

Cutbacks Issue

By JOY CRAIG

The Ontario Labour Relations Board in January, in a historic decision, ruled the Academy of Medicine guilty of intimidation and coercion of their telephone answering staff. They also ordered the Academy to pay compensation to the workers and the union. The workers had organized themselves as members of the Communications Workers of Canada. The doctors were not willing to accept this fundamental right, supposedly guaranteed by law in Ontario.

"We would have been happier to have had an agreement", said Gerry Thompson, Toronto Organizer with the Communication Workers of Canada, in a recent interview with *Union Woman*. He had chaired the union's bargaining committee which tried to negotiate a contract between the Academy of Medicine and its telephone answering workers.

Eighteen women were employed in the answering service at the time of the strike — May 1977. The strike is officially still on, but effectively, it is not.

When the strike started five women continued to work and crossed the picket line; their loyalty to the Academy proved, however, to be misplaced. The answering service was closed by the Academy, rather than come into the twentieth century and accept a union contract with some of its workers.

One of the women who had continued to work, now has a job paying ten cents less than the \$2.85 per hour she was making at the Academy. Among the thirteen who were on the picket line, four

or five are still without jobs. However, some strike benefits continue to be paid.

The Labour Relations Board refused the union's request that the Academy be ordered to reopen the answering service. The Board does not feel it has the power to do so.

Thompson says that telephone answering workers are notoriously hard to organize, it requires courage and determination on their part. He cited the case of the Communications Workers' at-

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Struggle to Keep Programs Alive

By CATHY SKINNER

Every day in my work as a public health nurse I see the effects of social service cutbacks on the lives of people.

Cutbacks affect most those who are least able to deal with their situation. The old folks, the women in distress, youths in trouble, the handicapped and their families, the alcoholic — all must suffer. Community workers daily face the reality of cutbacks and are simply unable to deal adequately with their needs.

Take as an example: a woman on welfare (Mrs. "X") who has four children to support on a \$495 cheque each month. Her rent is \$230. Mrs. X would like to go back to school to complete her interrupted education and get the retraining necessary to get off welfare.

I would like to refer here to the Focus on Change Program run by the YWCA for sole support mothers such as Mrs. X. But Canada Manpower, which funds the Program, is demanding immediate results for their money these days. In order to maintain their already limited budget, the Y is forced to direct its resources to achieve quick results rather than to serve the greatest needs.

Women such as Mrs. X see their hopes for the future dashed by this budget squeeze. She can't promise quick results. The unemployment situation makes finding a job difficult and she needs a pretty good one to support four children. The freeze on day care budgets and subsidies makes things even worse.

There is a drop in the number of referrals to Focus on Change, not because of lack of need but because the workers at the referral agencies have such heavy case loads that they are unable to spend enough time with each person to ascertain their real needs.

For several years now the YWCA has had a youth services program. This program recently was drastically cut. The Y's Teen Mother's Group has no direct funding. They are constantly "scrounging" to keep this much

needed program going. In fact, it is presently being supported by a grant coming from a German branch of the YWCA!

I work in a high school and daily see how the economic climate affects young people. They are among the last to find jobs. Their parents suffer economically and there is tension in their homes. Agencies counselling young people are also overburdened as salaries and staffing are frozen. The cutback in special education programs in the schools means that there is an increasing need for agencies to help those students hurt by the decrease in service.

Crisis intervention programs and distress centers are also threatened by cutbacks. The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre is presently receiving municipal funding. Due to staff cutbacks they had to reduce their ethnic outreach programs and drastically reduce their hospital education service. There is no assurance they will have any funding for staff after June 1.

It has always been hard to find emergency housing but now the provincial government has frozen the funding for group homes. Hostels such as Nellie's or Transition House are under constant threat of closure. Where are we going to send the abused teenagers or the desperate women leaving intolerable conditions in their homes?

Community workers cannot give that very important individual support and counselling. Agencies are suffering from case loads increased by the depressed economic climate and unemployment. At the same time, these agencies are losing staff due to frozen budgets. Community workers find the people they are trying to help in rough shape and they in turn fear for their own jobs.

