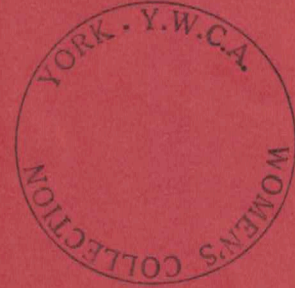


Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

PRIORITIES

Volume II, No. 8

August, 1974



"I always thought that when
a person stood for office on
a particular party platform,
that there was a commitment
to that platform."

Premier Dave Barrett,
on The Unity Movement.

A Publication of the
N. D. P. Women's Committee

PRIORITIES

Priorities is published monthly by the Standing Committee on Women's Rights of the B.C. New Democratic Party. Its intent is to provide a means of communication and discussion for NDP women in order to further the interests of the women's movement and of democratic socialism.

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Priorities welcomes submissions from its readers. All such submissions must be signed, although names will be withheld or pseudonyms used upon request. Where necessary, the editorial committee will edit for clarity, brevity or taste.

Correspondence: Send to Priorities c/o #8- 2295 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

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All unsigned articles are the collective responsibility of the Editorial Committee.

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" The issues and demands raised by the Women's Liberation Movement are integral to the development of a democratic socialist society. The N.D.P. actively encourages and provides support for women organizing around the demands of women's liberation and commits an N.D.P. government to creating the legislation necessary to realize these demands."

(From the B.C. N.D.P. policy on Women's Rights.)

Priorities has been typed and laid out entirely by volunteer labour and is printed in a union shop.

Editorial...Chairwoman's Report

In her report to the 1972 convention, Women's Committee chairwoman Marianne Gilbert stressed the difficulty of the work we in the NDP women's movement had taken and were taking on, and the fundamental nature of the things we are trying to change. A year later, after intensive organizing within and without the Party, 1973 chairwoman Melodie Corrigall outlined to the last convention both our successes and our failures and reaffirmed our commitment as feminists and socialists.

Now, reporting to the third convention since we began intensive day-to-day organizing, my report can be summarized as this: Much has changed, much has remained the same. Much has been done and much, much more remains to be done.

Inside the Women's Committee

We began the last year with a systematic reorganizing of the Women's Committee itself. Our previous pattern of meetings -- once monthly in the Lower Mainland -- proved to be unsatisfactory in the light of the growing NDP women's movement around the province. These meetings, furthermore, were entirely absorbed by business with little or no time left for education -- including self-education. Consequently we undertook a major restructuring of the Women's Committee, resulting in the creation of a B.C. steering committee. At the same time ridings and regions were encouraged to form local women's committees and to send a delegate to the steering committee.

On the whole this structure has worked well. It has provided the necessary body for the making and implementing of Women's Committee decisions for the whole province, and has brought the regional women's committees closer in contact with the central core.

Restructuring, however, has not been without its problems. First among these is the fact that the Lower Mainland women have tended to view the steering committee as a substitute for their own regional or riding committees. Many now express a feeling of loss over not meeting in a large group regularly to exchange information and ideas, to discuss political and personal problems and to take strength from the warmth and sense of sisterhood that is and must remain the backbone of the women's movement. This problem is, however, recognized and Lower Mainland women will no doubt act in the coming year to create new structures to satisfy these needs.

Another problem of the new structure is that there are different levels of development occurring between one regional women's group and another. This problem is in part reinforced by our

emphasis that each women's committee should as far as possible determine its own activities and direction, and also by the time and money difficulties involved in maintaining direct and personal communication with each other. However, I believe this problem, inevitable in a movement such as ours, is by no means insurmountable. The most difficult thing in every movement is to develop a keen sense of tact, timing and tempo in everything we do -- to move as quickly and as far as possible while at the same time keeping us together. This is a very hard thing to do but it is on precisely this that our success or failure hinges.

Another significant, though not new, development within the Women's Committee has been the continued publication and expansion of our monthly magazine, Priorities. We are now in our second year and enthusiasm remains high. Despite the gains we have made within the Party and the expansion of the Women's Committee in new areas around the province, Priorities remains as our most important organizational tool.

