

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003      LB 407

that if somebody who is in the majority does something as ordinary as taking over a company would be worthy of any comment even...it wouldn't be. But it's worthy of comment and remark in this country because that does not typically happen. We all know that women are frozen out of a lot of activities. We also know that there are some women who will get in a position and forget the plight of their sisters, and they will do, as some traitorous black people will do. They will say, I made it; you can make it. But they made it by selling out, becoming tools and pawns in the hands of those who would oppress. We have to look at the run of the group that we're talking about, what is the day-to-day life experience of the ordinary members of that group, not those who have badges and titles, not those who may be in movies or videos, but the ones who have to find a way to provide enough to sustain a family, often alone. There still are situations where a woman will postpone doing things for herself in order to send a man to school. Then he turns out to be worthless. Now he's too good for her. She is not educated enough. She is not sophisticated enough, and he dumps her because she was a good "use" and "use" time is over. So here is a woman who spent maybe all of the productive years of her life helping a man achieve success, then she is left with nothing, no education to speak of, no skills, so she's going to need assistance and she will dwell in poverty for her remaining years. There are many impoverished elderly women in this country and their plight will never be rectified. How many of you all think that a woman could have a sexual liaison with a man not her husband and that husband stand by her side and bear her up? Oh no. We know what the reaction would be. But every time one of these rascal men, regardless of his race, his religion, his nationality, his ethnicity, his political party, gets caught with his trousers down in some woman other than his wife's bedroom, he will drag that loyal woman in front of the cameras and talk about his family, and she has to grit her teeth and stand there as though this man is worthy of her being there. She is a prop. She is a trophy. She is still being used and insulted. So we need not pretend that there is fairness and equality in this society where women are concerned. This commission is not going to solve all of those problems. This commission may not solve any of those problems, but it can highlight them, be a focal point and a location where women can