What can be done about this situation? Community workers and the people directly hit by the cutbacks must work together to change government policy.

Day care Cutbacks Force Women onto Welfare

By LINDA CARSON

"I'd be forced to quit work and go on welfare if I didn't have day-care. Is that what the government wants, all of us on welfare?" So says a single parent mother with two children in our daycare and a teenager in high school. Another agreed and added that the only other alternative for her is a baby-sitter, "and I've tried that and it's no good. I worried about the food my daughter was getting, how much physical activity was allowed her during the day, (sometimes only going outside once a week), and how much television she was exposed to every day. When she's here, I just don't worry, I know she's getting excellent care."

These women whose children attend a municipal centre are assured quality care because it is controlled by a standards set by

government. But should they feel secure? The municipal government has already begun cutting the housekeeping staff who are responsible for the preparation of the children's meals and the cleanliness of the centre. If they have begun cutting the staff in the housekeeping section, what is to prevent them cutting the staff in care of the children?

If these centres are in trouble, what about the private centres? Usually their only source of revenue outside of government funding (subsidy) is fees from the parents. Many of these centres have already cut costs in the areas of nutrition, health and safety and without additional funding will be forced to raise fees pricing daycare out of the reach of not only sole-support parents but two-parent families. When spaces remain unfilled, it is only a matter of

time before the centre is closed.

How does the fact that her child is receiving minimum care affect the working mother? What choices does she have, knowing that if she removes her child it may take weeks to find another place and if she does find one, how far away is it from her home, her job? How much will it cost? Should she have to quit her job and go on welfare?

Good daycare used to be hard to find, the government through its cutbacks, is making it impossible. Cutting back day care is one of the easiest ways to get women out of the workforce. But times are desperate now, a woman can no longer afford to remain at home.

Linda Carson, who is a member of CUPE 79, is a day care worker at the Jessie Ketchum Day Care Centre.



Linda Carson at work.



Yvonne Coy works in the kitchen of a daycare centre.

UNION WOMAN

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Restraint for Whom?

Politicians and journalists seem to agree on one thing these days: a lid must be kept on government spending. The Provincial Premiers and Prime Minister Trudeau, meeting in Ottawa in mid-February, agreed to limit government budgets, encourage private enterprise and keep a tight-rein on public service salaries.

What do these policies of "belt-tightening" mean for working women? This issue of *Union Woman* takes a look at this question. We asked a public health nurse, a day care worker, a teacher and a library worker to describe the effects of government cutbacks in their work.

A common theme runs through their articles: women are hit by government policies of budget "restraint" both as workers in and as users of social services. The majority of low-paid public service workers are women. In the "de-controls period", governments are planning an attack on the catch-up gains they made through unionization before the AIB was introduced.

When politicians and businessmen speak about the necessity of restraint, working women need to ask "restraint for whom?"

The tax write-offs and outright donations provided by governments, to business will not be touched. Indeed, government decisions to encourage private enterprise mean more of our tax dollars will be handed over to these great "opponents" of government spending!

Cutbacks are directed at the services working people need and use every day. Services like hospitals, schools, day care centers, recreation facilities and family-help agencies. Cutting the percentage of our tax dollars which go to these services is like cutting our wages. Government "restraint" policies and the AIB have the same purpose: to increase the share of the economic pie going to business at the expense of the standard of living of working people.

When social services are cut back, it is often women who must take on the tasks dropped by institutions and agencies. It is women who have traditionally cared for children, for the sick and the aged. These cutbacks increase the already unbearable double burden of work on the job and in the home that women face. At the same time, women employed in social service are hit by lay-offs and speed-up.

We need an end to cutbacks in social services, and an extension of these services to meet real needs. We must maintain and improve the child care centres, the hospitals and the old age homes we already have. But it is also important that governments be forced to fund the many new and necessary services pioneered by women, from pre-natal and post-natal care for single mothers to crisis centres and good mental health facilities.

