

NAC MEMO

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the NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE on the status of women

JUNE 1978

FIGHTING "HOW TO SAY NO TO A RAPIST... AND SURVIVE"

First the good news. After two years of NAC asking police and educational authorities to withdraw this offensive, error-filled and potentially dangerous film on rape, the RCMP Police have agreed to suspend its use by their officers.

Now the bad news. The suspension is only a temporary one pending RCMP discussion on the film with provincial Attorneys-General at a meeting to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, June 28, 29, 30.

What this means is work for NAC members who must persuade our provincial representatives at this meeting to tell the RCMP that they don't want this film used in their province as a rape education and crime prevention aid.

Fortunately, we are not alone. NAC has authorized the Committee on Media, an Ottawa-based group that has been fighting "How To Say No" for two years, to put out this special edition of MEMO informing you who our allies are, and what they're doing.

The Committee has been in touch with the federal and provincial advisory councils on the status of women, federal opposition parties, and the National Assister of Canadian Rape Crisis Centres.

Briefly, each provincial council is being asked to send a copy of the transcript of the film (available from the Federal Advisory Council, 63 Sparks St. Ottawa) to the provincial minister attending the conference. The National Assister is sending the attached list of those who have rejected or banned the film to appropriate federal and provincial officials. The Federal Advisory Council and the federal opposition parties are contacting the same officials. Kay Macpherson, NAC president, is also writing to these officials enclosing the attached brief on the film. Canadian rape crisis centres are also participating in the lobby. In addition to the material specified above, each of these groups will also be sending any other material or contacting any other groups they think would be helpful.

As a NAC member, you are being asked on behalf of your organisation to write (and encourage your members to write or phone) your provincial or territorial representative attending the June meeting with the RCMP. The focus of your lobby should be to urge this person to support RCMP withdrawal of "How To Say No" and to encourage its replacement by accurate, appropriate Canadian material such as the B.C. Police Commission's excellent production, "This Film Is About Rape"

Because of the urgency of this matter, would you advise NAC as soon as possible of the action you intend to take on this and, later, of the responses you get. If you need any further information resource material or assistance, leave a message for the Committee on Media (1-613-232-0313); a Committee member will return your call.

It looks as though at last we have a really good chance of sinking this film - let's go get 'em !