This past year has also seen the formation of policy sub-committees within the Women's Committee. One, the Women's Health Sub-committee chaired by Melanie Conn has had significant results particularly with its recent Women's Health Symposium in Vancouver. In addition, this sub-committee is meeting with the NDP Health Policy Committee (sometimes known as the Men's Health Committee) and (with limited results) with Health Minister Dennis Cocke. Our sub-committee on Child Care has not, unfortunately, met with the same success. Its difficulty in getting off the ground no doubt reflects the general political confusion surround the issue of child care, a confusion that we ourselves are not yet rid of. Subcommittees in Labour and Education are still on the drawing board. Our efforts next year should in part concentrate on developing these and expanding our movement in both areas.

On the whole the progress of our regional women's committees has been good. The Kamloops group, after a phase of very little activity, has pulled together with many new members and with an intensity and commitment to the movement that did not previously exist. The Upper Island group, initially the product of the amazing energy of Rosemary O'Brien, has grown considerably and now functions on a firm day-to-day basis. Members of both these groups also maintain a heavy involvement in their local NDP councils. Since last convention a new group has been formed in Victoria, which has met regularly for several months now and which has been active in organizing support for Affirmative Action. Our oldest group, Burrard, continues to meet with a very heavy input into the riding association and with particular involvement in Priorities. A group was also formed in Vancouver-Centre where a heavy contingency of women's liberationists exists. In addition to these,

there are many women who function in informal groupings but who have not yet formed an official riding committee. Vancouver-South is one, and the three North Shore constituencies form another. Women in the Surrey-White Rock area, Richmond and Delta, and the North Okanagan also form informal groupings. Elsewhere our lack of representation stems either from geographical isolation as in the North, or poor NDP organization in general, as in the Kootenays. Nevertheless, individual NDP women throughout the province continue to support the women's movement, and these numbers are growing. Finally, we have largely maintained the support of NDP women who are sympathetic to our central concerns though not active in our movement.

But while our movement and our numbers are growing, we are also losing a few who had earlier identified with our Committee. I do not believe their numbers are significant -- certainly they do not approach the number of new women coming in to the movement -- and by and large they represent those who have never accepted that the oppression of women also applies to them. We have lost these sisters -- at least temporarily -- and while this loss is not a cause for alarm it is a cause for some sadness among us. We have maintained and continue to maintain that every woman can be reached, even those who fear us and organize against us. This is sometimes a hard position to hold, particularly when our sisters outside the movement attack us as enemies and treat us accordingly, and when we ourselves know the ironic truth that what we gain for ourselves, we win for them. However, I believe very strongly that this is the right and only position for us to take. The situation we are now facing is polarized, and I believe it will become more so in the future. We may find that doors within the Party structure which are now open to us may soon become closed. Whatever may happen, however, we must continue to keep our own doors open, to remember that every woman is potentially a feminist and every feminist, a socialist, and to derive strength and energy from each other and from the knowledge that we are in a very long, very difficult and very fundamental struggle that we are going to win.

The Women's Movement outside the NDP

Following from the pattern built up in the past several years, the Women's Committee has kept in close contact, and sometimes taken leadership positions, in the women's movement outside the NDP. We are continuing to win over many sisters to socialism and to raise the issue of the women's movement outside the Party. Immediately prior to and following the last convention, we participated as committee members of the government's Priorities for Women hearings, and the results of those hearings clearly vindicated NDP policy on women's rights. Our central concerns -- the Ministry of Women's Rights and Affirmative Action legislation -- were repeatedly called for in the briefs presented to those hearings, as were our other policies on education, child care, labour, human rights, etc. It is an ironic (and perhaps instructive) fact that

the Priorities for Women hearings have been the only public hearings called by the government in any area that produced recommendations identical to NDP policy. In other areas, particularly labour and education, task force reports conflicted with Party policy and were nonetheless adopted. In the field of women's rights, where hearing results and policy were the same, no action was taken at all. There is a lesson in this.

In addition to this effort, the Women's Committee has also lent its support where needed to organizations outside of the NDP. One example of this was the Child Care Federation's call for public hearings on child care regulations, which we supported and discussed with the Minister concerned. Many similar examples exist.

Our major organization effort outside of the NDP this year was the calling together of last spring's Action for Women Conference in North Vancouver, which saw in excess of 300 delegates from all points of the province. With our active involvement, the B.C. Federation of Women plans got underway and we are continuing that involvement now.

Overall, our association with non-NDP feminists remains good, but while we continue to welcome many of these into the Party, our rate of recruitment is slowing considerably. (This, to my mind, is entirely due to the government's attitude toward women's rights). Nevertheless, we must try to expand our future efforts in this area in order to build our movement and the Party itself.

