



UNION WOMAN

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1982

**Support
Mini-
Skool
strikers**
— Page 2 —

Wage controls will never work!

By SUSIE VALLANCE

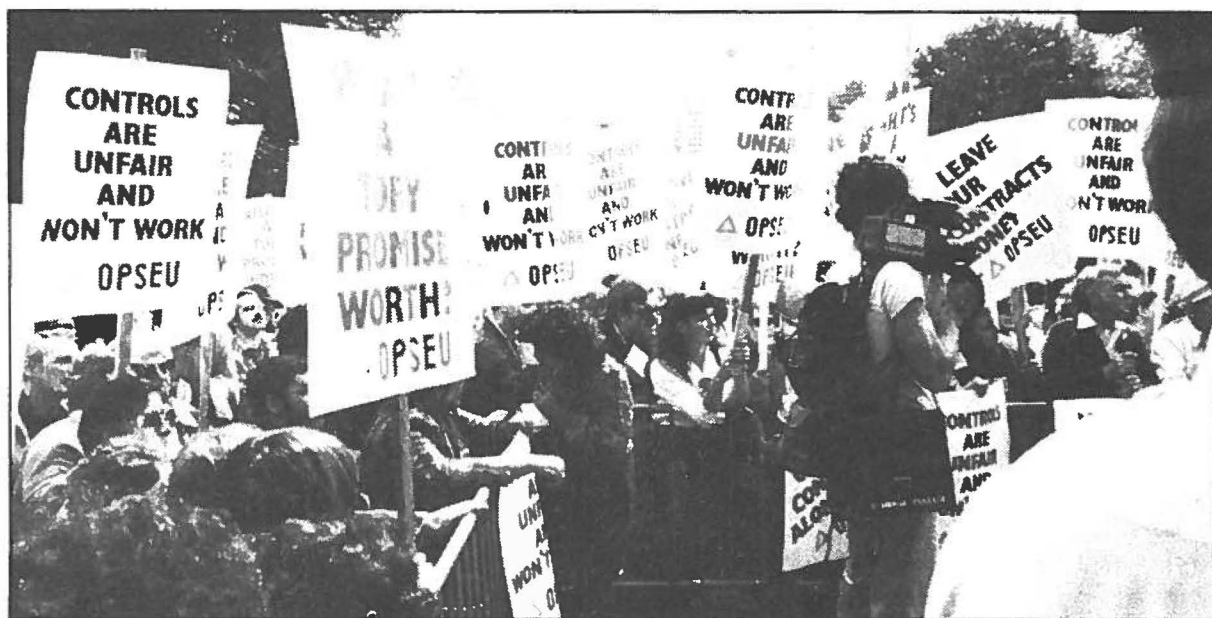
Since it became clear, early in the summer, that the government of Ontario would, despite Premier Davis' solemn assurances to the contrary, impose discriminatory wage controls on the public sector, we in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) began to mobilize our resources to inform the provincial government of our unconditional opposition to Bill 179.

The first step was to begin lunch-hour educational programs on the effects of wage controls. Then, we lobbied every Tory MPP (and most Liberals) in the province. These actions led up to the mass rally on Sept. 21, where more than 6,000 members came to Queen's Park.

Protests at the legislature, demonstrations at work sites, MPP constituency offices and Tory speaking engagements have become regular tactics. We are still gathering thousands of signatures on petitions as well as a continuing letter-writing campaign.

In late October, we took advantage of the opportunity to present briefs to the Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice.

In view of the apparent uniformity of the Conservative majority's opinion and in light of the apparent willingness of the Liberal caucus to support the proposed legislation, we were under no illusions that our efforts at lobbying or our appearances at the Legislative Justice Committee would stop Bill 179 from becoming law. However, we



What's a Tory promise worth? Over 6,000 members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union were on the steps of Queen's Park, Sept. 21 to ask that question of Premier Davis. Despite a promise not to follow Ottawa's lead in imposing wage controls on public sector workers the Ontario government followed suit in the face of mass worker protest.

wanted to inform the Committee to be under no illusions. We stated that "when this Bill is passed, you will have alienated the public sector workers in Ontario. We, in OPSEU, will therefore make you a promise, but unlike Mr. Davis, we will keep our word. We will do everything in our power to defeat every member of the legislature who casts a vote for Bill 179 as it is now, or as it might be amended."

