

# Roll back interest rates

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY of high interest rates has become one of the glaring injustices of our times. The government's decision to pursue a high interest rate strategy is part of an investment policy being carried out in conjunction with the Bank of Canada.

In July, Gerald Bouey, governor of the Bank, introduced his policy of moderate monetarism, raising interest rates far above those in the United States in order to keep money in Canada and to protect the Canadian dollar.

Between now and the end of 1982, 782,000 mortgages are up for renewal. As of September 1981, the interest rate had jumped to 20 1/4% and many people had to face the doubling of their monthly payments if they wanted to keep their homes. We know that most workers' wages have not doubled since they last "negotiated" their mortgage.

A recently revealed government document signed by Paul Cosgrove, federal minister for housing, predicted that more than 100,000 Canadian families — one household out of eleven — would have to spend more than 30% of their gross income to keep their houses by 1982. Mortgage lenders work on the assumption that a family should not spend more than 30% of its income on housing; including principal, interest and taxes. Already there are more than 500,000 households paying 40% or more of their income on housing.

THE INCOME REQUIRED TO BUY A HOUSE has been steadily rising over the past five years. In Vancouver, one of the highest priced housing markets in the country, the average house price has now reached \$170,000. The income needed to carry such a house is in excess of \$82,000 a year. It is unlikely that even with two persons in a family working that most could generate that kind of income; especially when women in Canada still only earn 56% of a male wage.

Another effect of high interest rates is the prolongation of housing shortages in urban areas. With the high cost of financing developers have been discouraged from investing in rental units. In Toronto and Vancouver the vacancy rate is almost 0%. Rent review boards in Ontario are now allowing increases in rents as high as 30% on flimsy evidence of increased costs. Many fear that rent controls in Ontario will be removed or that the 6% ceiling will be raised substantially.

High financing costs are being absorbed by consumers; to say nothing of the increased cost to consumers of purchasing on credit with interest rates expected to reach 25%. The number of consumer bankruptcies has been increasing and in the period from January to July 1981 the farm bankruptcies rate increased 39% over the same period in 1980. The costs which adversely affect all workers, of course, are having an even more disastrous effect on pensioners, single parent families, and the unemployed.

ALL THE WHILE, BANK PROFITS have been rapidly escalating. In the third quarter of 1981 the profits of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce were \$87.7 million dollars, an increase from the second quarter of 114%. The Royal Bank's profits were up by 76% in that same period.

The Canadian Labour Congress has called for a mass demonstration in Ottawa on Nov. 21 to demand a rollback in interest rates. The CLC would like to see over 100,000 people take part in this most important demonstration of labour solidarity. Many of the larger unions have already chartered their own buses for this modern-day "on to Ottawa trek"; and the labour councils have also chartered buses.

Bus rentals are being coordinated through Trade Union travel (Tel. 416-441-1427). Duncan MacDonald of the OFL (Tel. 416-441-2731) is co-ordinating public relations for the demonstration.

We hope that you will join with us in Ottawa on Nov. 21.



THERE WAS AN OLD LADY  
WHO LIVED IN A SHOE  
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS SHE MISSED  
SO THE BANK HER OUT THREW  
NOW SHE LIVES IN A SOCK AND  
IS GOING TO TAKE THE KIDS TO  
OTTAWA WITH HER ON NOV 21



WAS-11-91-77C



# UNION WOMAN

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— M. Phillips

Over 200 solidarity pickets bolstered the line outside Irwin Toys for a Women's Solidarity Day with the Irwin strikers. About 40 regular pickets are holding out for a first contract which would raise wages above the minimum. The union is calling for a boycott of all Irwin products.

## Women support sisters on Irwin Toys picket

TORONTO — About 40 women have been holding the picket line outside Irwin Toys for four months in an effort to win a first contract.

Although 100 workers, members of the United Steelworkers Union, originally rejected the company's offer of a 30 cent increase on a base rate of \$3.30, since then 20 have caved in and elected to scab. The company has hired another 40 to keep the plant operating.

The union was first certified in February of this year. It is going for a \$4.00 minimum in the plant.

The pickets have been getting

help from Hamilton's Stelco strikers and most recently a Women's Solidarity Day was organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour's Women's Committee.

City police have kept a constant eye on the strikers. There have been harassment and arrests, including Dave Patterson, new District Six director and three solidarity pickets from Stelco.