Governments are determined to pursue their cutbacks policies for as long as they can get away with them. For this reason, women in Toronto and other cities across Canada are

making opposition to cutbacks in social services one of the themes of rallies and demonstrations being held to commemorate International Women's Day.

Organized Working Women, along with other labour and women's organizations, is sponsoring an International Women's Day march on Saturday March 11 around the issues of justice for women in employment, quality child care and an end to social service cutbacks. Taking part in this march is one way for women to show publicly that we are not prepared to bear the costs of the economic crisis.

Corrections

The report on the fate of Resolution 135 (calling for an OFL Women's Committee) in the last issue of *Union Woman* incorrectly stated that a recommendation of non-concurrence by the Resolutions Committee meant no debate could take place on the Convention floor. "Non-concurrence" is simply a recommendation from the Resolutions Committee to the Convention and can be accepted or rejected by the delegates.

The OWW Caucus at the OFL Convention decided to

organize to have the non-concurrence motion defeated. As stated in the article, the motion never made it to the floor but was adopted by the OFL Executive meeting after the Convention.

This mistake occurred at the editing stage. Our apologies to Evelyn Armstrong who did not see the final version of her article before it went to press.

Credit should have been given to the Ottawa Citizen for the photos of the Banknote Workers appearing on page 1 in the last issue.

International Women's Day Yesterday and today

*As we come marching, marching, in the
beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand
mill-lofts gray,
Are touched with all the radiance that a sud-
den sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing: "Bread and
roses, bread and roses".*

March 8, International Women's Day, is being celebrated in Toronto this year by a march and

rally on March 11 and by a number of other events.

How did International Women's Day begin? It arose out of the early struggles of women in the industrial countries for their rights as workers, as mothers, and as citizens. It was on March 8, 1908 that women textile workers in New York went on strike against the exploitation and the intolerable conditions in the fire-trap sweatshops with placards bearing the slogans, "Votes for Women", "Higher Wages for Women", "We want bread and roses".

Joined by immigrant mothers of the slum tenements of New York's east side and by the socialist women who were campaigning for votes for women and for women to join the needle trade unions, they gathered and marched on the streets in huge demonstrations.

The strike of the New York textile workers and the success of the demonstrations came to be felt throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Its effectiveness was recognized at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen in 1910 attended by women from 17 countries. Clara Zetkin, the great European socialist champion of women's rights and of peace, and leading figure in the Conference, proposed that March 8 be set aside each year by women of the world as International Women's Day, a day in which women everywhere could demonstrate their solidarity against militarism and war, for full equality for women and for economic security.

As the accompanying copy of the front page of the March 1927 edition of *Woman Worker* indicates, Canadian women have been involved in the celebration of International Women's Day for at least half a century.

(This article is based on material prepared by

CLC Conference Disappointing

Over 400 women trade unionists from all across Canada gathered in Ottawa from January 12 to 14 for a Conference on "Equal Opportunity and Treatment for Female Workers" sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress.

Delegates who had attended the first CLC women's conference two years ago were looking forward to an exciting and productive few days. Unfortunately, many delegates were disappointed.

"I personally found the conference frustrating", said Joyce Rosenthal who attended the Conference from OPIEU 343. "Most of the delegates were angry, disillusioned and unhappy. There was no spirit

of enthusiasm and confidence of succeeding in the struggles ahead.

"There was discontent about the administration and organization of the Conference. As one delegate said, 'We came a long way at great expense to our locals and we needed more time to talk about strategy for collective bargaining, legislation and other pressing issues faced by women today'".

A common complaint of the delegates was the lack of a final plenary session which would have heard reports from the workshops and made possible strong collective recommendations from the women present to the Canadian Labour Congress.



OWW members meet in lobby of CLC Women's Conference.

The *Woman Worker*

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EDITORIALS

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International Women's Day

GREETINGS.

To our sisters—the working women of the cities and farms of all lands—greetings.

With you this day we pledge ourselves anew to the cause of our class.

