

April 2, 1992

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to make way for the younger and blonder Paula Zahn whom the network's male brass deemed both a more comely and upstanding model of true womanhood than the divorced Sullivan. Paula is married with a child, Kathleen is a single woman was how CBS's Executive Producer, Eric Sorenson, explained it to the press. You get differences in how a person...in how settled a person feels. Ironically, Sullivan was the same anchor who so gamely hosted the network's patronizing series on the Psychic Ills of Single Women a few years earlier. The pattern was even more prevalent at local news stations. Most of the male-female co-anchors on local TV, Marlene Sander, observed, resembled most men's second marriages. In a most celebrated dismissal of a local female news anchor, Christine Crafts at Metrodome, KMBC-TV in Kansas, was demoted to reporter in 1982 because she was deemed too old, too unattractive, and not sufficient differential to men. When a jury ruled in her favor in a later court case, a judge simply threw out the jury's verdict and then tongue-lashed...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR ROBAK: ...Crafts for her apparent indifference to matters of appearance. By 1983, the number of female anchors was falling at commercial TV stations nationwide, the National Survey of the Radio-Television News Director Association reported. By 1989, only eight women were among 100 most frequently seen correspondents, down 15 from a year earlier, and the trouble female anchors were facing was reported across the spectrum of TV jobs. The number of female sportscasters, for instance, dropped from two to .04 percent between 1977 and 1987, and at the highest levels of the networks already counting members of women in policymaking posts stalled or shrunk. In 1987, the survey found that women constituted about 6 percent of all TV news vice-presidents, general managers, and presidents, barely changed from 1978. At CBS, the count of female vice-presidents has gone from four to one; at NBC, from one to zero. Meanwhile, at major newspapers, the court negotiating consent decrees were running out in the mid-eighties and media correspondents' enthusiasm for equal opportunity expired with them.

SENATOR WARNER: Time.

SENATOR ROBAK: The progress in new...

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