

The Sentinel

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County 'boycott' on ERA still in effect — for now

County supervisors couldn't get their forces together this morning to either ratify or repeal the county's secondary boycott of "non-ERA states."

It has been the policy of this county's liberal majority to refuse to pay costs for employees to go to conventions in those states that failed to support the ERA amendment before it died off a couple of months ago.

Since the issue — for the time being — seems ended, Supervisor Dan Forbus asked the board do away with its boycott on travel to non-ERAs.

His motion was quickly re-directed by Supervisors' Chairman Robley Levy who asked that that the issue be reviewed by the county's Women's Commission first.

Supervisor Joe Cucchiara was adamant against dropping the boycott saying, "You don't reward the victors who destroyed the ability of women to attain an equal status."

Watsonville's conservative representative Wayne Moore popped in, "Your position echoes that of the radical senators after the Civil War who wouldn't countenance the southern states coming back into the Union."

Moore insisted, "ERA and non-ERA is now moot."

Levy and Supervisor Gary Patton were willing to let the women's commission look at the issue and Levy suggested that commission may come up with ways to educate other state officials on ERA for its expected second coming.

Moore warned that a recent court decision held that a publicly supported agency or board had to be careful taking an advocacy role.

At issue this morning was an employee's being sent to a conference on health care in jails that is being held in Georgia.

Since the board's present policy on ERA allows for exemptions when the conference is "unique" and its information can't be gotten anywhere else, the board approved \$285 for costs of registration and room and board for the "unique" Georgia seminar.