We in OPSEU have no intention of letting these comments become idle rhetoric or allow the government to interpret our comments as threatening verbal posturing.

OPSEU, has maintained a consistent position throughout the prelude to the Inflation Restraint Act. At our June Convention we adopted a resolution that waged opposition to wage controls by every means available to us, up to and including a general strike. When Davis imposed wage controls on 500,000 Ontario public sector workers, he as much as declared war on the unions of this province.

It would seem that the best education is hands-on experience. Many of our members who were present for the presentations to the Justice Committee watched the Tory and Liberal MPP's treat

them and other organizations that were opposed to the legislation with such disdain that it was plain that there was no interest in listening to the merits of our case.

However, when the Chamber of Commerce turned up, their spokesperson spoke (without the required written brief) for over two hours about all the myths that are wrongfully attached to public sector workers.

The Tory and Liberal MPP's were attentive, responsive and down-right pleased to have the Chamber of Commerce waste their time talking about the positive "psychological" benefits and "attitudinal" effects that the

proposed legislation would have. Even though the spokesperson stated that there would be no substantive economic effects.

We must stress, of course, that it is only fair to allow the provincial government to share the blame with Ottawa. At both the federal and provincial levels, the Liberal-Conservative governments are killing the economy. But they are not killing it by spending too much on medical care, education, family services, highways, communications or child care. They are killing it by giving the hard-earned money of ordinary working people away in the form of gifts to business.

The Liberal and Conservative parties have plainly begun to fade, for even their slogans, not to mention their policies, have become nonsensical. When inflation-fighting means rising prices we are plainly involved in a new brand of "newspeak": when the burden of inflation is put upon ordinary workers rather than on the banks and businesses which caused it. We must clearly change our leaders.

We in OPSEU, believe it is time for change. We know that Bill 179 is an iniquitous and unacceptable law. It defeats civil rights. It defeats our economy. It defeats us all. We believe that, in solidarity, we can not only oppose them, but defeat them, if not today ... tomorrow.

Susie Vallance is Vice-President of Region 5 (Metropolitan Toronto) OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union).

Editorial

Affirmative action deserves your support

The 1982 Ontario Federation of Labour Convention will be debating future OFL policy. In past years, policy documents have looked at issues of concern to working women. The daycare resolution, followed by a campaign brought the issue to the public, and raised interest and concern throughout the union movement. This year, one of the documents to come to the floor will be on the important issue of affirmative action.

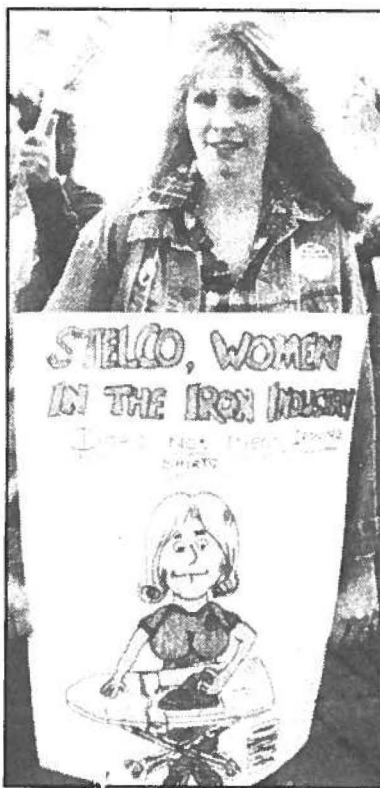
"Why Affirmative Action? and why this year?" some may ask. "Aren't we in the midst of an economic crisis? Shouldn't layoffs, concessions and unemployment be the highest priority of the OFL Convention?"

