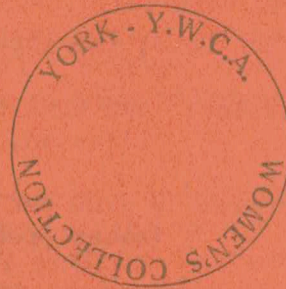


# PRIORITIES

Vol. 3, No. 9

September, 1975



"Brilliant, committed and tireless,  
Hilda Thomas personifies all the  
reasons why we joined the N.D.P  
in the first place"  
Hans Brown

A Publication of the  
N. D. P. Women's Committee

\* \* \*

# IN THIS ISSUE:



Priorities is published monthly by the Standing Committee on Women's Rights of the B.C. New Democratic Party. Its intent is to provide a means of communication and discussion for NDP women in order to further the interests of the women's movement and of democratic socialism.

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Priorities,  
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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Judy Paterson, Marilyn Webb, Marilyn Walmsley, Melodie Corrigan, Margaret Beardsley, Kate Dillon, Cynthia Flood, Astrid Davidson, Linda Storey, Robin Geary, Ruth Houle, Sue Riskie & Marianne Gilbert.

All unsigned articles are the collective responsibility of the Editorial Committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you are willing to work on Priorities please phone Judy at 261-8972 or Melodie at 733-5990.

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"The issues and demands raised by the Women's Liberation Movement are integral to the development of a democratic socialist society. The NDP actively encourages and provides support for women organizing around the demands of the women's liberation movement and commits an NDP government to creating the legislation necessary to realize these demands."

(From the B.C. NDP policy on Women's Rights)

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Priorities has been typed and laid out by volunteer labour and is printed in a Union shop.

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This issue was produced at the Vancouver Area Council office, 1111 Commercial Dr.



# for Hilda




Only rarely does Priorities devote an editorial to a single individual. Given our commitment to collective decision-making and action, we try to avoid the "star" system and to keep firmly in mind that whatever we achieve, we achieve together. However, this doesn't mean that we do not recognize--and value the contribution each sister makes; and we have chosen to use this editorial to express our recognition of the unique contribution of Hilda Thomas.

It would, of course, be possible to produce an entire editorial composed simply of a very long list of all the activities Hilda Thomas had undertaken--and carried through--in her years of membership in the New Democratic Party. Canvasser, convention delegate, executive member, campaign manager, candidate, envelope addresser, fund-raiser, sign maker, active member of innumerable committees there is no job of work in the NDP which she has not done and done well. However, important as all these activities are, they do not by themselves sum up what Hilda means to us.


Hilda has a very deep and rigorous commitment to politics--to the development of an analysis, as free as possible of personal considerations, of the nature of society; to the collective development of a body of policy designed to change society; and to the constant publicizing of and arguing for that policy as widely as possible. She does not go for the backroom deal, the little clique of decision makers, the coterie of "in" people. She has a commitment to the concept of a party, and to responsibility of leadership to membership. She has also in large measure the very important quality of tenacity. Her commitment to the struggle for socialism gives her the resilience necessary to bounce back after defeat to admit making mistakes, to greet new ideas with enthusiasm, and to carry on. She is not a part-time temporary socialist.

Some of us on Priorities got to know Hilda first in the early days of the anti-war-in-Vietnam movement, when that movement was exceedingly unpopular not only in general society but also in the NDP. Hilda was deeply involved in the anti-war movement from the beginning, and was instrumental in changing the NDP's position so that the party became a supporter of the struggle to end the war. But most of us met her in and through the development of the women's movement in the NDP, and it is in this arena that Hilda has meant most to us. Her toughness and her sensitivity, her recognition of the integral connection between the goals of feminism and socialism, and her deep concern for the development of a strong sisterhood have touched us both politically and personally. Working as feminists in the NDP is not easy, and Hilda herself could give eloquent testimony to the difficulties women experience in our Party; but she has always been determined that we should continue, and has insisted that we face and deal with the differences of views among ourselves as well as confronting the party as a whole on the issues of the women's movement. The growth and health and achievements of the women's movement in the NDP owe a great deal to Hilda Thomas, and we want to take this opportunity to say so, in print and in public.

As we go to press, we learn with regret that the nomination convention held on September 21 in Vancouver-South did not choose Hilda Thomas to represent the NDP in the next provincial election. In our view, no better candidate could have been found, none more firmly committed to the NDP. We congratulate her on the strong and principled campaign she ran, and hope that other opportunities will come her way--and in the meantime of course we look forward to continuing our work with her.



# LETTERS



Dear Sisters:

The Port Alberni Women's Centre would like to have two back copies of your magazine-- March and May 1974. These two have articles especially relevant to us and would be useful additions to our small but flourishing library.

Our centre opened full-time just this week (September 5th), and runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays in the local school board's resource centre. Mostly we provide information and the service of our library; hopefully we will be doing more speaking and human rights work as we become better-known in the community.

I myself really like your magazine--I think it is the best women's rights publication in this province. I wish more of the women's publications had your professionalism and broad scope.

In Sisterhood,  
Kathryn Hazel, Coordinator,  
Port Alberni Women's Centre.



Dear Priorities:

In Hilda Thomas' article on the federal convention, she wrote that it was ironic that "after preparing ourselves in conference and policy meetings all across the country, we got to Winnipeg to find that our most pressing concerns had already been labelled low priority."

(cont'd)

So well prepared, in fact, that neither the federal executive nor the resolutions committee received any input from WE (whoever they are), the Participation Of Women committee, or any other body of women respecting plans for the convention session on women.

In the absence of any recommendations from the POW committee, the executive made the decision to devote the half day session to resolutions pertaining to women with those resolutions being processed by the appropriate resolutions sub-committee. Following that decision, as co-chairperson of the resolutions committee, I received a telegram in Winnipeg, just prior to the opening of the convention, from the B.C. Women's Conference, demanding that a certain resolution receive low priority and that a committee, chosen by a women's caucus at the convention, be permitted to prioritize resolutions.

Federal Council voted unanimously to support my contention that we ought not to give particular weight to the demands of a small pressure group which had neglected to hold their conference sufficiently early to permit discussion of their proposals by the POW committee and other regional women's groups, and the democratic development of recommendations to federal council via the POW committee. The B.C. women's conference may speak for Winnipeg, it has no authority to speak for all NDP women across Canada.

The article takes issue with the fact that an anti-abortion caucus was active at the convention and elected NDP members criticized existing abortion policy. Is it seriously being suggested that only one point of view is to be permitted representation at conventions? Surely M.P.'s and M.I.A.'s elected as convention delegates,

are free to criticise any policy they wish during convention sessions. Party policy is not engraved on tablets of stone and the function of conventions is to debate and formulate new policies and change, reverse or update existing policy. If the '73 convention had upheld the "right to life" would that mean it could never there after be changed?

I agree with much of the criticism of the re-writing of resolutions by resolutions committees and have long held the view that committees in the past several conventions have exceeded their authority in this regard. I have asked that this matter be placed before federal council for discussion and any recommendations your readers may have should be forwarded to their appropriate federal council representative.

However, when Hilda states that the resolutions committee refused to respond to appeals from the floor, she is incorrect. In fact, the appeals were not upheld by convention delegates as a whole and, similarly, the appeal submitted by the appeals committee was not upheld by the resolutions committee as a whole--that's the way democracy works, like it or not.

Some thought needs to be given to the matter of who speaks for whom when generalized statements are made concerning what WE decided and demanded. How many women attended the women's caucus at the July convention and how many women were at the convention? My rough estimate is a ratio of 40/500 and I'm suprised by the automatic assumption that caucus meetings were representative of women delegates en bloc and that the caucus was qualified to speak on their behalf. Realistically speaking, the women's caucus was a non-elected, non-appointed body which officially spoke for approximately 8% of women delegates. When faced with demands and appeals from the so-called caucus, that is one factor I take into consideration.

With respect to the POW committee, what exactly did it achieve in the past two

years, apart from assisting in organizing the cross-country conference called for by the '73 convention? (The third federal NDP women's conference, by the way, not the first as frequently claimed. The others were each of five days' duration, attended by about 120 women from across Canada and held at the UAW Holiday Centre, Port Elgin) Our own very successful Atlantic workshop was organized in its entirety by local women and I note that Judy McManus' report of the B.C. conference makes no mention of the POW committee.

The success of our regional conference persuaded us that effective, on-going activities can be organized more easily at the local level. A federal committee to co-ordinate regional activity can be established by council when necessary--it does not need to be written into the constitution.

Finally, what stunned me more than anything in your convention issue, was the omission of any direct reference to the election of Joyce Nash as federal president and the absence of any congratulatory remarks on her achievement--the first woman federal president of the NDP. How small-minded and petty can you get?

Sincerely,

Peggy Prouse,

Editor's Note: Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Unfortunately Priorities' weekends are often very disorganized and it was due to this confusion rather than to anything else that we neglected to mention Joyce's election. We apologize for the oversight. Hopefully we will feature an interview with Joyce when she returns from her work in the Ontario election.

-----  
Priorities has need of a filing cabinet of any colour ( except, of course, purple) and any style ( preferably, of course, baroque) in which to store its many and valuable bits and pieces. If you have such a cabinet in need of a good home and available for next to nothing please contact Margaret Beardsley, 939-3124. We'll be most grateful.

# AID SEPARATE SCHOOLS!

Dear Priorities:

In reply to Kate Dillon's letter on aid to independent schools, I believe who controls the schools in the province is the paramount issue and that what is taught in them is secondary. There is a need to extend the secular democratic government's sphere of influence and to curb that of the church which, as Kate Dillon points out, has a free rein in the independent schools. By providing some kind of funding, public say can be obtained, where there is none now.

Aid to independent schools should be administered by the locally elected board of school trustees: the Minister has recently given them the power to authorize curriculum, and if Kate Dillon really wants to get a handle on what the independent schools teach then incorporating them into a school district would be an effective method. Getting the right trustees is critical: everywhere except in Vancouver there will be elections on November 15th. Deadline for nominations is October 27th: I hope that some Priorities readers will contact their local school board office and run for trustee. If you are on the local government voters list you are eligible to run: you do not have to own property in the district.

I was interested that Kate Dillon should quote from "The Sins of My Father" by Owen Dudley Edwards. She and he are, in my view, quite right that "the Irish educational system has done more to make a divided community in Northern Ireland" and that it has actively promoted sectarian bitterness. Surely that's a reason for curbing the influence of church in education rather than continuing to tolerate it. I would give aid to any independent school that wanted it provided it met the standards of the Public School Act and gave as a quid pro quo public input into its administration on the grounds that all persons should receive equal treatment before the law.

I empathise with Kate Dillon's taking exception to having her taxes used to support a school associated with a church which preaches contrary to her and my beliefs on abortion and birth control. Perhaps as a democrat having a decent respect for contrary opinions she would concede that eccentricity of religious belief in no way compromises the right of a person to an education.

P.S. About half of the vacancies for school trustee last year were filled by acclamation. We need more candidates!

Chris Eve,  
Vancouver.



Dear Priorities:

Please renew my subscription to Priorities. Priorities is a great magazine, the book reviews are terrific. Keep up the good work.

Marge Acheson,  
Vancouver.



Dear Priorities:

I have always known the strength of the women in the N.D.P. as well as in the early days of the C.C.F. It was the women who struggled to keep our local clubs intact.

Now, your "Priorities" are a credit to you! Would not miss one issue.

In Sisterhood,  
Kathleen Allan.

Dear Priorities:

Please put me on the mailing list for "Priorities". I've seen copies, liked it, and was recently jogged (again) by the Woman Today newsletter.

Thanks,  
Margaretha Hock,  
Counsellor,  
Fraser Valley College.

# YUKON

Dear Priorities:

We very much enjoyed reading the issues of "Priorities" which you sent us. We are short of cash (in fact are struggling to keep up our own newsletter due to lack of funds), so wondered if we could exchange newsletter, rather than pay a sub.

Sincerely,  
Pip Buchanan,  
(newsletter co-ordinator)  
Yukon Status of Women Council.

# VIETNAM

Karen Sanford, M.L.A.,  
Legislative Buildings,  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Karen,

It was disturbing to read Claire Culhane's letter in "Priorities" with regard to the remaining \$2,186,700 pledged by the B.C. Government as aid to Vietnam. She says:

"Nor should it pass unnoted that another member of this committee, Karen Sanford M.L.A. for Comox-Courtenay, a former executive member of Voice of Women, although asked to extend the courtesy of a welcome to the two Vietnamese women on the delegation, was amongst those conspicuous by their deliberate refusal to appear."

I understand that it is quite possible that you were unaware of Phan Thi An's visit, or busy, or some other reason. I would, however, like to make this a direct plea to you.

With your knowledge of the situation and the need in Indochina, and of the integrity and meticulous record keeping which has gone into the distribution of aid from such organizations as the Society

of Friends and Canadian Aid to Vietnam Civilians, may I ask you to do everything possible to secure the release of these funds to provide the desperately needed materials for the rehabilitation of Vietnam.

