

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMITTEE

SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S PICKET LINE AT RADIO SHACK

BOYCOTT RADIO SHACK PRODUCTS

SUPPORT THE BLUE CROSS STRIKERS

October 30, 1979

The International Women's Day committee voted to involve itself in the planning committee to build women's support for the Radio Shack strike in Barrie, Ontario. Two representatives attended an initial meeting on October 23, and it was decided that the first action would be a women's picket line at the Radio Shack warehouse in Barrie (an hour north of Toronto) on the morning of Thursday, November 8. The enclosed leaflet gives the details.

The International Women's Day committee urges women to support this strike by participating in this women's picket. The warehouse has almost two hundred workers over 80% of whom are women. The drive to organize and certify a union has been going on for more than two years, and Radio Shack has fought these women every step of the way. There are no unionized sectors in this massive company, and it is quite clear that they want to keep it that way. Women have been fired for union activity and the company has refused to reinstate them. The company has tried everything within the law, and somethings outside it, to harrass and intimidate those on strike. These women are calling upon their sisters to give them needed support in their struggle against this Texas based multi-national with over seven hundred and fifty retail outlets throughout Canada.

Last year the Toronto womens community responded to the Fleck Strike. Over 200 women bused and drove to Centralia and closed the plant down for the day. It was also a women's strike, fighting for a first contract, and the support those strikers received was a significant factor in their victory.

Radio Shack is refusing to recognize the basic rights of women workers, and it is crucially important for women that this strike be won. Boycotting Radio Shack products, and picket line support on November 8 showing the large scale womens support for the strike could make the difference. We urge your support. Women are also on strike for a first contract against Blue Cross, and the buses when they return later that morning will stop at the Blue Cross picket line to show our support for these women as well.

The next International Womens Day Committee meetings will be held November 14 and November 28 at 7:30pm in the auditorium at University Settlement House at 23 Grange Road. For information contact: Carolyn Egan at 789-4541 and Marg MacPhail 532-7209



**THURSDAY,  
NOV. 8**

**Women's  
Solidarity  
Day at  
Blue Cross**

**11 am  
150 Ferrand Dr., Don Mills  
Rd. and Eglinton East**

**Why the women at Blue Cross were forced to strike.**

More than 97% of the employees at Blue Cross are women. Salaries start at \$121. Raises and promotions are given to company "favorites." Management pulled every trick in the book to try to thwart the union's two-year-long organizing drive.

Blue Cross depends heavily on trade union contracts for its business, but refuses to negotiate union security, without which no union can survive. Although its bargaining agent has more than 100 union contracts that have union security, it refuses

to give the same basic right to the Blue Cross women. This forced strike is a heavy-handed and cynical strategy to keep Blue Cross women from forming a strong union.

Management is harassing workers at home and crude attempts are made on the picket line to intimidate the women. The threat of women organizing collectively has got Blue Cross badly rattled. They have simply underestimated the strength of women who are united.

Join us at the Blue Cross line on November 8.

When women stand together, we all win.

Sponsored by: The United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers of America (District 6), International Women's Day Committee (Toronto), Ontario NDP women's committee and provincial council, Barrie Labour Council, Labour Council of Metro Toronto, Ontario Federation of Labour, Ontario Division—Canadian Union of Public Employees.



**THURSDAY,  
NOV. 8**

# Women's Solidarity Day at Radio Shack

**Why the women at Radio Shack were forced to strike**

Some 80% of the Radio Shack warehouse employees are women. They organized to get equal pay with men, to get job security, to improve their pay.

The company fired employees who joined the union, appealed the labour board decision to give the union bargaining rights all the way to the supreme court, hired union spies and forced the women to strike by demanding no dues check-off, no welfare plan improvements, and plant rules that would make grievances

almost impossible. Now Radio Shack is recruiting strike-breakers to deny the employees the union they worked for two years to get. We can't let Radio Shack get away with it! Join us in Barrie.

When women stand together, we all win!

**Confirm a seat on a bus:  
Call 366-4135, 441-2731,  
(Barrie) 728-8264.**

Sponsored by: United Steelworkers of America (District 6), International Women's Day Committee (Toronto), Ontario NDP women's committee and provincial council, Barrie Labour Council, Labour Council of Metro Toronto, Ontario Federation of Labour, Ontario Division-Canadian Union of Public Employees.

<b>BARRIE</b>	<b>Radio Shack</b>
	Bayview Ave.
<b>Highway 400</b>	Little
	Essa Rd.

Buses leave Yonge-Bloor and Yonge-Sheppard at 5.45 a.m.  
Buses return to Toronto by 11 a.m.

(Return buses will stop at Blue Cross picket lines in Don Mills to support the women of the United Auto Workers.)