Within the NDP

Over the past several years, and particularly in the past year, we have become much more of a force within the Party itself. Up to the last convention, we were primarily involved on the constituency level with some participation in policy committees. We are continuing that involvement and in many ridings have increased it significantly. Constituencies such as Burrard, Kamloops, Comox, Vancouver South and many others rely heavily on the work and input of the women's movement. Since the last convention, we have increased our Party involvement by the addition of five of our activists on the Provincial Executive, two on the Democrat, and increasing numbers on the Provincial Council. This involvement, combined with our work in the Women's Committee itself, has given us good organizational skills which were put to use in the recent federal election campaign in all ridings where we maintain a presence. (And, had the provincial government not maintained its hostility to the women's movement this election input would have been even greater than it was.)

Our members of the Executive also pushed strongly (and successfully) for the appointment of Beth Quaale as Provincial Secretary and for the hiring of a women's organizer as directed by the last convention, as well as for government accountability.

I believe that the integration of the Women's Committee within the Party structures has been and is a necessary and important process that we should continue if at all possible. However, this

integration has also had its price -- the draining off of energy that could otherwise have gone into Women's Committee work. For example, while three women (Esther Robertson, Betty McClurg and Hilda Thomas) contested nominations for the federal election, and while another (Diane Baigent) ran in a by-election, and while many women worked hard to secure this kind of representation, our Committee did not make these areas the object of intensive, collective work. This was in part due to our heavy involvement within the Party, our demoralization over Esther's and Betty's losses after good campaigns, and our anger at the provincial government. Had so much of our energy not been drained off in the day-to-day managing of Party affairs, we could have systematically organized to secure nominations. That we did not do so was clearly a failure on our part.

However, while we can list the reasons why we did not mount an extensive campaign to run feminists for office, we must also recognize that in the absence of our intensive organizing, the Party of its own accord did not see fit to seek out or field one single woman candidate. The lesson of this should not be lost on us. While we may have reached the point where the Party, under extreme and continuing pressure, is prepared to make concessions to the women's movement, it is clearly prepared to do nothing at all whenever that pressure lets up. Despite our extensive work in the Party and our apparent successes in attaining representation in the highest decision-making bodies, the Party as a whole does not yet understand or accept the women's movement to be what we know full well it is: a significant and necessary force in the building of a socialist society.

In the face of this experience we must come to terms with the fact that our work in the Party is only beginning. We must also come to terms with the implications of that fact.

Relations with the government

Since the last convention our points of contact with the government have been limited and what points of contact we have had have been uniformly bad. The Caucus Liaison Committee on Women's Rights, which took a year of our effort including a formal resolution at the last convention simply to set up, is now defunct. In the space of several months only one meeting was held. This meeting was generally inconsequential and the recommendations made at that time were not acted upon. Consultation of any kind has been almost non-existent and would, perhaps, be irrelevant in the light of the government's refusal to enact women's rights policy. Both the Cabinet and Caucus as a whole have consistently rejected implementing policy for a women's rights ministry and the Cabinet has similarly rejected affirmative action legislation. Wage and job access inequality remains rampant within the civil service and the public sector in general. The Human Rights Commission is seriously understaffed and underpaid. Nothing at all has been done in the field of education, despite much long-standing policy in the area of education and sexism. The significant provisions of the Foulkes

Report remain unimplemented and do not appear likely to be implemented. Abortion rights have not been extended but have in fact been curtailed. Child care is heavily bureaucratized, severely underfunded and largely inaccessible to poor and working women. No serious law reforms have been made.

Only one cabinet minister (Radford, of Recreation and Conservation) has moved at all in the direction of challenging sexist practices, and this is still in the study phase. Elsewhere, some token appointments of women have been made.

Apart from the Liaison Committee, the Women's Committee contacts with the government have also proved futile. Very often the response of Cabinet members to women's rights policies have been only displays of anger. No efforts have been made to consult with the Women's Committee on proposed legislation and, indeed, in the longest session of the legislature in B.C.'s history, no such legislation was even proposed.

