



# The Phyllis Schlafly Report



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## How to Improve Fairness in Your Library

Something akin to the Fairness Doctrine, which is applied by the F.C.C. to television and radio programming, ought to apply to public, school and college libraries. Books should be readily available to the general public and to students on all sides of controversial issues of public importance. But often they are not.

Tens of thousands of books are published each year. No library can buy them all. No librarian can read them all. A selection must be made by each library. This choice is usually made on the basis of book reviews and recommendations by library trade journals.

This process puts tremendous power to influence book selection in a handful of book reviewers. If these journals recommend that a book *not* be purchased, few libraries will buy it. If these journals give a book the Silent Treatment, few libraries will even know it was published. The effect of a "don't buy" recommendation and the Silent Treatment by book-review journals is often known as the "Paper Curtain." Its practical effect is to ban books from libraries more completely than a legislative or court order could ever ban any book.

The record is clear that, over the last several decades, the book review journals most used by libraries have displayed a pronounced bias in favor of books which are liberal, women's lib (feminist), leftwing, Socialist, "progressive" in regard to education, humanist in regard to morality, and pornographic in regard to fiction. Most libraries reflect the bias of these reviews. That is why it is often so difficult to obtain books that are conservative, pro-family, patriotic, traditional in regard to values, basic-skills in regard to education, patriotic and pro-private enterprise.

Many libraries are unaware of this pervasive bias because they never hear about the "banned" books through the sources they have relied on (such as the *New York Times Book Review*). Many libraries will conscientiously try to provide any books (even conservative books) when citizens present a demand for them.

Other libraries have affirmatively participated in the banning of conservative books in various ways. Some libraries simply refuse to buy books that promote views disliked by the librarians. Some libraries effectively ban a book by buying only one copy even though the size of

the community served or the number of branches indicates a need for 10, 25, 50, or 100 copies of the same book. Some libraries never display or list the disliked books on open racks or on lists of newly-purchased books. Some libraries may buy one copy of the disliked book but not catalogue it under subject headings where it can be readily found by citizens and students.

This bias can never be excused by a lack of sufficient library funding. Most libraries buy a tremendous quantity of pornographic and trashy fiction. For a library to refuse to buy major conservative and pro-family books would be like the television networks saying, "Sorry, we have no funds to cover Presidential elections because we spent all our money producing primetime sex-and-violence entertainment." That "excuse" would be unacceptable for television, and it is unacceptable for a library that serves the public (especially if it operates on tax funds).

Nor is it any excuse for a library to refuse to buy books unless they are published by the major "establishment" publishers or sold through the major book distribution wholesalers. A great deal of the banning of conservative and pro-family books is the result of the refusal of major publishers to print books by conservative and pro-family authors. Or, a major publisher may go ahead and publish a conservative or pro-family book, but then not advertise or promote it, so that the copies remain in the warehouse and are finally "remaindered" at cost.

The "establishment" publishers have displayed a pronounced liberal bias for several decades. In the last five years, the women's liberationists have almost completely taken over the book publishing industry, as witness the fact that major publishers have issued censorship guidelines listing traditional words and pro-family phrases and pictures that will not be permitted in any published book. The control exercised by the feminists is so great today that they are able to prevent publishers from accepting manuscripts from conservative authors whose previous published books were best-sellers in spite of the "Paper Curtain." For example, they refuse to reprint George Gilder's *Sexual Suicide* despite the stunning success of his *Wealth and Poverty*.

## Book Banning by Pro-ERAers

The most blatant example of book-banning by libraries is the way that so many libraries have bought dozens, scores, or even hundreds of books which promote the Equal Rights Amendment, directly or indirectly through promoting the women's liberation movement, but have refused to buy any book which opposes the ERA. ERA is a controversial national issue of obvious public (even constitutional) importance, and yet library after library has refused to buy a single book opposing ERA.

Since the anti-ERA side is winning, there must be millions of people interested in reading the arguments against it. Yet this book-banning by libraries means that the American reading public of this and future generations will never be able to learn why ERA lost. There is no excuse for every public, college and school library not having the anti-ERA book written by the leader of the Stop ERA Movement (*The Power of the Positive Woman* by Phyllis Schlafly) and the biography of the leader of the STOP ERA Movement (*The Sweetheart of the Silent Majority: The Biography of Phyllis Schlafly* by Carol Felsenthal).

It is possible that many libraries don't know about *The Power of the Positive Woman* because it was given the Silent Treatment by the book-review journals. That's no excuse - it's merely an explanation. It is the affirmative duty of libraries to seek out anti-ERA, anti-lib books after they bought dozens of pro-ERA, pro-lib books.

However, that excuse won't hold for Carol Felsenthal's book, *The Sweetheart of the Silent Majority*. It was published by a major "establishment" publishing company (Doubleday). It was one of the most reviewed books of 1981. And, *mirabile dictu*, the trade journals most used by libraries (*Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *Kirkus*) all gave it excellent reviews, called it an "objective" book, and recommended purchase. Yet, still many libraries have refused to buy it.

