

Over sixty women met last night in an emergency session to discuss basis issues they found missing from the National Ad Hoc Action Committee on the Status of Women in Canada. The following statement was drawn up.

We feel that the basic issue which had been ruled out of discussions was that it is not the status of women which is wrong, but that it is in fact only symptomatic of what is wrong. This being the system itself. We believe women want to work for the benefit of all the people of Canada rather than to jockey for positions in corporations, most of them US dominated, that exploit all Canadians and Canadian women in particular. From our experiences at this conference we suggest that should there be future conferences they be:

- (a) located in simpler surroundings, in a place not owned by a large US corporation such as IF and T which produces anti personel weapons for destruction of life and vegetation in Viet Nam
- (b) that natural foods be provided
- (c) that table service be carried out by the participants
- (d) that entertainment be provided by women concerned about the cause of women and be non-sexist in nature.
- (e) that travelling funds provided by government should not influence decisions to play down issues such as direct action on abortion. We feel the womens movement must be independent of the power structure.
- (f) that film crews and other media personel be all-women, to promote the hiring of women in this field and to encourage understanding coverage.
- (g) that conference committees should be more flexible to reschedule time to provide for special needs which might arise.

We believe that the scope of recomendations from this conference should extend beyond those of the Status of Women Report to include:

- (a) child care in state supported child care centres as a right for every child, as education ~~is~~ is a right.
- (b) community control of education at all levels
- (c) the including of sexuality in the human rights code



- (d) the elimination of poverty which calls for radical change of the whole structure of this society. For we as women understand that the relationship between women and poverty is a necessary and basic part of the present system.

Contradictions between the eloquent call put forward by this conference for action became more apparent as support for immediate direct action on the abortion demonstration was not forthcoming.

We demand that the conference support demonstrations, boycotts, strikes and other such actions as a means of public education and of effecting change; that it recognizes that all levels of action are necessary and in a spirit of sisterhood all women support such actions in the manner they feel to be the most valid.

We feel further that an illustration of how we cannot solve the question of womens exploitation without understanding how a huge international corporation like Kraft is destroying farming communities in Canada. We suspect the use of Kraft cheese at the luncheon. We therefore demand that five minutes be allocated for a presentation of the reasons behind the Kraft Boycott.

We the undersigned present this statement for the endorsement of the National Ad Hoc Action Committee On The Status Of Women In Canada this 9th of March 1972. We suggest that it is imperative to bring to the attention of this conference that it does not in fact represent the women of this country, geographically, culturally, economically or racially. We further suggest that the recommendations of the emergency session is one step towards correcting that wrong.