Kindest regards, and admiration for the work you are doing.

Kay Macpherson

\*\*\*\*\*

## FESTIVAL '76

Sisters -

We are women involved with the SFU-Burnaby Women's Centre and the Vancouver Women's Bookstore, and we are planning a women's festival in the early summer of 1976. Our idea is to draw west coast/lower mainland women together for three days of communication, learning, music, and fun, revolving around workshops, displays, and performing arts.

We have many months of work ahead of us, but our dream can be realized "with a little help from our friends". We need feedback from women's communities.

1.) Do west coast/lower mainland women feel this festival is a good idea? Would you support it a) by attendance, b) by representation of your group, c) by sponsoring workshops, d) by setting up the festival itself?

2.) Do you think the following subjects would be important enough to be considered as workshops: herstory, self-help, lesbianism, automechanics, carpentry, women in highschools, women & the law, self-defense, women & health, working-class women, native indian women, third world women, women in religion, sexuality. Can you think of any others to add?

3.) Where in the lower/mainland/west coast do you feel would be a good location for the festival? (e.g. Fraser valley, greater Vancouver, etc.)

4.) Do you think men should be admitted to the festival grounds during the three days? If so, do you think the last day

(Sunday) is enough?

Yours in the strength found in sisterhood,

Chris Morissette & Kim Albertson  
SFU-Burnaby Women's Centre 291-3670  
Home 526-3303

(could you please send us your answers to the above questions by September 30th? thankyou.)

## DEAD ?

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE B.C. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

Vancouver Status of Women is appalled at provincial inaction on women's rights legislation, programs and funding during International Women's Year.

Except for the Equal Status of Men and Women Amendment Act, which is essentially a housecleaning bill, the provincial government has not passed any significant women's rights legislation during IWY.

We understand the recommendations of the Berger Commission on Matrimonial Property are considered a "dead issue" by male politicians. Nevertheless, women all over B.C. are keenly interested in this matter. Indeed, many people are under the impression this legislation has already been passed.

New labour standards legislation has not been forthcoming as regards maternity protection. We are especially concerned about this because the rights of pregnant working women are in jeopardy as shown by the stewardesses controversy.

Although the Equal Employment Opportunities Program for the civil service was announced early this year, nothing has been done to set this up.

In addition, the provincial government has largely ignored the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on the status of Women which come under provincial

jurisdiction.

We are thankful for the offices of the Provincial Status of Women Coordinator and the Women's Economic Rights Branch. However, we are angry these offices have not been given the funding or staff necessary to carry out their mandates with effect.

On behalf of our 900 members in B.C., Vancouver Status of Women urges the B.C. Legislative assembly to set up the above mentioned programs and pass some significant women's rights legislation before the end of International Women's Year. We would appreciate your reply.

Nancy D. Conrod,  
President,  
Vancouver Status of Women.

The Vancouver Status of Women is calling upon all women's groups concerned with the status of women in B.C. to express this concern to their local M.I.A.

They would appreciate receiving a copy of your letter to provincial politicians, and are looking forward to hearing from your group soon.





# ORGANIZING A WOMAN'S COMMITTEE

September has always been the time of year when I start out fresh with new resolves, ambitions and ideas. I suppose these feelings originate from remembrances of shiny unused notebooks and new shoes for school years. Politically in September I find myself restless and ambitious to see things get done, to see new ideas develop and to get organized.

I'm writing this because I've told myself (not necessarily in this order) 1) now is the time to write for Priorities; 2) because over the summer I've heard over and over again that we must get ourselves organized or better organized; and 3) finally because I've met a few women from out of town who say "you're so lucky, there's so much action down in Vancouver" or "we don't have a women's group here because there's only two of us in a 50 mile radius who are feminists".

Accordingly, this article is about organizing ourselves;--for city women who are so organized that no one knows where anything or anyone is and for those out in the sticks who haven't got their stuff together yet.

First of all let me assure you that I know what I'm talking about. My organizing abilities began to develop while organizing high school variety shows and church pot-luck dinners. Subsequently, I went into work and political organizing. Most of what I'll tell you I'm dead sure about because I learned the hard way. I did everything wrong. For instance, my first pot-luck was a

failure because everybody brought tomato soup. My first canvass organizing drive was a failure because I forgot to get membership cards. The second was worse because I told people to meet at my place but not why--they all thought it was a party. No one would go out and sign up members.

I've made a list of things I feel are important. They may seem elementary; however, I have seen too many good groups flounder because they didn't do these things. Then too, I told you--I learned the hard way.

## PLAN FOR LONG TERM RESULTS



Whatever you organize, don't expect results overnight. If you call twenty to a meeting and only 4 turn out, it's not a failure. This plight of all plights could go on for a year. Therefore, don't give up for at least a year. Perferably give it two years. If you are meeting but nothing is being accomplished, stop. Have a special meeting and reassess your goals--those ideas that brought you together in the first place. There are reasons why those meetings are not going well and you should try to assess the

the problem early and apply preventive measures.

### Why people don't go to meetings

1. no time
2. wrong time
3. no babysitter
4. not interesting
5. nothing to contribute
6. nothing to learn
7. too much work
8. too expensive
9. too above me
10. too below me
11. nobody needs me
12. I don't fit in

You've got to accommodate the majority. You can't give up and say it's a failure knowing it will take months to get this thing going.

## TWO WILL FORM A COMMITTEE



If there's two of you, you can form a committee. You start with tentative goals but you meet regularly. You're lucky--it's easy to get things done with less people. Very soon people get to know that you and Jane are out, not available, every Tuesday.

People become interested and curious and word gets around.

Meanwhile, you're busy gently trying to get people interested. It will take a long time and a lot of reassessing and accommodating but it'll happen. A committee of two is better than none. Starting off small, your core will be stronger and more enduring. Once you're a committee somehow you'll get on every mailing list that's going. As a result you will keep informed as to women's issues throughout the province.

## A GIRDLE

Girdles are meant for Women's Committees--not for our bodies. Whether there are two of you or twenty, someone must pull it together. That person (whether it's the chairperson or the organizer) should have that position for at least three months, preferably six months. That person will be the contact, the one who calls meetings and phones people. Two women can do it but do it together. Don't rotate. It's confusing. You might like the idea of a rotating chairperson or whatever and it's a good idea. However, the one who actually pulls things together, the girdle, must be stable for the period mentioned. Once you are off the ground then go ahead and divvy up the jobs or rotate the girdle, but at the beginning --no way.

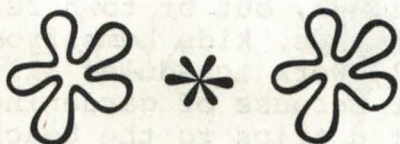
## TYPE OF COMMITTEE

So now there are two of you and one of you has taken on the job of pulling things together (you are already counting the days

until you can resign from this horrid position--chin up!) Now you decide what type of committee you are. There are a number of directions in which you can go-- such as consciousness raising, rap session, political action, political discussion, or revolutionary conspiracy. One successful political women's group was run on a business meeting--first hour, presentation--half hour, discussion--half hour format. Another worked out well by having business one meeting and a presentation and discussion at the next meeting. Some meetings work out well with all business with an hour at the end to socialize.

Whatever you and your group decide, be prepared that as your group grows and learns, it'll want to change its direction. Learn to see those signs (like suddenly no one comes to the meetings) and call a meeting to reassess the situation. Be flexible to a point or the group will go to weed.

## DATE AND TIMES



You've organized your first meeting and at that meeting your first priorities should deal with where when and how often you meet. Initially, a good idea is to meet twice a month. Once a week becomes a drag, especially if you have reports or presentations to prepare for the next meeting. Once a month is not enough because then people feel they have all month to do

something and you know what happens then. Also, the slightly interested member will forget you exist. What happens if one of you misses one meeting? Then it's two months gone by and you probably don't exist anymore.

After your group meets awhile and is well established then change the meetings to once a month, but not at the beginning if possible. If your group has travelling problems then of course its a different matter since once a month will be a major trip and no one will forget that.

It's a good idea if you pick a standing date. For instance, the first and third Tuesday of every month; then people stick it in their minds more permanently. However, as your group enlarges it may come to note that Tuesday is a bad night.

The starting time of your meetings is very important and again must reflect the majority of your members. If you all have children then you might want to start after those children are in bed. If you don't have children, be considerate of those that do and accommodate those persons. Take into consideration working people --how many are in shift work, when do they get off work, etc. Whatever you do, start your meetings sharp at such and such a time. Nothing will drive people away faster than meetings that never get started and if you're like me you'll find yourself saying, "well, I can leave late 'cause they never start on time".



Meetings should never last past 10:00 p.m. There are those who say the revolution will never happen if we worry about getting tired and I say it won't happen if meetings go on all night. Find out the tolerance level of your group. Decide on an adjournment hour and stick to it no matter what.

Just a hint here, if your group decides to handle business (you're not just a rap session) then hold it around the table. You'll notice things get done much faster this way.

The ideal place to hold your meetings is in the same spot each time; however, when you're just beginning, rotating homes are usually the norm. Try hard to meet where you are private. One group I was in once met at a woman's home where the husband joined in and eventually did most of the talking.

I feel strongly that a women's group exclude men. Too many times I have seen men unintentionally take over meetings when they were only supposed to be listening. There are those women who have been raised to believe that a man's word is it. For those women learning to do their own thinking, learning that they have opinions etc., is a long trying experience. It's faster and easier if other women can draw out that real person.

You can always hold special meetings to include men and that in fact is a better idea. Test yourselves, see how you have developed.

At one time I would never open my mouth if men were present. Even after I got over that affliction, I would run and check with my man to see if I was thinking right. Now people wish I would shut up. As for my husband, well, I wish he'd get his head on straight and think like me.

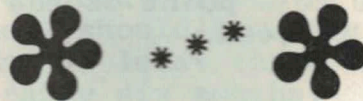
If you think like me state this opinion at the beginning. You might find that everyone disagrees with you and your group decides to have men attend after all. Let it happen. After three or four meetings the others in your group will realize that you were right. That always happens.

DON'T START

BETWEEN

JUNE 1 AND

SEPT. 1



Whether or not you are willing to meet all summer, I'm most adamant that groups do not start during this period. Think of it --holidays, out of town relatives and friends, kids home from school, work schedules all out of kilter because of gardening, unexpected trips to the beach, etc., etc. I've seen more people become discouraged and frustrated because they tried to get something going during this period. I feel it's an absolute waste of good potential, energy and time.

To keep contacts and ties established, meet, but make it strictly informal, a time to talk about goals or plans but never never a formal meeting. After you are established for say, a year, I am still adamant when I say don't hold those

regular meetings. Instead, get together socially with your families. Get to know one another. Build a doghouse or make jam together. You know as well as I do that the revolution won't stop because it's summer. Everytime you meet you'll be talking politics etc. But, you'll be doing it in a different setting and you'll get closer to those you're dealing with. For instance, I recently visited a woman in the interior who was once politically active in Vancouver. I mentioned to her that although I'd known her for years, I never really knew her and here I'd discovered a real kindred spirit. My friend told me that even though she was active in a lot of things in Vancouver, she had been terribly lonely and had had no real friends. Don't let this happen to anyone in your group. Socialize with each other. The summer is a perfect time for this type of interaction. Your group core will be stronger when you understand one another more thoroughly and when the ties that keep you together are more personal.

## A PLAN OR AN AGENDA



Once you've decided on when and where and what time etc., now plan out your next meeting. Even if your group just meets to rap, the main topic should be established for your next meeting. If someone is giving a presentation, then everyone should know who and what. Most important, the girdle of the group needs to have this information, and should check with the people to see that these pre-

sentations are in fact being prepared. If you have business to be discussed then write out an agenda. When you begin making decisions and resolutions, it'll save a lot of time if each person has her ideas down on paper beforehand. Then at least you've got something to discuss. Have you ever tried to write a motion in a meeting? You can't think, find the right word and no one can read your writing. Incidentally, if you can find someone who has access to a photo copy machine to make copies for everyone, you are well on your way.

## ALL DECISIONS ON PAPER

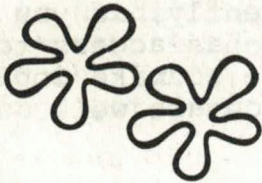


There should be a secretary. Most groups rotate this function. All decisions, especially major decisions, should be down on paper. Ideally, people should get these minutes or whatever before the next meeting but if you don't have access to a photo machine then make sure one copy of all minutes attends all meetings. One copy or the copy should be kept in a binder. When your group decides to reassess itself (this should be a regular occurrence, the first year) these records will prove invaluable.





# PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE



Parliamentary Procedure scares some people half to death. That is all the more reason why you should learn rules of order. I don't mean that all your little committee meetings should be run like parliament but there should be a chairperson (yes, even at a rap session) and any decisions should be made and amended in the proper way. If that's as far as you are willing to go in your Committee, then on the side, a special course should be given or taken on rules of order. If one of you can't give it then get your local night school, or community centre to do it. If that doesn't work ask a trade union official if he or she can do it or ask if one of you can attend their next course on parliamentary procedure. Buy a book and read about it. The basics are all you need.

