

The following statement was made to the 1981 NCAA Convention in Miami Beach by AIAW Past President Christine Grant. It occurred on the occasion of motion 80, the final motion dealing with women's championships. Governance and championships were adopted within the NCAA structure.

I RISE IN SYMBOLIC OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION BEFORE YOU.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE LAST THREE DAYS.

I, AND MANY OTHER WOMEN, CAME HERE CONVINCED THAT A DESIRE FOR MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN AIAW AND NCAA WOULD FAR OUTWEIGH ANY THIRST FOR PRECIPITOUS ACTION.

OBVIOUSLY, I WAS IN ERROR. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS NOT PERSUASIVE TO YOU THAT BY YOUR ACTIONS WOMEN IN ATHLETICS--STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS--WERE LOSING CONTROL OF THEIR OWN DESTINIES. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS NOT PERSUASIVE TO YOU THAT IT WAS THE CONVICTION OF THOSE MOST CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH WOMEN'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS THAT YOUR ACTIONS WILL DO UNTOWARD DAMAGE TO THOSE PROGRAMS. AND FINALLY, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OUR APPEAL TO YOUR SENSE OF FAIR PLAY HAD LITTLE EFFECT UPON YOUR ACTIONS.

I FIND IT SOMEHOW FITTING THAT FATHER JOYCE'S SAME PLEAS ON BEHALF OF FOOTBALL COACHES, HOWEVER, WERE PERSUASIVE TO AND PREVALENT IN THIS ASSEMBLY. I WOULD HOPE IN THE FUTURE THAT YOU MIGHT BE AS CONSIDERATE OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS, AND THOSE INVOLVED IN IT, AS YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED YOU CAN BE TO FOOTBALL COACHES.

MY THREE DAYS HERE HAVE NOT BEEN PLEASANT. AS 1980 AIAW PRESIDENT, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO MEET A LARGE MAJORITY OF THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING WOMEN'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AND FEMALE STUDENT-ATHLETES. IN THE LAST THREE DAYS, I HAVE SEEN THEIR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS TO CHART A NEW AND INNOVATIVE COURSE FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS SEVERELY DAMAGED. I BELIEVE WE WILL ALL LIVE TO REGRET THE ACTIONS YOU HAVE TAKEN. I BELIEVE OUR INSTITUTIONS AND OUR STUDENTS WILL SUFFER IN THE COMING YEARS FROM THE LOSS OF A VIABLE OPTION TO NCAA GOVERNANCE.

I AM NOT ANGRY AT WHAT HAS OCCURRED, BUT I AM PROFOUNDLY SAD. MAINLY, I'M SAD THAT I HAVE FOUND VERY LITTLE SINCERE INTEREST IN THE PREFERENCES OF THE WOMEN IN ATHLETICS, OR IN SEEKING A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE ALTERNATIVE GOVERNING STRUCTURE FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ATHLETICS. INSTEAD, I AND MANY OF THE OTHER WOMEN WHO HAVE SPOKEN, HAVE SENSED AGGRESSION AND HOSTILITY TOWARD OUR VIEWS, AND AN UNBRIDLED DESIRE FOR THE PRECIPITOUS EXTENSION OF THIS ASSOCIATION'S AUTHORITY INTO WOMEN'S ATHLETICS.

YOU HAVE SPOKEN OF OPTIONS, YET WITH MOTION AFTER MOTION YOU HAVE ASSURED THAT WOMEN WILL HAVE NO OPTIONS. THE REALITIES OF WOMEN IN SUBORDINATE POSITIONS AND THE PRACTICALITIES OF CONFLICTING NON-COMPETITIVE RULES SYSTEMS HAVE LEFT VERY LITTLE OPTION INDEED. YOU HAVE BOUGHT YOUR WAY INTO WOMEN'S ATHLETICS WITH THE LURE OF BIG MONEY AND OTHER LUXURIES, BUT YOU HAVEN'T BOUGHT IT FROM THOSE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED.

AS CERTAINLY AS I STAND BEFORE YOU, YOU WILL FIND THAT YOU HAVE ALSO BOUGHT THE PHILOSOPHY AND EXPECTATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIVENESS THAT THOSE IN WOMEN'S ATHLETICS HAVE HELD DEAR. AIAW IS A GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATION, BUT IT IS ALSO AN IDEA. AND, WHILE I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD FOR THAT ORGANIZATION, I DO KNOW THAT THE IDEA WILL NEVER DIE.