One Irwin striker was injured when a car driven by a scab barged the line. Strike captain Marg O'Brien explains that the

trucks give two hoots before coming through.

Negotiations have broke off but morale among the strikers is high. O'Brien expressed the sentiments of most strikers when she said, "these kind of sweatshop conditions must be stopped".

For many of the women this is their first experience with a union. Sharry Thompson has been with Irwin Toys for nine and a half months. She says she joined the union for her rights. "They told us what it would like, better wages, better benefits. That's what we're out for and we're going to win."

## Action on day care now

By SUE COLLEY

Hundreds of day care supporters gathered at Queen's Park to launch the first offensive day care campaign in Ontario on Oct. 16. Persistent government cut-backs over the last decade have meant that day care organizations have had to put so much energy into defending the status quo, they have rarely had a chance to confront the government with the real needs of Ontario's children.

"We'll no longer fight over the crumbs, we want a bigger piece of the pie", said Sandy Stienecker, rally spokesperson for Action Day Care. "Today we serve notice to the Davis government we are no longer on the defensive".

Women's organizations, trade unions, social service agencies, day care centres and action groups participated in the rally or sent messages and telegrams of

support. Spokeswomen from Ottawa, Sudbury, Kitchener and Winnipeg urged the provincial government to implement Action Day Care's demands for: 10,000 new subsidized spaces immediately; direct grants to every child enrolled in non-profit day care centres to raise salaries and reduce fees and start-up grants of \$100 per child space.

Noticeably absent from the rally were representatives of the for-profit day care centres. They are worried about competition and the future of their profits if non-profit day care centres are subsidized by the direct grant. (These amounts would vary according to the type of program: \$5 for pre-schoolers; \$8 for infants and toddlers; and \$2.50 for part-time care are Action Day Care's demands.) Action Day Care is in favour of a free universal day care system, which would be public-

ly-funded and operated. Members argue that taxpayers' dollars should not go to enhance corporate profits, nor should children be the objects of economic exploitation.

"We realize that there are centres which are individually owned and operated, offering good quality day care and not making huge profits", commented an Action Day Care spokeswoman, "but we suggest that these centres change their status to non-profit and become eligible for the direct grants that way. If it's the profits they're concerned about, then there's no room for them in any future day care system in this province."

Cliff Pilkey, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, addressed the crowd with heartening words: "We want universal day care" he said, "it's nothing

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# Action on day care now

● From Page 1  
less than an adjunct to education".

Pilkey told the crowd that the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, comprising eighteen provincial organizations, had been built since the last OFL Convention. He informed the audience that on Nov. 9 the coalition would

be presenting the Ontario Cabinet with a lengthy brief containing recommendations for universal day care and including the demands of the rally.

Local day care coalitions have now been formed in Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Sudbury and Ottawa to organize ongoing activities and lobbies. Joanne