A real danger with any group is that often whether or not you want a rap session that is what you'll end up with. Unless that is the particular direction you've taken, then I advise you to use some form of parliamentary procedure.

I'm dedicating this next session to almost every group I've ever been in in Vancouver. "Priorities" went through this particular ritual. Once the Committee is on it's way there is a tendency of the core to become so cohesive that it stops its growth and without meaning to, excludes all others. I've mentioned earlier that a group needs a good stable enduring core. Like a tree it must nurture itself and grow. There's such a danger in the core group becoming good friends and being able to work well only with one another. It could spell the end of your group.

BEING

COMMITTED

IS BEING

INVOLVED

There are three basic ways to overcome this flaw of all committees. 1) One is to make sure that every member has a job to do. 2) Secondly, care should be taken that one person or a few does not end up always doing the dirty work. Sometimes that person might need special coaxing and, well, coddling. For instance, when I first became an NDP'er I ended up addressing envelopes. I was comfortable but after awhile it became a drag. Even so, I never offered to do anything else since I was terribly afraid. People would offer me great jobs and I would turn them down out of fear. It took a special person in my life to encourage and cajole me into trying

these new ventures. That is what this women's movement is all about and so often we feminists forget.

You'll find as your group develops, people will fall into their natural categories--the policy person, the writer, the typist, the PR person, etc. This only serves to scare new people away when they find everyone has a place but them. The writer, for example, will be of much better use to a women's committee if she can encourage and work with another woman to try out this talent.

Moreover, one should always remember that new members are always the most enthusiastic and best workers. Never turn down someone for a job in your group because they have no experience.

Keep your eyes open for the little mouse who is all ready to eat up the whole grainery.



3) Thirdly, one of your members should be appointed or elected as the welcome mat. Appropriately, this person might be your girdle. The welcome mat should make a special effort to greet new women and make them feel welcome be it a social, worknight, or a business meeting (and no matter how sophisticated you think your group is). I know this sounds elementary. However, I've heard many a woman say to me "I went to that women's meeting you told me about and I just felt horrible. No one said a word to me". The excuse was that it was a business meeting. Regardless, someone in that group should have stepped aside, taken that woman to another room and briefly filled her in on the proceedings. It would have taken only a few minutes. The point I want to make is that sometimes we get so involved we forget

that others exist and for that reason either we must individually smarten up or have a welcome mat.

## HOW TO GROW



There are a number of ways to grow. In any organization it helps if you have something to hand out, particularly a newsletter. "Priorities" I expect, does a lot of good and it should be used more in this way. But suppose you find it doesn't quite meet your needs. Then use other women's groups' newspapers to announce your activities. Also see what other community newspapers are available for your use. Put notices in libraries, laundramats, bookstores, community information places, community halls, union newspapers, union halls. Whenever you hear of a convention, conference or some such event find out if you can set up a booth or hand out information or just be there with your little sign to answer questions. As you grow, develop speakers and ask to speak at functions. These are all ways to get known and thus obtain more members. Keep your eyes and ears open so that you are there ready to publicly lend support to a woman or women who may need such support. (hopefully, you're not doing this just for new members) Write letters to everyone--newspapers, organizations, corporations telling them they are coming along or are full of chauvinism. You don't have to be big to make a noise. After a year or so, depending on your size, put on a seminar or a conference but be sure to tailor it to the people you expect at the conference. From there you are bound to get umpteen contacts. Go to conferences yourself. Hang out or better still be involved where other

women are.

There is one source of contacts we in the women's movement almost entirely overlook. It happens again and again. Usually at the beginning of a women's committee meeting a sheet is circulated to collect names, telephone numbers and addresses. Then it is carefully taken home and put away never to see the light of day again. At the very most, this sheet is taken out in an emergency when we want people to work or when we need people. That is not good enough.

## USE THAT PHONE



New women on those lists should be phoned immediately after their first meeting (use the girdle). Tell them you're glad they turned out, ask what they thought of the meeting. Their ideas and opinions are important. If you don't see particular people for a couple of meetings phone them. Do this on a regular basis about once a month. Most of the time a telephone contact is all that's needed to bring that person back.

If the telephone does not fit your requirements (like you're in that 50 mile radius thing) then write a friendly hand-written, one page note. So strongly do I feel about using the telephone or writing notes that if I could have figured out how, I would have put it number one on the list.

Last July for a lot of reasons I decided to drop temporarily out of all political activities. By January I had done my thinking

and recharging and was anxious and ready to get going again. I made it known I wanted to work. Finally, in May, someone from "Priorities" phoned me and said, "mark this day on your calendar".

If one is active and involved one tends to carry a calendar. Even if you don't, a calendar in one's brain seems to at least register a coming meeting or event. A notice usually does the trick in reminding an active member. But NOT IF YOU ARE INACTIVE. During my short political retirement I read "Priorities" and heard of meetings I wanted to go to. Unfortunately, my brain did not register these meetings and I never could get myself in the habit of having a calendar with me, so I always forgot. So, PLEASE, use that phone.

The real danger to a women's group is that people get burnt out disease. If you have followed the advice given beforehand it won't matter to the group's growth too much but it will matter to you. Symptoms of burning out are, "I'm doing everything, nobody agrees with me, nothing is happening, things are getting worse". The

## BURNT OUT



disease gets its hold, you find that you become angry and frustrated more easily, you begin to think you're wasting your time, your family begins to hate you. The worst aspect of this disease, if you let it get out of hand, is that around you floats an aura of negativism. This can be fatal to your group because burning out can spread very rapidly.

If you let yourself get run down and burnt out then get out immediately. I mean get out completely. It'll take you three months



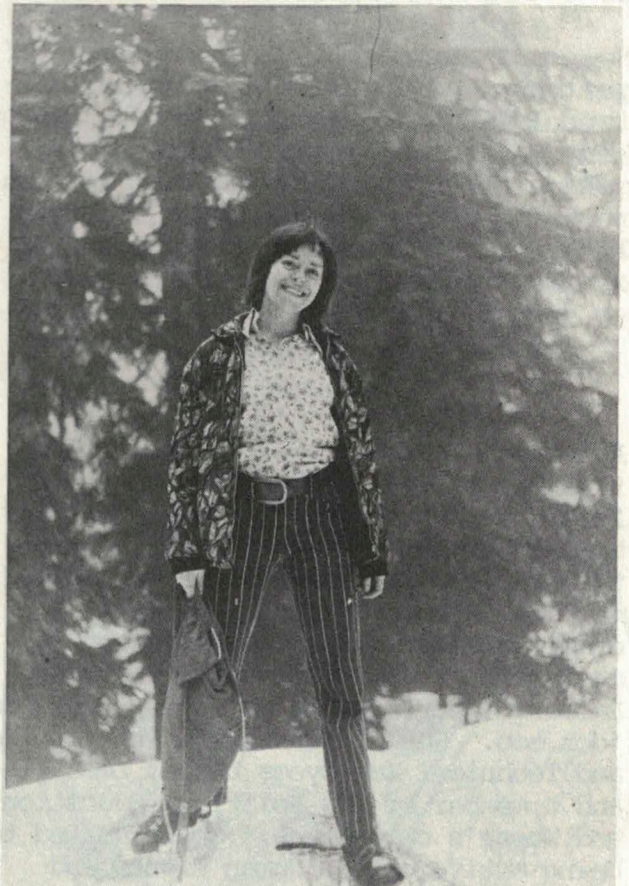
to a year to get better, depending on how many symptoms you obtained and how many you spread.

Of course you shouldn't let yourself get burnt out so here are some tips to prevent this affliction.

- 1) Your home life is important whether you function as a traditional nuclear unit, a communal group, or if there's just you and your dog. Decide before you get into politics etc. how much time you can afford away from home on a weekly basis.
- 2) Realize your own tolerance level. We're all in awe of women who seem to stay up all night, go to 16 meetings a week, have a spotless house and a happy family. You think you should be able to do the same. However, not everyone can do this. Some of us need more sleep and more quiet time. Some of us don't have the tools at our disposal to carry out a great deal such as money, a housekeeper, a helpful husband, good health, no children, etc., etc.
- 3) Reassess that tolerance level. At the beginning you'll be boiling over with enthusiasm and vigor. If you follow my advice you might decide that one night a week and one week-end a month can be devoted to the women's movement. Six months from now that might not be the case.
- 4) Set aside time to do special things with your family and with yourself.
- 5) See your friends and socialize with them, even with your non-political friends. This could be done in the period mentioned beforehand (June 1-Sept. 1) It's important that we maintain at least some of our previous relationships even if it is just to keep our perspective. It is so easy to get involved in politics, the women's movement, etc., spend all of our time with those

people with whom we are comfortable. However, I guarantee that if you go in this direction you'll quickly become unrealistic in your goals, and you will lose all communication talents with those women outside the movement.

- 6) Make sure you have other interests besides the political meeting. I took my political retirement when I realized to my dismay that all I could talk about were motions, reports and meetings. Unless you develop other interests you can't realize how far the political thing goes. For instance, on a hiking trip I came back concerned about our wildlife, forests, etc. Politics reached my every sense. Moreover, by mixing only with the committed you are in fact holding back the whole movement towards change.



# FINALLY AND GOOD LUCK

When I first became an organizer for the NDP I went to other organizers for their advice. Some of their ideas worked out for me, some didn't. One of the first things I was to learn was that organizing squeezed into time that also included a full-time job, night school and being active in other community projects is a whole different kettle of fish as compared to being an organizer on a full-time basis. It can be done. We can't leave everything up to the organizers which are hired by our Party. Organizing must be done all the time.

No doubt you will develop ways of getting people politically organized that work much better. Don't keep those to yourself. All the policy and ideas in the world won't matter much if we can't keep the lines of communication open and alive, if we don't pass on what we learn to others.

Astrid Davidson  
Vancouver South

Astrid has been active in the NDP for five years and has worked in many different capacities for the party. She's been an organizer and membership secretary in Vancouver Burrard, a founding member of the Priorities editorial committee and is currently research assistant at the B.C. Federation of Labour. Astrid works at a few other odd jobs too. She's a Trustee of the Office and Technical Employees Union, Local 15 and a member of its Political Education and Women's committees. She admitted to being active on the Human Rights and Union Label committees of the B.C. Federation, and then I got tired!

# CENTRAL INTERIOR WOMAN'S ORGANIZER NEEDED

The organizer will be expected to work the equivalent of ten working days per month for \$358.

#### Tasks will include:

- \* meeting NDP women
- \* helping set up regional steering committees
- \* teaching Robert's Rules of Order
- \* providing information on the Party
- \* discussing NDP policy

#### Apply:

Candace Hanson,  
Chairwoman NDP Women's Committee  
910 McClure Street  
Victoria, B.C.  
Or Phone Collect: 384-2294

or to: (with copy to Candace)

Provincial Secretary  
NDP Provincial Office  
64- 8th Street  
New Westminster.

The Organizer will be hired by NDP Women's Committee, in consultation with the Provincial Secretary.

# SEXISM LIVES!

**SILLY SWAMI:** His Divine Grace A. C. Bkaktivedanta Swami Prabhapada, 77-yr-old founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, said in Chicago in August, "Women are meant to assist man and that is all. Women," he explained, "are not equal in intelligence to man. Man's brain weighs 64 ounces. Women's weighs 36 ounces. It is just a fact." Darwin, move over.

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**DRUG DANGER:** The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has warned that women who take birth control pills run a higher risk of heart attack and that the danger is greater to women over 40. The U.S. FDA, however, did not announce a major crash program of research on safe and reliable birth control for both women and men, which could help us to avoid having to choose between the risk of pregnancy and the risk of heart failure.

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**NEW INSIGHTS:** One of the Robson Valley bachelors recently publicized in the media as being in search of wives had these cogent remarks to make about women: "Our biggest problem is finding women who can stand a degree of isolation. Sometimes they tend to get cabin fever...We realize we could go to Vancouver and find wives without too much trouble. But we all have commitments to our jobs and our farms...Good looks don't matter. When you get to be 28, they all start looking the same."

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOW NOT TO OUTLAW SEX DISCRIMINATION:** British feminists are pointing out a number of Problems with the new bill now en route through Parliament. E.G.: Women will be allowed in coalmines only for short periods, and only into dis-used mines...there will be no women lighthouse keepers, no women working on North Sea oil rigs, no women gunners in the army and no woman attendants in men's lavatories. Whereas a British man can get state payments to keep him-

self and his children going even if his wife is working, a woman in a similar situation will have to show that there is no man keeping her & the children before she can receive money. The bill excludes sport, the armed services and religious bodies. However...exciting news...men will now be able to become midwives.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ADVERTISING MOGUL LETS US KNOW:** To answer feminist criticisms of the advertising industry for its sexist depiction of women, Terry O'Malley of Vickers & Benson said, "About 90 percent of the people who look at ads simply don't care. All they care about is themselves."

