

# NEWSLETTER

NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

P.O. Box 6072  
St. John's, Nfld.  
A1C 5X8  
709 753-0220

IWY 1975

January 1975  
Volume II, No. 1  
WOMEN'S CENTRE  
Rawlin's Cross

## *Our aspirations for International Women's Year*

That the new Human Rights Code for Nfld. be implemented now. (see pg. 3)

That Otto Lange be the recipient of a heart and brain transplant.

That Harry Summers sees the light soon. (see pg. 11)

That women are awarded control over their bodies and abortion is removed from the Criminal Code (see pg. 12)

That women in politics be true to their sisters.

That sexism in advertising be eliminated and if Harry needs help in repainting his billboard, we'll oblige. (see pg 11)

That MUN adopts improved maternity benefits.

That Day Care Centres be provided in numbers and quality to meet our needs.

That Nfld. women in increasing numbers make women's issues their priority.

That the Nfld. government appoint a Status of Women Bureau/Commission/Division/Ombudswoman - no token women please!

That the courts remove their double standards approach re Rape (see pg. 7)

That during IWY '75 a genuine attempt be made to get to the root of the problem of sex discrimination.

That the Landlord repair the falling ceiling at Women's Centre.

That the Dept. of Education will remove all sexist employees and remove sexism from school curricula .

That more Status of Women Councils be organized in Nfld. and Labrador (see pg. 5)

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### NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, January 6, 1975 - 8:15 pm  
Women's Centre

Y. W. C. A.  
RESOURCE CENTRE



The newly elected executive committee has been quietly and persistently at work, meeting each Wednesday night. (With the exception of holidays).

NEW BOOKS for our Feminist Lending Library have come from several sources - Our December membership meeting netted us a nice pile since it was a Bring-a-Book Party. And we have received a large number from Women's Place which has officially closed its quarters. We thank everyone.

We are sorry to have to report to our supporters that word was finally received in the negative concerning our LIP Grant application.

FINANCIALLY it looks bad as far as funding from the government sources. We can get by on \$200.00 a month.

WE APPEAL TO THOSE WHO CAN TO CONTRIBUTE \$5 to \$10 in monthly post-dated checks if you wish to see the activities of NSWC continue.

We appeal to everyone to pay your annual dues if you have not already done so. They were due in November.

And finally we need more people to become ACTIVE so that we can become more effective. With a livelier program we can attract more supporters.

On our part a letter is being sent to our MP, Mr. James McGrath, to bring to his attention our plight. Visits are planned to other government officials as an effort to make ourselves more visible and to explain our needs and program.

Your executive has chosen the following responsibilities -

- Chairperson - Celia Griffiths
- Corresponding secretary - Yvonne Farwell
- Treasurer - Jan Black
- Recording secretary - E. Neubauer
- Vice-chairperson - L. Kelly
- At large - J. Hiller, S. Davis, T. Nation, S. Goundrey, D. Siegel

CORRECTION -

In the December issue, page 8, under appointments, please add the name of Adrienne Clarkson to that of Frances Innes as the second woman on HABITAT '76, a committee of 7 to plan future urban living.

DID YOU HEAR?

Premier Bourassa, Quebec, is conducting a survey to find out what would encourage women in the child-bearing age to have one more child each.

5 million dollars. 5 MILLION DOLLARS!

If wisely spent that can do a lot to improve the lot of Canadian women.

\$2,500,000 goes to the Secretary of State of which it is reported that \$800,000 will be shared by the 4 Atlantic Provinces.

\$2,500,000 goes to the Secretariat for INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR and will be allocated as follows:

\$500,000 - advertising designed by an almost exclusive male advertising team.

\$1,000,000 - on 5 regional conferences

\$1,000,000 - undisclosed as yet

HOW ABOUT BLOWING A FEW OUR WAY??????

THE MUN WOMEN'S COURSE

Another milestone. The course entitled Love, Marriage and Women has successfully presented its series of 10 sessions with 28 registered members. It was agreed that what we got was excellent but not enough. We want more! Watch for future courses.

MEDIA ALERT

Seen any good 'insulting to women' ads lately? Please be on the alert and when finding one send it to us. We'll be glad to print the best of the lot.

FUTURE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Women and their health
- Legal matters that create hardships for women
- Getting acquainted with the Women's Kit.



