

women in the audience anybody who has a fantasy of becoming a serious on-air reporter with a major network or, more critically, with a local station, forget it. Former ABC Vice President Marlene Sanders, the first woman to anchor a network news show in 1964, told the conference that women at ABC were now reporting the same set of grievances that we attempted to resolve ten years earlier. The news from the audience was just as discouraging. A former local TV news producer told what had happened at her station after the network downsized the newsroom. All the women on staff were fired. News camerawoman Catherine Cummings reported, there is less opportunity now; it's worse than 15 years ago when I started, it's actually worse. Even on the USC campus at the Daily Trojan, a journalism student stood up to say women's representation was slipping and only two of the 16 senior editors were now women. Even in the auditorium, conference participants could witness the theme of a vanishing act in process. The proceedings, see, were now filmed by an all-male camera crew. In another era, such an outpouring of grievances from the working women at a conference might have ignited courage and outrage in a call to action. Then, in keeping with the resigned and more femininely decorous tones that often prevailed under the backlash, a number of the panelists counseled against lawsuits or confrontation. In the conference, the leaders vowed only to form a steering committee that would monitor events and meet once a year. And it...when came time to assign blame, some of the speakers simply turned on women or the new...or the women's movement. Panelist Linda Alvarez, a weekly co...weekly news coanchor at KNBC in Burbank said women had plenty of opportunities at her station and the only thing holding women back in broadcasting was their, "attitude". Some women just didn't try hard enough. Alvarez didn't mention the sex discrimination suit pending against her station, a suit charging the station was repeatedly promoting less experienced young men to the all-male camera crew while repeatedly bypassing its only female sound technician, a veteran with a hard-working reputation. Another speaker dismissed the glass ceiling as a self-inflicted metaphor. Panelist Ann Taylor Fleming, then a columnist for the New York Times, didn't make any critical comments about her employer's weak (inaudible)..

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR ROBAK: ..efforts, but she was happy to blame feminism for working women's troubles. The movement sidetracked her sex, she charged, by focusing efforts on greater public access of