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**TEED OFF:** Watch for developments in the ferocious struggle between the Human Rights Commission and the Golf Club. You may wonder why the hell a member of a golf club can't tee off whenever that member likes? Simple. While all members are equal, some are more equal than others & thus get access to the courses at preferred times. Women, surprise, are defined as less equal.



# DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL BUREAUCRATS

My daughter and I need passports for a trip to East Asia we are going to take soon, so a short time ago I acquired passport application forms from the Canadian Consulate-General in Boston. I should have done so much earlier but, well, what with one thing and another, I didn't. Consequently, I was in a great rush to fill in the forms, get the necessary photographs taken, find a suitable guarantor to guarantee us, and prepare the other documentation. When I sat down to fill out the application forms I couldn't believe my eyes: in International Women's Year yet, Canadian passport application procedures still require married women to provide information regarding their husband's place and date of birth, etc. There is no corresponding section for married men to fill out.

I wrote pertinent comments all over this part of the application form (and sent a short letter to the Minister of External Affairs, a copy of which is enclosed), but alas I did fill in the insulting section. If I had started on the application procedure earlier and thus had had time to wait and see what would have happened, I would have left this section blank. Probably nothing would have happened. (After all, nothing happened when our family refused to co-operate completely with a federal census which demanded to know which member of our family-of-equal-members was the household head, even though at the time the census-taker assured us we would be prosecuted. "Ottawa will take care of you...of all of you," she said menacingly.)

The pleasant, intelligent and

efficient consular officer who checked over our forms (time was so short I took them down in person rather than mailing them in) nodded knowingly when she came to the comments I had written in the "for married women only" section. "Some very nice men," she told me, "cross out 'married women' and write in 'married men' and fill out this section as if it were meant for them too." Unfortunately, she added, there are not too many who do so. I remarked that I found this section in particularly bad taste during the year our government in apparently spending a small fortune on dim-witted ads to tell the country that this is International Women's Year. "Yes, we still have a long long way to go," she said, and then pointed out to me that this type of anti-married women irritation was minor compared to the real citizenship discrimination against women that is the law of our land.

Pointing to my four-year-old daughter, who was listening to us with great interest, the officer informed me that if my child had been born abroad--as well she might have been since work took me here to Cambridge, Mass., just before she was born--she would not be able to claim Canadian citizen-

Buy a  
SUBSCRIPTION  
for a friend!

ship. Why? Because her father is not a Canadian; only her mother is. Children of Canadian fathers and foreign mothers born abroad are automatically Canadian citizens. Children born abroad of Canadian mothers and foreign fathers are not. I, a person whose work takes her out of the country fairly often, did not even know this! If this is not the grossest kind of discrimination against married women and their children I do not know what it is. Patriotic Canadian women be warned! If you think you might give birth to a child while abroad, stay single! At least as a single mother you can claim sole responsibility and hence citizenship for your child.

Paddy Tsurumi  
Victoria

We reprint below the letter Paddy sent to ye Cdn govt regarding this matter:

1 May 1975

Mr. Allan MacEachern  
Minister for External Affairs  
The Government of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. MacEachern:

A year's leave of absence from the University of Victoria in Victoria, B.C., my home, has temporarily brought me to the United States. Consequently, when I applied for a passport recently I did so through the Canadian Consulate-General in Boston.

When I did so I was shocked to discover that Canadian passport application procedure still insults all married Canadian women.

Why do our passport application forms still require married women to fill out a section dealing with the birth and place of birth of their spouses? Needless to say, married men are not required to fill out a corresponding section. Why on earth do you want this information? Why is it demanded only of married women?

Is, then, the federal government's

support of International Women's Year just a bad joke?

Yours sincerely,

E. P. Tsurumi  
Asst. Prof. U/Victoria  
Research Fellow, Harvard

ED NOTE: We have not been informed that Mr. MacEachern ever replied to this letter. If and when he does we shall be pleased to publish his response.

## MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

How to write about women in a Correctional (sic) Institute for a special issue dealing with International Women's Year 1975? Get some stories, drawings, poems from the women themselves. Good idea, if one were dealing with a normal situation in a sane society.

However, this could not be just another assignment to gather material for International women's Year, flying the banner, "Equality, Development, Peace," which happens to be its official slogan (not the well-publicized Why Not malapropism). This had to be an exercise in deep-rooted frustration and anger at a crisis in our society which is getting worse instead of better.

While most people have come to accept prisons as a commonplace, permanent feature of our civilization, to be more accurate these institutions would have to be described as an aspect of our "culture's neglected human sewer, clogged and unworkable with human waste."

Material obtained from the Statistics

division of the Ministry of the Solicitor-General (September 1974) confirms that "since January 1970-December 1973 period, the number of inmates on register at the Prison for Women has increased 179%--from 57 in January 1970 to 159 in December 1973."

"An increase of 179%" is not just another statistic. A concrete institution in which women are incarcerated is not just another building. What we are considering here are women who are part of a population which "stays in jail for lack of bail money, and are therefore more often convicted, and when convicted, go to prison more often, and get longer prison sentences than those who do make bail--women, who are part of a population in which the first offender is jailed pending trial because they are too poor to post bail, and are therefore three times as likely to be convicted--and if convicted are twice as likely to go to prison as a defendant who is not behind bars when their case comes up."

How do we relate this picture to "Equality, Development, Peace"? For relate it we must if we are to face up to the fact that, "jails are the last resort when socialization doesn't work and a place where people are put away whose behaviour is anti-social, or who may call the values of the system into question."

With these concepts in mind, at the founding session in 1974 of the B. C. Federation of Women, a committee was set up with the objective of working for the rights of women in prison. Here, we felt, would be a channel through which to operate, for those of us who have committed ourselves to social change at home while participating in campaigns to free political prisoners in other lands. Here we could transfer some of our collective energy and experience into a very specific area.

How to begin? Obviously, collect facts--location, size and details about existing prisons. Who were the women--age, race, religion, marital status, ethnic origin. Reports and studies

were readily available from the Federal and Provincial offices of the Solicitor-General.

But these reports failed to explain that there is a "double standard of justice--one for the slum landlord and one for the woman deprived of her most basic human needs--one for the business man who legally plunders the wealth of underdeveloped nations and one for the woman who steals because she must feed her family--one for the politician who legitimately orders the bombing of thousands and one for the woman who in desperation rebels against society in an act of frustration."

Without pursuing the unequal divisions of our society, or developing a study of Canada's class structure, who can argue that "the woman who 'goes crazy' and is committed to a mental institution is not the one who can afford private psychiatric help?"

Questions must be asked--relentless, pitiless, endless questions. These are not statistics we are talking about, but women who are being assaulted and robbed of their humanity while weak-kneed legislators propose "week-type passes for inmates...who should then report back to the institutions for the weekend."

Who is the criminal? Do we have the right to pass judgment, we, who are generally unwilling to look at the ugly reality of our prisons, carrying what has been likened to "a tiny ice cube into a furnace" with our do-good programs.

"Do you feel that prisons are necessary?" the question was asked of Marlene Faith, a student involved in the life of women in prison. "No," she replied, "which is a simple answer to a very complex question. Most of those who go to prison are victims of an unequal legal system. Most of the people behind bars have committed crimes without victims, so, in the final analysis, prisons serve no good function at all."

While ordinary people become involved  
(continued)

in simple person-to-person commitments and do try to help in many ways, they must understand that the solution lies elsewhere. The deep rot must be exposed of a society which cheers on "clean-cut, educated, middle-class, mostly white pilots to attack other people far away," in the name of so-called wars for freedom and democracy, at the same time that it "stuffs into prisons others who are mostly non-white, uneducated and from city slums," in the name of maintaining law and order at home.

When will these men and women in our jails be freed, not only from their inhuman conditions but from the inhuman circumstances which condemn them to no other hope? Only when "the compassion of their fellow citizens is joined to the power of social movements to demand their freedom, as one of the great changes to make this a decent society."

This began as an article on rights of women in prison and the experience of one person's efforts to help. This ends in a plea--no!--a demand, that we all stop and probe the reason for the existence of penal institutions in -Canada in this International Women's Year 1975.

EQUALITY, FREEDOM, PEACE. Yes--but for whom?

Claire Culhane  
Burnaby

(The author wishes to give full credit to the following publications from which the major portion of this article was prepared:

Women: A Journal of Liberation, Vol III, No. 3, 3028 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore.

"The Human Sewer," a review by Garry Willis of Tom Wicker's A Time To Die, in the New York Review of Books, Vol. XXII, No. 5, April 3, 1975.)

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# ROSE MARIE I LOVE YOU

(ED. NOTE: As a suitable accompaniment to Claire Culhane's article, we print below some relevant excerpts from the notorious RCMP Training Manual, which received some press coverage earlier this year. The passage given below is from the section in the Manual entitled "Interrogation Techniques."

## D) "Interrogation of Females"

"Care must be taken when interrogating females. If at all possible, have a policewoman right outside the door who may listen to the actual conversation. The policewoman is placed there for the protection of the interrogator, so that at no time can the female subject say she was taken advantage of by the interrogator.

The interrogator first attempts to find out if the female he is questioning has any children. If she has a child then we should talk about her child. Ask the age, ask the sex, ask what school it goes to, if she has any pictures. Praise the child, tell her how good-looking it is. Tell her it looks like her. Speak of her love for the child. Reiterate that her prime function in life is to reproduce. That is what God placed her on earth for. It makes no difference whether or not the woman we are speaking to is a prostitute or ordinary thief employed by a bank. Women are emotional and an emotional approach is the best approach to use on women. We use the emotions of love, jealousy and fear. Love for her parents, love for her children. Jealousy of the husband or boyfriend. How he will be enjoying himself if she goes to jail.

Fear of jail. The cotton dresses that they wear in jail made out of jute cloth. The floppy shoes. She is no longer an individual but is classed as a unit. We then slip into the 'Heaven and Hell' technique..."

(ED. NOTE: The "Heaven & Hell" technique is directed towards male prisoners as well, evidently...see continuation of quote below.)

B) "Heaven and Hell" Technique

"this technique is adapted from the brainwashing or religious technique. In this approach, we let the subject have a look at hell but also offer him heaven in exchange or as an alternative. By looking at hell, the interrogator means the loss of his wife and her condemnation and what his children may think of him. We also suggest his place in society, and what the rest of society and especially his neighbours may think. The loss of sex by going to prison, what his young wife may do while he is in prison. It may be suggested that she is young, beautiful, and certainly would be a target for other members of society. Then the interrogator offers him a glimpse of heaven, or reward as it is known in the brain-washing technique. You subtly imply that there will be no publicity. That there is a possibility that we might be able to save his job and his position in the community and that none of his neighbours will know about this act."

Priorities readers who would like to read more of this material should get The Democratic Commitment (Newsletter of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association) Vol. 9, No. 4, August 1975.

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**Women's Priorities In The NORTH**

New Democrats North Conference, 10-12 October, Prince George: On the Friday, 10 October, a meeting of Northern NDP women will take place. On Saturday 11 October there will be a workshop entitled "Women's Priorities In The North". Contact: ROSEMARY O'BRIEN, Dams & Lerelyn Roads, Box 1, RR #7, Prince George, ph. 963-9572.

# central interior women's steering committee meeting sponsored by KAMLOOPS WOMEN'S GROUP

## KAMLOOPS 24-26 OCT 75

FRIDAY EVENING: Social

SATURDAY: Sessions

1. "Feminism and Socialism"  
Rosemary Brown
2. "Organizing the Unorganized"  
"The Unpaid Labour Force"  
Sharon Yandle
3. "Capitalism As It Affects Women"  
Cynthia Flood

SATURDAY EVENING: Social

SUNDAY: Formation of Steering Committee

C O N T A C T :

Kathey Hemenway  
#101, 1585 Tranquille Road  
Kamloops

Telephone: 376=0728



# ORGANIZE FOR ACTION

Three hundred delegates from affiliated trade unions around the province attended the fifth annual B.C Federation of Labour Women's Rights Conference on September 13th and 14th.

The conference was officially opened by Monica Davis of the Federation who declared that "long gone are the days of women standing behind the trade union men. Today we have a place beside them."

The keynote speaker was Shirley Carr, an executive member of the Canadian Labour Congress. Carr approved of the theme of the Conference, "Organize for Action", because women must take the initiative and learn to defend themselves. She said we cannot leave the job up to our brothers. We must know every aspect of our union constitution and our collective agreements. We must be prepared to stand for election and to join committees, at the same time, being sure to consult with the memberships of our unions.

Shirley Carr stated that we must also realize that trade unionism and politics are closely linked since politicians are the ones who make the rules which prevent women from taking an equal place in the work force. As an example of an unenlightened politician, she cited the view of John MacBeth (Ontario's Labour Minister) that "Society is not yet ready for the concept of equal pay for equal work".