# Something to celebrate

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE PASSED BY THE NFLD.  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY!

Just before shutting down the House for the holidays, the Human Rights Code as amended was voted into law.

It has finally come to pass! NSWC back in 1972 under the guidance of Cathy Clark worked up a Brief which called for amendments in keeping with Status of Women thinking.

Others have since worked on further revision and a group met with the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, Joe Rousseau, to discuss our beliefs with him.

Much appreciation goes to Fred Coates and Gertrude Keough whose clear vision as to what was needed in Nfld. sustained us over these many months of frustration and hope.

We can look forward to the setting up of a Commission on Human Rights, completely independent of any department.

Other new aspects are -

1. elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status;
2. equal opportunities for women in training and advancement;
3. equal pay for similar work of equal responsibility;
4. elimination of inequalities in pensions and employee benefits.

We will do a more complete run-down in the forthcoming Newsletter.

In the meantime, let's celebrate!

This issue of the NSWC Newsletter produced by -

Coordinator - Sally Davis

Typist - Marion Atkinson

May we receive your contributions for the February Newsletter by January 15, 1975. Thank you!

IN RESPONSE TO the Letter to the editor (see page 4)

This letter and the one which appeared in the November Newsletter written to defend the B.C. New Democratic Party have opened the question of whether women can get equality under such a government. It must be admitted that progress is being made. Also it is acknowledged that this is a government that has only been in existence for two years.

If you happened to read KINESIS, the Newsletter for the Vancouver Status of Women, you saw the Dear Santa column with the request to "Supply a feminist consciousness for Premier Dave Barrett." Then did you see the full page devoted to the problem of the B.C. government appointing a man to represent the women at International Women's Year '75 meetings? The excuse given was that this was done so that it wouldn't be "just a ladies meeting". To be fair, read the whole story and judge for yourselves if this does not illustrate that male chauvinism is behind this appointment.

Your last sentence needs a whole evening to discuss. It just so happens that our program for the January membership meeting will relate to matters of economy and social justice. Come and round out the debate.

The Editor

## Membership Meeting

Monday - Jan. 6 1975 - 8:15 pm

WOMEN'S CENTRE

TOPIC - *The creation of the house wife. It's social & economic implications.*

SPEAKER - Ellen Antler

Researcher in Anthropology

You can't afford to miss it!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

88 Circular Rd.  
St. John's, Nfld.  
December 10, 1974

Dear Editor,

As a sister from B. C., I would like to add my comments to those of Dorothy Inglis in the December newsletter, regarding the B.C. NDP's treatment of women in that province.

It is true that some of my feminist friends in B. C. have been disappointed at the failure of the NDP government to set up a women's Bureau. However, as of January 1, 1975, Gene Errington, former ombudswoman for the Vancouver Status of Women, has been appointed Provincial Status of Women Coordinator. Since her job is to see that progress is made in the area of women's rights, this appointment would seem to be a reasonable alternative to the Women's Bureau originally requested by B. C. feminists.

In the two short years it has held office, the NDP government has passed a massive amount of legislation aimed at achieving equality for men and women. Day care is going ahead as never before in B. C. The minister of Education (a woman who is also Deputy Premier) has appointed a well-known feminist to root out sexism from school curricula, textbooks, administration and teaching. (A course in Women's Studies for high schools has recently been drafted.) The Human Rights Commission, headed by another exceptionally able woman, has in its brief span of existence handled dozens of cases of discrimination, mostly concerning women. The public service in B. C. is now making a concerted effort to develop an equal opportunities employment program. (The B.C. Government Employees' contract recently negotiated increases disproportionately the salaries of lower groups, thus indirectly benefitting female employees.) The Finance Dept. has recently made pension adjustments so that women are no longer penalized by the death of a spouse as formerly.

Of course these things are only a beginning, but knowing that the NDP has a long and proud history of struggling for human rights, the future in that province certainly looks brighter than elsewhere. Long before it became fact, the early socialists in B.C. advocated female suffrage. At the turn of the century they were already fighting for equal pay for equal work, and for an end to discrimination against married women in teaching and other occupations. They were the only political group to speak out against the incarceration and inhumane treatment accorded the Canadian Japanese in B.C. during World War II. Women have always played a leading role in the party, not only as stamp-lickers and coffee-makers, but as policy-makers and candidates: More women have run on the NDP ticket in B.C. than in any other party, and those elected have assumed responsible and important positions, unlike the window-dressing posts so often the lot of female politicians in other parties. The NDP government in B.C. includes two blacks, one Indian and five women (two of them cabinet ministers)--a claim I think no other provincial government can make.