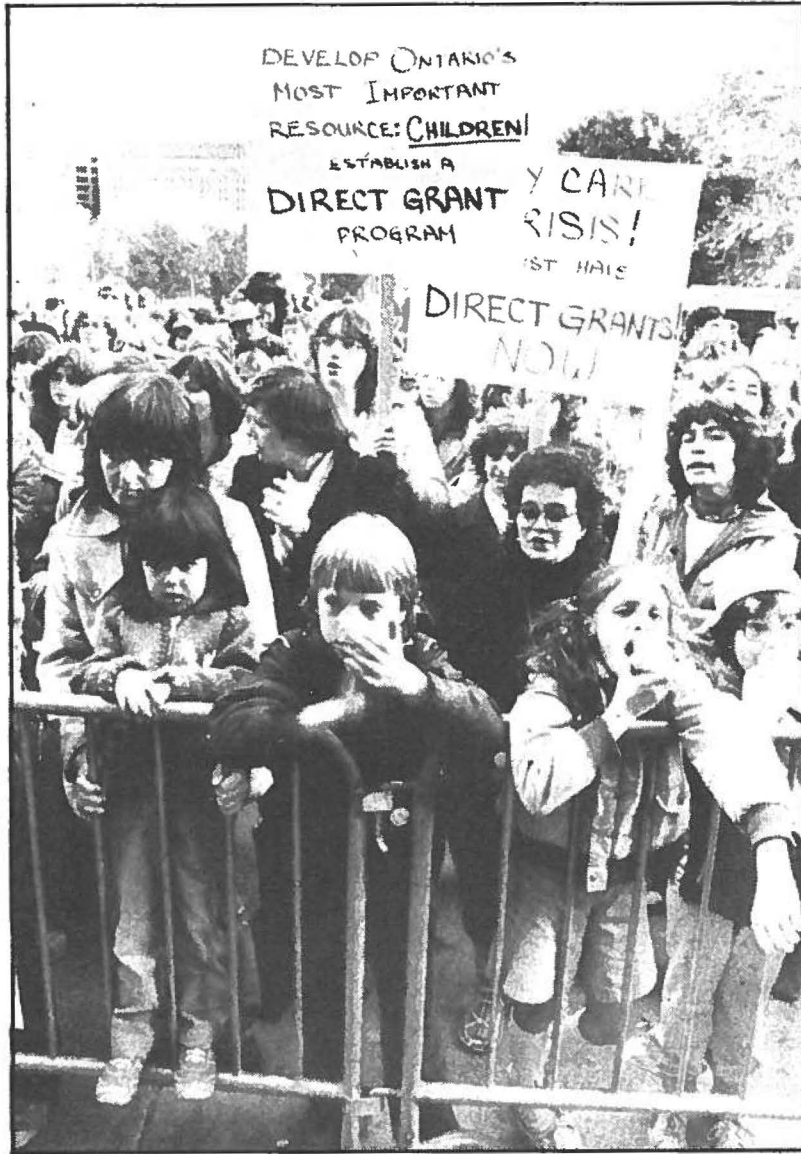
Jackson from Sudbury brought news from the Sudbury Coalition. Their intentions are also to lobby their local MPPs, aldermen, school trustees and federal MPs.

Nov. 30 to Dec. 11 is the period already set for the Daycare Coalition of Metro Toronto's lobby of provincial MPPs. Working women across the province of Ontario are urged to contact their local labour councils and get involved in existing coalitions, or to set them up where they do not yet exist.

Working women scored an important victory last fall when the OFL convention adopted day care policy in support of free universal day care.

Labour groups have spearheaded the development of an important coalition. Let's keep it alive and use our combined strength to force the Tory government to grant the direct grant as a first step towards free universal day care for every child in Ontario who wants it.

*Sue Colley works with Action Day Care.*



Parents, kids and day care workers marched on Queen's Park Oct. 16 to let the Tory government know that action on day care was long over due. Rally speakers included OFL president Cliff Pilkey.

## 1982 Calendar /Factpact

Based on information and displays developed for the Women's Occupational Health Resource Centre's national conference "Working Women — Designs for Workplace Health"

Large, attractive, information packed.

Send cheque for \$5.00 payable to OWW to:

OWW/Calendar,  
15 Gervais Drive,  
Suite 301,  
Don Mills, Ont.

## UPDATE



— Kerry Wilson

Solidarity marchers in front of Stelco.

### Women back Stelco strike

Over 1,000 Hamilton women joined in a solidarity march in front of the struck Stelco plant in support of the 13,000 members of United Steelworkers 1005. The day was organized through the co-operation of Local 1005 Wives' Committee, 1005 Women's Committee and Hamilton Working Women. About 200 women are now employed by Stelco as a result of a campaign supported by the union. The union is holding out for a contract which will keep pace with the cost of living.

### Radio Shack to pay Steelworkers

The Ontario Labour Relations Board has ordered the U.S. based Radio Shack to pay the United Steelworkers \$330,000 in damages arising out of the 1977 strike.

The award was made after the union proved bad-faith bargaining and other gross violations of labour laws during the union's eight-month effort to organize the company's warehouse in Barrie.



— Joyce Rosenthal

Wardair flight attendants on the line.

### Flight attendants settle

After a valiant fight, Wardair flight attendants voted Nov. 2 to return to work after 13 weeks on the picket line. It was a bitter struggle for the 725 attendants, members of the Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants' Association.

It began Aug. 6 when the union began a rotating strike to back up contract demands for pay in line with Air Canada's attendants, a 24-hour rest period between flights and sick leave of one day a month.

Wardair responded by locking out the strikers, leaving them stranded in points around the globe. It then stooped to hiring strike-breakers to herd scabs across picket lines. While union members took part in the Toronto Labor Day parade its offices were ransacked causing extensive damage. Several strikers were arrested while on picket duty.