The conference delegates attended workshops and courses on parliamentary procedure, labour law, trade union women and the community, collective bargaining analysis and affirmative action.

Of the workshops I attended, I found the one on Affirmative Action most informative. Shelagh Day of the B.C Human Rights Branch explained that an Affirmative Action program would look at the whole work force to find the composition in every job

category, level by level. After identifying problem areas, for instance where men are only at certain levels and women in others, a fairly long range timetable would be drawn up to allow women to fill new openings. Job specifications would be examined to see if they have any relevance to the actual job. Shelagh Day cited the case of B.C Hydro bus drivers as an example where height restrictions had the effect of discriminating against women and certain ethnic groups. A Human Rights Branch investigation proved that safety did not depend on strict height restrictions. The bus manufacturers said that anyone between 4'9" and 7'11" could drive the vehicles safely, rather than those between 5'7" and 6'2" (former B.C Hydro standards). Now 51 women have been hired, compared with the previous 3 women bus drivers who had been hired during wartime.

As Shelagh Day explained, there is no legislation in Canada to enforce an Affirmative Action program. The employer and the union must work out a plan together as is being done at the Vancouver Resources Board and the Vancouver City Hall.

The program at City Hall was initiated last year after two substantial complaints from women were registered through the Human Rights Branch. One woman who had been denied a labouring job when her male companion was hired, was awarded pay from the time of refusal to the time of being hired.

Toni Cowlshaw of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) described the process through which her union is negotiating Affirmative Action for Vancouver Resources Board employees. After a brief was presented to the local, they formed a joint committee with management. Toni explained that, particularly in offices, many women

at age 25 will have reached the top of the Clerk ladder. When they apply for positions such as financial aid officers they are told that they've had no experience working with people! An affirmative action program would provide training through which they can be requalified to break out of their dead-end jobs.

When Affirmative Action is developed the collective agreement is fully analysed to prevent sections such as seniority clauses which have taken years to gain, from being declared null and void. Discrepancies in such fringe benefits as medical plans and insurance policies would be removed. Toni Cowlshaw stressed that the unions must be involved rather than having the program laid on by the employer.

In a short address to the Conference on Sunday, M.L.A Rosemary Brown encouraged trade union women to fight for Affirmative Action. She had just returned from an Australian Government sponsored I.W.Y Conference "Women and Politics", and brought greetings from trade union women in Australia, who comprise 60% of working women. Rosemary said that in the Australian experience, positive legislation that affects women in the work force came only after it was enshrined in union contracts. With this in mind, she hopes the B.C. Government Employees' Union (BCGEU) will blaze the trail and help make the

government a model employer. She felt the BCGEU can set an example for other trade unions which have to depend on Safeway and other unenlightened people in terms of contract negotiations.

Many women described the conference as the best one they had attended. Women throughout the province are becoming more active in their unions, and more aware of their rights. There was an



enthusiastic response to a demand for a newsletter dealing solely with issues relating to trade union women, such as contract negotiations for child care in the work place. To facilitate the production of such a newsletter as well as to help with the ongoing development of women trade unionists, the conference strongly urged the B.C. Federation of Labour to hire a full-time women's organizer. Recently the Federation moved in this direction by hiring Gail Borst, formerly with the United Farm Workers in California, on a part-time, trial basis. We hope

women in affiliated unions in B.C. will contact Gail for help, and to communicate their ideas on union issues.

A women's caucus will be formed at the B.C. Federation of Labour Convention in November, to press for the resolutions passed at the Women's Rights Conference.

Judy Paterson  
VANCOUVER-SOUTH

photo: Shelagh Day

# B.C FED. WOMEN'S

# CONFERENCE

\*\*\*\* Some Recommendations from the B.C Federation of Labour Women's Rights Conference. \*\*\*\*\*

Be it resolved that delegates to this conference be encouraged to form a Women's Committee in their local.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas the majority of women workers are unorganized, and  
Whereas some affiliates have not fully organized their jurisdictions and,  
Whereas every Union Member has an obligation to organize the unorganized,  
Be it resolved that Union Women take it upon themselves to inform unorganized women of their legal rights as workers and of the benefits of union membership.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Be it resolved that B.C Federation of Labour encourage affiliates to provide childcare during Union meetings or reimburse its members for child care expenses incurred while attending Union meetings.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas this Conference believes that not enough pressure is being put on the Provincial Government to provide adequate child care facilities,  
Be it resolved that the B.C Federation of Labour distribute a petition requesting 24-hour child care, funding for child care facilities, and alternative child care for sick children - to affiliates for circulation, signing and return to the Federation for presentation to the Provincial Government.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas Affirmative Action Programs have been initiated by Unions in very few places in Canada, i.e only 6 or 7 public service areas in Canada and,  
Whereas equal opportunities for women and minority workers are as desired and needed in the private sector as in the public sector,  
Be it resolved that the B.C Federation of Labour publicize to its affiliates Affirmative Action Programs and encourage its affiliates to press their employers for implementation of such programs and,

Be it further resolved that the B.C Federation of Labour stress to its affiliates the need to be jointly involved with their employers in the planning and monitoring of such programs.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Be it resolved that affiliates of the B.C Federation of Labour examine their collective agreements for discriminatory clauses to insure that their agreements conform with the Human Rights Code and,  
Be it further resolved that where protective clauses exist, their benefits be extended to all members instead of being dropped from the agreements.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas Trade Unions have an opportunity and obligation to provide leadership in their communities, and  
Whereas the activities of child care centres, co-ops, credit unions, school boards, municipal councils, consumer groups, political parties are vital to the well-being of all of us,  
Be it resolved that Union Women make every effort to become actively involved in these groups.  
\*\*\*\*\*



Women delegates talking with Shirley Carr.



# MANPOWER SIT-IN

Many of you will have heard about the occupation by women of the Vancouver Manpower Office. The demonstration took place from Monday September 15 to Thursday September 18, as was successful in several ways.

First, there will be further negotiations between women organized to obtain the position of a Women's Advocate. On Monday September 22 a meeting will be held with Mr. J. Vanderloo, Director General of the Pacific Region.

Secondly, many Women's Groups came out in support of the Ad Hoc Committee which has been working on the problem of the inability of Manpower to be responsive to women's needs for training, employment and support services. 75 women from the Vancouver Status of Women joined the demonstration. (If you or your group haven't signed the petition it is still relevant to do so. The demonstration was just the beginning!)

Thirdly, press coverage via CBC radio, was very good. The morning program interviewed some of the organizers; Anne Petrie (Two's Company from Vancouver every afternoon) talked to a variety of women who were at the demonstration from Nanaimo, Victoria and other parts of the Province. The program "Sunny Days" from Toronto interviewed Terry Pickles Thursday morning. Terry is understandably "wiped out" after the efforts of this week, but she will give us an analysis of the demonstration and negotiations for the next issue.

Finally, Manpower Officials, the Police and Government authorities underestimated the determination and hostility of women who took part in the demonstration.

Margaret Beardsley,  
Port Moody.

(Following is a letter sent out by the Women's Advocate Action Committee before the demonstration.)

Since May of this year an Ad Hoc Committee of women, with support from many groups, has been attempting to have Canada Manpower hire a Women's Advocate to focus on the Manpower systems inability to be responsive to the problems of women who are attempting to secure training, employment and the support services they need to do this.

We see the Women's Advocate selected in a fair competition consistent with the Public Service Commission recommendations under the heading "Participation of Non-Public Servants on Selection Board. The selection board should consist of five women; two manpower representatives and three community representatives nominated by the B.C. and Yukon Ad Hoc Committee for a Women's Advocate.

The Women's Advocate will perform any or all of the following duties.

- \*to take all necessary steps to equalize employment opportunities for women consistent with the CMC policy paper of women's employment

- \*to ensure that all female clients are exposed to the full range of employment and training opportunities as stated in the policy paper

- \*to educate community, clients, Manpower and the staff of other agencies at all levels on rights and employment and integration of women into non-traditional occupations.

- \*to work co-operatively and compassionately with Outreach and other women's groups

- \*To participate in authorizing progressive changes within CMC's in compliance with the CMC policy paper on women's employment and the new Human Rights legislation. ( Cont'd p. 43 )

# POOR - KIDS IN CANADA

"Poor Kids" is the title of the March 1975 report by the National Council of Welfare on Children in Poverty in Canada.

Below are some excerpts from sections of the report. I believe this report should be read by all Canadians.

## EQUAL CHANCES ?

Canadians like to believe that ours is a society in which all children are born with equal chance to rise as far as their abilities will carry them. Though they begin their lives in very disparate circumstances, we comfort ourselves with the belief that success is as attainable for the child of humblest origins as the most affluent. The facts, however, are otherwise. To be born poor in Canada does not make it a certainty that you will live poor and die poor - but it makes it very likely.

To be born poor is to face a greater likelihood of ill health - in infancy, in childhood and throughout your adult life. To be born poor is to face a lesser likelihood that you will finish high school; a lesser still that you will attend university. To be born poor is to face a greater likelihood that you will be judged a delinquent in adolescence and, if so, a greater likelihood that you will be sent to a "correctional institution". To be born poor is to have the deck stacked against you at birth, to find life an uphill struggle ever after. To be born poor is unfair to kids.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is important that we understand as well that the thousand cruelties that poverty visits on the children of the poor can be ended. Children need not grow up in poverty in Canada because there need not be poverty in Canada.

## poor kids: who are they?

The census found substantial numbers of children living in poverty in every region and province in Canada. The highest proportion was in Newfoundland where almost half of the province's children (45.3%) were in families with incomes below the poverty line. More than a third of the children in Saskatchewan (38.4%), Prince Edward Island (37.3%) and New Brunswick (34.9%) were likewise living in poverty.

\* \* \* \* \*

Even in the "rich" provinces of Ontario and British Columbia, where the lowest proportions were found, more than one child in six was living in a family with less than a poverty level income.

\* \* \* \* \*

Among children in two-parent families across Canada, 21.2% were in poverty; among those in male-headed single-parent families, 33.7% were in poverty; among those in female-headed single-parent families, an incredible 69.1% were in poverty.

\* \* \* \* \*

But all of these numbers do not begin to tell the story of children in poverty in Canada. If anything they obscure it, swallowing up all of its individual realities in their massive composite dimensions. Each of the 1,657,017 individuals realities are what poverty is, not their totals. It is the boy in northern New Brunswick who writes:

My name is Pierre and I'm 13 years old. I'm the eldest of seven children. What makes me suffer most is not having a

house, having to live in a shack where it's always cold and too small for all the family. There are nine of us. The seven children all sleep together in two 36" wide beds-pushed together in winter for more heat since we don't have enough blankets. We have an old broken-down stove. In the winter we push the beds near the stove, but it's dangerous.

Autumn isn't very much fun either. It's cold also, and the rats come in - you have to watch so they won't bite the smaller children. This week they chewed off part of the pump so we have no water and the neighbors tell us their well is low, so we do without water. We're not always clean when we go to school.

How many of these realities are so stark? A thousand? Ten thousand? A hundred thousand? The census figures tell us nothing. Clearly not all of Canada's poor kids live in hovels. Not all need cope with rats. For many-perhaps most-of Canada's poor kids the reality of poverty is less dramatic, its effects more subtly destructive. A 14-year-old boy from Quebec writes:

I love sports but I can't participate in anything because we have no money for equipment. We can never do anything because of lack of money. I feel as if it will always be this way.

And the tragic truth is that he is probably right. For the child of poverty the prospect is that it will always be that way; and the more times that this grim prospect is brought vividly home to him the more likely it becomes. Even the boundless optimism of youth is little match for the harsh realities with which the poor child is confronted every day of his life.

*Poor Kids: A Report by the National Council of Welfare on Children in Poverty in Canada.*  
National Council of Welfare, Brooke Claxton Building, Ottawa. (AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE.)

## poor kids, sick kids

The British Child Development Study found a difference of 1.3 inches, at age 7, between the heights of children of the two highest economic groups and those from the lowest group. By age 11 if found the heights of 42% of the disadvantaged children to be less than the minimum normal height for that age, compared to only 18% of non-poor children. It also found poor children more likely to miss school due to illness, be victims of home accidents, and exhibit hearing impairments and speech impediments. Among disadvantaged children the proportions affected by rheumatic fever, infectious hepatitis, meningitis or tuberculosis was double that of other children-one in 16, compared to one in 32.

\* \* \* \* \*

The advent of Medicare in Canada during the 1960's was supposed to end inequality of access to medical care among income groups in this country. But the evidence is that it has not. ...free access not really being quite free. It may require a babysitter for the children being left at home-and babysitters aren't free either. Even assuming the visit to a doctor takes place, it's only result may be a pharmaceutical prescription-and for all but a few categories of the poor, free medical care does not include free drugs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Quite apart from impairment of mental development arising from deficiencies of nutrition during foetal life and early infancy, the complex of mental and physical lassitude attendant on undernourishment, the distraction of attention caused by the distress of nagging hunger, and unfitness

because of recurring illness all can stultify the education of a child of even normal mental endowment.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is a highly revealing commentary on the directions taken by health research in this country that virtually none of it has been concerned with the effects of poverty. That poor kids are disproportionately sick kids seems to be of little concern to Canadian health scientists.