Dorothy Inglis pointed out that the NDP government has tackled the industrial giants in B.C., the forestry and mining magnates, with determination to secure the people's rights to their own resources. I think it is vitally important that women recognize the significance of this, for without economic justice there can be no social justice--for men OR women.

Sincerely,

*Olive Johnson*  
Olive Johnson



# Western Newfoundland gets it's first Status of Women Council

Dear Madam:

On Dec. 5 in S.D. Cook School, Corner Brook, Marie Newhook was elected as interim president of the Corner Brook Status of Women Council.

Other interim officers elected were: Gladys Costella, vice-president: Lynn Verge, secretary: and Denise Turner, treasurer.

Several committees were also planned including social reform, literary, community affairs, fund-raising, arts and crafts, public relations and human relations.

Our chapter will be known as C.B.S.W.C. linking us to the other 68 chapters across Canada and a sisterhood of 75,000 members.

For the past two years Marie Newhook, housewife, and Gladys Costella, teacher, have been pushing towards this goal. They saw the first fruition of their persistent endeavour in November when a banquet was held in the Glynmill Inn at which 40 ladies were present.

The speaker for the occasion was Kay Armstrong, president of the National Council of Women of Canada. Her message, "You must come together and try together to do something on behalf of your families for your community," is still ringing in our ears.

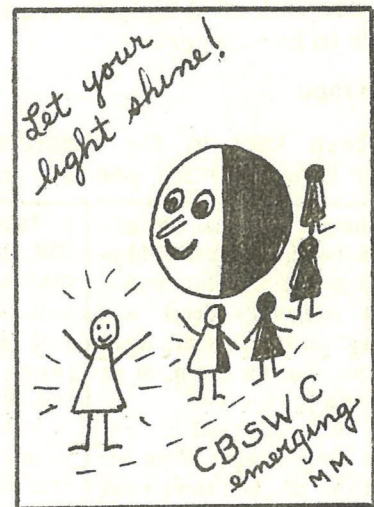
Following Mrs. Armstrong's address many of us heard for the first time the stirring voice of Iris Kirby, and learned that she was the Secretary of State in St. John's. She touched on politics, something about which we are pretty naive. She put a bee in our bonnet about reassessing our goals and how to achieve them. She suggested the use of council in order to formulate methods of bringing about changes.

The next meeting of C.B.S.W.C. is Dec. 16th. We are already concerning ourselves with problems in the city, the results of which will be sent later.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary Mac Isaac*

Mary MacIsaac  
(leader of literary  
committee).



The executive of NSWC met with Marie Newhook when she came to St. John's in November.

We are happy to see the progress that has been made in the formation of the Corner Brook Status of Women Council.

We in St. John's already feel stronger by knowing that there is another Council working towards the same goals. We look forward to becoming truly closely coordinated on certain issues for in unity there is strength.

Please keep us informed.

SD



# The Case of Joanne Little

By BOB McMAHON and JIM GRANT  
WASHINGTON, N.C. — On August 27, Clarence Alligood, a guard at the Beaufort County jail, was found dead in a cell. Alligood, 62, had been killed with an ice pick normally kept in his desk drawer. His body was naked from the waist down, except for his socks, and his shoes were lying in the corridor outside the cell.

The occupant of the cell, a twenty-year-old black woman named Joanne Little, had fled. Eight days later she turned herself in to state authorities in Raleigh, N.C. At that time her account of Alligood's death became available to news reporters.

## Guard attempts rape

Little had been kept in the Beaufort County jail for three months, pending an

appeal on a charge of breaking and entering. She was the only woman held in the jail, where all guards are white males. She stated that Alligood's death was self-defense; he had made sexual advances to her once before, and on the night of the 27th he had tried to rape her.

According to Little, Alligood entered her cell about 3 a.m., having taken his shoes off outside the cell, and threatened her with an ice pick. While Alligood was undressing, she got hold of the ice pick, struck him with it several times, and then fled the jail. What is publicly known of the physical evidence found at the scene of Alligood's death appears to confirm this account.

