

Cause Celebre

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Cover: Parents Music Resource Center founders Sally Nevius, Pam Howar, Tipper Gore, and Susan Baker testifying on record labeling before the Senate Commerce Committee. photo: Greg Mathieson

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FROM THE EDITOR

photo: Len De Pas



Dear Readers,

While media attention was focused on the Iran-Contra Congressional hearings and the theater of international intrigue, I was interviewing Congressional wives who move in the theater of domestic issues. The parallels were striking. While the men were uncovering a political scandal, their wives were uncovering humanitarian scandals. I learned that several Senate wives, because they are the live-ins of our lawmakers, often become the influential power behind the policies that address human suffering.

The wives were on their own rescue missions. Armed with a can-do attitude, a concern for social injustice, and a

contempt for bureaucratic complacency, they traded on spousal influence to win legal battles for the helpless.

They have their own code of conduct. They don't need to write it in a manual or a memo. They don't wear uniforms, they don't receive medals for taking the lead, and they don't receive publicity for their sometimes stunning victories. But several Congressional wives can be considered the quiet combat heroines on the Hill.

While men were trading weapons for hostages with the enemy, women were negotiating improvements for hostages of harsh social conditions. As Betty Bumpers, wife of Sen. Dale Bumpers, said, "Women tend to be the nurturers of this planet." Her words echo the new ecofeminism movement: that the planet would flourish if leaders allowed more of their feminine (nurturing, spiritual, yin) side to emerge.

Many more Congressional wives have impressive records of charity on the Hill. Space constraints allowed us to highlight but a few in this issue.

Meanwhile, you may notice that *Cause Celebre* continues to expand. We ask that you please patronize our advertisers—they are the businesses showing great support and interest in our charity/nonprofit community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

K.L.

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