Over the past decade, women have become increasingly active in the union movement, and increasingly aware of the economic exploitation they suffer as a result of the low status of female jobs and women's work in the job hierarchy.

Women want to enter the labour market on an equal basis with men, and want their fair share of the economic pie. They want the barriers to equality overcome, through legislation and through collective bargaining strategies, to make gains which will improve the economic situation of women.

Today's economic crisis is hard on workers generally, but it hits women especially, because of their position in the workforce. Women are hardest hit by food, fuel and housing cost increases because they on average earn 58% of what men earn.

With unemployment at an all-time high, more women are out of work. The jobless rate for women in the 25-44 age range is almost twice as high as for men. Struggles fought, and gains made by



women moving into non-traditional work are being turned back as the recession deepens. As women are, by-and-large the "last hired"; they are also the "first laid off". Gains made in companies such as Stelco have been set back. Continuing layoffs in the aerospace industries make it hard to carry on the Ontario Federation of Labour Women's Committee campaign of "women into aerospace".

The response to hard economic times and high unemployment has always been to force women back into the homes. But women cannot afford to go back into the homes, and families cannot afford to have them there.

Women need jobs. But they do not want to be seen as competing for "male" jobs. To define the problem in this manner leads to division and hostility between men and women trade unionists.

Women want to take an active role alongside their brothers in the fight for job creation, so all can benefit.

Women need the opportunity for advancement, for training programs, for career development. Women need government commitment to affirmative action and to equal pay for work of equal value.

Women need support within their unions, so they can take an active role; a leadership role.

The affirmative action policy document is a timely one, for it sets out a campaign that the union movement can follow to change the law, and to look at collective bargaining strategies and internal union structures.

Homework a story of exploitation

By CATHI CARR

THE SEAM ALLOWANCE: Industrial Home Sewing in Canada. By Laura C. Johnson with Robt. E. Johnson. Women's Educational Press.

This highly informative book takes a penetrating look at the system of industrial homework in the garment industry, with its exploitative conditions, long hours and low wages.

The contemporary practice of homework in Canada is a story of exploitation. The details of the system are very similar to the era before trade unions won working people the rights to minimum wages, overtime pay and benefits.

The workers in today's home sweat shops are forced to accept fluctuations between 12-hour work days and slack times, with no work and no pay; piecework rates that are not disclosed until after the work has been done; basic rates of pay set far below those paid to workers inside the factories; and penalties for work considered by employers to be substandard.

Rates paid for women's dresses range from \$1. to a high of \$3. depending on the complexity of the style. For 1978-80, the average annual wage for a full time homeworker was \$4,136. Weekly, they averaged just under \$100.

The homework labour force, like much of the garment industry is composed mainly of immigrant women. These workers generally operate at a disadvantage in the labour market, taking the least desirable jobs — those that do not attract Canadian born workers.

In a 1974 manpower analysis of the British Columbia garment industry, B.C.'s minister of labor observed that "the very fact that the industry can not recruit personnel from the main stream of the labour force raises some questions regarding working conditions in the industry".

In some instances, the practice of homework involves other members of the family. It is not uncommon for young children to perform such routine jobs as turning belts, trimming seams and packing up bundles of completed articles.

Although child labour legislation has eliminated the full time employment of school aged children, homework often results in long hours of part time work for children.

Husbands frequently assume responsibility for pick-up and delivery of bundles of goods from the factories. These trips can be as far as 20 miles from home, with the worker's family picking up the expense.

The authors point to stress as a major problem faced by homeworkers. Severe stress often results from intense pressure to meet quotas and deadlines during the rush season. Another major source is the competing pressure of the two jobs of homemaker and homeworker. Homeworkers acknowledge that working at home means their work is never done.

In 1941 in the United States, homework was outlawed in women's apparel and other industries. It was stated at the time that low wages, long hours, child labour, unhealthy and unsanitary working conditions are part and parcel of the system and complete abolition alone can eliminate them.

