

ACTION

Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women

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APRIL 1975



NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The annual meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women will be held in Winnipeg on May 10th and 11th at the Y.W.C.S. This will be the first time that N.A.C.'s annual meeting has been held outside of Toronto.

Four priorities selected by N.A.C. for promotion and implementation in 1975, International Women's Year, will be discussed. These priorities, and speakers addressing the meeting on each topic are:

1. Equal pay for work of equal value - Madeleine Parent
2. A choice in child care - Laura Mills
3. Birth control services for all who need them - Josephine Earn
4. Equal partnership in marriage - Arlene Gropper.

Interested persons are invited to attend the sessions.

RED LIGHT THEATRE OF TORONTO

Manitoba Theatre Workshop, 160 Princess St. will be host to the Red Light Theatre of Toronto on June 2, 3, and 4 at 8 p.m. The production, "What Glorious Times They Had", is a humorous reconstruction of the fight for female suffrage in Manitoba, concerning Mrs. Nellie McClung and her battles with Sir Rodmond Roblin. Charge is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students. Reservations essential. Phone 942-7291.

SEMINAR ON WOMEN AND POLITICS

Thirty women from across Canada, all involved in some way in politics, met in Ottawa at the invitation of the Secretary of State March 9-12 to review the participation of women in the political life of Canada. Win Loewen, President of the Liberal Party of Manitoba, and Muriel Smith, President of the Manitoba NDP attended.

Apart from time scheduled for meeting with the eight federal women M.P.'s. the four political party presidents, and presenting a brief to two Ministers, the Hon. Hugh Faulkner and the Hon. Marc Lalonde, the program was loosely structured to allow for as much free interaction among the women as possible.

Not all the women invited to attend were engaged in political action through established parties. There were representatives from minority parties, from municipal politics and from citizens' action groups.

There was a real mix of age, experience and ethnic background. We found that although we agreed on many topics as women, there were many more on which we disagreed as persons. However, a tremendous sense of camaraderie developed in the few days.

The three and one-half days of talk was painstakingly processed through simultaneous translators and frantically shaped into a brief to present to the ministers. There was consensus around a few issues, e.g. the need for far-reaching consciousness-raising sessions

Seminar (Continued)

INTERCHANGE '75

FORUM FOR ACTION ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Women and Human Rights - Ottawa, April 6-9
Brooke Jeffrey - Co-ordinator

This conference was the third in the series of invitational conferences planned by the Department of the Secretary of State Women's Programs. It brought together thirty women from across Canada who had a special interest and expertise in the field of human rights and women's rights. The participants varied from Madame Therese Casgrain of Quebec whose particular concern is the status of the Indian woman to directors of women's centres concerned with family planning, rape and abortion. Muriel Arpin was invited from Manitoba.

The discussion focussed on the proposed Federal Human Rights Legislation. An important principle proposed was that the legislation should promote rights, not merely oppose discrimination, should be aimed at enhancing the dignity of all human beings as well as improving the quality of life. Much of the discussion related to rights so basic to the life of women that they can be considered as human rights, e.g. family planning, equal pay for equal work, day care, property rights and unions. The question of protective legislation for women, particularly in respect of the proposed changes in judicial procedure in rape cases, was raised.

On the final morning there was an "encounter with decision makers" when deputy minister, directors and members of such bodies as the departments of Justice, Labour, the Law Reform Commission and the Civil Service Commission were present. It was proposed that the Human Rights Legislation should report directly to Parliament, that the Commission should have investigative powers with authority to initiate investigations, not only respond to complaints, that there should be effective enforcement and an adequate budget for research and education. Provision for affirmative action programs and class actions was raised. Since the bill has not yet been tabled in the House, definite answers could not be given. The impression conveyed was that the legislation would be similar to provincial legislation now on the books but applying

to the fields under federal jurisdiction.

This "encounter" was the action that was contemplated in setting up the conference. But,
TO BE REALLY EFFECTIVE ACTION MUST COME FROM ACROSS CANADA.

How do you personally feel about Human Rights legislation? What do you think should be included? What are the strengths and weaknesses of our Manitoba legislation? What do you consider basic human rights for women? Let the Department of Justice know. This is our way of influencing the decision makers and creating a climate of opinion in this country which will be prepared to accept Human Rights laws as a positive force promoting respect for and observation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Muriel Arpin

BRANDON BRANCH M.A.C.S.W.