Let us join hands more firmly and unite our efforts more closely to end the tyranny of the rich masters.

We have nothing to lose but our chains—and a world to gain.

The Woman Worker, the first Canadian magazine dedicated to the concerns of working women, was published by the Women's Labour Leagues

Sports policy for women needed

Commentary is a forum for debate and discussion on issues of interest to trade union women. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Organized Working Women.

By **ABBY HOFFMAN**

Bruce Kidd and I presented our Brief at the final public meeting on the **Green Paper on Sport** in Ottawa. Many other briefs made the same points we made: That a Green Paper on Sport without an accompanying Green Paper on Recreation is an untenable method of establishing a national policy; that the Green Paper process itself was a sham as far as genuine public consultation is concerned; that government attempts to relieve itself of financial obligations by means of a policy of encouraging fund-raising through the commercialization of amateur sport are unwarranted; that the **Green Paper** lacked any statement of philosophy or basic principles on which a concept of sport development could be based.

The **Green Paper** did not indicate any awareness on the government's part of the socio-economic dimensions of sport and recreation programs as they apply specifically to women. While the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, Iona Campagnolo has several times stated her interest in expanding sports opportunities for women, this has not been followed by any concrete suggestions.

The fact is that the life roles of women often inhibit their participation in sport. The family and dual work obligations (at home and in the market place) are important determinants of the lower level of female involvement. The lower participation rates in turn account for the significantly lower fitness rates among Canadian women (even in comparison with the relatively unfit Canadian male). If women are to be able to participate in many sport programs it is imperative that recreation centres provide free day care and that programs be designed for family participation.

Women are often criticized for their lack of involvement in sport and such sport related activities as coaching, officiating, administration of sports, etc. This lack of involvement is often erroneously attributed to lack of interest or motivation on the part of women. In fact, motivation is rarely the problem. More likely,

women simply do not have access to existing opportunities for economic and time reasons. Many women simply lack the money to temporarily relieve themselves of family obligations (as men are able to do) in order to create the free time necessary to participate.

As well the lower wages of women reduces their disposable income for the purchase of leisure time amenities (club memberships, equipment, facility rental fees). Although employee fitness programs have helped to create new fitness and sport opportunities for people in the work place, there is a strong bias in favour of males in these programs that are directed at generally male executives.

As far as younger women and girls are concerned, the lack of participation in sport is a product of either the non-availability of programs (where programs are available for boys) or outright discrimination in terms of access to facilities, money, and leadership personnel. These problems and solutions escaped the writers of the **Green Paper**.



Abby Hoffman reached consecutive Olympic finals in 1968 and 1972 and won medals in four straight Pan-American Games between 1963 and 1975. She co-authored *A History of Canadian Women in Sport*, and is a consultant with the provincial Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Academy found guilty

Continued from page 1

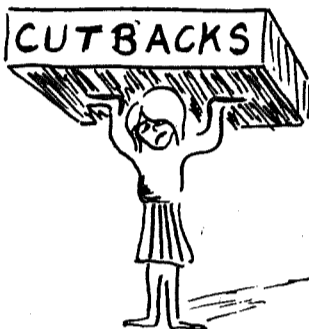
tempts in 1976 to organize the Active Answering Service owned by Norman Rhora; one worker called another one night regarding joining the union, then one other was called, the next day they were fired. The Ontario Labour Relations Board has ruled in this case that the workers should be rehired and reimbursed for lost wages.

Another problem in Ontario is that even if the workers are organized a contract may not be won. If the company is able to stall signing a contract for twelve months, then the bargaining unit may be decertified. However, in contrast, British Columbia has a stipulation that a first contract can be imposed on either side.

Thompson also pointed out that in Ontario anyone with four thousand dollars can open an answering service and proceed to offer a cheaper service, thus undercutting an operation where the union has a contract.

The union had proposed an increase of 82½ cents per day (\$3.15) to start and \$1.20 per day (\$3.20), after three months. It would have amounted to fifty cents more a week per doctor. The women had very minimal sick leave and they also had to make their own OHIP payments.