Homework has never been outlawed in Canada. In 1980 with the election of Ronald Reagan has also come an attempt at deregulating the homework industry. Labour unions have argued that homework will never give workers a decent living. Legalizing homework, they insist, means legalizing one of the worst forms of exploitation.

This book argues that homework exists today for the same reasons that supported it 50 years ago. For workers — mostly women with young children — it is a way of combining household commitments with paid employment. For employers it is a way of reducing overhead and keeping costs down.

Governmental restrictions have never been effective in controlling or abolishing homework. The nature of the industry is such that, no matter what rules are introduced, someone is bound to find a way of evading them.

Homework can only be abolished by abolishing the needs that spawn it. Until all workers can achieve an acceptable standard of living without engaging in ill paid, unhealthy work, they will continue to be drawn into the homework trades.

Cathi Carr is the Health and Safety Representative, with the Ontario Nurses Association Staff Union.



— photo OPSEU

Mini-Skool strikers form human barricade around daycare entrance.

Battling Alabama for wages

On October 8, about 65 daycare workers went on strike at three Mini-Skools locations.

Mini-Skools is the Canadian Division of a huge U.S. corporation operating out of Alabama, called Kinder-Care. Kinder-Care runs a chain of more than 700 profit-making day care centers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The main issue in this strike is wages. Teachers in these centers are earning \$4.08 an hour and room supervisors (many of them graduates of a 2-year community college early childhood education program) get \$4.43. After one day of bargaining, the employer broke off negotiations and applied for conciliation. The parties met again for one day in conciliation and talks broke off. Following a last-ditch conciliation effort just a few days

before the legal strike date, the employer's final offer was \$4.69 for the teachers and \$5.10 for the room supervisors (end rates).

Although the issues sound familiar this is a strike with a difference! The union members have worked with the pa-

rents and have set up alternative day care for the children. Many of the children are being cared for in strikers' homes and an alternative groups center has been set up in a nearby community hall. It has been licenced by the province and is staffed by strikers.

To date, the strike has been an overwhelming success. Two of the centers are completely shut down and the third which had an enrollment of about 110 children prior to the strike now has a daily average of about 10.

Because they are dealing with a management, who are in truth the corporate hotshots in the Alabama headquarters and who reflect the anti-union methods and attitudes of the Deep South, this is likely to be a long and hard strike.

— Reprinted from OPSEU

**OWW joins the
Mini-Skool strikers
every Monday morning
from 7-8:30 a.m.
3153 Cawthra Rd.
Mississauga
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for transportation
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Clinics may ease pressure

By NORMA SCARBOROUGH

For more than eight years the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League has fought to have abortion removed from the Criminal Code. Through the years we have become increasingly aware that the federal government will accept no responsibility for ensuring that women across the country have access to safe, legal abortion.

In July 1982 a group of women active in the women's health movement, met in response to the worsening situation in Toronto. CARAL participated in that meeting.

As a result of the meeting the Committee for Establishment of Abortion Clinics was formed to study the possibility of establishing a free standing abortion clinic in Toronto.

The need for such a clinic is very real. In 1975 the Privy Council of the Government of Canada appointed a Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law, better known as The Badgley Report. One of the conclusions of this report was that 'the pro-

cedure in the Criminal Code for obtaining a therapeutic abortion is in practice illusory for many Canadian women.'

In 1977 in response to the Badgley Report, Marc Lalonde, then federal minister of Health and Welfare, recommended the establishing of women's health clinics to provide family planning, fertility screening and related health services including abortion.

No such clinics have ever been established except in Quebec.

The situation in Ontario for women seeking safe, legal abortion is worsening.

- In Ontario one third of the population lives in communities without eligible hospitals.

- Many hospitals have not established Therapeutic Abortion Committees.

- There is no consistency in the interpretation and application of the law.

- Almost 3,000 women who had abortions in Metro Toronto in 1981 were from other areas in Ontario where there was no access to the procedure.

- In August 1982, Dr. Morgentaler saw 24 women from Ontario.

- Toronto Western Hospital receives an average of 75 calls a day from women seeking abortions — they can book only six.

