

REMARKS OF SENATOR EMILIE F. MILLER
April 27, 1989 Senate Floor.

We are here this week because of a court case. I do not like to legislate by court decision. We should be leaders who when something is unfair correct it. Now we are again being threatened to have to legislate or change policy because the Justice Department or Courts will tell us we have to.

I have remained silent so far on the subject but can no longer. Privately I have spoken to some of you. Some of you have said it's a woman's issue and I would be cast as a feminist if I speak out. Well - I am a woman and I care about what affects us. We have lawyers in this body who speak on lawyer's issues, bankers who speak on banking issues, why should this be different.

So, before the U. S. Department of Justice speaks out and tells Virginia what to do, I would like to.

If V.M.I. wants to stay all male, fine. But then why should the Virginia General Assembly fund them. Why should we, for instance, under Sec. 23-105 of the Code of Virginia fully fund 50 state cadetships for males between 16 - 25, of good character and scholarship and not fund women. I have no quarrel if they want to stay all male, but don't ask for any state money. If they do want state money, and state cadetships, then admit women who meet the standards. It is a matter of fairness and equity just as in Davis v. Michigan.

Frankly, no woman student in my District has come to me to sponsor her for a cadetship. When women in my District have asked me why I have not openly done something I have said I am trying to do other things for women, but if you have someone who is willing to let me sponsor her, I will do so.

May I say to my male colleagues in the Senate, you have treated me with the utmost respect and treated me as what I am - a Senator. The esteemed Chairman of Education and Health has treated me better than most Freshman Senators deserve and I thank you. I know his love for his alma mater and do not wish to embarrass him.

But I felt I must speak now. If the Justice Department or courts do not settle this by January 1990, I will be back with legislation.