The union had further proposed a one cent per hour cost of living increase for each .35 increase in the Consumer Price Index, using February 1977 as the base month. This too was rejected by the Academy. Actually, it would have required an increase of \$6.50 per day to give the women the same purchasing power they had in 1972.



Commission denies appeal

By **MARILYN SPINK**

Cecelia Palmer was one of the first women to get a job at American Motors, after she and Terezia Kaman filed complaints with the Human Rights Commission. The last issue of UNION WOMAN reported that she had been fired, and that she had filed a reprisal complaint with the Commission.

Cecelia Palmer is still out of a job. The Human Rights Commission has informed her that they were unable to find that she was discriminated against when American Motors fired her.

Mrs. Palmer was fired when she was unable to complete a welding job. She had been working at the plant for two weeks.

Apparently, the Human Rights officer was unable to find evidence of discrimination in this particular case. There are instances of male employees who have been unable to do a job and who have been moved to another position. However, none of these men were on probation and all had seniority rights, so Mrs. Palmer's situation was not found

to be identical. The union representing employees at American Motors, United Auto Workers Local 1285, also filed a complaint which fared no better with the Commission.

Terry Gorman, president of Local 1285, suggested that the Commission probably found that it is management's right to let a probationary employee go.

Mr. Gorman said that there's at least one woman working at the plant who has seniority now. "But unfortunately there's nothing more we can do for Mrs. Palmer. I'm disappointed. We thought we had a good case."

Mr. Gorman noted that the complaints have made the company "sit up a bit. They may at least watch it now." But as for Cecelia Palmer, the woman who started it all, she's out of a job. What are the prospects for work?

Her daughter was laid off at Dominion Glass the week she heard she'd lost her case. That same week Northern Telecom, Mrs. Palmer's old employer, laid off 75 more workers.

"There's that many more people on the streets looking for work. There just aren't enough jobs."

Speed-up at new library

By **VALERIE J. PAKOTA**

The members of CUPE Local 1582 employed by the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board were informed in early December that, as a result of action by the civic government, there would be a hiring freeze and a \$500,000 cutback in the Library budget.

Since the opening of the new building at 789 Yonge Street, services to the public have increased and staffing has not. Consequently, many sections report common problems.

The increased workload, resulting in poorer service to the public, has led to a variety of frustrations for the staff. Abbreviated lunch times, pressure to miss breaks, an increase in the number of nights, Saturdays or Sundays worked are legitimate complaints being levelled against the Library Board.

Understaffing has caused library workers to be "plucked" out of their sections and told to help in areas with which they are unfamiliar; ultimately returning to their own desks piled high with accumulated tasks. Just the general expanse of the building has increased workloads. There are more carrels to deal with; more floor space to cover; and more shelves to keep in order.

Assistants are being required to answer involved professional-level reference questions and at peak-time part-timers are asked to do reference work with no increases in pay.

Furthermore, there is a demise of anything resembling flexible hours which the workers were guaranteed in a letter of intent by

the Library Board in the last contract.

Employees of the Library appreciate their new work location as the building is both beautiful and functional. But they find their working conditions are in fact deteriorating as management introduces "speed up" and cutback measures.



CRITIC'S CORNER

Harlan County USA

Union Struggle

By SUSAN SEIDE

At a time when the contract negotiations of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) are again making big news, Harlan County, U.S.A., last year's Academy Award winning film for Best Documentary, is as fresh, important and new as when it first appeared just over a year ago.

Filmmaker Barbara Kopple and a crew of women and men moved to Harlan County, Kentucky at the beginning of the struggle by the miners and their families to form a local of the UMWA. The filmmakers made the strike their own, and lived in Harlan County for nearly a year until the strike ended — and was won.

This brings to the viewer the sense of being there, too. The people in Harlan County are real people. They tell their own story in their own words. The songs, written and sung by Harlan County residents, are fully expressive of the feelings and the events during the strike. The struggle for the right to join a union becomes vivid and personal to the filmviewer.