## Support building

Since she turned herself in, the case of Joanne Little has begun to attract considerable attention and concern around North Carolina, and especially in the black community and the feminist movement. What has happened to Little is seen as involving important questions about racism in the courts and jails, the treatment of women in prison, and the right of women to defend themselves against rape. Over 150 supporters turned out to a hearing held in Raleigh on October 1 to set bail in the murder charge against her.



Judge James H. Pou Bailey, a former FBI agent who carries a gun with him in the courtroom, agreed that things did look a little strange when confronted with the examiner's report about the jailer's nude body being found in Little's cell. But he went ahead and set a ransom/bond so high as to be virtually unreachable: \$100,000. During the hearing, Little was kept tightly shackled in the courtroom, so that she could not even rise to greet her supporters as they came in.

The state's treatment of Little has been harsh so far. With other prisoners awaiting trial, she has been placed in the solitary confinement section of the Women's Prison in Raleigh. She is not allowed to speak out loud to the prisoner in the next cell, and the only visitors she has been permitted are her mother and her lawyer.

The mail she has received from friendly people around North Carolina has been a major factor in keeping Little going. Persons who wish to can write her at 1034 Bragg Street, Raleigh, NC 27610.

## Legal road difficult

Despite the support she is receiving, lawyers for Little feel they face a difficult task ahead. The first problem is insuring a fair trial.

*In double jeopardy - a black and a female!*

*The Southern Patriot  
October 1974*

Racial attitudes in the white population of eastern North Carolina, where Beaufort County is located, would probably make it impossible to get a fair trial here. Lawyers are trying to have the case moved to the Piedmont (central) section of the state.

Their first motion to have the case transferred has been denied, because North Carolina law would only permit a switch to an adjacent county in eastern North Carolina.

The lawyers are planning to appeal this denial and to test the constitutionality of the North Carolina law.

Little's lawyers must also deal with her conviction on charges of breaking and entering. Although she had wanted to appeal this charge, her previous lawyer neglected to file all the necessary papers before the time allowed for appeals expired. A court just recently ruled that Little has lost her right to an automatic appeal because of this, and must begin serving a 7-10 year sentence. An appeal can still be granted at the discretion of the court, and her present lawyers feel they have strong grounds for such an appeal.

Although her present lawyers are representing her without fee, the cost of an adequate legal defense will still be high. Little's lawyers estimate \$20,000 will be needed for her trial, with more needed if an appeal is required. Supporters have organized the Joanne Little Defense Fund, Inc., PO Box 1003, Durham, NC 27702, to which tax-exempt contributions may be made.



# BOOK Review

Medea, Andra and Kathleen Thompson. AGAINST RAPE, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.

A survival manual for women: How to avoid entrapment and how to cope with rape physically and emotionally.

The authors state they set out to make a case based on the principle "that rape is not the isolated act of an aberrant individual but a crime against women that is encouraged by a sexist society; that women are seen, in our culture, not as whole human beings, but as objects and authorized victims of male aggression."

The authors accept the responsibility that the above is a strong accusation stated in strong terms but consider it to be the only explanation for the incredibly high, and constantly increasing number of reported rapes and for the ways in which victims are treated by the police, courts, hospitals and other established institutions. Women across the country are deciding that the situation can no longer be tolerated and are organizing group projects in the movement against rape.

The authors define the different categories of rape and explain how rape and society's attitude toward it affects every woman whether or not she has ever felt threatened by an actual rape. They state that no woman can ignore the problem, for the underlying fear and the loaded warnings of "Be careful" have been the experience of every woman. Webster's definition of rape is the "illicit carnal knowledge of a woman without her consent, effected by force, duress, intimidation, or deception as to the nature of the act." Other definitions put forward by the authors are: "Rape is a crime against women. Rape is a deadly insult against you as a person. Rape is the deprivation of sexual self-determination. Rape is a man's fantasy, a woman's nightmare. Rape is all the hatred, contempt and oppression of women in this society concentrated in one act."

