

"Everyone has a little bit of suffering to do." -- Jean Luc Pepin, Dec. 5, 1975.

"Do not get discouraged if the consumer price index maintains a two-digit momentum for several months to come." -- Beryl Plumtre, Oct. 11, 1975.

"Look lady, don't expect the price of a can to stay where it is because we've brought in a freeze." -- Pierre Trudeau, Oct. 10, 1975.

GOVERNMENT CUTBACKS

In October, Trudeau brought in a program of wage controls. He followed this in December with an announcement concerning government budget cutbacks. The main targets of the cutbacks are the people with the least power -- women, the elderly and youth.

* Family Allowance. For a saving of \$221.3 million, the government is eliminating the 10.8% increase mothers were supposed to receive beginning January 1. This is the largest single saving in the government cutbacks program.

* UIC. Claimants with dependents who used to get 75% of their earnings have been cut to 66 2/3%. People over 65 years of age are no longer eligible, at a loss of \$120 million to those claimants.

* OFY eliminated. A saving of \$36 million and 35,000 more youth without a wage this summer.

* CYC eliminated. A saving of \$6.1 million and 450 community workers wageless.

* LIP cutback by \$35 million and 80,000 more people unemployed.

The Native Indian Brotherhood has calculated that the above cutbacks will mean a loss to native people across Canada of over \$6 1/2 million. These cuts come at a time when the national unemployment rate is 7.3% and over 10% of women and 13% of youth (14-24 years) are unemployed.

However, the government is also "going after the rich". They have imposed a 10% surtax on those with incomes over \$30,000. There is a debate going on in Parliament whether this means that a married man with two children making \$35,000 will pay 19¢ or 35¢ more tax per week!

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

At the same time as the government is saving money on women, old people, and youth, it is increasing expenditures elsewhere. While the MPs and Senators have frozen their salaries for a year (which they weren't planning to increase anyway), they increased their tax-free allowances as scheduled.

The government also announced recently that they are spending \$1 billion on 18 airplanes for the Armed Forces, and increasing Defence spending from \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion in the coming fiscal year.

PAID LABOUR FORCE

With the cost of living increasing the way it is, more and more women are forced to take jobs outside their homes. Between 1964 and 1974, the number of women in the Canadian labour force grew by 88.6%. 43.1% of the women in the paid labour force are self-supporting. Despite this massive increase in the proportion of women in the paid labour force, women remain in the lowest-paid jobs -- "women's" jobs.

- * In 1963, 61.8% of women in the paid labour force were in clerical, sales and service. By 1973, this percentage had increased to 63.1.
- * And the difference between men's and women's wages is increasing. In 1971, the average man earned 44% more than the average woman. By 1973, it was 45.1% more. In Ontario in 1974, women waged workers earned \$1 billion less than if they were men.

POVERTY AND WOMEN

Imposing poverty is what these cutbacks are all about, and a woman on her own is assured a place among the poorest!

- * 2/3 of all women below the age of 25 have annual incomes of less than \$5,000.
- * 85% of single-parent families are mother-led.
- * Almost 50% of mother-led families had an income of less than \$4,000. 23% of single father-led families had less than \$4,000.
- * A male head of family has a 9.3% chance of living below the poverty line. A female head of family has a 40.1% chance.

CUTBACKS IN SOCIAL SERVICES IN ONTARIO

(If you don't live in Ontario, use these figures as a model to find out what's happening in your area).

I. Daycare. The government cutbacks are forcing an increasing number of women out of their paid jobs and into total economic dependence on a man. The government has:

- * Frozen any expansion in the number of daycare centres after March 31.
- * Threatened to double the subsidized fee from 25¢ to 50¢ daily.
- * Frozen the number of subsidized children.
- * In effect reduced the operating budget of subsidized daycare centres by allowing only a 5.5% increase this year.

II. Universities. The Henderson Committee has recommended:
* A tuition increase of 65% over the next three years
* The elimination of the grant portion of the Government Assistance Program, meaning students will be saddled with even huger debts when they graduate.
* The University of Toronto has already attempted to cut back the Women's Studies Program without success, and will probably try again.

III. Other Social Services.

The Ontario Government has:

- * Frozen the building of nursing and old age homes, meaning more work for women looking after the elderly in their own homes.
- * Frozen staff and service in hospitals in 1976, meaning more work for hospital workers, 70% of whom are women.

In Metro Toronto, threatened cutbacks in social services include:

- * A 50% cut in shelter allowance for welfare recipients.
- * The end to supplementary benefits to Family Benefits and Old Age Security recipients, which paid for eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids etc.
- * Reduction of staff and services in old age homes.
- * Freeze on spending for visiting nurses and homemakers.

All of which mean MORE WORK FOR WOMEN.

"In this struggle, we must accomplish nothing less than a wrenching adjustment of our expectations."

-- Pierre Trudeau, Oct. 13, 1975.

"We are getting tired of always sacrificing ourselves for somebody else's good or profit. We want to stop inflation where it hurts most -- in our pocketbooks. We want the increase in our Baby Bonus and we want wages for all our work as women."

-- Sallie Shum, Dec. 24, 1975. From a letter to the Toronto Globe and Mail.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE
745 DANFORTH AVENUE, SUITE 301
TORONTO, ONTARIO
January, 1976.

* In 1963, 61.8% of women in the paid labour force were in clerical sales and service. By 1975, this percentage had fallen to 44.1%.
* And the difference between men's and women's wages is widening. In 1971, the average man earned 44% more than the average woman. In Ontario in 1974, women waged workers earned 42.1% less than if they were men.