

Unisex Sports Decision Latest 'Victory' for Female Athletes

By M. STANTON EVANS

In the great progressive march of modern liberation, women have at last been freed to get knocked around a football field by men.

This latest victory follows on the heels of previous triumphs in which women have won the right to lift refrigerators, climb telephone poles, and chase after dangerous criminals in the streets. Reviewing all this progress, American women might well be tempted to observe with Pyrrhus: Another such victory as this and we are undone.

The latest chapter in these annals of absurdity has been written by a federal judge in Dayton, Ohio. This jurist ruled that state and federal guidelines providing for separate male and female sports are unconstitutional, and that girls must be permitted to take part in contact sports such as football. For all we know, the judge opined, there may be lurking out there somewhere an American girl who will become the greatest quarterback in history.

Maybe so, but I doubt it. More certain is the fact that such insistence on unisex sports will be detrimental to women in general, and to serious women athletes in particular. For in blinking the obvious facts of sexual difference in physical agility and strength, it creates a situation that must ultimately prove ruinous to women's sports.

The Ohio judge attacked the "conclusive presumption that girls are physically weaker than boys," and said "It has always been traditional that boys play football and girls are cheerleaders. Why so? Where is it written that girls may not, if suitably qualified, play football?" The answer, of course, is that it is written in the book of nature—and the rules of common sense.

It is a matter of biological fact, not a presumption, that girls are physically weaker than boys, not only in general but also at all comparable levels of athletic endeavor. The male and female physiques are constructed differently with respect to physical activities. Men are not only taller and heavier; they have a higher ratio of muscle to body weight, and anatomically are built for efficient running and throwing, which women generally are not.

Jim and Andrea Fordham in their book *The Assault on the Sexes* (Arlington House; \$9.95), sum up a few of the differences as follows: "Among infants, boys double their birth weight significantly earlier than girls, because of more bone and muscle. By adulthood, the average man weighs about 35 pounds more than the average woman, and is nearly a half-foot taller.... Compared to boys, girls have narrower shoulders, knees that turn inward, elbows that turn outward, a larger center of gravity, a broader pelvis that gives a certain angle to the legs that affects the way they walk and run, and significantly less cardiovascular capacity...."

Well, it may be argued, so what? These things are true for women in

general, but some women are bigger and stronger than some men, and here and there we may find a woman athlete who is capable of competing with men in some particular sport. Why shouldn't this woman athlete be permitted to go out for contact sports on a unisex basis, if such is her wish? Why deny her this opportunity by having separate men's and women's sports?

The answer is that unisex sports as a matter of alleged constitutional right are very much a two-way street. If women are entitled to go out for masculine sports, then men are equally entitled to go out for women's sports. Or, alternatively, the separate categories may be eliminated, and there will be sex-neutral teams in all departments where men and women will be

equally eligible to compete.

The result in either of these instances will be a takeover by men of sports teams once reserved to women.

"In the Olympic games," notes Phyllis Schlafly, "women not only cannot win any medals in competition with

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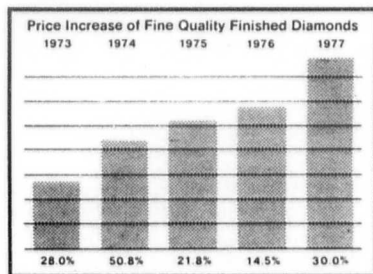
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Farmers' 100% Parity Would Sharply Hike Food Prices

By JOHN D. LOFTON JR.

Pollster Lou Harris tells us that by a margin of 5 to 1, the public supports the demands of striking farmers who are calling for 100 per cent parity for all agricultural products destined for either foreign or domestic use, and for all products cultivated for national and international food reserves. The public feels so strongly about the plight of the farmer, says Harris, that a 54 to 36 per cent majority would be willing to have food prices rise by 5 per cent to give farmers their parity goal.

The Department of Agriculture defines parity as:

"Essentially a ratio that compares the prices farmers receive for their commodities with the prices received and prices they must pay for production and living expenses. The comparison is made relative to a base period when prices received and prices paid supposedly stood in an appropriate relationship. . . . By statute, the base period for most commodities is 1910 to 1914."

Well, now, it just so happens that if the striking farmers' demand for 100 per cent parity is granted, food prices would rise considerably higher than 5 per cent.

According to an analysis by the Chase Econometrics Agricultural Forecasting Group, an immediate increase in farm prices to 100 per cent of parity would mean:

Realized net farm income would increase by almost 200 per cent over current levels.

Prices received by the farmer would expand from 58 per cent to 64 per cent.

Food prices at the supermarket would rise 18 to 20 per cent over present price levels. Specifically, for example, this would mean consumers would have to pay seven cents more for a one-pound loaf of bread, 38 cents more for a pound of hamburger, and 22 cents more for a gallon of milk.

Such a large increase in food inflation would slow the growth of real disposable income to 2 to 3 per cent in 1979, compared with current projected increases of 4 to 5 per cent.