The new agreement gives the union 12-hour rest periods between domestic flights and 24-hour periods between international flights. Sick leave is 3½ hours a month. Mediation raised wages by 8% retroactive to April, with a 12% increase effective now, and 13.5% next November.

### Fired for refusing to serve coffee

The Alberta Human Rights Commission has rejected a complaint by a secretary that she was fired for refusing to serve coffee. Laurie Jakab, a secretary with Texas Pacific Oil Canada Ltd., said she was not told when hired that her duties would include waitressing.

Human rights director Jack Tutty said the complaint was rejected because it was not "deemed to be discrimination based on sex."

The commission had originally refused to investigate Jakab's complaint but changed its mind after the story was aired on a Calgary talk show.

Jakab is now suing the company for wrongful dismissal in small claims court.

## OWW's yard sale a success

OWW's first yard sale was a tremendous success! It was held on the fresh, sunny Saturday, Sept. 12 and we had many treasures for sale. There were bookcases; a bed; yogurt maker; first quality hardly-used clothes; scads of books; a radio/record player console; chairs; suitcases; a rug, and much more.

The bargaining was keen but amiable. By 3 p.m. we were sold

out. When tallying up it was found that we had raised \$549.60 for OWW. Fantastic!

The sale was a success because we had complete cooperation from OWW members and friends; first by the contribution of the excellent articles, second the pickups and third, the fun of selling to the people in the annex and persons who came out to support OWW's financial project.

OWW is planning on holding a yard sale next fall, so we are asking our members and friends to store their saleable items until the date is set. However, if you are moving prior to the fall of '82, please remember OWW's yard sale and call the office if you wish a pickup.

Thanks to all who made this event a lot of fun and at the same time raised much needed funds to finance our programs.

