Battles Loom at the National Women's Conference

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### General Information

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### Description

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### Keywords


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"Battles Loom at the National Women's Conference." Carole Simpson, George Lewis, correspondent. 

**APA**


**CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE**


**Transcript**

Battles Loom at the National Women’s Conference in Houston

JOHN HART, anchor:
In Houston there’s a huge meeting of women, two meetings actually, one the rival of the first National Women’s Conference, paid for by the federal government to make recommendations to the congress and the president on what to do about making men and women equal. And across town, another meeting of people who don’t like what’s going on in the first meeting, two reports from Houston.

CAROLE SIMPSON, reporting:
An estimated 8,000 women waited in line, some as long as an hour to get into the Houston coliseum for this mornings opening session of this mornings national women’s conference, the largest gathering of women in American history. Inside the coliseum a gavel used by suffragette Susan B. Anthony almost 100 years ago, was used by residing officer Bella Abzug to call the historic conference to order. Among the participants were Rosalyn Carter, and 2 former first ladies Betty Ford and Lady Bird Johnson, all components of the equal rights amendment.

This meeting looks like any other political convention, with delegates from every state, funny hats and buttons, the only differences are just about everybody here is female, and instead of electing candidates they will approve a national plan to improve the status of women. There were strong differences of opinion on how to do that, and Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan in her keynote address appealed for reason and compromise.

Representative BARBARA JORDON (D – Texas): And when the debate becomes heated I hope you will remember Lyndon Johnson’s vocation of Isaiah’s invocation ‘come now, let us reason together.’

SIMPSON: The women here have two more days to adopt their national plan. Carole Simpson, NBC News, Houston.

GEORGE LEWIS, reporting:
Across town there was an even bigger meeting, about 11,000 men and women who opposed the beliefs of
most of the delegates in the women’s conference. Many are fundamentalist Christians and their rally had the flavor of a revival meeting.

Unidentified Man: (singing) My fellow Americans, when you pray, pray for America.

LEWIS: They are against the equal rights amendment, they are against abortion on demand, they are against laws favoring homosexuals, and if there is one thing they are all against, it is the spending of 5 million dollars in federal money to hold the federal women’s conference.

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY (ERA Opponent): The commission on international women’s year is a costly mistake at the taxpayer’s expense. The whole thing was designed as a media event.

LEWIS: There were not as many ralliers here as the organizers had hoped for, but their number still indicates that a lot of people in this country fear the changes that the women’s movement is trying to make. George Lewis, NBC News, Houston.