- Women's College Hospital has a clinic quota of three abortions per week. When requested to increase this number to six, the hospital refused.

- Most gynecologists are opted out of OHIP and charge \$300 for this procedure. OHIP reimburses only \$105.

- For women who are between 10 and 14 weeks gestation, the availability of OHIP covered procedures is diminishing drastically.

The situation in Toronto is fast becoming similar to the situation before the law was changed in 1969.

CARAL strongly supports free standing abortion clinics. In such clinics women will receive the support, care and understanding they have every right to expect.

Norma Scarborough is President of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League.



UNION WOMAN

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Union Woman is free to members of OWW and is available for distribution to union locals on request.

Letters to the editor, opinion pieces and news stories should be sent to:
Union Woman, 15 Gervais Dr., Suite 301, Don Mills, Ont. 447-7462.

Opposition rises against profit-making daycare

By SUE CRAIG

Hard times are making some daycare activists leery of antagonizing commercial daycare providers, so went the debate at the first conference of the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare.

But it also appeared that opposition to the principle of profit-making in daycare is now so strong as to put commercial operators on the defensive.

The most contentious issue in the concluding debate of the one-and-a-half day conference was the coalition's advocacy of a \$5 per day per space direct grant from the provincial government to all non-profit centres.

One-half the spaces in group daycare in Ontario are provided by commercial operators, the conference was told during the evening session, Friday, Oct. 29.

One of three Saturday workshops on the economics of daycare urged the coalition to reconsider the question of advocating that the proposed direct grant be only for non-profit centres.

"Now is not the time to lose the potential support of commercial operators in demanding more government funds for daycare," said one delegate.

The conference, which began on the evening of Oct. 29 and concluded the following day, was "an historic occasion," said Pat Schultz, of Action Daycare, one of three on the coalition's steering committee.

She and others had been working for years to assemble such a diverse group to work together for daycare, without success until now, she said.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare was formed in the spring of 1981, following the series of Sharing the Caring public forums held across the province by the Ontario Federation of Labour. It consists of provincially organized groups such as the OFL, the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union, the Ontario Welfare Council and others.

A number of municipally organized daycare coalitions have a



The coalition is calling for a \$5 per day per space direct grant for all non-profit daycare centres.

loose association with the provincial coalition, having endorsed the same objectives.

The long-term objective of the coalition is universally accessible, quality daycare (in a variety of forms) for the children of Ontario.

Short-term objectives include an immediate 10,000 new subsidized spaces in Ontario, a direct grant of \$5 per space per day to all non-profit centres and a provincial task force to study daycare needs and conduct pilot projects in filling them.

The \$5 direct grant is the most controversial plank in the coalition's program as it clearly calls for the encouragement of non-profit over commercial daycare.

Delegates from such centres as Hamilton and London feared it would be difficult to set up or maintain local coalitions to fight for daycare without the aid of commercial operators and that the coalition should therefore at least reconsider excluding commercial operators from the proposed direct grant.

However, the non-profit principle was hotly defended.

"I'm sick and tired of a world in which quality daycare isn't recognized as something my children are entitled to as a right," said Margaret Smith, of CUPE Local 1000.

The advocates of extending the proposed grant to for-profit

centres had suggested requiring the operators to show that the money had been used to improve the program or raise staff salaries. But, said one participant, "if they're willing to open their books to qualify for the direct grant, why aren't they willing to become non-profit centres (by re-incorporating)?" This delegate added that she believed the question of control of the daycare centre was an important element in the quality of care and that centres should at least be responsible to a community board of some kind. "Commercial operators will say, 'It's my business'," she said. "They want control."

The question of the coalition's proposal for a provincial task force on daycare, also came up with some delegates suggesting it might be better to propose a select committee of the Legislature.

Warm support was expressed for the OPSEU members on strike against Mini-Skools. There was also criticism of the provincial government's wage controls for public-service employees because daycare workers are among the low-paid, mostly female employees who will be hardest hit by them.

Sue Craig is a member of the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild and a member of the Steering committee of the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare.