Recent activity of the Brandon branch has been setting up and operating the Women's Information Centre. The Y.W.C.A. has been good enough to provide the space. Our one room operation contains a small but growing feminist library of books, newsletters and magazines, the needed telephone for calls from women wishing help, referrals or encouragement, and space for meetings of study and action groups. We have been providing speakers for organizations interested in women's rights and also inviting speakers to our meetings. One of our members, Bev Peters, has joined the board of Harmond Home. When it opens, it will be the first provision for women with drug or alcoholic problems in Western Manitoba. We have great plans for starting a monthly newsletter and other projects which, given money and time, we will be able to report on in the future.

Judith Springer

KENORA'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CELEBRATION

Kenora and area women were disappointed when the guest speaker for the celebration, Michelle Landsberg, associate editor of Chatelaine Magazine, decided at the last minute that she could not make it, fearing that a possible air strike would prevent her from returning to Toronto and because Kenora was "just too far". Kath Avery, one of the organizers of the conference, said this was one of the attitudes that should be erased. She said the larger centres must be made to listen to this area.

About 200 women turned out for the opening night dinner where Muriel Arpin agreed to fill in as guest speaker. She spoke on the theme of women as full citizens of Canada with the right to have discriminatory legislation removed from the statute books, the right to a choice of life style, to be a full time homemaker, to follow a career or any combination thereof, and the right to determine the quality of life for themselves, their families and their community. A fashion show by women of the Whitefish Bay Reserve showed the mink and other fur coats manufactured at the Shong-wai-Shi factory on the Reserve.

The Conference was planned as a cross-cultural exchange of ideas between local white and native women. The workshops on Saturday dealt with Alternative Life Styles, Rape and Women's Rights, and Women as Community Leaders. The latter workshop was chaired by Madeleine Skead, Chief of Rat Portage Reserve and Muriel Arpin of M.A.C.S.W. The group looked at the committees and councils where decisions affecting the quality of life in the community are made and discussed methods of obtaining positions of influence to promote change. The native women in the group want a better life for their children and would choose to sit on the Board of Education. While the future of their children is of paramount importance to them, the women, as Madeleine Skead has done, could begin speaking out now for their own interests. The meeting provided opportunity to communicate, to assess our position as women in the community and to plan for positive action.

WOMEN IN EDUCATION

A two day conference on "Women as Leaders in Education", March 14 and 15, sponsored by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, and attended by approximately 200 women educators, discussed the question of why so few women in education are in administrative positions. Those attending were told that women must overcome their own stereotyped attitudes about what they can do, broaden their range of teaching experience and increase their educational qualifications for administrative appointment. Kay Sigurjonsson, public relations officer for the Ontario Federation of Women Teachers, pointed out that the limited number of role models of women administrators, male selection boards who appoint persons like themselves to administrative vacancies and the constraints that marriage may impose on a woman's mobility are all factors which keep women from leadership jobs. While 75 percent of the teachers in the elementary schools of Ontario are women, only 220 of the 3000 schools have a woman principal and these 220 schools are the smallest 3 or 4 room schools in the province.

Linda Shuto, head of the Status of Women program of the B.C. Teachers Federation, pointed out that the curriculum and textbooks, teachers attitudes and the philosophy of schools, i.e. the pervasive male-oriented vision of society that has always existed is a subtle and extended 12 years of brainwashing. This brainwashing means that, although girls do well in high school, only 40 per cent of the baccalaureate degrees, 27 per cent of the Master's degrees, and 12 per cent of the Doctorate's go to women. She stated that the basic problem facing women is economic, that the country depends on the cheap labour of women and their unpaid work in the home.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Over 70 delegates attended a Human Rights Conference on February 21 and 22 sponsored by the Manitoba Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress. The history of human rights legislation and affirmative action and specific problems of native people and women in the labour force were examined through panel discussions and workshops.

Howard Pawley, Attorney General, challenged unions to maintain their position in the forefront of the struggle for social justice. Harvey Moats, Executive Director of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission outlined the contribution that affirmative action programs can make in achieving justice in employment for native persons, women and ethnic minorities. He described strategies for changing stereotyping in education programs.

Shirley Carr, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress warned that legislative changes to improve women's problems in employment will not produce real change unless individual men and women become sensitized to the problems and willing to solve them in an organized way. Key factors in eliminating discriminatory practices are techniques for objective job evaluation.