## Centre for Labour Studies Winter Program

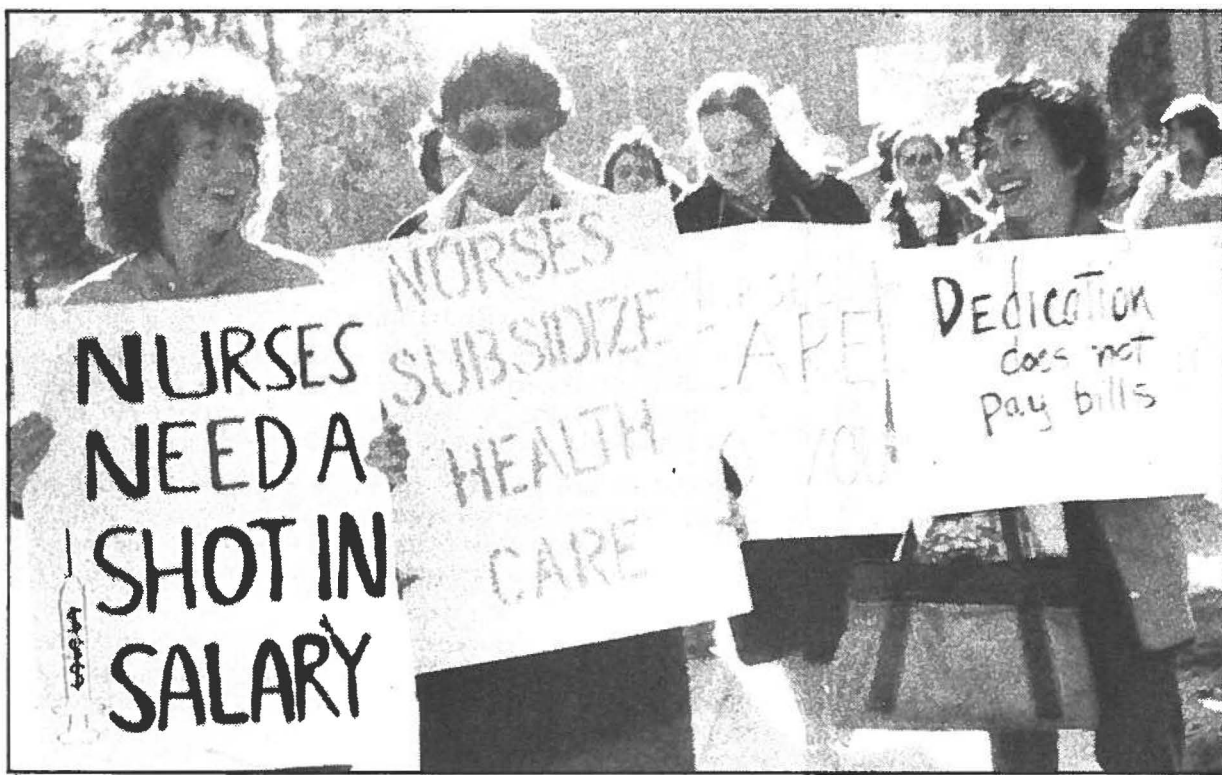
### COURSE TITLE

Your Health & Safety  
Labour History I  
Work, Racism and Labour  
Labour Leadership  
Working Class Literature II  
Work Process & their Consequences  
Collective Bargaining  
Workers' Compensation  
Political Economy of Multinational Corporations  
Research Techniques  
Instructional Techniques  
Arbitration  
Labour Law for Trade Unionists  
Effective Communications

### START DATE

Mon., Feb. 8  
Wed., Feb. 10  
Wed., Feb. 10  
Tues., Feb. 16  
Tues., Feb. 16  
Wed., Feb. 17  
Mon., Feb. 22  
Mon., Feb. 22  
Tues., Feb. 23  
Wed., Feb. 24  
Sat., Feb. 27  
Feb. 27-28  
Mon., March 1  
Mon., March 1

For further details, contact the Centre for Labour Studies, Humber College at 675-3111 ext. 467, 544 or 414.



Members of the Ontario Nurses Association protest to speed contract talks.

## Nurses protest contract delay

After one year without a contract, 25,000 nurses members of the Ontario Nurses Association in 134 hospitals finally received their long-awaited arbitration award. The award of chairman J.D. O'Shea covers a two year period and provides for a four-stage wage increase of 31% at the minimum and 29.9% at the maximum seven-year level.

Some other benefits were slightly improved, such as a standardization in the hours of

work to 37½ per week; a shift premium of 35 cents per hour; five weeks vacation after 20 years of service; and an improved dental plan.

O'Shea however wiped out many of the superior benefits nurses had previously negotiated in their contracts. He has eliminated the accumulating sick leave plan and replaced it with The Hospitals of Ontario Disability Income Protection Plan — a plan which ONA had strenuously op-

posed and which had previously been foisted on the CUPE hospital workers in their arbitration award handed down by Professor Paul Weiler.

O'Shea also devastated the rights of an entire category of nurses — that of the casual part-time nurse who make up 6,000 of ONA's membership. ONA states that the effect of this award has been to relegate these nurses to the status of second-class citizens.

## OWW workshops expand

By **BARB LINDS**  
and **CATHI CARR**

For the first time since the birth of Organized Working Women, organizing has expanded to other Ontario cities. Our first out-of-town Skills Workshop was held in Sudbury Oct. 17, with one in Ottawa a week later.

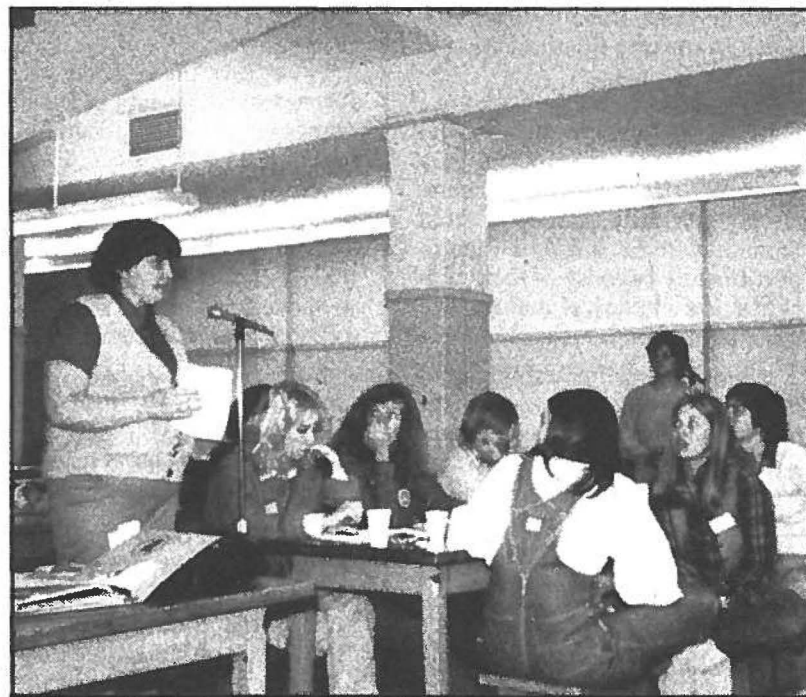
Over the past three years, OWW has sponsored these workshops geared to developing skills in union women to help them become more active members of their unions. Workshops have been held in Toronto dealing with parliamentary procedure, public speaking, and grievance and steward training.