In the face of this, and particularly in the face of our own demoralization and cynicism, the Women's Committee met in conference to evaluate our relationship with the Party and the government. Our unanimous feeling at that time was that of having been used by a government that did not intend to implement the policies of the Party, and a firm resolve to fight back. This clearly represented a significant shift in direction for the Women's Committee. Last year we resolved to continue to explore all possible channels with the conviction and commitment that we are feminists and socialists. This year my report must stress that while we have reaffirmed our allegiance to socialism and to women's liberation -- indeed, we often feel that we are the only socialists in the NDP -- we have also exhausted all of the channels that were open to us.

For two years we have kept our concerns within the Party. We have defended the government publicly even with the private knowledge that the government was not acting in our interests and, on occasion, acting against them. We conducted ourselves in this way in the belief that to do so was in the best interests of our stated goal: to further the interests of the women's movement and of democratic socialism. Now, however, still adhering to the same goal, we have reluctantly concluded that we cannot ally ourselves with a government that is acting against us.

It was in this context that the Women's Resolution to the 1974 convention was drafted and submitted to several constituencies around the province. In this we have tried to explain in some detail the nature of the oppression of women and the nature of a socialist response to that oppression. We prepared this resolution in order to deal as openly as possible with the situation in which we find ourselves. In the constituencies in which it was presented it encouraged much debate and the debate was good. So, for that matter, was the outcome of the debate. We have not only created the opportunities for a deeper understanding of the women's movement, but we have significantly strengthened ourselves in the process.

The Coming Year

What we will now face at the convention and in the coming year is, at this writing, a matter of speculation. In shifting our direction we have tried to think through the implications of our actions. We now face, and are prepared for, the closing off of many Party channels that we have been involved in for years. We know that at this point there are serious organizational efforts not only to rid the women's movement of its representation on the Party executive and councils, but also to rid the NDP of the women's movement itself.

It may happen that in the immediate future we will suffer some immediate defeats. Our great strength, however, is that we are aware of the long term nature of the struggle for women's liberation and for socialism and we know we can turn back any defeat we may face. We are undoing the work of centuries and of entire civilizations and do not measure victory in terms of conventions. We measure it in generations.

And despite the fantasies of those who are now organizing against us, no defeat of our policies or candidates will rid the NDP of the women's movement. We are the child of the socialist movement. Although we may be considered by some to be the illegitimate child, no matter how many times we may be told that legally and officially we do not exist, we are nevertheless here, we have needs to be met, we have demands to make, and we cannot be willed away. And so we will stay and grow and claim our inheritance.

- Sharon Yandle

HAPPENINGS AT **vancouver ms.** IN AUGUST

2089 W. 4th Ave. 738-5821

SATURDAY 24 AUGUST
CHILDREN'S DAY!
25¢ per child (must be
accompanied by adult)
2 pm - 4 or 5 pm
puppets ~ clowns ~ games
~ organic goodies!



WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST - OPENING
WOMEN'S ART SHOW!
for two (2) weeks:
five women exhibiting litho-
graphs, paintings, banners,
sketches....

Priorities Statistics

It's pretty hard to find an interesting way to submit such dreary statistics as finances with flare and enthusiasm. However, we know our readers are interested in how Priorities is doing with things like budgets and subscriptions. Hopefully, after you've read this you'll send a donation or take out a subscription for your friends (or both)!

In the beginning of the year Priorities had a bank balance of \$575.43 and a subscription rate of almost 800. Things were looking very good. But January marked the end of many subscriptions and our continued rise in sub rates depended on renewals. Our renewal rate has been about 50% (and is rising), and new subscriptions continue to flow in. Our total sub rate is now 575, but don't despair, it is on its way up again. Adding to this figure the copies which are sold individually we have a circulation rate of about 800.

The whereabouts of our Priorities is one of the things that is encouraging. The magazine now goes to every province in Canada, the Yukon, the U.S., Iran and Germany. In B. C. there are 407 subscriptions, covering 81 towns! They break down as follows:

Abbotsford	2
Agassiz	2
Aldergrove	3
Barriere	1
Barnhart Vale	1
Blueberry Creek	1
Burnaby	20

Campbell River	4
Castlegar	3
Chase	1
Clearwater	1
Clinton	4
Comox	1
Coquitlam	9
Courtenay	5
Crescent Beach	1
Dawson Creek	1
Delta	2
Fanny Bay	1
Fort Nelson	3
Fort St. John	2
Ganges	2
Gibsons	2
Hazelton	1
Harrison Hot Springs	1
Holberg	1
Hope	1
Hudson Hope	1
Hedley	1
Kamloops	12
Kelowna	5
Kimberly	1
Langley	4
Lac La Hache	1
Lantzville	1
Lumby	2
Ladysmith	3
Madiera Park	2
Merritt	2
Merville	1
Mission	2
Nakusp	1
Nanaimo	4
North Vancouver	38
New Westminster	6
Nelson	4
Parksville	2
Peachland	1
Penticton	2
Port Alberni	2
Port Coquitlam	3
Port Moody	2