Ken Dillon, M.L.A. for Thompson, called on unions to require that workers be hired according to the following priorities: Disadvantaged persons in the immediate geographical area; persons in the immediate area with relevant training; Manitobans; Canadians; immigrants. Dennis Lamirande outlined the problems encountered by Pathfinders, a branch of Manpower concerned with placing natives in city jobs, who must, in addition to the job, insure that clothing, housing and recreation needs are met.

Mary Eady, Director of the Manitoba Women's Bureau, explored areas where unions could encourage their women members to become more knowledgeable about working collectively to solve their problems. Barbara Wainwright of the International Garment Workers Unions stated that her problem was to persuade women to work more actively in unions on their own behalf. Muriel Smith, Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, spoke of the socialization process which has stereotyped women into supportive roles rather than full and active participation.

The two days spent in serious examination of the employment problems of the least fortunate members was a heart-warming experience and a start in the right direction.

Muriel Smith

MANITOBA HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

Norah Frood of Montreal, a member of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, addressed the International Women's Year continuing education program of M.H.E.A., "Focus on Women". She referred to the major priorities of the Council as human rights legislation, child care services, and the forthcoming legislative changes in the Labour Code, the Citizenship Act and other provisions in the Omnibus bill. She pointed out that the goal must be to open up choices for women, not merely put women into new and different boxes. Workshop discussions on sex stereotyping in education, the economic position of women in the home and parenting were led by Martha Colquhoun, June Menzies and Dale Berg.

FOR TRAVELLERS

A recent news report comments that as a contribution to International Women's Year, the government of Australia will be improving the accommodation and other facilities for women at Australia's permanent research base on MacQuarie Island in the Antarctic!!!

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, APRIL MEETING

The Morgentaler Case

A.C.S.W. called for Dr. Henry Morgentaler's immediate release on the grounds that no jury convicted him. The Governor General in Council was urged to exercise the Royal prerogative of mercy to commute Morgentaler's 18 month sentence, release him immediately and pardon him.

Expressing alarm at the upholding of the Quebec Court of Appeals' judgment reversing the jury's acquittal of Dr. Morgentaler A.C.S.W. motion stated, "The reversal of a jury's verdict by an Appeals Court without ordering a new trial is contrary to long established judicial precedent and effectively destroys the right of the accused to be tried by a jury of peers". The Council wishes amendments to the Criminal Code to ensure that appellate tribunals' powers are limited, in the case of jury acquittals, to the ordering of new trials.

A.C.S.W. also demanded that Parliament conduct its long promised free debate on abortion.

Human Rights Legislation

A.C.S.W. is concerned at the lack of action on Human Rights Legislation. The members instructed Dr. Katie Cooke, Chairman, to demand a meeting of full A.C.S.W. with the Prime Minister at an early date to review the Government's intentions.

Women's Groups Funding

A.C.S.W. recommended to Government that the funding of Women's groups become a permanent program and be augmented to \$1 million annually.

The Banking Sub-Committee

A first, a successful co-operative development with a group in the private sector, a joint study on woman in

banking will be carried out with the Canadian Bankers' Association, the report to be completed in 1975. Marianne Bossen, economist of Winnipeg, will conduct the investigation.

Family Planning

Problems include lack of general public awareness of methods of conception control, inadequate sex education for youth and adults, and insufficient funding. A.C.S.W. recommended better labelling by manufacturers of contraceptives indicating failure rates and side effects. The Council recommended a publicity campaign on family planning, objecting to the black out of the family planning information on television and radio.

Division of Marital Property

A.C.S.W. is committed to the principle of marriage as a legal, social and economic partnership, regardless of the division of labour between spouses. Real and personal property earned or acquired during the marriage should be shared equally by both spouses, with certain specified exemptions such as property inherited by one spouse. Property owned by either spouse before marriage remains the property of that spouse but value added or interest earned on that property should be shared equally.

Matters Under Consideration

Rape and sexual offenses, pressure on the Government to pass the Citizenship Bill giving Canadian mothers the right to confer citizenship on their children, and a call for the Canadian National to make public its study of women employed in this federal crown corporation.

Dr. Katie Cooke said, "We can't be your voices. You must speak loudly and clearly if your affairs matter to you, and let the decision makers know that it will not be politically healthy for them to ignore your needs any longer. Now is the time to have meaningful legislation passed for International Women's Year."

SPEAK UP!

WRITE DOWN!

BE HEARD!

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT ENDING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN?

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women urges you to make your voices heard on three Bills currently before Parliament.

