

'For men only' cafe yields to DFL women

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Women's rights inched ahead yesterday when two women set foot in and were served in the St. Paul Athletic Club's Copper Ladle, up to now an exclusive male cafeteria.

It caused some confusion on the part of the cafeteria staff and brought glares from some men diners when two women legislators, Linda Berglin and Janet Clark, showed up for lunch along with another legislator, Wesley J. Skoglund. All three are Minneapolis DFLers.

"Women aren't allowed in here," a hostess told them.

But Skoglund showed them his complimentary card which entitled him to use the club, and said he had been told he could bring guests. Reps. Berglin and Clark have similar cards. The cards are issued to all legislators during the session.

The women who were serving the food from behind the counter refused to serve the legislators while the hostess scurried to a phone to check with the manager.

Meanwhile, men in line behind them were served and went around the trio.

Ramsey County District Judge Harold Schultz, a former DFL state senator, came in and when told what was going on, said, "I don't see why they (women) ought to be allowed in here. That's a

crook of baloney. I see no reason why men can't have clubs of their own, and if they want, why women can't have their own clubs."

After about five minutes the word came from upstairs to serve the women.

An employee told them it was the first time women had ever been admitted.

After getting their food, the three legislators were offered a table by two men who were just leaving. One of the men joked, "I'll probably lose my card for doing this."

It wasn't clear whether women will continue to be admitted in the 2nd-floor cafeteria.

The hostess today said she "had no idea" whether they will be.

B. Warren Hart, vice-president of the board of directors, said a change in the policy is being considered to allow women to eat in the Copper Ladle and also in an exclusively male grill on the 3rd floor. Women are admitted, he said, to the main dining room on the 3rd floor and in the Summit on the top floor. "I don't think there's any strong feeling one way or another," he said.

Skoglund said he plans to introduce a bill in the Legislature making it illegal for such dining rooms to discriminate on the basis of sex.