The authors dispel many myths through their survey of rape victims, rapists and the rape situation. They conclude rape is not a special, isolated act, nor an aberration, a deviation from the norms of sexual and social behaviour, but is simply at the end of the continuum of male-aggressive, female-passive patterns and an arbitrary line has been drawn to mark it off from the rest of such relationships. It is this arbitrary line that accounts for the difficulty that the laws and the courts have in prosecuting a rapist. This book deals with all rapes, whether prosecutable or not, and is defined as any sexual intimacy forced on one person by another. The authors state that they do not believe that rape laws were designed to protect women from rape; "the prosecutable rape is made special for reasons that we consider to be insulting and degrading to women", and quote Susan Griffin's statement in her article in RAMPARTS, "Rape: The All-American Crime" that rape laws are property laws. Another quote from an article in the 1952-53 "Yale Law Journal" explains explicitly why the preservation of the bodies of women is important to men, further establishes the fact of women as property and as sexual object by stating that rape as a prosecuta\*



ble crime is not a crime against the woman but against the man whose exclusive possession as a sexual object she is, and that is why a man cannot be convicted of raping his own wife.

This book is useful in several ways: First, it illustrates one of the worst manifestations of our sexist society and sheds some light on which women are most apt to be victims, which men are most apt to be rapists, and what situations are most conducive to rape, including the "little rapes". From this the authors are able to offer some advice about precautions and preventions, but the most helpful section and the one which emphasises women's own sexual self-determination, is the chapter on self-defense.

The authors destroy many of the myths about rape such as a rapist must be psychotic, that women are "asking for it", that men only rape if they are suddenly overcome by an uncontrollable sexual urge. (Manachim Amir in Patterns in forcible rape found that over 82% of rapes in his study were premeditated, and the authors concluded that this particular myth has provided a convenient way for men to evade responsibility for their own sexual actions.

The last two chapters deal with an outline of action to take when raped, whether the victim intends to prosecute or not, and with a description of group projects that have been or can be organized in the movement against rape.

This book should be read by all women, but particularly by single students 15 to 22 years of age, who are between 5'1" and 5'8" tall and weigh between 110 and 139 lbs. who might meet or be with a male stranger, friend, acquaintance, or lover, in their own home, his home, inside other than own home or his home or in a car between the hours of 6 p.m. and 2:59 am.

Shirley Goundrey

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THE RIB SPEAKS OUT ----- Beth Ross

Although it may have been established in the Bible that woman was created from the rib of Adam, I do not know of any written source which states women are to "please" men. Ahh, "the members of the fairer sex"; with little or conceivably nothing to do all day, with perhaps an infinite task of looking pretty, acting dainty, and dreaming of their man-to-be. It would seem a pleasant leisurely life to involve oneself in, until "Prince Charming" comes charging in to sweep the precious lady into a magical existence called marriage. Such is the life so magnificently portrayed in the romantic books which seem too conveniently available.

Meanwhile in the midst of our curious population, a strong, self-assured Prince Charming is doing his best to show off his manliness and courage. Our intelligent man grows up knowing only exciting and adventurous antics to perform continuously throughout his thrilling existence. Many of these heroic enterprises contain inklings of violence or cruelty which too often come to the fore. Of course to further enrich his life he "enchants" his helpless darling by fulfilling her one and only dream of being married.



The Rib speaks out - Con'd

Thus he protects and supports her and her children while he is out all day (what about all night, too?) mysteriously working.

The most important factor to parents with a new-born is their child's sex. If it is a girl she is overwhelmed with cute little dresses, soft little dollies and typically girlish items which would never do for a big baby boy! Eventually as she grows older her fundamental necessity is being fully conscious of her attractive appearance. (Ever notice how tight pants or skirts restrict freedom of movement? When one tries to walk, it produces short stiff movements similar to when one wiggles. Thus most girls wiggle when wearing tight clothing.) Now, having the art of looking seductive down pat, some learn to cook and sew. She may go to school to bide time and practise her art, all under the pretence of becoming educated to cope with the world. (Does she know of the rest of the world?) If she finishes high school she may go into nursing, clerical work, teaching or even a telephone operator. If she leaves school she then works as a live-in baby sitter, waitress, probable secretary or nurse's aide, cleaner or a cashier - in any store. Constantly she is dreaming and waiting for her most wonderful day; the day she marries. Then "TA DA", her man pops into her life. She will most likely say yes to the first guy, as the sooner she marries the sooner she fills her place in society.