LEGISLATION CAN BE PASSED QUICKLY.
BILL C-373

We got quick action on the Beaver emblem: Unanimous consent for priority debate - February 21, 1975. Third Reading March 18, 1975. Passed - March 18, 1975.

HOW ABOUT BILL C-20?
(EQUAL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS)

First Reading - October 10, 1974.
No action.

HOW ABOUT BILL C-16?
OMNIBUS BILL (LEGISLATIVE EQUALITY)
8 statutes to be changed

1 re-introduced - October 8, 1974.
Has had second reading and moved into Health and Welfare Committee.

HOW ABOUT BILL C-52?
STATUTE LAW (SUPERANNUATION),
(PENSIONS EQUALITY)

First Reading - February 17, 1975.
No action.

Write to you M.P., House of Commons,
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0A6. No stamp is
required. The message could simply state:

Dear M.P. (Insert his/her name):
Please push for speedy passage of Bills
C-16, C-20, and C-52. Your constituent.

At your next meetings, pass a resolution and send it to your M.P.'s and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the Hon. Marc Lalonde. Let M.P.'s, those who pass the laws, know your views!

Seminar (Concluded)

for almost all male politicians if the concerns of Canadian women are to be understood and acted upon; greatly extended support of day care services, employment counselling and training for women; equal treatment on the job; fairer laws relating to the economic rights of women in marriage. Recommendations showing party leaders how they could, and should work actively to give women a better chance at running for public office and parti-

DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE IN MANITOBA

How do you think Marital Property should be divided?

Will the Murdoch vs Murdoch situation be remedied?

Should the sharing provisions apply to those of us who are now married or only to marriages entered into after the law is passed?

Should the spouse who will have custody of the children, usually the wife, be permitted to retain the family home as her residence?

How about sharing where one member is obviously at fault?

Should maintenance for the wife (or husband) be cut off when the children are 7? 16? or?

Should we let someone make these decisions for women? We do have an opportunity right now to have some input into the decision making process. The Reform Commission of Manitoba has published a Working Paper on Family Law and has invited comments on the changes suggested before May 31st. You can call in for a copy at 200-219 Kennedy st. or phone in 946-7641 and they'll mail you one. Talk it over with your friends at coffee time or suggest that your organization take a look at it. AND LET THE COMMISSION KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT!

icipating in decisionmaking levels of the parties were formulated.

The majority agreed that the blocks to fuller participation of women in public life are in part remediable by ourselves, individually and collectively. However, there is also much which should be done by those currently holding office and controlling the pursestrings if only they care enough to try to understand our problems.

Muriel Smith

HERE AND THERE IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

WINNIPEG

The Congress of Canadian Women celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday, March 9th with a programme at R.B. Russell School. Virginia Thomson, day care teacher and member of CUPE local 79, was speaker at the event.

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The Native Women's Association of Manitoba held their annual meeting on March 14th. As well as adopting a constitution, the women were endeavoring to set up machinery so that their concerns in the education of children, housing, fire prevention, law enforcement, protection of women and children, medical services could be channelled to the proper departments and dealt with effectively. Native women are speaking out for effective action in their communities.

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The Council of Women of Winnipeg listened to June Menzies, vice-chairperson of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women as she brought them up to date on the progress of the Law Reform Commission on the division of marital property. The members are preparing to respond to the Law Reform Commission's position.

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The Pioneer Women's Organization of Winnipeg held an "International Women's Year Brunch Celebration" on Sunday, April 12th at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. Women from six different countries spoke of women's rights around the world.

Participants were Dr. June James from the Caribbean, Ms. Surrender Duggal from India, Dr. Riva Bartell from Israel, Ms. Cecelia Gonzales from the Phillipines and Ms. Ann Wach from the Ukraine.

BRANDON

A conference for High School and University students on the changing role of young women in contemporary society was held April 19th. Adrienne Clarkson was the

key-note speaker.

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The Council of Women of Brandon at their annual meeting in February heard Muriel Arpin, vice-president of the National Council of Women discuss the Family Law paper of the Law Reform Commission of Manitoba. Since Council has already presented to the Federal and Provincial Governments the concept of Marriage as an equal partnership with an equal sharing of marital property, it only remains for the members of Council to respond to the proposals for the method of sharing.

