

RESOLUTION NO. 20, SERIES 2001 -

A Resolution Relating To The Ratification Of The United Nations Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women.

County/Judge Executive Rebecca Jackson	-	Nay
Commissioner 'A' District - Russ Maple	Seconded	Aye

Commissioner 'B' District - Dolores Delahanty	Motioned	Aye
Commissioner 'C' District Darryl Owens	-	Aye

Discussion was as follows:

Commissioner Delahanty: I move to adopt this Resolution to ratify the UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. In doing so, I believe we send a message that discrimination against women which continues to exist in this Country and abroad is not acceptable. We also affirm the full advancement of all women in the workplace, their human rights, and their fundamental freedoms.

County Judge/Executive Jackson: In discussion, while I agree that no one in this world should be discriminated against for any reason: Gender, Race, Class, or Faith. Today, Fiscal Court will vote on a resolution that asks our United States Government to ratify a United Nations Treaty that is more than twenty-years old. This Treaty is commonly known as CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of ALL Forms of Discrimination Against Women.) It has languished in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations under Four Presidents: Carter, Reagan, Bush & Clinton. During this time, both parties have had ample opportunity to pass this treaty, but so far neither party has gotten so far, as to even draw a Senate Vote on the issue, due to its lack of support within both Democratically and Republican controlled Senates. A hundred and sixty five Countries in all have ratified this treaty. Of those more than one third have added reservations. These reservations severely hamper anyone's ability to actually achieve those goals outlined in the text of the treaty and thus in my opinion, undermine the credibility of this treaty. Countries like Libya, Iran, and Cuba have signed onto this document not because they agree with what it states. Instead these countries have signed on this treaty because it has no effect on their Governments, other than to offer Dictators and Despots a shield to cover in which to hide from the accusations made against their leadership by persons within and outside of their nations. But do we believe that any of these Countries are truly living up to the standards that the text of this treaty sets out? I don't think so. Of the list of U.S. Senators who are willing to support this treaty very few are at all willing to do so without attaching four such reservations to any ratification effort. Why reservations? Because most citizens and elected officials feel as if this Treaty is 1) Useless because of

taken render it useless and worse than that it allows it's leaders,  
it allows leaders to pretend that they are not discriminating  
against the very women that this treaty is designed to protect. I  
believe this is dangerous.

"CARRIED"