Powell River	1
Prince Rupert	2
Pouce Coupe	1
Prince George	9
Ouesnel	2
Richmond	11
Robson	1
Rossland	4
Royston	1
Ruskin	1
Salmon Arm	2
Sicamous	1
Sidney	1
Smithers	1
Slocan	1
Sayward	1
Summerland	2
Surrey	10
Terrace	4
Trail	6
Tsawwassen	1
Vernon	3
Victoria	53
Vancouver	147
West Vancouver	14
White Rock	5
Williams Lake	1
100 Mile House	3

What does one do with such interesting statistics as these? We have some suggestions. If you are one of those women who are the only one in town with a sub, then buy one for a friend or ask her to buy one so that you have someone (or two or three) to discuss the articles with! If you have a friend in a town that isn't on the list, then buy her one. If you don't know the other women in town who read Priorities maybe you can find her...you probably have something in common!

We are pleased with these statistics. It is heartening to know that Priorities reaches out to so many places in B.C.

\$ MONEY \$

Now back to that \$575.43 balance that we had in January. Since that time Priorities has taken in the following:

Donations:	\$588.00
Subscriptions:	1051.00
Sales:	<u>112.29</u>

TOTAL	\$1751.24
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The cost of printing Priorities has exceeded that amount, unfortunately, explaining to you why we suggest so many times that you donate or buy more subs for friends. Costs since January break down as follows:

Supplies & Printing	\$1636.44
Postage	459.09
Miscellaneous	<u>62.00</u>

TOTAL	\$2157.53
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This means that over the past few months we have spent \$406.29 more than we have received. This is partly due to the slightly increased cost of printing Priorities, but not entirely. One of the benefits of having the magazine printed is that we now produce 1,000 copies, MEANING: we have a lot left over and would like to be sending them out, and it won't cost us anything but postage to do it.

My conclusion to all this is that if we can get our sub rate up near the 1,000 copies we have, Priorities will be paying for itself, and we will be reaching lots of women. We can do this if all of you make a point to sell subs to women you know who would be interested.

by Shelly Dillon

REPORTS: Health Subcommittee

This report describes two meetings of the Women's Health Subcommittee with Dennis Cocke in July.

July 11, 1974

Meeting with the Health Policy Committee.

A fond and early objective of the NDP Women's Health Subcommittee has been to attend a meeting of the Health Policy Committee to make known our existence, our activities, our priorities and our determination. After four months of persistent, futile telephoning to the Chairman of the Committee we finally did receive an invitation to "take part in the Committee to prepare for the provincial convention at Kamloops". Present policy, present government actions and future policy were to be discussed and furthermore, Dennis Cocke was to be present.

Mary Breen, Melanie Conn and Marilyn Webb attended the meeting on July 11 and found themselves comprising 50% of the Committee ("Women hold up half the sky!")

Using the 1972 convention proposals of the Health Policy Committee as a guide, the first part of the meeting focussed on the Minister and his account of implementation of party policy, e.g. ambulance service, plans for dental care for children, demonstration Community Human Resource and Health Centres.

Those of us from the Health Subcommittee attempted to explore the goals of the Health Department in reference to community control and to the power of physicians in the structure.

For, although the Subcommittee's mandate has been primarily in the area of women's health issues, we are clear about the need for basic changes in the health care system in terms of redistribution of power so that planning and services will emanate from the community and so that physicians will not continue to dominate the source and form of health care in the province.

At the meeting we were told that the demonstration community clinics represent the direction for future health care delivery in British Columbia, that the Minister meets every 6 weeks with the executive of the B.C. Medical Association and that plans for reorganization of the Health Department leading to decentralization of health care planning and services are underway.

There was not time for him to elaborate on this information. But we were not satisfied that the kinds of changes we want are happening. For example, the government has not implemented or encouraged public education in Vancouver about citizen participation -- the essential ingredient of the Community Health Centre. The lack of public understanding and involvement could lead to clinics which are only nominally community-controlled. Another of our concerns is the fact that the Health Department has put far more energy and time into maintaining communication with the medical profession than it has in seeking open communication with many others of us who are concerned with health as patients, nurses or lay health

workers.