As a result of a conversation OWW had with Peter Desilets, secretary of the Sudbury and District Labour Council, the Sudbury workshop was initiated. Peter was concerned about strengthening the Labour Council's Women's Committee, and indicated interest in forming an OWW chapter in the area.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by OWW and the labour council. A working group of trade union women was set up in Sudbury, which drew on the skills and enthusiasm of women delegates to Labour Council. This group co-ordinated the planning, and liaised with an OWW Executive member from Toronto.

The workshop focussed on three "skills": parliamentary procedure, public speaking, and resolution writing. It was attended by 18 participants, who spent the morning session learning how to feel more comfortable about speaking in front of a group, and in preparing resolutions dealing with matters of concern to working women.

The afternoon session took the



— J. Rosenthal

Challenging the chair at the Ottawa workshop.

form of a mock membership meeting at which everyone participated by presenting and debating the resolutions developed during the morning.

The formation of an OWW chapter was the last item on the agenda. It was decided that a working group would be formed which would draw other union women into the discussion regarding the formation of an OWW chapter. All workshop participants were extremely positive in their evaluation of the day. It is hoped that this first attempt, and the involvement of the working group will lead to more of the same type of activity in Sudbury.

The Ottawa workshop held on Oct. 24 followed a similar format as that of Sudbury. The workshop was attended by over 30 participants who eagerly involved

themselves in the day's activities.

The utilization of quickly acquired skills in parliamentary procedure was evident in the stimulating "floor fights" and challenges to the chair that took place during the afternoon's mock convention.

The executive of OWW would like to hear from people who feel that similar skills workshops would be valuable in their areas. At the last annual meeting of OWW the constitution was amended to allow for the establishment of other chapters of OWW outside the Toronto area and the executive would also like to hear from anyone interested in exploring this possibility in their own area.

Barb Linds and Cathi Carr are executive members of Organized Working Women.

## VDT's a health hazard to fight

By **LINDA TORNEY**

Continuing education and access to information emerged as the top priority for participants in the VDT Health and Safety conference, co-sponsored by Labour Council of Metro Toronto and Humber Centre for Labour Studies.

Almost 300 trade unionists gathered at OISE the weekend of October 16 to hear experts in occupational health and safety and low level radiation discuss the known and potential hazards of Video Display Terminals, and to discuss union strategy in dealing with the problem.

In workshop after workshop reporting back to plenary session, education headed the list, with suggestions ranging from further conferences to regular newsletters and a central VDT library for the use of trade unionists.

The documentation of physical problems by means of union sponsored medical monitoring, lobbying for protective legislation, contract negotiations and use of existing grievance procedures and the right to refuse work were suggested by most of the workshops.

A second recurring theme of the participants was a need to educate their own leadership and staff about the VDT issue. "Where is my union staff at this conference" asked one member, while other suggested that bargaining committees be alerted that VDT safety is not a demand which can be dropped. "Don't trade off health and safety, it's a strike issue" reported one workshop.

Earlier workshop sessions provided the opportunity for participants to discover that they shared many symptoms in common, ranging from eyestrain to skeletal and muscular problems. Perhaps the most frightening concern to emerge was the incredible amount of stress being experienced by VDT operators.

Stress for some has reached alarming levels, and was attributed by operators to a combination of poor work station design, glare, excessive heat and noise, work speed-up and production monitoring. "I'm not a person, I'm an extension of a machine" said one CWC member, "and I think its driving me crazy".

The tone for the conference was set on Friday night by Paul Brodeur, environmental reporter for the New Yorker magazine. Brodeur spoke of the semantics of industrial health, and warned workers to beware of catch phrases and pat answers when dealing with so-called 'VDT experts'. As a result of over 20 years of investigative reporting he has reached the conclusion that "industry always lies, and government almost never tells the truth".

