

THE NEW FEMINIST

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SPECIAL ISSUE
April 1970.

Vic

In this issue the
New Feminists look
at the Women's
Advisory Committee
(and burst out
laughing)

Watch for the
announcements
on the last page.

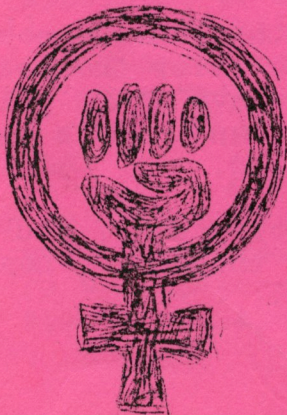
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The New Feminist had a charming interview with Mrs. Margaret Ware, the Executive Secretary of the Women's Advisory Committee.

The New Feminist wanted to find out what advice the Women's Advisory Committee was giving the government regarding women and where we could get copies of their briefs and reports.

Our interest in the subject was aroused by a "Resume of Activities, Women's Advisory Committee," put out by the WAC.

"The committee has a two-fold function. It transmits to government, through the Minister of the Department of Trade and Development, its findings on matters pertinent to the economic position of women. Matters of prime concern to consumers are also studied and recommendations made. The Chairman represents the women on inter-departmental committees of the Government and often the Advisory Committee members are given the task of gathering together information for study on the part of these coordinated committees. In turn, matters of legislation concern are presented to the committee for study and recommendations."

New Feminist: Do you report directly to Mr. Randall in briefs and reports?

Margaret Ware: Yes.

New Feminist: Where can these reports be read or seen, are they available?

Margaret Ware: They aren't available really. Some of them are inter-office memos. Some of them are confidential.

Translation: These reports are top secret and mustn't fall into the hands of the enemy.

Cont'd.....

New Feminist: Who chooses the women on the committee?

Margaret Ware: Mrs. Lymburner, after much enquiry of course.

Translation: Imagine, 24 Lilah Lymburner's on the WAC - who needs a Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

New Feminist: Do you have a research staff?

Margaret Ware: ...the man who writes the speeches for Mr. Randall and us does research for them....and then there are the DBS and other reports.

Translation: You don't think a women could do the research or write speeches do you - what do you think this is?

New Feminist: What is your operating budget?

Margaret Ware: We don't give it out. You can get it from the Queen's Printers.

Queen's Printer Public Accounts of the Province of Ontario for the Fiscal Year Ended 31st March 1969. Page 22-6

Advertising, Films, Conferences, Publications, Special Projects and Services including the Women's Advisory Committee (\$1,189,246.92).

New Feminist: It isn't broken down into parts there.

Margaret Ware: Well, last year a reporter, a member of the House actually, got hold of it and made a big to do. It was printed in the Star. I spent a whole week just answering phone calls from people wanting to ^{know} what it was spent on - where every last nickle went. A lot of men too. So now we just don't give it out.

Translation: Imagine - the taxpayers wanting to know where their money goes!!!

New Feminist: Does the budget cover you^r total costs, including the conferences?

Margaret Ware: Oh yes. We also charge admission to the conferences, but only \$1.00, which doesn't begin to cover the costs. That way we don't keep anyone out, or have it so only wealthy, well, well-to-do women can attend. This way even the women of Regent Park can attend.

Translation: It sounds good doesn't it. But don't worry dear, you won't find any Regent Park women there, they never hear about our tea parties at the Royal York.

Songs by the "Randall's Chorus Girls" ⁹²

To be sung to the tune of Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend

We have our WAC and we're sweet-talked with honey,
Randall is a girl's best friend.
He lets us drink tea on the taxpayer's money,
Randall is a girl's best friend.
We can all be involved in the fate of our country,
All we women have to do is to spend.
It's very expedient, we're the major ingredient,
Randall is a girl's best friend.



We don't give our budget and we don't give advice,
Randall is a girl's best friend.
We do his PR and we all get our slice,
Randall is a girl's best friend.
We don't have to work, we don't have to worry,
And we'll all get our kicks in the end.
It's very expedient, we're the magic ingredient,
That Randall, he's a girl's best friend.