Though the right to organize was won long ago and these miners legally voted to join the UMWA, the company refused to sign the contract. So, the miners launched a bitter strike with the goal being to win a union contract.

And the film explores just what conditions make the miners so committed in their efforts to unionize. In the 1970's, before the union, the homes of the miners have no running water. People are prematurely aged with noses, mouths and lungs permanently blackened by coal dust. This frequently leads to the killer disease, Black Lung. No elevator leads to the coal mines — instead there is only an outdated, dangerous pulley. The conditions of the mines are so unsafe that sudden explosions resulting in multitude

deaths are unexceptional — though, of course, preventable.

Angered by these conditions that make life seem cheap, the miners vow to withdraw their labour until they have won their legal and constitutional right to join a union. But the company is unwilling to allow any union in Kentucky and fights it with every means in their possession: state police, murder, scabs, armed thugs, lawyers, lies, assassination.

One of the central messages of this film is the crucial role played by the families of the miners. By forming a committee, the wives, mothers and daughters become strong and influential in supporting the difficult strike, in maintaining the picket-line, and in confronting the "law" enforcers.

At one dramatic point, the women are tightly organized at the picket line and have laid their bodies across the road to prevent the passage of the scabs' trucks.

At rallies and by example, the women provide leadership and moral support to the strikers to face bravely the violence of the hired thugs.

But it takes even more than personal bravery to win against large, rich companies. And behind the miners in Harlan County, Kentucky was the UMWA, though the film emphasizes the more interesting human concerns. The solidarity displayed by other UMWA locals is depicted and is another important element to the success in Harlan County.

Also of crucial importance to the success of the strike in Harlan County is the breakdown of barriers between the workers. To win the strike, black and white, men and women, Northern and Southern workers had to join together.

This is a moving film about people whose lives were made so wretched by their employer that, together, they stood up for their rights — and won. This is a must-see movie for the whole family.

GOVERNMENT CUTS GRANTS TO SCHOOL BOARDS BY 6.1%

By LOIS BEDARD

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, of which I am a member, has a political action committee. This committee gave us the following exposé of Treasurer Darcy McKeough's latest trickery in educational finance.

In 1973 at a conference of representatives of the three levels of government held in Edmonton, the Conservative government promised the local governments of Ontario that "Provincial assistance in future years will grow at a rate no less than the growth rate of Ontario's total revenue".

On September 16, 1977, Mr. McKeough unilaterally and arbitrarily abrogated this promise.

The result is that the Conservative treasury will underpay its local governments by approximately \$150 million. This will reduce Ontario's rate of increase in assistance to school boards through legislative grants from a

10.9% increase this year to 4.8% for the coming year.

Through this transfer of provincial responsibilities to the local level most Ontario municipalities will be forced to make substantial increases in property taxes next year. In an attempt to maintain existing services, some municipalities will be increasing property taxes by 15 to 35%. Increases in property taxes put an unfair burden on the working person.

This decrease in grants will result in a deterioration in the quality of education through: an increase in class size; a collapse of some special education programmes; a slowdown in the expansion of French language programme; more unemployment and deterioration of teacher morale; an increase in the confrontation level between teachers and trustees; and wider and wider disparity between the quality of education of children in the weal-

You & the Law

LEGAL AID

By MARYKA OMATSU

Ten years ago, the Tory Government introduced the Legal Aid Act, so that at least in theory, everyone in Ontario has the legal defence of her choice. This democratic right is subject to three conditions: 1) the importance of the legal problem; 2) the financial status of the applicant; and 3) the lawyer's acceptance of a legal aid client.

How do you apply for legal aid?

In the Toronto area, the applicant applies personally at the legal aid office at Old City Hall for criminal matters, or at 204 A Richmond Street West, for civil matters.

Who is eligible for legal aid?

