

# Who's Minding the Children's Year?

**N**OISE of the raucous International Women's Year conference at Houston in 1976 has faded. The Equal Rights Amendment is tottering around on borrowed time, after failing to win ratification.

But the feminist movement that seeks to do away with distinctions and distinctiveness of the sexes and develop a "humanist" society is still alive and kicking. Humanism is basically atheistic.

This is the International Year of the Child (IYC), and some ideas being advocated under the banner of child protection are along lines of resolutions adopted at the Houston IWY conference.

Many of the activists who have been promoting the Year of the Child also were participants in the IWY and sponsors of the ERA.

Perhaps because Oklahoma women led the opposition to pre-planned resolutions at Houston, IYC promoters have not made much of a showing here. Elsewhere the feminists are more in evidence.

The IYC movement traces back to

1959 when the United Nations adopted a resolution called "Declaration of the Rights of the Child." Probably few people would disagree with its general statements other than the implied suggestion of world government to enforce its premises.

A little more than a year ago, President Jimmy Carter issued an executive order creating a commission of 25 persons to plan and promote a national observance of the International Year of the Child.

The commission was directed to submit a final report to the president, including recommendations for improving the well-being of children.

Oklahoma women who opposed leadership of the Houston conference have expressed fears that the IYC commission's recommendations may turn out to be similar to those adopted by IWY.

Those included provisions for confidential family planning services for teenagers, child care arrangements in schools for student parents, sex education that includes

homosexuality, and elimination of "discrimination on the basis of sexual and affectional preference."

Several references to child care by the federal government were included in the IWY resolutions, with subsequent developments resulting in bitter conflicts over private child care regulations.

The idea of "civil rights for children" has been a part of the liberationist reform movement for years.

Because hardly anyone or any organization stands opposed to giving children the best of care and opportunities, the IYC movement has been able to enlist help of some who might not fully comprehend its goals and how they would be implemented.

Famous names listed as sponsors do not necessarily warrant acceptability. Therefore, it might be advisable for churches and other groups to take a careful look at what is being proposed and who is doing the proposing before agreeing to participate in IYC activities.