Although the details involved in changing are complicated and confusing, we are determined to demystify the process and obtain the information we need in order to evaluate Health Department plans effectively. Also at the meeting we presented Mr. Cocke with a letter concerning his statements on late abortion (see page 28). We insisted that he make an aggressive public clarification of his stand to validate his statement to us that he supports a woman's right to abortion. At his request, we agreed to meet with him specifically to discuss strategies concerning abortion.

July 15, 1974

Meeting with Dennis Cocke

Present at this meeting were Mary Breen, Melanie Conn, Annette Kouri, Beth Mares, Cathy Stewart, Marilyn Webb, Dennis Cocke, and the spirit of all of us who have struggled with this issue. The hour long meeting was packed with our proposals for "strategy" concerning abortion: we recommended the establishment of birth control clinics in every health unit in the province, the inclusion in the programme of abortion counselling and referral, availability of facilities for late abortion when necessary, and the utilization of trained lay health workers. We insisted that the Minister clarify his stand on abortion first of all to the medical profession to remind physicians that they must participate as allies in birth control programmes as well as in abortion counselling and referral and secondly to the public by withdrawing his recent statements regarding the establishment of a ceiling on abortion after 12 to 14 weeks of pregnancy.

We learned from Mr. Cocke that province-wide birth control clinics are in the planning stages. He agreed that our involvement in that planning was desirable and feasible.

However, our proposal for a public statement was met with resistance and the usual arguments about timing, the recent Federal election, Otto Lang's animosity, etc. We responded with strong feminist arguments and insisted that to avoid confrontation of the issue was to condone and even to support reactionary and oppressive policies and practices.

Mr. Cocke agreed to include a clear statement of his position in conjunction with his presentation of the birth control programme at the convention. If the statements made at the Convention were not reported in the press, he agreed to make a subsequent public statement.

Our positive feelings at the end of this meeting were tempered by our knowledge of the fate of the Caucus Liason Committee on Women's Rights. We made it clear that the continuation of our input in an advisory capacity was subject to the action taken by the government relating to our specific proposals. We shall see.....

- Melanie Conn

* Olivia Records is a new national *
* women's recording company. Their *
* first record has just been re- *
* leased, for fund-raising pur- *
* poses. On one side, Meg *
* Christian sings "Lady". On the *
* other, Cris Williamson sings *
* "If It Weren't for the Music". *
* The record costs \$1.50. It is *
* a non-profit corporation trying *
* to raise money in order to buy *
* their own studio. *

REGISTRATION

Have you made your decision to come to the Founding Convention of the B. C. Federation of Women? If not, do so now -- the registration form is below.

This Convention results from decisions taken at the "Action for Women" Strategy Conference in May. A Steering Committee, chosen at the Strategy Conference, has been working over the summer and will have proposals to present to the Founding Convention in the following area:

- 1) The goals and polices of the Federation;
- 2) The plans for the Cavalcade to Victoria and the Women's Parliament;

- 3) The constitution and structure of the Federation;
- 4) The election of a Standing Committee (executive) for the Federation.

The Founding Convention will be on the 13th-14th-15th of September at the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre at UBC (courtesy of Continuing Education).

For information on childcare, billeting, food, agenda, etc., see back of this page.

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FOUNDING CONVENTION BC FEDERATION ^O_F WOMEN

13-14-15 September, 1974

WOODWARD INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES CENTRE, U. B. C.

These Facilities can only accommodate 450 - please

register by Sept 4

CHILDCARE

Free childcare from 9-5 Saturday and 9:30-1:30 Sunday can be guaranteed only to those who register by 4th September, though efforts will be made to assist late registrants.

BILLETING

Stay with a sister! If you need a billet, contact Ann Daskal, 2225 West Broadway, Vancouver, 738-5096 (h) or 689-8771 (wk). Lower Mainland sisters - please contact Ann if you can provide a billet for women from out-of-town.

FOOD

Bring bag lunches if you can. Campus cafeterias will be open too, and there are vending machines.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, 13 Sept.- 7-10pm: Registration and informal social, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, U.B.C.

Saturday, 14 Sept.- 9-12:30 & 1:30-5: Plenaries and workshops. (Detained agenda proposal will be presented as the first order of business.)