Tories won't move on equal pay laws

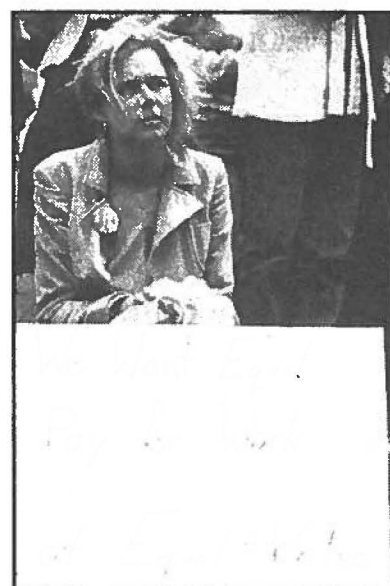
By BARBARA LIND

On August 27, members of the Equal Pay Coalition met with Ontario Labour Minister Russell Ramsay. The Equal Pay Coalition, active since 1976 in support of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, represents almost 900,000 men and women, in organizations ranging from the Ontario Federation of Labour, to the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario. Organized Working Women is also a member.

The Coalition informed Ramsay of its concern regarding the possible introduction of wage control legislation. Mary Cornish, spokesperson for the Coalition, indicated that worker's wages are not the cause of inflation, and that wage controls would particularly have a detrimental effect on women, by widening the already large gap in the wages paid to men and women. She indicated that the Equal Pay Coalition opposed the implementation of the Anti-Inflation Board in the mid-70's, and that the position of the Coalition has not changed.

Following the introduction of Bill 179, the Inflation Restraint Act on Sept. 21, the Coalition met with members of both the Liberal and New Democratic Party caucuses. In each of these meetings, as well as in the Coalition's presentation to the Justice Committee hearings on the legislation, heard on Oct. 28, members of the Coalition took strong positions against wage controls, and indicated the unfairness of the legislation on workers generally, and women workers specifically. In each of the presentations, withdrawal of the Bill was urged.

Another matter of concern to the Coalition was raised at the



in principle, he couldn't get the Cabinet to agree with any legislation. He said that "equal value" would cost too much; that it was an unfair hardship on business having a hard enough time already with the economic situation; that in some cases, the enforcement of such legislation could be the "straw that breaks the camel's back", causing a business to go under.

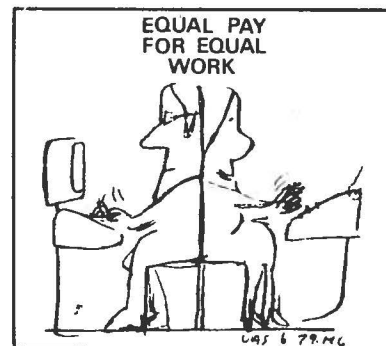
The government's position is clear. Where concern used to be about the difficulty of defining and implementing an equal value program, concern is now focussed on the cost to business of the equal value concept.

Sally Barnes, newly appointed head of the Ontario Status of Women Council, and former press secretary to Premier Davis, called the equal value concept "a bureaucratic nightmare".

The Coalition pointed out that the government can no longer use implementation questions as the reason why legislation is not forthcoming. Coalition members described the March 1982 Federal Human Rights Commission approval of a \$17 million settlement between the federal government and the Public Service Alliance of Canada. This "equal value" settlement compared the jobs of female food and laundry workers with male storemen, and upgraded the status of the female job, paying each of the women an average of \$5,000 to make up for past discrimination. The Coalition pointed out to the Minister that legislation also exists in the province of Quebec, once again proving that the concept is workable.

The meeting with the Minister ended with his agreement to pass the concerns of the Coalition to the rest of the Cabinet. The Coalition held a press conference after the meeting, where they vowed to carry on the struggle for equal value legislation and against wage controls.

Barbara Lind is OWW President.



meeting held with the Minister. In an interview given in July by Ramsay, he had indicated that the Government was again looking at a legislative amendment bringing in a composite index test as a means of comparison of jobs. The Coalition indicated, at the meeting, concern regarding the Minister's statement that he hesitated "to move forward with more legislation, when the economy was in such dire straits."