To be sung to the tune of Cockles and Mussels

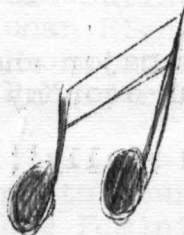
In Toronto's fair city, where men are so witty,
There once lived a man named Stanley Randall,
He pushed his wheelbarrow, through streets broad and narrow,
Crying Progress, it's progress,
You buy what we sell.

He thought twas a pity, there's no women's committee
To do my PR, they're sweet gullible souls,
They could push my wheelbarrow, through streets broad and narrow,
Crying women, be consumers,
Spend and watch the wheel roll.

Lymburner and Ware, that delightful pair,
He appointed to advise, with twenty-four more,
While he gave his cliches, we all sang his praise,
And we pushed that wheelbarrow
Like never before.

Chorus

Our money a dole-ing,
We keep that wheel rolling,
We're women, consumers,
We spend, and spend more.



"IS IT GOVERNMENT WINDOW-DRESSING?"

A recently published pamphlet, Advisory Boards and Councils, by the Canadian Association of Adult Education asks that question of advisory boards and committees. It also asks "whether governments are not really 'playing games' in setting them up. Is the whole elaborate business not really an exercise in window-dressing?"

Another question asked by the CAAE is pertinent to the Women's Advisory Committee. "In the first place, why do governments create advisory boards? Do they really believe them to be a source of valuable advice from the outside, or do they see them chiefly as a means of promoting good public relations?"

THIS IS WHAT WE THINK

The Women's Advisory Committee is a fraud.

The Women's Advisory Committee is a laugh.

The Women's Advisory Committee is an insult to intelligent women.

The Women's Advisory Committee is not an advisory committee. What advice has it ever given? What brief? What report?

The so called Women's Advisory Committee is not a WOMEN'S advisory committee at all. It's only researcher is a man. He writes speeches for Mrs. Lymburner and Mr. Randall.

The 24 women on the advisory committee represent no one but themselves. They are delegated by no constituency but are co-opted by Mrs. Lymburner - who herself has no mandate to speak for women, but is purely a mouthpiece of the Trade Department of the Ontario Government.

Here is a sample of her luminous pronouncements:

"Many women make no connection between what they spend and the good times they enjoy."
(Globe and Mail)

As for Mr. Randall, it is clear what century he lives in - see his statement on today's program:

"Progress is like a wheelbarrow..."

Mr. Randall shows an acute understanding of women in his statement on the same program:

"...Women are one of the major and magic ingredients that make our economy work."

MAGIC Mr. Randall? Now really!!!

Cont'd.....

What the Women's Advisory Committee really does is hold 10 tea parties a year for women who have the time to attend them. In return for a free meal women enjoy the benefit of the Ontario Government commercial.

"You are probably the only people who have a made-to-order built-in opportunity to foster a greater interest in Ontario and Canadian crafts and their development." said Mrs. Lymburner, talking to women.

"If we (women) in Ontario could find but one article which would catch on as this (the Oopik) did or as Mexican blown glass birds and animals and hand-made raffia in Italy did - and it could be done through your co-operation - it would be a tremendous contribution to the Trade Crusade, and the economy of our country."

(Globe and Mail)

We demand an end to discrimination. Either abolish the Women's Advisory Committee or establish a men's advisory committee who's function will be to hold tea parties for men and plug the Ontario government commercials.

THIS IS WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

1. What advice has the Women's Advisory Committee given the minister?
When?
In what form?
2. Why is this so called advice, on behalf of women, not available to women?
3. What good reason is there for the existence of the Women's Advisory Committee?
4. Why is there no parallel Men's Advisory Committee?
5. How much are we paying for the Women's Tea Party Committee?

REAL ADVICE TO WOMEN

Support Bill 36. Bill 36 would outlaw discrimination against women. It would add sex to the Human Rights Code along with race, religion, nationality, and age. Phone or write to your MPP. Be at Queen's park on April 28th, at 6 P.M. for the demonstration in favour of the equality of women.

The Abortion Caravan is coming to town. Join in. Take a freedom ride. For information phone the New Feminist house, 922 - 9283.