Sessions provided conference members with solid information on VDT hazards. Mary Sue Henifin, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Hampshire College, spoke on ergonomic issues, including work station design, machine design and lighting, and stressed the need for consciousness raising among members as well as management. "People tend to blame their symptoms on something other than the workplace", she said.

The afternoon session on radiation was conducted by Sister Rosalie Bertell, an expert in radiation presently working from the Toronto Jesuit Centre. Sister Bertell went a long way towards demystifying the subject of radiation, including existing radiation standards. "To have a separate standard for each form of radiation when there are known synergistic effects is stupidity", she said.

The wrap-up was led by Jeanne Stellman, from the Women's Occupational Health Resource Centre at Columbia University, who warned VDT users to consider the implications of the nature of the work being done on VDTs. "You are losing skills and being turned into factory workers" Stellman stated.

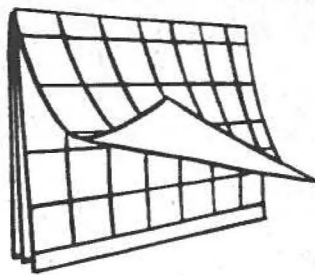
The conference, chaired by Sean O'Flynn of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, pulled together trade unionists from at least 10 different unions.

Labour Council's committee on VDTs, which handled conference planning, has already met to discuss future plans for the committee arising from the conference suggestions, and intends as its initial priority to establish an on-going newsletter, and to produce a training film based on videotapes of the conference.

Linda Torney is on staff with the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild, and is an Executive Board member of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto.



Stress from working on VDTs has reached alarming levels.



## CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 18

**OWW Membership Meeting**  
1901 Yonge Street,  
8th floor, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 21

**CLC Protest Against Interest Rates**  
Ottawa

Nov. 23-26

**Ontario Federation of Labour Convention**  
Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Thurs. Jan. 14

**OWW Membership Meeting**  
1901 Yonge Street,  
8th floor, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 20-21

**OWW Conference  
Technology and Working Women**  
OISE, 252 Bloor street, West

## Women's status worsens

Women's labour force participation rate increased dramatically over the last seventy-five years. At the turn of the century, the rate was just over 16% or 28,000 women. Fifty years later, the rate had increased to 23.5%.

By 1968, the participation rate had jumped to 37%, and ten years later, in 1978 the rate was almost 38.9% — or four million women.

Future projections indicate that these rates will continue to rise, with a significant increase in the participation by married women, and middle aged women with grown children.

### Job Ghettos

Despite their increased participation, women have traditionally been and continue to be concentrated into jobs classified as women's work and into occupations which are dominated by women. In 1979, 34% of all working women in Canada were employed in clerical occupations; 17.9% in service occupations; and 10.7% in sales. Only 5% had managerial or administrative jobs and even fewer had technical and skilled labour jobs.

The phenomenon of occupational segregation has changed little over the last seventy-five years. Discrimination and segregation by sex have been virtually unaffected by social and economic changes since the turn of the century.

Pay differentials continue to parallel occupational differences. Even though the median educational level for men and women was the same — 12.4 years in 1972 — women's wages were 41% lower. By 1977, women's wages fell to only 56.5% of that of full year male workers — thus the gap continues to widen.

These pay differentials exist despite the fact that three-fifths of all women workers are single, divorced or separated, or have mates whose earnings are less than \$10,000 per annum.

### Re-entering

Women's employment is often broken by periods of absence due to time off to bear and raise children, pressures from mates to "be at home", time to tend to ailing relatives, and other familial responsibilities.

For many women who leave the workforce to raise a family, the transition from home to work is often rough. They may have been at home for 10-15 years and have lost touch with new developments in the working world. And now they may find themselves competing with a much younger worker, one on whom employers are more willing to invest their time and money.

The high cost and low availability of childcare often makes it difficult for women to return to work. Making the transition from an isolated home environment to the regulated, highly structured world of work is not easy. Women could certainly benefit from assistance in making this transition.

### Tech change

In addition, technological change in the workplace may adversely affect women workers. It is generally believed that women will be affected disproportionately because of their concentration in clerical and service industries.

It has been estimated that 40% of all office work is suitable for automation. Offices of the future will include micro-electronics, word processors and increased access to computer technology. As a result approximately 1½ to 2 million secretarial jobs in Canada could be lost.