## poor kids in school

Canadians have traditionally placed a high value on education, both for the opportunities for self-realization which it makes possible and for the economic advantages it provides in terms of finding and succeeding at a job. The data correlating educational achievement and subsequent income is so clear as to make it unquestionable that persons with higher educational preparation are more likely to earn higher incomes. The 1972 family income data from Statistics Canada shows this strong relationship between level of education and average family income:

### Level of Education      Average Family Income

0-4years	\$ 8,192
5-8years	9,263
Some secondary	10,862
Completed secondary	12,268
Some university	14,681
Completed university	18,714

\* \* \* \* \*

A research study which examined data on 150,000 students attending 373 Canadian secondary schools found that students' educational intentions corresponded to their family's income.

\* \* \* \* \*

It's not that low-income parents place a lesser value on education than their middle-class counterparts. On the contrary, the Ontario study, 'Does Money Matter,' found that poor parents place a high value on education. But in the world of the poor there are a lot less options than in a middle-class home. And whatever the parents' views, the abstract concept of education doesn't mean much to a child. For him there is only the concrete reality of school. And school is very often the place where poor kids feel most painfully what it means to be poor - the place where they learn that the only escape from humiliation is to get out... get a job... get some money.

\* \* \* \* \*

School is where the child of the poor, who is restless, can't concentrate, is cranky and sleepy, is seen as a case for the psychologist - when what he likely needs is a real breakfast or lunch not an analyst's designation as a problem child. School is where they give homework - and the overcrowded home is where there is no place in which to do it. School is where you need a uniform and equipment for sports and these cost money the family just hasn't got. School is where the poor kid finds the world - and finds that he's been left out.

\* \* \* \* \*

But teaching these lessons in life isn't all that schools do for poor kids. They also do things like "streaming" - tracking students into various programs on the basis of their abilities and interests. Only somehow poor kids (restless, cranky, etc.) keep getting streamed into the slow-learner classes - the streams that don't run very far.

\* \* \* \* \*

In view of what schools do to poor kids and what other kids do to poor kids at school, in view of the fact that they

are, after all, only kids - no wiser in life than kids can be expected to be - the surprising thing is not that so many poor kids drop out, but how many do not.

## poor kids at home

Home, for a poor kid, may be anything from an unheated shack without running water to an apartment unit in a giant public housing complex. Because the greatest numbers of the poor are found in urban centers, and only a fraction of them have been able to obtain accommodation in public housing, home for a poor kid is most likely to be some portion of an overcrowded, underheated, run-down building in a decaying area of the inner city.

\* \* \* \* \*

The charity hamper is a symbol of well-meaning generosity - to those who give it. It is a symbol of shame to the destitute who must accept it or be without food or necessary clothing. Even if he/she is too young to understand the reasons for it, the poor child nonetheless feels this shame, internalizes and shares it. If a poor kid gets to camp (and so few do) it is to a charity camp and he or she knows it.

The cruel barbs about those on welfare - that they are lazy spongers or worse - cut deep into the psyche of the child who grows up on welfare. Those who offer these callous remarks insist they intend them only for those who could be working (roughly 3% of recipients; and then, of course, only if there were jobs for them - which there aren't) but they neglect to mention this 97% exclusion in their glib commentaries. The child of the disabled father or deserted mother knows only the bewilderment and hurt - and his self-concept is shaped by them.

\* \* \* \* \*

## are poor kids bad kids?

Because our society insists that monetary reward is earned (whether it really is or not) then those who have nothing must deserve nothing - or so it seems to a young child.

\* \* \* \* \*

At school kids are generally left out of class outings and other extra-curricular activities for one of two reasons: either because they are being punished or because they can't afford the cost of participation. Again the association of being poor with being bad - being punished. And apart even from this association, what is the likely effect on anyone of being constantly set apart and left out? Only a youthful saint could avoid becoming defensive and hostile, surly and/or withdrawn.

\* \* \* \* \*

Being a poor kid is either being helpless or being tough. And either option is a surefire recipe for future behavioral problems.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1968 and 1969 a random group of children charged with delinquency in Vancouver was compared with a control group, matched for age, grade, sex and school with the group who had been charged. Of the total sample, 28% were from poverty homes, 72% from non-poor families. Of those who had been charged as delinquents, 32% were from poverty homes, 68% were not. In view of the many pressures pushing poor kids toward delinquency, this 4% difference is remarkably small. It is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that it is not even a measure of actual incidences of delinquency, but of apprehended delinquencies for which the police chose to lay charges.

.....a study of training schools in Ontario has found an incredible 92% of those committed to these institutions



were from low-income or working-class families.

\* \* \* \* \*

There seems little evidence that poor kids are in fact disproportionately bad kids, but it may be that they are disproportionately treated that way.

will it always be  
that way?

There can be no hiding behind myths that we can't afford to ensure income adequacy to all Canadians. The recent federal budget proved that. The Minister of Finance redistributed \$1.75 billion for the 1975-76 fiscal year through reductions in the personal income tax alone. He redistributed another \$885 million of the 1975-76 national income by changes in sales tax and tariff provisions, more than half of this - \$450 million - through reduction of the sales tax on building materials.

\* \* \* \* \*

A guaranteed adequate income that eliminates poverty in Canada will cost roughly the amount of these tax cuts - about two-and-a-half or three billion dollars. We can afford it exactly as easily as we afforded the tax cuts. The question is whether we choose to.

\* \* \* \* \*

What are Canadian community values? How much do we care whether for a 14-year boy "it will always be this way"? Does it matter to us if poor kids are hungry or sick, if they are shamed out of schools and into dead-end jobs from which they are the first laid off when the economy slows down? Do the aged and disabled matter to us? Do we care as much about them as about the millionaire industrialist who benefited most from this year's income redistribution?

## hiding behind myths?

I have read this report three times, each time with sadness and disbelief. After 12 years of living in small towns where economic realities are highly visible I am no stranger to poverty and its effects on children. I was not aware of the scope of poverty.

We all know that some people live in poverty. Do we know how many people live in poverty?

"Poor Kids" forces us to open our eyes to the plight of 1,657,017 children in our wealthy land. It forces us to look at the myths -- We have the highest standard of living in the world -- We are a youth-centred society -- we are the country of the future -- and to know them as myths because they exclude the 24.5% of Canadian children who are growing up in poverty.

It challenges us to examine Canadian community values. Are our values based on the humanitarian, egalitarian values expressed in our national myths? or are they based on competitive, material gain?

If they are based on the competitive model then clearly we must have scapegoats who represent the "unsuccessful" as we must have millionaires who represent the "successful". In that case we have exactly the system we as a nation desire.

If the myths do indeed represent the belief of the nation then we must demand income adequacy for all Canadians. I believe we must also define income adequacy by taking the power to determine our personal material expectations from the advertisers and substituting more realistic expectations. It will do no good to redistribute wealth so that each family in Canada has a solid, warm house if those families really expect a custom-built house with two guest rooms and a pool; or to make it possible for each family to own a compact car when they need three cars to feel "successful". We, as a nation, must set goals for Canada which truly reflect the values of Canadians and the realities of Canadian life. We cannot delay.

Marilyn Walmsley

# HOLLY

# NEAR



Holly Near: A Live Album ( Redwood Records, 565 Doolin Canyon Road, Ukiah, California 95482, U.S.A.)

Holly Near, a live feminist: it's pretty exciting and I had to write something for Priorities because this album is such a marvellous find.

My sister in California sent it to my husband Gordon for his birthday, probably not realizing what a great gift it was because I've found that it's generally not available in Canada. But it's quite simple to get if you send \$4.50 to the address listed above. I ordered two more immediately and was pleased to receive them ( at no extra charge for out-of-that-country) within ten days.

Holly Near sings beautiful songs (written by herself or in some cases with two other musicians) in a way that reminds me at times of Janis Joplin, Phil Ochs and Helen Reddy (in the power of her lyrics), but the songs are all distinctively her own.

From a compassionate cut "Free to Grow" dedicated to other (male) singers and their wives:

"I run into you in many cities  
We both travel often in our trade  
And I wonder how your woman feels, home  
alone  
Taking care of the children and minding  
your home

Well I've never found a man who would do  
it for me  
I've never found a man who felt he could  
wait  
While I was free to grow, free to go

And though my work will take me round  
the country  
I don't think I ever want to have the  
right  
To make another person, he or she, give  
up living while I grow  
It seems so wrong today  
But I just want to know what you say to  
make her stay  
It must be something in your manly way  
that keeps her down  
Don't keep her down  
It's not too late to make it balance  
Change one-sided marriage..."

...To a funny, true, poignant portrait of what was expected of us when we were teenagers, when a select few out of every class were voted "Most Likely to Succeed" and many others, as John Young tells us, were taught that they were failures:

"You were going to study law and I'd be  
what my teachers saw  
A glowing smile, a college queen  
The woman behind the man who seemed to  
need  
To have the best in life...including me  
a faithful wife

Well, I'll be damned! We all pulled  
through  
To think of all the crazy things we  
wanted to do  
You would be a hero and I'd be a queen  
But think of all the living we'd have  
passed up, passed by  
We never would have seen it  
I'll be damned! We all pulled through  
To think of all the crazy things we  
wanted to do  
It may sound silly but I tell you it's  
real  
The older I get, a whole lot better I feel

We thought the dream would never end  
But now we don't have to pretend that we  
will all succeed."

.....To some feminist blues that give you  
the chills:

"I'd tell you to find another woman but  
I hate to pass you on..."

That'd be like passing on to a sister, a  
pretty packaged bomb..."

There's a lot more and I hope you don't  
miss the chance to hear this album.

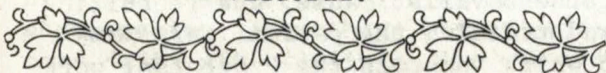
The thing that has struck me, in thinking  
about this album and talking about it  
with others, is the still minute number  
of recorded singers who explore women's  
experiences from a feminist perspective.

It seems like there is a tremendous lag  
in the record industry--don't they want  
to make a fast buck anymore? I would  
have thought that the industry would be  
exploiting the women's movement as we  
have seen advertising and those old-time  
women's magazines do.

I'm not asking Cher to begin singing  
songs with feminist lyrics but aren't  
there any other companies besides Redwood  
Records recording good feminist singers?  
Where's the Canadian record company to  
record Hilda Thomas' blues?

Note: You may be able to encourage your  
favourite record store to order this  
album in quantity, but it doesn't appear  
in the Canadian record catalogue I con-  
sulted in one store. If you order direct,  
be sure to include 18¢ for postage for  
one record, and 8¢ for each additional  
album.

Candace Hanson,  
Victoria.



## FUNDS FOR DR. MORGENTALER

A newly formed ad hoc group is appealing  
to all of us to send what we can to help  
Dr. Morgentaler.

Grace McInnis has brought the action  
group together, after corresponding with  
Dr. Morgentaler and recognizing that much  
more help is needed---right now, many  
more dollars.

As Honorary Chairperson of the committee,  
Grace is asking each of us to contribute,  
to organize money-raising events, to ask  
our friends for contributions. Cheques  
should be made out to the "Fund to Help  
Dr. Morgentaler" and sent to either of  
the following persons:

Rita Lalik  
496 W. 37 th Ave.,  
Vancouver.  
Tel: 321-0907

Kay Lackner  
762 Number 3 Road  
Richmond, B.C.  
Tel: 278-8282.

## CORRECTIONS

In an earlier edition of Priorities the  
address for CARAL was given incorrectly  
and some women have had their petition  
returned. Please accept our apologies  
for the inconvenience, the correct  
address is:

Canadian Association for the Repeal of  
the Abortion Laws (CARAL),  
c/o 2029 West 4th Avenue,  
Vancouver. Telephone: 736-3746.

# WORKING CLASS WAR



I visited my birthplace of Northern Ireland again last summer after an absence of ten years, during which time the civil strife has intensified and surpassed the level of the early 1920's. The problems are many and complicated and to quote a Belfast citizen "Anyone who isn't confused here doesn't really understand what is going on!"

The war in Northern Ireland is a working class war. This does not mean that there is no middle class involvement. The civil rights movement which precipitated the strife started in the middle class campus of Queens University, Belfast, and some of the leaders are middle class, but the fighting, the barricades, and the devastation are all in the working class areas of the towns and cities, though the central shopping areas of many towns such as Newry are in ruins also. But in driving through the middle and upper-middle class areas of Belfast and in the countryside, one would generally be unaware of any trouble. The suburban gardens are green and full of flowers, the solid red brick houses are unharmed and the farms look prosperous and well-cared for. The middle-class women to whom we talked were inconvenienced by the troubles...it is a nuisance not to be able to go freely into town to shop and to park one's car near the shop, or to have dinner in a hotel or board an aeroplane to England without searches, road blocks etc. But by and large they have accepted the situation and their lives continue much as usual with family responsibilities, perhaps work outside the home, and church activities which play a large part in the lives of most Northern Ireland families. As much as possible they try to ignore the strife.