This book-banning is often done in a subtle way. In one major U.S. city, where Phyllis Schlafly has a large following, the public library answered all calls about the book with a firm "Yes, of course, we have it." It took much investigation to find out why nobody could ever find the book available. The library bought only three copies to share among 25 branches. (This is an area where a reasonable purchase would have been two copies for every one of the 25 branches.)

One reason for the ruthless book-banning of *The Power of the Positive Woman* and *The Sweetheart of the Silent Majority* is the fact that the librarians' union, the American Library Association, has been active in the National Organization for Women's (NOW's) boycott of the 15 states which have not ratified ERA. The ALA officers became so emotionally biased in their political support of the NOW boycott that they even tried to move the ALA headquarters out of Chicago, Illinois (an unratified state). The fact that the ALA's cancellation of its Chicago convention site was overturned by a vote of the ALA's own membership shows that there must be

thousands of fair-minded librarians who refuse to go along with such bigoted pro-ERA tactics.

In any event, the ALA's record on the boycott has transformed it into a political organization, and the burden of proof is now on the ALA to prove that it can be fair in allowing anti-ERA books in libraries. All the ALA resolutions about "standing firm" against citizens' pressure groups that want to remove obscene books from libraries are as phony as a \$3 bill. No pressure group in the history of America has ever so effectively banned books from libraries as the way the pro-ERAers have banned the leading books against ERA.

## What You Can Do

Any citizen reading this can make a major contribution to improving fairness in local public and school libraries by checking out the situation and trying to get the "other side" available to the reading public. You should always start out assuming that your local librarian is fair-minded, reasonable, and responsive to arguments of intellectual balance and the interests of the reading public. Check the card catalogue. If the book you want is not there, request that it be purchased. If your request is denied, ask ten other friends to request it. (It is not a satisfactory answer if the library merely offers to borrow the book from another library - the delays will exhaust potential readers.)

Can local citizens or groups donate books which the library cannot or will not buy? Sometimes that plan is well received by the library. Other times, the library will refuse to accept a donated conservative book, or may even accept it and then never catalogue it or make it available.

The remainder of this Report is devoted to a list of books which ought to be in every library in the following categories: Anti-ERA and Pro-Family, Pro-Life, Pro-Defense, and Pro-Basic-Education. These lists are not meant to be exclusive or complete. They are simply short, useful lists of essential books that should be in every library that pretends to serve the public or students. These books present pro-family, pro-life, pro-defense, and pro-basic-education views that are opposed by the liberal establishment.

For your convenience, a list of pro-lib books is also included. This list should make it easy for you to shame any library into buying anti-ERA books. If any two of the pro-lib books are available in the library you are checking, there is no excuse for that library not having *The Power of the Positive Woman* and *The Sweetheart of the Silent Majority*.

Please notify Eagle Forum, "Attention: Stop Library Book-Banning Committee," of your experiences in contacting your local libraries. Copy the book list in this Report and mark it with your name and address, the name and address of your library, "Yes" by the titles of the books the library has available, "No" by the titles of the books the library does not have, and attach a brief report on your success (or failure) in persuading the library to buy the essential missing books.

## Pro-Defense Books

- Beilenson, Laurence W. *Survival and Peace in the Nuclear Age* (Chicago: Regnery/Gateway, Inc., 1980.)
- Collins, John M. *U.S.-Soviet Military Balance* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1980).
- Graham, General Daniel O. *Shall America Be Defended* (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1979).
- Penkovskiy, Oleg. *The Penkovskiy Papers* (Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday, 1965).
- Power, General Thomas S. *Design for Survival* (New York: Coward-McCann, 1964).
- Schlafly, Phyllis and Ward, Admiral Chester. *Kissinger on the Couch* (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1975, \$12.95).
- \*Schlafly, Phyllis and Ward, Admiral Chester. *Strike From Space* (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1966). (Available in paperback only, \$1.00).
- Tyson, James L. *Target America* (Chicago: Regnery/Gateway, 1981).
- Van Cleave, William R. *Strategic Options for the Early Eighties* (White Plains, MD: Automated Graphics Systems, 1979).
- \*Walt, General Lewis W. *The Eleventh Hour* (Ottawa, IL: Caroline House Publishers, 1979, \$9.95).

## Pro-Family Books

- Coakley, Mary Lewis. *Rated X: The Moral Case Against TV* (New Rochelle, NY: Arlington House, 1977).
- Dexter, Midge. *The Liberated Woman and Other Americans* (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1971).
- Dexter, Midge. *The New Chastity and Other Arguments Against Women's Liberation* (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1971).
- \*Felsenthal, Carol. *The Sweetheart of the Silent Majority* (Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday, 1981, \$13.95).
- Fraiberg, Selma. *Every Child's Birthright: In Defense of Mothering* (New York: Basic Books, 1977).
- Gilder, George. *Sexual Suicide* (New York: Quadrangle, 1973).
- Gilder, George. *Wealth and Poverty* (New York: Basic Books, 1981).
- Lee, Rex E. *A Lawyer Looks at the Equal Rights Amendment* (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1980).
- deRiencourt, Amaury. *Sex and Power in History* (New York: David McKay Co., 1974).
- \*Schlafly, Phyllis. *The Power of the Positive Woman* (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1977, \$9.95).
- Stassinopoulos, Arianna. *The Female Woman* (New York: Random House, 1973).
- Voth, Harold. *The Castrated Family* (Kansas City: Sheed Andrews and McMeel, Inc., 1977).