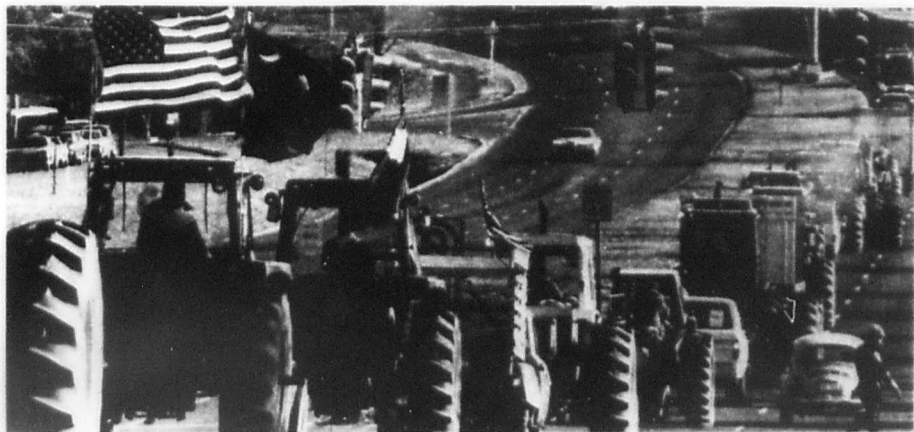
As a result of this loss in purchasing power, the U.S. economy could be slowed by as much as 3.2 per cent from the current projected growth rate of the Gross National Product.

The unemployment rate would increase to 8.7 per cent by 1979 instead of 7.3 per cent.

The overall inflation rate during the next year would be pushed close to double-digit levels instead of the 5 to 6 per cent estimated projection.

Consumers would reduce their purchases of beef by 8 to 12 per cent, and reduce purchases of other food items, but to a smaller degree.

U.S. grains and soybeans would become non-competitive in world mar-



As part of their battle for full parity, farmers from across the country last December staged demonstrations in the Nation's Capital. Above, a line of tractors heads for Washington from a Virginia suburb.

kets, thus reducing agricultural exports by at least 20 per cent.

A reduction in demand for crops which would generate even larger increases in surpluses, forcing the government to mandate reductions in 1979 crops, cutting grain acreage by 25-30 million acres, soybeans by eight to 10 million acres, and cotton by three to five million acres.

Ray Daniel, vice president for agricultural economics at Chase Econometrics, says:

"The kind of price rise demanded would not only create severe inflation, it would have a tremendous negative impact on domestic and foreign demand for U.S. farm products, and would force a major cutback in U.S. agricultural production.

"The American farmer is caught in a severe cost-price squeeze. He needs some protection from rising costs and depressed prices. But a return to 1910-1914 parity levels for farm prices simply ignores all the technological advances made in agriculture since the turn of the century. To use the price-cost ratios prevalent in 1910-1914 would be to replace one kind of disequilibrium with another."

It remains to be seen if striking farmers, led by the American Agriculture Movement, will get 100 per cent of parity. President Carter has labelled this demand as unwise and too expensive, saying it would cost the taxpayer about \$25 billion. The House and Senate Agriculture committees will soon be holding hearings on this subject.

The 100 per cent parity demand by this minority of American farmers is a classic example of special interest politics being conducted with a vengeance. If it is allowed to succeed, the result will be a rip-off of all Americans. Neither the President nor the Congress should be a party to such a deal.

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men, the gulf between them is so great that they cannot even qualify for the contests with men. No amount of training from infancy can enable women to throw the discus as far as men, or to match men in push-ups or lifting weights. In track and field events, individual male records surpass those of women by 10 to 20 per cent. . . .

"The . . . games, whose rules require strict verification that no male enter a female contest and, with his masculine advantage, unfairly capture a woman's medal, formerly insisted on a visual inspection of the contestants' bodies. Science, however, has discovered that men and women are so innately different physically that their maleness/femaleness can be conclusively established by means of a simple skin test of fully clothed persons."

Women athletic directors and coaches are well aware of all this, and many have reacted negatively to the Ohio ruling because of it. So are members of the Connecticut Little League, where gender-free competition resulted in a team consisting mostly of boys winning the girls' softball championship in 1976. "They're so much bigger physically" complained one player on the losing all-girls' team. "The boys are going to wreck it for us," said another. If unisex sports become the rule, we can expect that sort of thing to happen with increasing frequency.

These issues are sensibly addressed in the Fordhams' excellent book, and in Mrs. Schlafly's admirable study, *The Power of the Positive Woman* (Arlington House; \$8.95). Both are recommended reading for the general public—and federal judges.

WASHINGTON STAR PHOTO BY PAUL A. SCHMICK



Unisex sports advocates ignore obvious physical differences between girls and boys of the same age. Body weight alone would put female football players at a disadvantage in playing the game with males.