

Feminist Pleads: Give Us Equality

By Pamela Dugan

Mrs. Marian Ash denies being a militant feminist — the type of woman who, seeking comfort, says, "Let's pray to God, she'll listen."

However, she vehemently is "disturbed by the fact we're not using our potential" and campaigns for legal equality for women.

Speaking Wednesday evening at a National Business Women's Week banquet of the Central District Business and Professional Women's Club, she also called for female political awareness and action.

Mrs. Ash is editor-publisher of *Skirting the Capitol*, a legislative newsletter for women, and served as executive secretary of California's first Status of Women Commission.

Discussing the oft-proposed equal rights amendments to

the U.S. Constitution, the Sacramentan claimed women no longer are "special creatures" requiring work protection laws. "We want to be hired, promoted — and fired — according to our abilities, not sex," she stated.

Statistics now put the average life span of a woman at 75 years, she related. "If we say the only purpose of woman is marriage and motherhood, we're saying a woman over 45 might as well be dead." A woman must be able to work on equal terms with men, demanded Mrs. Ash.

She was appalled at a statement by Sen. Clark Bradley (R-San Jose) that if women were to stay home, delinquency problems in the United States would be solved. "And what is so bad," she gasped, "is that he believes this!"

To combat such attitudes, Mrs. Ash suggested that women depart from typical political naivete or "gung-ho" partisanship and examine the voting records of legislators.

"It's time women took an interest in politics; that's where policies are made." Adherence to one political party is not necessary, she qualified. "How can you be partisan," she asked, "when opposite par-

ty members in different houses support BPW (and other prestigious women's groups) bills?"

She called Republican Sen. Donald L. Grunsky of Watson-



Mrs. Marian Ash

ville "the finest BPW friend," commended Assemblyman George Zenovich (D - Fresno County), registered dismay at Tulare County GOP Sen. Howard Way's refusal to discuss

his opposition to the Status of Women Commission and "harrumphed" Senate leader Hugh M. Burns (D-Fresno County).

Of the latter, she said she does not know "of anyone with a more archaic view" of women, although he introduced the original Status of Women Commission bill.

The blame for such anti-women voting records she put partly on the women themselves. "If a legislator doesn't know what women are like, what they need, what they want, he can't be blamed for voting against us." But she has little tolerance for the informed legislator who does not vote "our way."

Besides "wise" male legislators, of course, Mrs. Ash decried the dearth of women seeking political careers. In answer to a man's question following her talk, she said she sees no present chance of a woman's being elected president — because there are not enough women qualified by political experience.

Race For Title In Last Stage

Mrs. Paul Diener is maintaining her lead in the race for the Beaux Arts Ball Queen which will be pre-

Floyd Pepins Note Silver Anniversary