Saturday, 8 pm: Rally, Courthouse, Georgia and Howe, 8:30: Social, YWCA, 580 Burrard.

Sunday, 15 Sept.- 9:30-1:30: Plenary Sessions and Elections.

For further information call:

Anne Ironside - 263-3988

Kate Swann - 687-1374(h) or 228-2721(wk)

Ann Daskal - 738-5096



Cut Here

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____



Enclosed is my Convention Registration Fee of \$3.00 - make cheques and money orders payable to: Steering Committee, B.C. Federation of Women.

CHILDCARE: I require childcare _____ Saturday 9 - 5
_____ Sunday 9:30 - 1:30
for _____ children, ages _____, _____, _____, _____.

Mail To:

Diana Douglas, 306 West 25th Street,
North Vancouver, B.C. (987-2412).



PLEASE REGISTER BY SEPT. 4th

Transportation Kamloops

The trains run at rather awkward times, especially so the arrival times in Kamloops.

The bus fare is definitely cheaper and there is more choice of times.

PACIFIC STAGE LINES

<u>Leave Vanc./Arrive Kamloops</u>		<u>Leave Kamloops/Arrive Vanc.</u>		<u>Fare</u>
7:00 am.	2:05 pm.	10:00am.	4:45 pm.	\$8.50
12:45 pm.	7:55 pm.	5:30 pm.	12:00 am.	<u>one way</u>
* 2:15 pm.	8:20 pm.	11:40 pm.	6:00 am.	
5:15 pm.	11:45 pm.	12:05 am.	6:25 am.	
* 6:00 pm.	12:05 am.			
* 7:30 pm.	1:40 am.			
12:00 am.	6:05 am.			
12:15 am.	6:20 am.			

Note: Be at the Bus Station 1/2 hour before departure time.

*express

1:15 pm.	10:30 pm.
5:00 pm.	1:55 am.

C.N.R.

5:00 am.	2:00 pm.
1:00 am.	9:05 am.

(Adult)
Thurs/Fri.
\$14.25
Mon.-\$13.00
one way

COACH RESERVATION ESSENTIAL - GET IT EARLY.

C.P.R.

6:30 pm.	2:05 am.
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2:50 am.	10:30 am.
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(Adult)
Thurs/Fri.
\$15.25
Mon.-\$13.90
one way

Purchase of a ticket ensures you of a coach seat, but purchase beforehand.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDED FOR CONVENTION?

Room for eight passengers
in Margaret Beardsley's
V.W. Bus - contact Margaret
at: 941-2290.

BUY A SUB FOR A FRIEND

WINNIPEG DIARY

12.00 July 24th, Wednesday: We are finally on our way. It's hot and a bad time of day to leave, but we're really excited.

2 pm Cache Creek: Nicki and I lunch at the Oasis- 4 years ago it was cheap, and good service. Now, a sandwich costs \$2.50 and it's 60¢ for a 4-ounce glass of tomato juice. Everybody seems sullen and crabby. IT'S HOT!

6 pm Salmon Arm: stop for a soft drink; have passed many hitchhikers along the way, but the car is full of stuff (Nicki and I both suffer from the "just throw it in the car" syndrome) and it's only an Austin Marina.

See young, very tired couple with one knapsack - decide to give them a lift. Seems hitchhiking is terrible this summer - took them 5 rides to get from Kamloops to Salmon Arm. Pity the poor guy we saw just outside of Vancouver with the "Toronto" sign.

10 pm 70 miles to Golden: starts to rain. That old smell of pine trees and cool rain hitting hot pavement. I'm feeling tired, but free.

11 pm Nicki is too tired to go on - short conference. Try and find a cheap motel in Golden, Lake Louise and Banff - probably \$26.00 to \$30.00 per night.

Find the "Swiss Village". I go in and lay it on the line. Tired, poor, 'whatcha got'. \$10.50 gets us a nice cabin with double bed and floor space. Sherri and Ken chip in 2 bucks - figure we got a good deal. Asleep in half an hour.

7 am July 25th, Thursday: I wake up with a cold - great! After passing fresh fruit stands and drugstores, I shall now have to wait until Calgary, most likely. The air is cool though, and the mountains are fantastic.

9 am Say goodbye to Ken and Sherri, decide to ckeck out Lake Louise. We dabble our hands in the Lake - icy cold. Even with all the tourists, it's beautiful. Man doing oil paintings on the spot for tourists of the view - incredible thing is from where he is sitting, he can't see it. Freshly-framed wet oil paintings better than 3-D post cards??