After becoming married, the wife is now expected to stay at home, do all the housework, look after the children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no complaints, and also cater to each and every whim of her husband. She must definitely have supper ready for serving the instant dear hubby strides or storms through the door. In some cases when dearie walks through the door, little cutie-pie wife immediately drops everything (babies or food included) to dash to him (waiting at doorway) to smother him in kisses, hugs, irrelevant talk, all to ensure him that he was actually missed and everything will be alright again since he is home.

To many this article may seem ridiculous and even incomprehensible. My intentions are most sincere, hoping to make even a few people concerned or aware of their way of life.

Reprinted from THE JIGGER RIDES AGAIN  
December 1974 (Fisheries College)

FIRST PLACE FOR STORY COMPETITION WON BY

ANNE HART

We are pleased to report that the short story competition organized by the Nfld. Writers Guild and funded by the Confederation Celebration Committee and Canada Council was won by Anne Hart, a NSWC member and practising librarian at MUN. The contest was judged by Clara Thomas, professor of English at U. of York. The short story is entitled "Help me Hepplewhite" and is as yet unpublished.



## THE GALATEA AND THE HEROINE OF GOLDEN BAY

"Newfoundland Ships and Men" by Andrew Horwood. 1971.

It was Christmas week of 1906. Mrs. McDonald of Golden Bay was preparing for the Merry Season when she looked out her window. The wind was blowing a gale directly off the sea and the waves were rolling in and breaking on the beach.

She saw a small schooner headed toward the beach. Evidently the master was trying to beach her to save the lives of his crew. The vessel stranded some distance from the shore and she saw the men---four of them---put out a boat and get into it. They attempted to ride the surf believing or hoping that in this way they could reach the land. But the boat was upset by a great wave and the men thrown into the sea. Two of them managed to reach the beach. The other two clung to the upturned boat that came in with a wave and was carried out again when the wave receded. Mrs. McDonald saw that the men couldn't cling to the boat much longer. The december water was chilling their blood and the tossing of the boat was exhausting their strength.

The woman spoke to Captain Bond, one of the men who had reached the beach "You two try to make it to my house. I'll be there as quickly as possible." She waded into the water to await the next time the wave would come in. Her young sons followed their mother staying just behind her. As the boat neared the beach the woman grabbed the gunwall and threw the painter to the boys. The painter was a stout rope mostly used as a tow rope fastened to the stem of the boat. The three held the boat as the wave went out. This time the boat grounded and the two men struggled ashore.

Mrs. McDonald and the boys were by that time in considerable pain as the icy water reached their bodies. The men had to be encouraged to make the effort to walk to the house. All four sailors and the three McDonalds were soon drying out before a blazing fire made out of drift-wood.

Because the rescue took place in Golden Bay, an isolated settlement in Placentia Bay, and Captain Bond wasn't a renowned sea-captain and the Galatea was only a small schooner, the incident would have been entirely forgotten as are many such heroic acts and narrow escapes but the Evening Telegram got the story from Captain Bond and it appeared in the issue of December 22, 1906. At the time the approach of Christmas with its activities was dominating the news. However Mrs. McDonald felt that she had her reward when she saw the four men walk from her home feeling nothing the worse physically for their brush with death. All that they had owned aboard the schooner was lost with her...

... The two men who had clung to the boat--their names were Masters and Tulk--felt for ever after, that they owed their lives to Mrs. McDonald and whenever a storm beat upon the house of the brave woman in Golden Bay she stood at the window remembering the plight of Masters and Tulk as they clung to their upturned boat in that surf...

Printed with the permission of  
Mr. Andrew Horwood.



Nfld. Status of Women,  
Rawlins Cross,  
St. John's, Nfld.

*Letter from  
Harry Summers listed  
as one of the "12 most  
wanted men" in the  
December Newsletter.*

Dec. 17, 74.

Dear Ms.

Having read Fridays edition of the "EVENING TELEGRAM" we at Harry Summers & Sons Ltd. have concluded that you are extremely fond of our emblem "THE LADY".

We then decided that it would be appropriate to send to you some of our stationery as you might like to use it in your correspondence.

Thank you

Remaining yours,

signed G. Murphy  
Miss G. Murphy

PER: HARRY SUMMERS & SONS LTD.

