (April 1982), Phyllis wrote that we should be "as concerned about the economic integrity of the family as about its moral, social and legal integrity." She detailed "The High Costs of Marriage Absence" (November 2011) and exposed the "Phony Divide Between Fiscal & Social Issues" (March 2012). "Politicians who say we can ignore social issues, or avoid talking about them," she wrote, "are really saying that they have no plan to cut federal spending and the growing national debt."

"The Family's Stake in Economic Policies" (April 1985) asserted that "the number-one social issue is ... the ability of a man to earn an after-tax wage sufficient to support his family." From "How E.R.A. Will Hurt Men" (May 1975) through "The Feminists Continue Their War Against Men" (February 2006) and beyond, many issues of the *P.S. Report* opposed feminist ideas that degrade men and diminish their important role as provider and protector. The *P.S. Report* always opposed Joe Biden's Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), also known as "Feminist Pork — the Hate-Men Law" (October 2005).

The *P.S. Report* explained "The Awesome Power of Family Courts" (June 2010), which exhibit "feminist fatherphobia," and asked, "Should Parents or the 'Village' Raise Children?" (June 2008). In "Who Killed the American Family?" (October 2014), along with her book of the same title, Phyllis compiled many factors which have undermined the traditional family.

"Federal Day Care — Sovietizing the American Family" (February 1988) opposed "warehousing babies in government-licensed institutions where they would be subjected to secular, unisex custodial care by government-trained personnel, while their mothers would be trapped fulltime in the paid labor force." Along with "What's Wrong with Federal Baby-Sitting?" (March 1988) and "Insolvable Problems of Federal Daycare" (July 1989), the *P.S. Report* stopped liberal plans to create new federal entitlement for daycare.

"Parents' Rights in Education" (November 1976) has been a recurring theme of the *P.S. Report*, because the education of children, both at home and in school, is primarily a family responsibility. The *P.S. Report* was the first to analyze destructive fads in education, such as "What's Wrong with Outcome-Based Education?" (May 1993), which Phyllis described as a "dumbed-down egalitarian scheme," along with "School-to-Work and Goals 2000" (April 1997), which focused on serving the labor force instead of developing the whole child. The *P.S. Report* gave reasons for the "Growing

Rejection of Common Core" (June 2014) and announced that it was "Time to Leave 'No Child' Behind" (January 2016).

In her testimony, "How and Why I Taught My Children To Read" (June 1981), Phyllis explained why the single most important reform was to insure that every child is taught to read in the first grade by the proven phonics method. "Phonics — the Key to Reading" (September 1984) launched a national movement to promote reading with phonics, and "Beware of the Phonics Conspiracy" (October 1999) was Phyllis' tongue-in-cheek response to the irrational resistance by educators to the phonics method.

After the books she had previously recommended went out of print, Phyllis wrote her own phonics book called *First Reader*, and later *Turbo Reader* for older children. In "The Most Fulfilling Thing I Have Ever Done" (March 1994), Phyllis recalled the satisfaction of teaching her own first child to read in 1955 and insisted that "You can teach *your* child to read." Drawing from personal experience with her own children and grandchildren, she urged parents, grandparents, and other caring adults to teach a child at home, before the child enters school.

Many issues of the *P.S. Report* informed parents about "What's Going On at College Campuses" (November 1998). When campus rioters and draft dodgers were spreading mayhem in the 1960s and 1970s, the *P.S. Report* responded with "The Hard Hats Versus the Soft Heads" (June 1970). "The Dumbing Down of America's Colleges" (April 1996), "Diversity Dishonesty On College Campuses" (April 2002), and "What Colleges Teach and Don't Teach" (April 2007) exposed the speech-silencing Leftists and feminists on campus.

The *P.S. Report* has been a reliable source of information about what is going on in the classrooms of our schools and colleges. "Child Abuse in the Classroom" (September 1984), along with Phyllis' bestselling book of that title, exposed the anti-parent, anti-religion, anti-American values reflected in much of the curriculum, while "The Radical Agenda of the NEA" (February 1985) exposed the teachers union's opposition to the pro-parent Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.

"Whose Values Do Public Schools Teach?" (June 1987) and "What Schools Teach and Don't Teach" (November 1994) highlighted the biggest problem with public education, while "Who Defines American Culture?" (December 2006) outlined the greatest challenge to the future of America.

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