EDMONTON

Wives attending the annual meeting of the Association of Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta in Edmonton recently heard Professor Doris Badir, Family Studies Department, University of Alberta, point out that most women decide their role on the basis of what is expected of them rather than what they really want. Joyce Halpern stated that many women depend on their husband and children to define who they are. Cathy Fraser, Edmonton lawyer, said that, from the legal point of view, women who are not employed outside of their home are treated in an inferior manner because of the lack of recognition for the economic worth of work in the home. Property law changes which recognize the contribution of the wife in the acquisition of matrimonial property are expected to go before the Alberta legislature in the near future.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Madeleine Parent, Secretary Treasurer of the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union in speaking to an International Women's Year seminar sponsored by the Women's Directorate, claimed that the Federal government's ratification in 1972 of the principle of "equal pay for equal work" was one big lie. The wage gap between men and women's wages is growing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MANITOBA WOMEN

MURIEL SMITH

Muriel Smith, Chairperson of the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, became the first woman president of the Manitoba New Democratic Party in March. She received 302 votes to 129 for Jim Campbell and 46 for Nick Ternette, both of Winnipeg. Muriel waged a vigorous though unsuccessful campaign in Crescentwood constituency during the 1973 provincial election.

BETTY SPARLING

Congratulations to Manitoba "boss of the year", Betty Sparling, copy chief of Eaton's advertising department in Winnipeg. Betty is the first woman to receive the award in the annual contest held by the Women's Advertising and Sales Club of Winnipeg.

LIZ CHAPMAN

Churchill's Woman of the Year for 1975 is Liz Chapman, Community Health Worker with the Manitoba Department of Health and Social Development. Mrs. Chapman, a native woman born on Big Eddy Reserve at The Pas is wife of a trapper and mother of 10 children, an expert at Indian beadwork and handicrafts and a helpful neighbor and counsellor. Her service to the twenty or more families who live in the shanty-town section called the Churchill Flats was cited as the overwhelming reason for her selection for this award.

VICKI LEHMAN

Elected March 1975, the first woman president of the University of Manitoba Students' Union.

FUTURE EVENTS

M.A.C.S.W. Project for I.W.Y.

A seminar with women of rural and Northern Manitoba is planned for May 23 to 25. Funded with the assistance of the Department of the Secretary of State, this special project for International Women's Year is a further phase of the Outreach Manitoba program started in 1973, designed to extend the scope of M.A.C.S.W. activities to all women in Manitoba.

The seminar will provide a forum for the discussion of issues concerning Manitoba women. It will be held at the Y.W.C.A. About 45 delegates from rural and northern Manitoba will attend.

After lunch, conference participants will select two of sixteen workshops on issues such as sexism in textbooks, teacher attitudes and behavior, strategies to overcome sexism, and non sexist aids in schools. A plenary session with Ms. Greenberg will conclude the conference in the afternoon.

A sub-committee of M.A.C.S.W. is presently preparing the conference. Anyone interested in working on publicity, program, registration, kits, or arrangements is invited to contact Linda Asper at 269-2030 or Madeleine Bourgouin at 475-6421. Many volunteers are needed to make the conference a success.

CONFERENCE ON SEXISM IN SCHOOLS

A conference on "Equality in our Schools Why Not!" will be held in Winnipeg at R.B. Russell School on Saturday, September 27th. Keynote speaker will be Selma Greenberg, Professor of Education at Hofstra University, and specialist in early childhood education. A panel reaction with Muriel Smith, president of M.A.C.S.W. as moderator will follow.

WOMEN'S MODEL PARLIAMENT

Women's Model Parliament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Legislative Building. Would you like to be M.L.A. for a day? For more information, contact Mrs. B. Johnsen at 256-8689.

WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

About 400 delegates, women law students from across Canada and interested men and women from Winnipeg, participated in serious, purposeful and lively sessions January 30th to February 2nd at the 2nd annual conference on Women and the Law. The conference and last year's first conference on Women and Property Rights marked the emergence of a new consciousness about women and by women in the legal profession.

Speakers of national stature were Sylva Gelber of the Women's Bureau, and Madeleine Parent, labour organizer with the C.L.C. Outstanding contributions were made by two American women, Ellen Dressilhuus and Judith Lonquist, experienced in working with Equal Opportunities legislation as it applies to women. Specially featured banquet speakers were Judge Nancy Morrison from B.C. whose witty stories of sex discrimination in the media and the work place delighted the audience (Quipped Nancy, who hates flying, "I'd feel twice as safe flying with a pregnant stewardess. If she trusts the pilot with herself and her baby, why should I worry?") and Jeanne Sauve, whose defence of abortion remaining in the Criminal Code did not meet with the delegates approval.