December 20, 1974.

Mr. Harry Summers,  
1 Job Street,  
St. John's, Nfld.

Dear Mr. Summers,

The Newfoundland Status of Women Council regrets that we did not make our point sufficiently clear when we nominated you as one of the "12 Most Wanted Men". In your letter you state that "We at Harry Summers & Sons Ltd. have concluded that you are extremely fond of our emblem 'The Lady'."

On the contrary, it is our belief that using a female body to depict an unrelated service is offensive to many women and thus we request that you select another advertising symbol which will be more in keeping with the service that your business provides and one that would not alienate any potential customers.

11

Yours sincerely,

Newfoundland Status of Women Council  
Committee



NSWC participant: Elinor Neubauer.

I have quoted below the text of a Press Release made by Eleanor Pelrine, Executive Director of CARAL on November 19.

"More than 75 lobbyists, from across Canada, were armed with statistical and informational material about abortion, as they met about 100 members of parliament in hard-won appointments today.

The budget, brought down yesterday, and MP interest in the budget debate impeded the Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law in its educational lobby of Members of Parliament.

The participants, working in delegations of two to four, and representing geographic and professional cross-sections of CARAL, had asked in October for appointments to meet legislators on an individual basis.

The material they submitted dealt primarily with inequities of access to safe legal abortion in Canada. CARAL contends that, since fewer than one third of Canadian hospitals have established Therapeutic Abortion Committees, most women seeking abortion are forced to travel miles or hundreds of miles from their communities to obtain it. Six thousand Canadian women travelled to New York State alone last year. No figures are available on Canadian women who obtained abortion in other American states, or other countries.

Recent statements and the reported 20,000 memos issued by Justice Minister Otto Lang are widely believed to be responsible for increasing difficulties in access. The Yukon and N.W.T., and Saskatchewan appear to be particularly affected by Mr. Lang's efforts.

One Toronto lobbyist reported that she telephoned 8 hospitals last week, representing herself as a 48 year old woman with five grown children, and grandchildren, distressed at being accidentally pregnant. She was unable to obtain an early appointment for consultation at any hospital, and artificial quotas, unrelated to patient need were mentioned by several. It was suggested by two hospitals that she visit a counselling service, which might be able to suggest a more likely hospital.

Members of the CARAL delegation reported that they had encountered mixed reactions from parliamentarians, many of whom appeared to regard abortion as a touchy political issue.

More M.P.'s expressed surprise that access to safe legal abortion is becoming more restricted in Canada. Despite the fact that Justice Minister Otto Lang has reportedly circulated 20,000 copies of a three page memo which gives his personal interpretation of the law, few MP's, and few of his cabinet colleagues appeared to have seen it.

Delegates to the lobby said they had encountered many M.P.'s sympathetic to the cause of repeal, and also met others who believe that abortion is immoral.

All M.P.'s were provided with a paper by Father Robert Drinan, now a U.S. Congressman, and former dean of the Boston Law School, who advocates removal and abortion provisions from the Criminal Code, making it a matter of personal conscience.

Other meetings with legislators will be held in the near future. CARAL's newly elected Board of Directors plans to embark on a vigorous program of public and political education."



I was elected to CARAL's Board of Directors along with Nicki Bergen, Ottawa; June Callwood, Toronto; David Carr, Hamilton; Corinee Devlin, Hamilton; Ruth Evans, Toronto; Hilda Heath, Edmonton (formerly of Bonavista); Gertrude Katz, Montreal; Mereille Lafortune, Montreal; Mary McKim, London; Ruth Miller, Ottawa; Dian Mineau, Kingstown; Henry Morgantaler, Montreal; Eleanor Pelrine, Toronto; E.B. Ratcliffe, Preston-Cambridge; Norma Scarborough, Toronto and Sally-Ann Williams, Saskatoon.

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PLEASE BECOME INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF CARAL (APPLICATION FORM IN NEWSLETTER) - THOSE OPPOSED TO REPEAL ARE WELL ORGANIZED AND HEAVILY FUNDED - WE NEED EVERYBODY'S MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BRING ABOUT REPEAL!!!

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REPEAL OF THE ABORTION LAW

"The purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion.

"Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion, and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling, across the country.

"We regard the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental human right"

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