Working class women cannot ignore it... they are living in the centre of it... their houses are being bombed, and their husbands, brothers and sons are being shot or interned. In the Roman Catholic areas of Belfast many women have become politically active and most are involved in helping to protect the remaining men

Kitty O'Kane, an active member of the official wing of the IRA was quoted in Ms. magazine as saying "A woman receives the same training as a man and a woman can hold a position as high as a man. Women in the movement can fire a gun, draw up a plan of action or give orders to men. When internment started and so many of the men were lifted we were able to step into leadership roles and run things. Women patrolled the areas and did vigilante work. They can never stop us now because this time the women are ready."

Maire Drumm is Vice-President of the Provisional IRA and Bernadette Devlin is a well known figure having been active in starting the civil rights movement and being elected to the British House of Commons.

The women in the Protestant areas are involved in the strife also...Jean Moore is the president of the women's auxiliary of the Loyalist Workers Association. One day a week she visits Loyalists interned and the other six days she works as a Loyalist organizer...talking to the press about the Loyalist cause, and recruiting for and training the paramilitary women's group which patrols the Protestant working class areas checking out strangers, parked cars etc. In the North I could find no Feminist organization as such.

Women are active in the strife on both sides, working for the particular aims of their organization.

Two thirds of the population in the North of Ireland is Protesant and the majority of these Protesants do not wish to join the Republic as it is now constituted, as it is 95% Roman Catholic. Until two years ago when the government changed it, the constitution of the Republic recognized "the special position of the Holy Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church as the guardian of the Faith professed by the great majority of the citizens," and the Church still wields a lot of power and influence in the affairs of government. There is no divorce...article 41 of the constitution prohibits "the enactment of any divorce law and contraction of a second marriage within the jurisdiction, when an existing marriage ( dissolved outside the jurisdiction ) still obtains". The prohibitive cost of legal separation puts the unhappy Irish wife in a difficult situation and there is no legal aid, apart from the free advice offered by some Dublin law students. There is an expression in Ireland which says that "Irishmen divorce with their feet." This means they take the boat train to England leaving wife and children behind in Ireland, and the chances of their being found are very slim. According to William Duncan, lecturer in family law in Dublin, 3000 Irish wives were receiving deserted wives allowances from the government in 1974 but another five to seven thousand were in distress.

Women's status has improved since Irish entry into the Common Market. Married women can now work for the civil service Radio-Telefis Eireann, and local councils, and changes in the law make it less likely that a wife will be completely destitute if her husband leaves her. However birth control is still prohibited so large families are the norm, making the mothers' situation even more difficult. Traditionally the Catholic Irishwoman has been led to believe that it is a noble thing to

put up with a bad marriage and that she will reap her rewards in heaven.

In the Republic there are some feminist organizations. "AIM" is devoting itself to reform of family law, "Cherish" helps unwed mothers and another group is campaigning for birth control. In 1971, 47 of these groups took the train to Belfast and purchased various birth control devices.

"Women in the Republic are tired of having a child a year. The country is overburdened with children and has the highest birth rate in Europe," said Mary Kenny, womans editor of the Irish Press.

When they returned to Dublin they marched to the customs barriers where officials confiscated some of the purchases but gave up when the women started throwing pills etc. to their cheering supporters on the other side of the barrier. To this challenge the Roman Catholic Church in the person of Archbishop of Dublin and Roman Catholic Primate of Ireland said "Contraception is a right which cannot even exist. If the legislation is passed which offends the objective moral law, it will be a curse upon our country."

Needless to say abortion is illegal and book and film censorship is extensive. The situation for women in Northern Ireland is better, though Parliament there used its power to refuse to follow Westminster in passing permissive legislation concerning such matters as homosexuality, drinking, Sabbath observation and abortion. But it is possible to obtain a divorce and as already stated birth control is readily available. Living standards are lower in Northern Ireland than in the United Kingdom and the unemployment rate is higher but the welfare state still provides better benefits than the Republic.

The solutions to the problems of divided Ireland are as varied as the groups offering them. Originally the IRA was one body but in 1971 they split into the Official and the Provisional wings.

The official is an orthodox communist group which states " There is no point in fighting unless you are going to win i.e. achieve a regime with the correct social and economic policies as well as jurisdiction in all thirty-two counties of Ireland." They have become increasingly interested in political activity, especially the organization of workers around socialist programmes. The Provisionals take an opposing view "We are traditional Republicans fighting to free our people. When they are free they will decide what kind of government they want. But the Communists (the official wing) in Dublin want to shove a ready-made workers republic down the people's throat."

The Unionist Party is run by the Protestant upper and middle-class but draws its support from all classes, and it wants to preserve the status-quo, making some small concessions to the Roman Catholic minority. To the right of them are the Paisleyites who would make no concessions at all, and to the right, left and centre are the Irish Labour Party, the Nationalists, the Loyalist Workers, the Irish Workers etc.

The Peoples Democracy Movement which evolved from the civil rights movement and with which Bernadette Devlin was involved is trying to combat the power structures divide-and-rule tactics, by appealing to the Northern Ireland workers on the basis



Women's Lib militants, carrying birth control devices, parade in Dublin in defiance of 1935 Irish Republic law. —AP

of their common interest. It hopes to unite Protestant and Catholic workers and overcome the sectarianism which helps the interests of the exploiters. This group so far has had little success with the Protestant workers. Bernadette Devlin feels that a unified Ireland is not the immediate issue. "The people in the Free State (the Republic) are no better off than we are in the North. We want to see similar movements in the South and when that is achieved the border will disappear by itself....the only solution in Ireland is the establishment of a workers and farmers republic...a socialist society such as James Connolly conceived it."

At this point a quote from Karl Marx might be appropriate "once the Irish Church is dead the Protestant Irish tenants in the province of Ulster will unite with the Catholic tenants in the other three provinces, and join their movements."

So the feminist in Ireland both North and South, is faced with many problems. Irish women have always been fierce in the protection of their interests only to be excluded from power once the immediate danger was over, but it is hoped that from the present crisis they will make and keep some appreciable gains which will benefit all Ireland.

Kate Dillon, Vancouver.

Kate Dillon was born in Belfast, Ireland and spent her first 18 years there. She attended college in Liverpool and worked in London before coming to Canada in 1959. Kate has worked in Montreal and Toronto and recently moved to Vancouver with her family. She is an active Priorities worker and long time NDP member. This is her first article for Priorities. First, we hope, of many!



Two women of the growing Protesant army.

## NOW

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is sponsoring a Task Force on Older Women. They publish a newsletter, distribute information, buttons, videotape material, and lobby for political reform for jobs for older women, to raise the status of home-making, and to seek ways of creative aging. For more information, write: Task Force on Older Women, 434 66th St., Oakland, California 94609.

## LOTUS LAND

Over the last few years of NDP government British Columbia has consistently led the nation in the area of Social Assistance rates per person.

THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.

In a survey compiled by the federal income support division, B.C. was tied with New Brunswick in fourth place. Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Quebec top the list. A single resident of Nova Scotia on social assistance received a monthly rate of \$213, compared to the \$160 rate in B.C. The figures used were those in effect on October 1, 1974.

B.C.'s poor showing is even more dramatic when one considers the fact that the cost of living in the Maritimes is far lower than that of B.C.

( from Vancouver Opportunity Program, Help Yourself)

# WOMEN

No longer  
are we gilded posies  
engaging when compliant  
exquisite when yielding  
enchanted when submissive.  
to hell it is our duty to go  
to heaven permitted to follow.

and no longer  
are we blossoms cast aside  
downtrodden  
selling our sweat for next to nothing  
workers at half price  
no security  
no equality  
only duty


we have cried out  
from behind the walls of segregation  
from the clutches of the spiteful bed  
from the nightly business in the gutters  
from the revenge of unwilling wedlock  
"we are human beings!"

# FREEDOM


Freedom has changed the face of the world  
it rules the mind, the heart and the person  
it dispels the mist hanging over the  
mountains, the valleys  
the shores, the fields, the factories and  
the cities  
and the hearts of us, women.

now we are no longer  
just giving birth to worker soldiers.  
we too are worker soldiers.  
no longer just wives of people's heroes,  
we too are people's heroes

and when the fortresses of obsolete time  
are smashed  
and workers' power stands proudly on our  
land  
we shall no longer only tend the graves  
read the prayers and weep for the dead  
we shall be part of the foremost ranks.



These two poems were written by Sugiarti Siswadi, a forty-eight year old Indonesian woman from Central Java who has been in prison since 1966. Sugiarti established herself as a well known writer and poet in Indonesia in the early 1950's. She was particularly well known for her short story "Paradise on Earth" and for her contributions to the Communist Party newspaper Harian Rakyat until the paper was banned in 1965.



Sugiarti was also a leader of the Jakarta branch of the leftwing cultural organization, LEKRA and a member of the leftwing women's organization, Gerwani. Both these organizations were banned after the abortive coup in 1965 and many of the people associated with these organizations were arrested in the aftermath of the coup.

Distributed by Amnesty International. Further information:  
Susan Swan, 45 Elgin Ave., Toronto, Ontario.



# CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

I have a few items to report from the Provincial Council meeting that was held September 12-14 in Penticton.

Ena Parsons made an announcement on behalf of Grace McInnis, that more funds are urgently needed for Dr. Morgentaler. There is a short blurb giving details elsewhere in this issue of Priorities.

I was asked to give a report on the activities of the three women's organizers and I outlined some of the work that Kathy Hemenway, Rosemary O'Brien and Kathleen Orton have undertaken in their temporary appointments. As many of you know, Kathy, Rosemary and Kathleen were hired for the months of July and August to work in the central Interior and Cariboo, the North, and the Island and MacKenzie respectively. Kathy was unable to work both months because she had to spend time moving to Kamloops, but she still managed to accomplish a lot.

Rosemary had meetings with women in Fraser Lake, Prince George, Houston, Hazelton, Terrace, Kitimat, Fort. St. John and Hudson's Hope. She wrote to me telling of her experiences in those communities and her plans to go on in September to Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Granisle and Fort. St. James. The women in the North are already discussing resolutions for debate at the New Democrats North conference, scheduled for Prince George October 10-12. When Rosemary wrote, she was planning a pre-conference meeting of women, in Prince George, on the afternoon of October 10. A workshop for all delegates on "Women's Priorities in the North" was also being planned by Rosemary, in consultation with Bob Steventon (NDP organizer) and Knut Norjberg (President, New Democrats North). The workshop will be held on October 11.



Kathy had meetings with women in Vernon, Penticton, Summerland, Quesnel, Chase, Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Merritt, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House. She is planning the first regional women's steering committee meeting, to be hosted by the Kamloops Women's Group in Kamloops. The Kamloops Conference is slated for October 24-25. It will begin with an informal social on Friday night and there will be three sessions on Saturday. Rosemary Brown will be speaking on Saturday on Feminism and Socialism. In the afternoon Sharon Yandle, presently involved in organizing in private hospitals, will speak on "Organizing the Unorganized" and "The Unpaid Labour Force." Cynthia Flood will speak on "Capitalism as it Affects Women." A past chairperson of the B.C. NDP Women's Committee will speak in the third session, presenting a history of the Committee, how and why it was formed. I will speak about present and future plans within the Women's Committee. Saturday night there will be another social.

Sunday, October 26, will be spent having a business meeting to discuss on-going structure in the Cariboo-Central Interior area and to elect the actual steering committee for the region.

The third regional meeting being planned in the immediate future is one being held on September 27-28 in Courtenay, for women in the Vancouver Island and Mackenzie area. Kathleen Orton has been working with the Courtenay Women's Group, who are hosting the meeting. M.L.A. Karen Sanford Ruth Barnett and Gene Errington will be speaking at the two day meeting. Persons wishing further information on this meeting should contact Betty Hlokoff at 338-6171 or 334-3865.

The deadline for applications for the women's organizers positions was

September 15, so I will be consulting with Cliff Scotton on September 21 to select the organizers. At this time, the position in the Central Interior-Cariboo is still open, so applications for the part-time organizer position in that area will still be accepted. If you are interested, please drop me a line or phone ( my home phone: 384-2294). In Penticton I had many happy reports from people who have been impressed with the work Rosemary, Kathleen and Kathy accomplished in July and August.

Another item on the agenda at the Provincial Council meeting was a report from the Chairperson of the Policy Review Committee, Frank Murphy. Frank presented his recommendations to Council on the Chairpersons of the various policy review sub-committees for the next year. There are now twenty-five policy review sub-committees. These twenty-five people will be on the Resolutions Committee at the next convention along with representatives from the Executive and the Caucus. The number of sub-committees has certainly proliferated over the last few years; I have been told that there were only eight sub-committees three or four years ago. I was also told that parity had been achieved a few years ago ( equal number of women and men chairing the sub-committees), so we seem to be moving away from that kind of situation. Of the twenty-five sub-committee chairpeople recommended by Frank, four were women. All recommendations were accepted by council. The significance of a 6:1 ratio did not strike me until after Frank's report and I am sorry to be raising it in Priorities rather than at the council meeting.