Over 70 resolutions were formulated in workshops and debated in the final plenary sessions. Among the resolutions emerging from the conference were the following:

- a) Better quality lower cost child care services for all ages of children.
- b) Recognition of the economic value of housework through more realistic tax deductions, access of housewives to the Canada Pension Plan.
- c) More humane treatment of rape victims to protect their privacy and dignity.
- d) Removal of abortion from the criminal code.
- e) Promotion of equal opportunities for women in both public and private sectors of employment through establishment of goals, guidelines and effective means of enforcement.
- f) Extension of the role of Human Rights Commissions to education of the public in all areas of discrimination; stronger legislation and more generous funding empowering Human Rights

Commissions to hear class actions and carry out effective investigation and enforcement.

- g) Support for separate federal funding for Metis women, non-status Indian women and status Indian women and a call for input by these three groups into the rewriting of the Indian Act.
- h) Basing new legislation on Women's Property Rights on the principle of equal partnership in marriage.

A number of French resolutions directed towards concerns of women of Quebec were endorsed.

The final morning was devoted to the thorny problems of establishing goals and structure for a more formal Canadian Women and Law Association. After prolonged debate on the role of men in the Association, it was finally agreed that any person in law school or the legal profession willing to work to promote equal status for women in the profession and/or in the law itself would be eligible as members. Lay persons were to be excluded. At the local level, the right of local option to include men or not was granted. A steering committee was set up to prepare a draft constitution and to plan for the 3rd annual conference to be held in 1976.

SYLVA GELBER

Sylva Gelber, Director of the federal Women's Bureau on a recent tour of Saskatchewan communities, pointed out that change in the status of women is slow because people are afraid of change. She stated that much of the response to efforts to improve the status of women is emotional rather than rational. Wastage of the brains and skills of half of our population occurs through reluctance to allow women full participation. Women in small communities face particular difficulty in working for change.

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS?

Patricia Glenn of 15-2780 Rowatt St., Ottawa, protests against the requirement that a married woman, applying for a passport in the name she was born with, must supply documentation proving that she uses that name, and that marital status and married name must be clearly indicated. She is sending the following letter to her M.P., to the Hon. M. Lalonde, Minister in charge of the Status of Women, and the Hon. A. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and invites other women who dislike the passport regulations to use the letter and join in her protest.

Dear Sir:

In applying for a Canadian passport in the name one was given at birth, a married woman must present documents or a list of documents that bear that name. She must supply information about her marriage and her spouse.

According to 'The Royal Commission on the Status of Women', the passport will be issued in the maiden name but with the marital status and the married name clearly indicated. (p.235, Women and the Family).

This undermines the right of a woman to use the name she was born with and to maintain an independant status. Please note that a male need not give any marital information nor is his marital status noted on his passport.

Granted marital status may help the Department of External Affairs in locating travellers abroad, but in these circumstances only the wife would be located by the passport. Of course, this is assuming wives only travel with husbands, and at that their own! Following department logic it would be impossible to find a single woman, who does not have a reference (i.e. her husband's name). Could not the above department locate next of kin simply by demanding next of kin information?

If a woman has decided to maintain her own name - that is her name. She does not have two names - a maiden name and a married name. A person has one and only one legal name.

For persons having changed their name additional documentation is certainly

wise (marriage data, change of name certificate or statutory declaration). But a person who has not changed a name should only need the signature of a guarantor on the passport photo to prove that it is the name used.

When a woman marries and she has a valid passport, the passport remains valid until it expires. Upon re-issuance the additional information and documentation must be provided and the additional information added to the passport.

This practice is discriminatory and contradictory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states "They (men and women of full age) are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution". (10/12/48 Second Section of Article 16(1)).

Surely the time has come that a married woman may have a passport in the name she uses and that her marital status and husband's name need not be included.

Why not? I mean, Why not?!!

Yours very truly,

RUG RANKING TO END?

Treasury Board President Jean Chretien told women civil servants in Ottawa that "rug ranking", (the practice by which the advancement of a woman secretary is tied to the position of her boss), will end with reclassification of about 15,000 civil service secretarial jobs. The occasion of Mr. Chretien's speech was a seminar of women workers from every government department organized by the treasury board as an International Women's Year event.

LIBERATED SOCIETY?

Roche Laboratories recently reported on a poll of U.S. psychiatrists opinions on women's liberation. Sixty-eight per cent of the group are quoted as stating that, if the goals of the women's liberation movement were to be achieved, the effects of society would be beneficial.