During the discussion, Ramsay indicated that, while he agreed with the concept of "equal value"

OWW Annual Conference

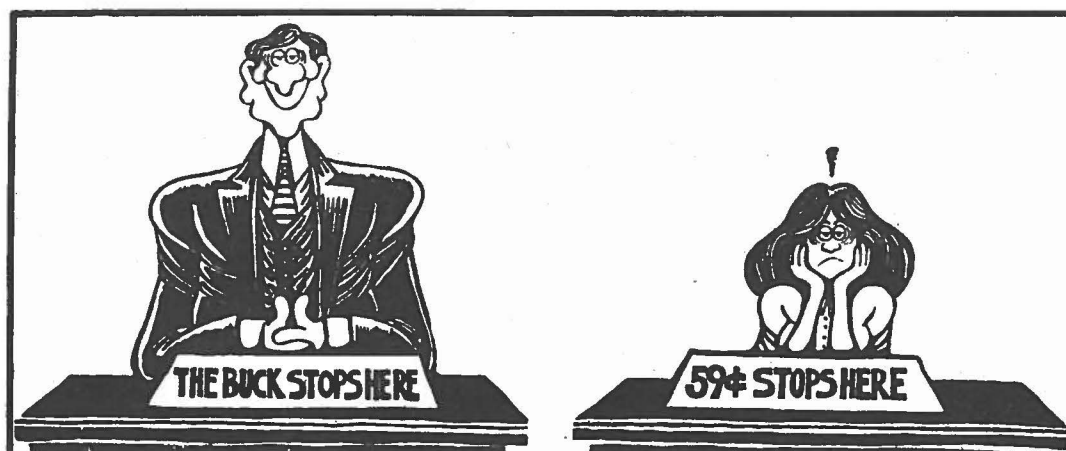
February 25-27

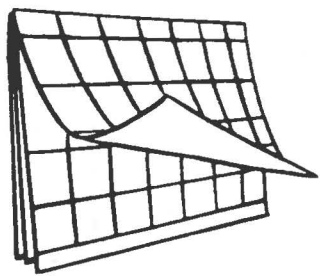
OISE,
252 Bloor West

OWW has submitted briefs to:

- the NDP Task Force on Occupational Health and Safety
- The Justice Committee of the Legislature on Bill 179.

Copies of these briefs are available on request at cost. Call 447-7462





CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR

- November 22-25** **Ontario Federation of Labour Annual Convention**
Sheraton Centre, Toronto
- December 7** **OWW Membership Meeting**
Potluck Supper/Film — Rosie the Riveter
1901 Yonge Street, 8th floor, 6:30 p.m.
- January 15** **OWW Collective Bargaining Workshop**
1901 Yonge Street, 8th floor.
9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- February 25-27** **OWW Annual Conference**
Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value
OISE, 252 Bloor Street West

Conference offers aid, maps strategy against harassment

By JILL JONES, ALEXIS GORDON, PAULINE DUFFET

The issue of sexual harassment was discussed exhaustively in a two-day conference organized by the Peterborough Committee on Sexual Harassment. The conference attracted 75 people including representatives from organized and unorganized labour, student organizations, women's groups and interested individuals came from as far as Montreal and Thunder Bay.

Organized Working Women co-sponsored the conference and sent executive board member Joyce Rosenthal to speak on the opening panel. Joyce suggested that "sexual harassment clauses can be negotiated into union contracts, unions can put out information about sexual harassment to inform employees, and confidential grievance procedures can be set up."

Topics for the workshops were union grievance procedures; sexual harassment and stress; support of sexually harassed women and confrontation; management procedures; sexual harassment in

the entertainment industry; sexual harassment and education; and women in non-traditional labour.

Points brought out at the conference included that between 80 and 90% of working women have at one time or another experienced sexual harassment, but where women used to keep these occurrences to themselves, more are now bringing the problem out in the open. However, victims are commonly accused of inviting harassment. Thus the victim is blamed, not the harasser.