*These and other issues of concern to working women are being examined by an Ottawa group called the Women's Workbook Collective in a series of seminars over the fall/winter of 1981-82.*

*Each presentation will become a chapter in a book entitled 'A Woman's Workbook', intended as a resource for working women. The book will be distributed nationally.*



### Look for the union label

## Task force on UI ignores job issue

By JO SAXBY

Once again, Canadian workers are supposed to shoulder the brunt of our depressed economy. A federal Task Force established to look into the Unemployment Insurance program continues the practice of blaming the victim for the crime.

There is no acknowledgement of the economic situation in Canada. There are just not enough jobs for everyone, at least those that provide realistic living wages for people. The thrust of the report is that workers abuse the UI program and don't really want to work.

There are many references to the number of women in the work force, how we represent the largest growth factor and will continue to do so. That women dominate in low-paying jobs with little security is glossed over. Instead we are considered to be among the abusers of the program. The underlying emphasis in the Report, that people in certain regions and certain occupations dominate the UI rolls, perpetuates the myth that certain people work only in order to qualify for UI benefits. It ignores the difficulty that the unskilled and people in depressed economic regions have in attaining work.

While the main issues of concern to the investigation were simplification and public comprehension, equity, labour market concerns and cost, the results point to the priorities of cost reduction and labour market requirements.

Without a doubt, certain improvements have been forwarded. Under the present system new entrants, re-entrants, repeaters and those seeking "special" benefits (maternity, sickness and retirement) must have 20 weeks insurable earnings in the prior 52 weeks. Furthermore, to qualify for maternity benefits a woman must have a minimum of 10 weeks insurable employment (the "magic 10") between the 42nd and 52nd week before birth. Proposed changes would end this and also extend coverage to adoptive parents.

While the removal of these inequities is long overdue, it is unfortunate that the other new measures worsen the situation of claimants. Before outlining these, let us return to the improvements. Workers currently not protected would be covered. Formula for computing maximum insurable earnings are currently based on an eight-year average of wages. While it can be argued that the new proposal of reducing this to a three-year average is still insufficient, it does represent some improvement.

However, these changes can in no way offset the overall retrogressive impact of the report. The basic entrance requirements for all claimants would be increased to a regionally differentiated 15-20 weeks; at present this is 10-14 weeks. For example, where the regional unemployment rate is up to 6% the minimum entrance requirement would be 20 weeks (up from 14); where it is 10.1% and over, it would be 15 (currently 10). This means that even in areas of most severe unemployment the proposed minimum of 15 weeks is one week more than the existing maximum in areas of least unemployment.

Furthermore, the existing longest benefit period of 50 weeks would be cut to 35. While the report has a point that the present three-phase structure (based on work attachment and regional unemployment rates) is confusing, the path to simplification is not to punish the unemployed.

The Task Force thinks that these changes will cause workers to form stronger attachments to the work force and engage in more determined job searches. They have no conception of how long and hard most claimants already seek employment. They also assume employers will be encouraged to hire workers for longer period. How can they assume this?

An added attraction advanced by the report is that these changes will mean workers will leave the areas of high unemployment and not return to them when they are unemployed. A mobile work force will answer certain economic needs; the effects of such on workers and families, however, is not considered.

The tension between the dual requirements of the UI program — protection to workers and labour market concerns — is clear. And if recommendations outlined here go into effect, the tension will be resolved at cost to Canadian workers. Over 11 million workers help finance the program through premium payments; in 1980, 2 million, mostly low earners, received benefits.

Given that UI payments constitute only 60% of wages earned, workers do not gain from the program. They do not abuse the system. They rely on the partial protection UI offers because they have to. What Canadian workers want is jobs. Jobs with realistic wages and proper working conditions. The government must not place the costs of a depressed economy on the unemployed. Priorities must be established that attack the root causes of unemployment. Proposals forwarded by the Task Force on the UI program do not.

Jo Saxby works at Times Change Women's Employment Service, and is a member of OPSEU Local 512.

## Join OWW!



Membership in OWW is open to all women who are members of a bona fide collective bargaining unit or a bona fide organizing committee of a union. Membership is \$15.00 per year.

To join OWW, send in this application form with proof of union membership to the OWW office, address below.

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Union ..... Local .....

Organized Working Women,  
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 301,  
Don Mills Ont. M3C 1Y8.

If you are not eligible to join OWW, you are invited to subscribe to UNION WOMAN at \$10.00 per year.