

HIGH COURT BACKS EQUAL PAY SCALES FOR BOTH SEXES

JUN 4 1974

Justices Uphold '64 Law for the First Time, Ruling Out Special Claims for Men
NYTimes

By WARREN WEAVER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 3—The Supreme Court upheld today for the first time the 10-year-old Congressional mandate that employers pay women equal wages for equal work.

Dividing 5 to 3, the high court ruled that women workers were entitled to the same wage scales as men with the same sort of job whether or not the men worked different shifts or claimed special privileges predating the equal pay act that went into effect in 1964.

Directly, the decisions have impacted to cost the retail sales Works at least \$100 million in which women pay required for additionally occupied arbitrarily for the lower paying women and few of the higher.

JAMES EARL RAY PLEA

In another decision, the high court declined to review a ruling that James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was entitled to a hearing on his current contention that his guilty plea was not voluntary but the product of selfish pressure by his lawyers.

The prisoner, now serving a 99-year term, maintains that he was the victim of a contract under which he and his attorneys were to share in the proceeds of a book about the King assassination to be written by William Bradford Huie.

If he had gone to trial, Mr. Ray argued, all of the facts he saved for Mr. Huie would have become public, so his lawyers, first Arthur Hanes and then Percy Foreman, pressed him to plead guilty to protect their financial interest in the writing project.

If the Court finds that Mr. Ray was coerced into pleading guilty, it could order a trial on the charge that he murdered Dr. King, the civil rights leader, in 1968.

PERMISSION FOR ABORTION

The Justices refused to grant a challenge to the law.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1974

Summary of Various Actions Taken by

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 3—The Supreme Court took the following actions today:

ABORTION

Declined to accept an accelerated appeal from a Federal District Court ruling that a Florida statute requiring consent to an abortion by a husband or parents was unconstitutional (No. 73-1157, Gerstein v. Coe). In a case involving the same ruling, affirmed the district court's refusal to grant an injunction prohibiting enforcement of the law (No. 73-1283, Poe v. Gerstein).

CRIMINAL LAW

Declined to review a decision that a convicted murderer was entitled to a hearing on the voluntary nature of his guilty plea when he charged that his lawyers had advised such a plea to increase their income from a book to be

written about his crime (No. 73-1525, Rose v. Ray).

DISCRIMINATION

Affirmed a decision that employers cannot justify a wage differential between men and women doing the same work on the grounds that the men work at night (No. 73-29, Corning Glass Works v. Brennan). Dissenting: Burger, Blackmun and Rehnquist.

Agreed to review a decision that filing a prompt charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission does not enable a person to file subsequently a similar discrimination lawsuit in Federal Court after the statute of limitations has run out (No. 73-1543, Johnson v. Railway Express Agency).

ELECTION LAW

Affirmed the conviction for vote fraud conspiracy of West Virginia officials who rigged an election for county commissioner over objections

that some of the evidence consisted of statements made after the conspiracy had ended (No. 73-346, Anderson v. United States). Dissenting: Douglas and Brennan.

ENVIRONMENT

Declined to approve a compromise solution of a water pollution dispute over Lake Champlain between Vermont and New York, also involving the International Paper Company (No. 50 Original, Vermont v. New York).

INDIANS

Agreed to review two decisions hinging on the courts' jurisdiction over Sioux Indians with respect to acts committed on land formerly within the Lake Traverse reservation in South Dakota that no longer belongs to Indians (No. 73-1148, Decoteau v. District County Court, and No. 73-1500, Erickson v. Feather).

the U.S. Supreme Court

INFORMATION

Agreed to review a decision enjoining school officials from prohibiting high school pupils from circulating an underground paper containing some vulgar and obscene material relating to the officials (No. 73-1347, School Commissioners of Indianapolis v. Jacobs).

LABOR

Reversed a decision requiring the purchaser of a restaurant-motel to arbitrate a dispute with a labor union representing employees of the seller where the purchaser did not assume any collective bargaining obligations (No. 73-631, Howard Johnson Company v. Detroit Local Joint Executive Board). Dissenting: Douglas.

Privacy

Declined to review a decision that a portable latrine operator photographed for the documentary film "Wood-

stock" was entitled to a trial on his charges that he was lured into becoming an unconscious performer in a commercial film and then ridiculed (No. 73-1286, Wadleigh-Maurice Limited v. Taggart). Dissenting: Douglas.

REAPPORTIONMENT

Agreed to hear an appeal from a decision invalidating a Texas statute providing that vacancies would be created when a redistricting plan resulted in three or more justices of the peace being located in the same new district (No. 73-1475, Harris County Commissioners Court v. Moore).