## Pro-Basic-Education Books

- Chambers, Claire. *The SIECUS Circle: A Humanist Revolution* (Belmont, Mass: Western Islands, 1977).
- Flesch, Rudolf. *Why Johnny Still Can't Read* (New York: Harper & Row, 1981).
- Marshner, Connaught Coyne. *Blackboard Tyranny* (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1978).
- Moore, Raymond & Dorothy. *Home Grown Kids* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1981).
- Rafferty, Max. *Max Rafferty on Education*. (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1968).
- Rafferty, Max. *Suffer, Little Children* (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1962).
- Root, E. Merrill. *Brainwashing in the High Schools* (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1959).
- Root, E. Merrill. *Collectivism on the Campus* (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1956).
- Rudd, Augustin G. *Bending the Twig* (Chicago: Heritage Foundation, 1957).
- \*Available for immediate shipment from Pere Marquette Press, Box 495, Alton, IL 62002.

# Pro-Life Books

DeMarco, Donald. *Abortion in Perspective* (Cincinnati, OH: Hayes Publishing Co., Inc.).

Hilgers, Horan and Mall. *New Perspectives on Human Abortion* (Chicago, IL: Americans United for Life).

Hilgers, Horan and Mall. *Abortion and Social Justice* (Chicago, IL: Americans United for Life).

Nathanson, Bernard. *Aborting America* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1979).

Whitehead, Kenneth. *Respectable Killing: The New Abortion Imperative*.

Willke, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. *Handbook on Abortion* (Cincinnati: Hayes Publishing Co., 1979).

## Reviews of "Sweetheart"

The three major library review journals all gave Carol Felsenthal's book, *The Sweetheart of the Silent Majority*, excellent reviews. They said the book is objective, important, and should be available in all libraries. These book reviews prove that the banning of *Sweetheart* was accomplished by the librarians in charge of purchasing.

*Library Journal* said: Felsenthal's book is a "timely, balanced biography . . . an absorbing study of leadership and power."

*Booklist* selected *Sweetheart* as one of only 5 nonfiction titles in its "Upfront: Advance Reviews" section. (According to the editor, "Books in this section have been selected because of their anticipated demand in libraries.") *Booklist* said: Felsenthal's style is "effortlessly nonjudgmental . . . allows the readers to make up their own minds . . ." *Booklist* especially recommended *Sweetheart* for young adults, which should have resulted in purchases by all high school and college libraries.

*Kirkus* singled out *Sweetheart* for its special list of only 3 nonfiction "books of uncommon merit, interest or popular appeal." *Kirkus* said: "Love her or hate her, readers will find the story of Phyllis Schlafly - liberated anti-women's libber - one of the small wonders of our time."

Here are a few examples of the dozens of other favorable reviews which appeared in thousands of newspapers.

*Associated Press*: Felsenthal "has meticulously researched her subject. . . . She set out to be objective and has succeeded."

*UPI*: *Sweetheart* ". . . makes interesting reading and belongs in any library concerned with the shapers and doers."

*King Features Syndicate*: ". . . surprisingly objective portrait. . . . The media have not been particularly kind to Phyllis Schlafly nor have there been many in-depth profiles of her. Carol Felsenthal has corrected this with a study of one of the most controversial yet unique and fascinating women of our time that is both insightful and informative."

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*Phyllis Schlafly* was the Librarian for the First National Bank in St. Louis during the years 1946-1949. She comes from a family of librarians. Her mother was the Librarian of the St. Louis City Art Museum for 25 years, and was responsible for building it almost from nothing to a very fine art library.

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## Pro-Lib Books

Atkinson, Ti-Grace. *Amazing Odyssey* (New York, Links Books, 1974).

DeBeauvoire, Simone. *The Second Sex* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1954; Tr. by H.M. Parshley).

Bird, Caroline. *Enterprising Women* (New York: Norton, 1976). *The Two-Paycheck Marriage* (New York: Rawson, Wade, 1979).

Brothers, Dr. Joyce. *The Brothers System for Liberated Love & Marriage* (Wyden, 1972).

DeCrow, Karen. *Sexist Justice* (New York: Random House, 1974).

Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique* (New York: Norton, 1963).

Greer, Germaine. *The Female Eunuch* (New York: Putnam, 1964).

Janeway, Elizabeth. *Man's World, Woman's Place* (New York: Morrow, 1971). *Powers of the Weak* (New York: Knopf, 1980).

Millett, Kate. *Sexual Politics* (Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday, 1970).

Mitchell, Juliet. *Psychoanalysis and Feminism* (New York: Pantheon, 1974).

Rossi, Alice. *The Feminist Papers* (New York: Bantam, 1973).

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