The applicant is first interviewed to determine whether or not her problem is one covered by the Legal Aid plan. There is a discretion to turn down criminal matters that do not involve a loss of job or imprisonment. Similarly for civil problems, there is a discretion to turn down matters involving bankruptcy, small claims court, family court and tribunals such as UIC, welfare, workmen's compensation, etc.

If the problem is one covered by the plan, the applicant is then interviewed as to her financial situation — family and dependents, salary, other income if any, living costs, debts, etc. For a single individual, the plan allots \$161.00 per month for food, clothing, and personal needs. Added to this is the cost of rent and any debts. If the applicant earns in excess of this figure, then she will likely be ineligible for a free certificate.

In a nine month period (March to December, 1977) in York county, 20,000 persons went to legal aid for "advice"; 28,000 applied for legal aid; 9,766 were refused and approx-

imately 18,200 were accepted. **Will I have to pay back legal aid?**

There are three kinds of certificates: 1) a free certificate is given when the officer decides that the applicant will not be able within the next two years to pay back legal aid (ie. persons on fixed incomes); 2) a certificate that stipulates that the applicant is to repay legal aid in installments; and 3) a certificate that is registered against the applicant's property in the form of a lien. This debt does not bear any interest and must be paid when the applicant sells or transfers the property.

In 1977 for example, in York county of the approximately 20,000 certificates granted, 2,285 are contributory certificates and the remaining are free certificates.

If however, you win your law suit, all costs recovered belong to the Law Society. Any money remaining after the Society takes its share belongs to the applicant.

What if I'm turned down for legal aid?

The legal aid office will set up a date and time when the applicant can appeal her refusal to the area committee. For the Toronto area, the legal aid committee meets twice weekly, either at Old City Hall for criminal matters or at 204 A Richmond Street West for civil matters. If the area committee upholds the legal aid officer's decision regarding the applicant's financial ineligibility, then the issue is closed. However, if the area committee turns down the applicant on legal grounds, she still has a final appeal to the Area Director.

Who receives legal aid?

Most certificates for criminal offences are given to males between the ages of 16 and 25.

65% of the civil certificates granted are for matrimonial problems. The bulk of these go to women. However, there has been an increase in women receiving certificates for criminal offences.

Do I really have the lawyer of my choice?

Of the 3500 lawyers in York county, 1500 will accept legal aid clients. More experienced lawyers refuse to take legal aid clients or limit the number they take because of the fee involved.

What changes are in the wind because of the economic belt tightening of the Ontario Government?

If the following proposals become law they will seriously affect the quality of legal defence working people will receive.

First: There may be more ceilings put on the amount of funds given certain types of cases, irregardless of the facts of the situation. This will result in more lawyers refusing to take legal aid clients and lawyers being able to spend less time preparing for legal aid clients.

Second: Attorney-General Roy McMurtry is back-room-politicking to gain acceptance for the public defender system, where an accused is sent to a government clinic for her lawyer. This will mean that the accused will not have the lawyer of her choice unless she can afford it, and probably a poorer quality of legal defence because of the amount of case work that the legal aid lawyer will be expected to carry.

In a small survey of lawyers, that I conducted, we noticed the following changes: greater difficulty in receiving legal aid certificates in discretionary situations; and fewer free certificates being given out.

thy sections of the province and those in "poorer" municipalities.

Alan Murray, the O.S.S.T.F. president, is urging all groups affected by the inequitable grant policies to work together in common cause on behalf of education.

Included in the grouping of citizens would be members from parent, teacher and trustee organizations, and public service workers and union leaders. The group could call on the Premier to discuss his government's cut-backs on elementary and secondary education.

Along with other teachers I am supporting the O.S.S.T.F. in its efforts to inform the public of the way the Conservative Treasurer shifts the financing of education onto the overburdened worker.



Look for the union label.

Join OWW!



Membership in OWW is open to all women in the Toronto area who are members of bona fide collective bargaining units. Membership is \$10.00 per year.

To join OWW, send in this application form with proof of union membership to:

Holly Kirkconnell,
270 Seaton Street,
Toronto

Name

Address

Telephone

Union Local