

Social Responsibilities Round Table /Newsletter ALFI

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1. The ERA is three shy of the 38 states needed to achieve ratification by June 30, 1982.
2. The 1980 midwinter conference will be held in Chicago.
3. Illinois is a non-ratified state.

Across the country, people are mobilizing to beat the deadline on equality. One such grass-roots effort in the New York City area recently brought together a number of concerned librarians. The group met in order to turn the ALA's membership vote (to meet in Chicago) into positive action that would facilitate ERA ratification.

Did the vote reflect an anti-ERA sentiment, as



by Paul Miller

In July 1976, ALA Council adopted the "Resolution on Racism and Sexism Awareness" (see excerpts elsewhere in this newsletter). At the following Midwinter meeting in Jan/Feb 1977, the Intellectual Freedom Committee and Board of the Children's Services Division (CSD, now called the Association for Library Service to Children) asked ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee (ALA/IFC) to review the resolution. CSD believed that implementation of the resolution would necessarily lead to "expurgation, labeling and removal of materials for content." ALA/IFC apparently agreed, for they promptly and in prearranged fashion asked the Executive Board to rescind the entire resolution.

ALA/IFC's fears were based in part on the conviction that Brad Chambers, who was instrumental in obtaining passage of the resolution, advocated removal of racist and sexist materials from library collections and intended that the Resolution provide ALA-sponsored justification for such action. Moreover, there had been instances of such removals for years and IFC had even felt compelled to obtain Council adoption in February 1973 of the statement: "Sexism, Racism and other -isms in Library Materials: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" which explicitly states ALA's opposition to such removals. ALA/IFC took

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