

April 2, 1992

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SENATOR ROBAK: We have at least a half hour more to go, do we? Is that right?

SENATOR WARNER: Nine fifty-six, Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: We have about an hour to go then, almost two hours to go. Okay, I weary of this conversation and I won't call it debate because it isn't...isn't debate, it is conversation now, and it's like men must toil and women must weep, and this hour is late, and I have a lot to do before I sleep. But I will continue on, also, and, Senator Chambers, I do have a bill up this week, if we ever get to it, and since you are the champion of women's causes here, I hope that you will stay and help my cause as you are so loyally fighting for the cause of all these women tonight. When government, with government pressure gone, the little progress that women had made at the networks began unraveling. Before, the networks had only two female nighttime anchors, Marlene Sanders and Barbara Walters. By the late eighties, they had none. CBS forced out Sanders, the distinguished senior TV newscaster, by reassigning her to a late night radio slot usually reserved for junior reporters. At the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour, Charlene Hunter Gault (phonetic), one of the first black women to anchor a national newscast, was quietly pushed back into a slot as a secondary backup anchor. 60 Minutes correspondent, Meredith Veer (phonetic) was fired because she was pregnant and wanted to work part time temporarily. By 1990, everyone of the backlashes' favorite bugaboos, the ticking biological clock, helped clear another female face off of the set, CBS's Connie Chung. Now she was sharply curtailing her anchoring duties and taking an \$800,000 pay cut because she needed to take a very aggressive approach to getting pregnant. The networks took a string of aging women anchors and put them out to pasture, replacing them with either much older men or much younger and much less well-paid women. And in 1989, at the ripe old age of 39, the popular Jane Pauley was pushed out of her co-anchor slot of the Today Show in a very public and humiliating campaign and replaced by the younger, blonder Deborah Norville, who was later bumped for another younger model, Katie Couric, at half the salary. That wasn't a decision made with viewers in mind. Pauley's rating were much higher than those of her male co-host, Bryan Gumbel, and her expulsion caused the show to torpedo to the very bottom of the morning ratings, even below the cartoons. At CBS, Kathleen Sullivan was yanked from the morning news show

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