Persons appointed to chair the Policy Review Sub-committees will be listed in the October Democrat, with their addresses so that members wishing to serve on the committees can contact the person directly. I'll list them below so that interested members won't have to wait until the end of October for the information. I do not have the addresses, so you will have to contact the Provincial Office, 64- 8th St., New Westminster ( 525-5491).

The Women's Committee has always seen the logical and inevitable link between feminism and socialism; with this perspective I think it is important that

feminist women take an active part in these committees to offer a socialist-feminist point of view and to benefit from the ongoing educational process that is a function of these committees.

1. Women's Rights- Candace Hanson
  2. Environment- Harold Steves
  3. Northern Affairs- Knut Norjberg
  4. Health- Ray Parkinson
  5. Finance- Tam Dhanji
  6. Mines and Petroleum Resources-Ez Deanna
  7. Agriculture- Barbara Wallace
  8. Cultural Affairs- George Cumming
  9. Travel and Industry- Chuck Hatherly
  10. Transport and Communication-J.Tyhurst
  11. Consumer Services- David Mossop
  12. Municipal Affairs- Owen Kennedy
  13. Economic Development- Gerry Fanaken
  14. Human Resources- Phil Waddell
  15. Indian Affairs- Tom Barnett
  16. Highways- Art Weger
  17. Education- Anita Hagen
  18. Labour- Garth Brown
  19. Lands and Forests- Sandy Bannister
  20. Judicial Affairs- Ken Antifaev
  21. Energy- Carl Liden
  22. Recreation and Conservation- Bob Skelly
  23. Public Works- Mark Bostwick
  24. Constitutional Affairs- Dave Smith
  25. Housing- Tom Baker
- Candace Hanson,  
Chairwoman,  
NDP Standing Committee on  
Women's Rights.

# CENTRAL INTERIOR ORGANIZERS REPORT

(Kathy Hemenway was one of the three women hired by the B.C. NDP for two months as a women's organizer this summer. Kathy was working in the Central Interior of the Province. For more information about the position and the work done by the other organizers see Candace's Hanson's report in this issue. The following is Kathy's report.)

My organizing time was limited to two weeks due to the fact that we have been moving to Kamloops this August. Because of the limited time I tried to get to as many places as I could and therefore I couldn't really spend enough time anywhere.

I was up to Quesnel and down through the Cariboo, and right through the Okanagan.

It was impossible to meet everyone I wanted to due to the busy time of year, people being out of town, or having previous commitments. Still I was met everywhere with open arms and by isolated women eager to talk and to ask many questions. I found that we have some pretty incredible women here in the Interior. I don't want to try and generalize much about what happened as I organized, because in each place the women were very different with different problems and goals. The problem of isolation is far more acute in some areas, especially the Cariboo, than in others.

We are going to hold a conference in Kamloops to get our women's committees set up. We hope to discuss women in politics, the history of the women's committees, and the present state of the women's committee. We will also concern ourselves with the question of the unpaid labour force. There have been guest speakers invited and day care and billeting will be available.

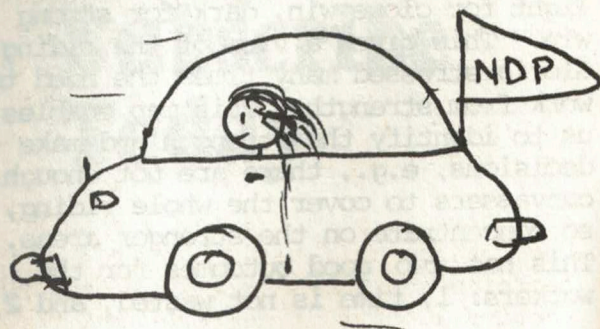
I hope the conference will give us a chance to all get to know each other and there will be lots of opportunities for socializing.

We are hoping that as many women as possible, even from the more distant places will come. I realize that the distances between us all are a real problem and it is not feasible for us to remain as one group. We will probably have to split up into two or more committees, but I would like everyone's input at this initial conference so that we can come out of it with committees that are agreeable to most people. The purpose of our newly formed committees and their structure will be a major topic for discussion. What do you want your women's committee to be?

I didn't meet anyone who was interested in the job as regional organizer. If you are let Candace or me know as soon as possible. The regional organizer has a good opportunity to get to know the areas and the people there and the problems they face. It is a job where a lot can be accomplished as far as educating women on socialism and feminism and in helping women start their own women's groups. If you want to discuss the job before applying or if you want to find out what it entails I'd love to talk to you about it.

Also if I missed you in my travels and you would like further information on the NDP or the role of women's committees please get in touch with me. My address is #101, 1585 Tranquille Road, Kamloops. Telephone 376-0728.

Kathy Hemenway,  
Kamloops.



# WORK FROM STRENGTH

## REPORT FROM THE LOWER ISLAND SOCIALIST WOMEN'S CAUCUS

On August 19, we had a meeting on election work in the Party, arranged and hosted by Merran Twigg. Gloria Levi, our guest, presented a very valuable overview of an election campaign. Our experience varied and for the most was limited to one or two aspects (e.g., canvassing, scrutineering). This enabled us to get a total picture of a campaign, and also to look at the possible ways we can contribute. I really got off on Gloria's enthusiasm and sense of the workers' need to do that which they enjoyed and felt competent in, and also about the encouragement and support they should get.

### PRE-CAMPAIGN.

1. Poll Analysis. This is often done following the previous election; if not, it should be done. (a) Get hold of at least 4 maps from your local returning officer (3 will be needed later on in the campaign). (b) From the same source get the poll results. The polls can be coloured according to the vote, e.g. red for NDP win, green for SC, blue for L, orange for C. The colours can be shaded to indicate strength--light for close win, dark for strong win. This gives a view of the riding. Gloria stressed many times the need to work from strength. This map enables us to identify the strength and make decisions, e.g., there are not enough canvassers to cover the whole riding, so concentrate on the stronger areas. This has two good outcomes for the workers: 1, time is not wasted, and 2,

it is much more encouraging for the canvasser.

2. Nomination of a Candidate (a) Pre Nomination: Sign up members, as 60 days is needed before one can vote in the constituency (members voting must reside in the constituency 60 days prior to nomination). Declare the candidate early, unless s/he is very well-known. Each candidate can have a membership list from Provincial Office. Numbers of support is really important. (b) Nomination: Press coverage is important. Once candidate is chosen, prepare the first leaflet for canvassing. This leaflet should tell about the candidate--background, involvements, photo etc. (c) Committee Room: Have a stamp made with the Constituency name, NDP, Address and Telephone Number on it. (d) Zone-Poll Division: A constituency can be divided into geographical neighbourhood zones. Each zone could have a zone captain and lists could be made of all members in the area (approximately 10-20 polls in a zone). Telephone committees can be organized on this basis. (e) Coffee parties can start as soon as candidate is nominated.

### CAMPAIGN

1. Campaign Chairpersons & Committees, Campaign Manager--this person is chosen by the candidate. The person must enjoy and know the nitty-gritty and detail of what is happening in the campaign. Organizer--looks after the canvassers; if the constituency is zone-poll organized, does this through the zone captains. Canvassers--role is to identify voters, get out literature, gain support (votes, donations, places for signs, workers). Sign Chairperson & Committee--looks after buying materials for making and erecting signs. Clear signs are inexpensive--one colour ink on one colour paper. Signs should have name, NDP and constituency. Finance Chairperson or Official Agent: Keeps all records. It is important that this person is methodical and finicky. Publicity Chairperson--arranges pub- (continued)

licity through media, and hoopla. Committee Room Manager--should ensure that Rooms are open as much as possible. Election Day Organizer--begins 2 weeks before election day. Makes charts for each poll, organizes drivers, supervises inside and outside scrutineers. (Canvassers often become scrutineers).

2. Canvassing. There are three canvasses. First--get candidate known. The literature should have information about and action picture of candidate. Second--literature on issues and the party policy. Third--on issues, and We're Winning! Sunday nights are good for meeting of canvass workers. Have one meeting for each canvass. Workers should drop into Committee Rooms after working on canvassing, not just when canvass is completed. This is a good time for contact with the candidate, sharing of problems, and humour. This is a vital part of the campaign.

### 3. E-MINUS TIMETABLE

A calendar is made up with a count-down of days to the election. E.g.,

E-38-31--first week, registration of voters

E-30-20--first canvass

E-19-12--second canvass

E-11- 6--third canvass

This is meant mainly as information on an election campaign, so people can get a sense of all that goes on and decide what part they want to get involved in. It is by no means complete; there are books by the NDP ("With Your Help-An Election Manual") which cover the topic in much more detail. We want to thank Gloria for coming and sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and Merran for arranging and hosting the occasion.

**C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S ! !**

Only a few hours after the meeting Merran gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Alexandra. Congratulations, Merran, John, Gordon, Monique and Cynthia!

(continued from p.26)

\*to base all activities and decisions on input received from women's groups in the field and conceive of the position as representative of the needs expressed by these groups.

\*to report to the selection board members, who, after selection is made, constitute the Women's Advocate Committee.

We find it unbelievable, especially during International Women's year, that we have encountered such lack of understanding and co-operation on the very obvious problems that women face in attempting to enter the labour force.

The Ad Hoc Committee has been getting nowhere with their discussions with Senior Pacific Region Manpower Officials. We need your help. Voice your support to your local member of Parliament, to Robert Andras, Minister of Manpower and Immigration and to Mr. J. Vanderloo, Director General, Pacific Region, Manpower, 1055 West Georgia St., Vancouver, B.C.

Please contact the Women's Advocate Action Committee, 180 - sixth St., New Westminster for petitions.

Other inquiries or correspondence can be directed to the Ad Hoc Committee, for a Women's Advocate, 38 - Sixth St., New Westminster, B.C.

We thank you for your help.

WHY NOT?

WOMEN'S ADVOCATE ACTION COMMITTEE

**Subscribe  
Today**

# WOMEN IN THE ONTARIO ELECTION

The Ontario election and the NDP? The best showing ever--38 seats from a total of 125--and probably the official opposition. The Ontario election and feminists? Not good, but not all bad. A record 48 women candidates ran. A record 7 women were elected. Of those elected, 3 are NDP (Marion Bryden, Toronto-Beaches, Gill Sandeman, Peterborough; and Evelyn Gigantes, Carleton-East); 3 are PC (Margaret Scrivener, Toronto-St. David's; Bette Stephenson, Toronto-York Mills; and Margaret Birch, Toronto-Scarboro East); and 1 Liberal, Margaret Campbell, Toronto-St. George.

In all 7 ridings, the runner-up contestants were male. In only one riding, Scarborough East, was any other woman running against a successful female candidate. Anne Marie Hill of the NDP gained 7,271 votes to Margaret Birch's 18,734. Of the total votes in that riding, where there ran two male and two female candidates, it is interesting to note that Birch and Hill polled a combined vote of 26,005 and the male candidates, Liberal John Coates and Independent David Tootill, polled a combined vote of 8,708.

It is also interesting that 2 ridings won by NDP women candidates were formerly big business--Carleton East and Peterborough. Even though the vote was close and a recount will likely occur, these victories were notable in two ways: Conservative, rural Ontario swung NDP; Conservative, rural Ontario elected two women.

In the ridings where women candidates lost, there were 8 in which they ran second to the winners--3 in Metro Toronto seats and 5 in the rest of the province.

The barriers against women in politics

are, in many ways, the most formidable. We all know that politics have been a male preserve, even to the vote, not so many years ago, but there are other "personal" barriers to contend with. When you work a 9-to-5 job, with the occasional night out for a meeting, day-care can be complicated, but possible. When you run as a federal or provincial candidate, how do you make babysitting arrangements if you win? How do you make them while you are campaigning, for that matter? Hire a housekeeper? Move your family to Ottawa or Victoria?

Experience shows that the NDP must provide funding from election expenses for childcare for all candidates and all campaign workers.

The NDP must push for sessions of Parliament with length and frequency of sittings arranged to enable male or female incumbents to spend time with their families and share home responsibilities.

This would be a very real and concrete way in which the Party could encourage women members to run for office, and would mean far more than rhetorical statements of enthusiasm and support, which after all cost nothing to make.

Ruth Houle  
DELTA

WRITE FOR  
**PRIORITIES**



# THANKS



to the following people who have sent in donations to help support Priorities:

May Campbell, Victoria  
Gladys Manson, Kamloops  
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Karen Rowan, Regina  
Katy Madsen, Summerland  
Candace Hanson, Victoria  
Dianne Stephens, Vancouver  
Patricia Zuest, Ottawa

Dave Gort, New Westminister  
Clifford Scotton, New Westminister  
Marilyn Walmsley, Boston Bar  
Nancy Eng, Alberta  
Anita Hagen, New Westminister  
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