Conference participants agreed that education is necessary to build public awareness. They also agreed that political pressure is needed to open further channels of help for victims. Other suggestions included grievance procedures for unions and educational institutions. The trade union movement needs to be mobilized to fight the problem of sexual coercion collectively.

Participants noted that management is legally responsible to ensure that sexual harassment does not occur.

Management needs to be educated on this point, so workers can have a workplace free of sexual coercion.

The Committee on Sexual Harassment will provide an ongoing service to educate people about the issue, provide information on procedures to be used and to provide personal support. The Committee office is at 262 Rubidge St., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 3P2.

Jill Jones is an Executive Council member of OWW. Sisters Jones, Gordon and Duffet were active in the planning of the Sexual Harassment conference.



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

Commentary

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.

Ontario tries out work-fare

The current state of our economy and society is oppressive to all workers, however, it is having a particularly harsh effect on women. Women are faced with a present and a future full of contradictions. If we try to compare and connect what is happening to us as women, workers and mothers we can piece together a clearer picture of the total situation and gain a better understanding — even if it is frighteningly depressing.

The provincial government is questioning the right of sole support mothers to receive income assistance while their children are at home. The province is moving toward a Nixonese policy of 'work-fare' where "eligibility for income assistance is tied to employability".

In real English this means that women will be forced to show that they are looking for work in order to get social assistance. "Welfare will not be accepted as a way of life" so says the minister of community and social services. Many indicators point toward a system where single mothers will be forced by welfare workers to take jobs outside of the home. Regardless of completely inadequate day care and low paying jobs.

As unemployment hits the highest level since 1936, where skilled workers are losing jobs fast and furiously, the province is now more than ever saying its role is to "assist people to be independent of social assistance". All fine and good, if we had the skills, the jobs and the opportunities to be able to be independent.

It all sounds suspiciously like the old 'pull yourself up by the bootstraps and make yourself rich and famous'. "There's nothing wrong with the system — with hard work you too can make it", they tell us to reinforce the feeling that our difficulties are our own fault.

Yes, its all in life skills — we are increasingly told. All we need to do is develop our personal style and things will get better. For example, Canada Employment and Immigration or Manpower offers a training program called Basic Job Readiness Training. The course is for people (many are single mothers) who want to upgrade their skills and get a better job to be independent of social assistance. The program originally consisted of academic upgrading as well as life skills. Approximately two years ago it was decreed that BJRT courses, offered all across Canada, drop the entire academic component. The message we are getting is obvious, if you didn't get your education when you had your chance in school — well it's too bad. And what about improving your situation by gaining real skills — well it's just not too possible.

How can life skills enable a typist to keep her job when it is being taken away by a word processor that does the work of 10 typists? How are life skills going to enable the 100 women who by hard work and perseverance managed to get jobs at Stelco only to be laid off in the past year, leaving only one woman still employed?

It seems that these are all part and parcel of a system that is increasingly foisting responsibility on the individual for 'her problems' and suggesting that there is no social cause or social responsibility. The situation with accessibility to freedom of choice and control over our own bodies is a further example of this.

It is becoming more and more difficult to find places where women can obtain abortions if needed. Toronto Western Hospital is one of the few hospitals in Toronto. The hospital receives 75 calls a day from women needing help yet can only handle six. In more and more hospitals the anti-choice lobby is making decisions to limit the ability of women to take control of their own bodies.

How are we to support our families when there are fewer and fewer jobs, where welfare and income support programs are being cut back, where training opportunities are being lost and where the social supports, such as daycare necessary for mothers to be able to work are seriously lacking.

Once again we can see clearly how women are used as a marginal labor force to be manipulated and used to bolster a faltering system. It is most certainly up to us to share our collective experiences and work together to challenge and change this grim reality. Newsletters such as this are critical tools that we can use to share our knowledge and strength together to make change.

— Vivien Green

Vivien Green has worked extensively with sole support mothers.