I suddenly realize when we're on the road again that I am having a vacation, unplanned - feel great. Really needed this - possibly for years. I am absolutely free with no responsibility to anyone but me. Jackie is in Toronto visiting her dad and I can do whatever I want!

220 pm 95 Miles from Medicine Hat. Prairies supposed to be boring. Sulphur yellow rape seed, blue and green carpets - watching the wind swirl them all around. Bright blue sky and fields of pale yellow hay.

New flash on radio: "Impeachment hearings interrupted by bomb threat". Nicki immediately turns to me and says: "Hm, wonder how he managed to rig that one." We fantasize Tricia and Julie and David calling from a phone booth.

Have picked up 2 boring hitchhikers in Calgary. Hope we can dump them before Winnipeg. (get rid of 2 boring hitchhikers in Swift Current - 2 men with expectations - not sexual, just financial).

12 am Turn into Wolseley, Saskatchewan, population 1,000, accommodation mentions Leland Hotel as "semi-modern", \$4.00 per night. Decide to chance it as funds are limited. \$3.50 per night and it isn't anything like Hotel Vancouver. Have beer in beer parlor before bed, get hassled by a Liberal sexist who is filled with 47,000 ryes. (turns out Wolseley always goes liberal) Great! of all the towns in Saskatchewan - have to hit a liberal one.

Accommodation not recommended by Feminist Automobile Association (FAA).

6 am July 26th, Friday: awakened by resident Leland Hotel alarm clock - noisy crabby dog. Oh well, planned to get on the road early anyway. On way out, pull onto Front Street. Ask myself, "Are all Canadian town street names chosen from federally-approved list of 1000? Elm, Oak, Cherry, Pine, Front, Central, Main, King, George, King George?"

Approaching Winnipeg by 2:00 p.m. Getting excited - going to see my friends I haven't seen in 3 years. Also can't wait to see the B.C. Women. Seems strange, have to travel 1500 miles so we can all see each other at once.

Conference starts late, still registering at 7:45 p.m.. Helping my friend from Winnipeg register delegates. Notice many men milling around, what's going on here, meeting called to order - men taking seats!!!
WHERE ARE MY B.C. WOMEN!!

President of Manitoba Party, Murdock MacKay, is introduced and starts to speak. I am at the registration table and am registering as well as taking notes and I don't do shorthand - hectic.

Some of the finer points of president's speech are as follows:

*"I am not as timid as other males in this situation might be, but *
then I haven't had a vasectomy".

(I've been trying to figure that comment out since July 26th at 8:25 p.m.)

B. C. Women still aren't here.

President talks about how women are dominant in policy decision making in the NDP, and if this were a meeting of say, liberal women, for example, the only thing he could tell them is the best place to shop. The assumption here is that we're better, different, more intelligent than women in other parties - in fact, all other women because not only can we make

policy (and not^{to} mention we do real good shit work) we also don't have to be told where to shop. We already know that. I'm starting to feel sick.

President hopes deliberations will come up with demands and they will be implemented. Women will continue to come into party structure. (Same Old Shit) Hang in there, baby.

* "The war in Viet Nam was stopped not by the Senator Harts, but by the Mrs. Senator Harts who swayed their husbands. Men discovered there was more than banks, bars and bed in life." (I refuse to make any comment on that one at all.) *

President also says: "You're now breaking previously uncultivated fertile ground, and justice is the topic we should be dealing with."

Three things relating to women that really bug him are:

- a. common-law wives have trouble getting auto insurance, or any kind for that matter. (NDP government operates car insurance - interesting)
- b. why should a child born out of wedlock not have the rights of a legitimate child.
- c. a wife should be able to sue for loss of consortium. Joke about how boring for young (ahem) warm woman has no recourse but to be nursemaid to damaged you-know-where husband - tragic.

I get the impression he thinks that if these laws are changed, everything will be OK.

I want my B. C. Women. !!!

President thanks us for holding conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ed Broadbent has sent telegram supporting us and wants us to give him all our ideas from conference.

Nancy Eng thanks president, suggests he attend our panels. I freak at the thought but have to admit he needs 'em.

Shreyer is introduced. Never in my life have I heard such a boring speech; well, maybe never. I'm really trying hard to grasp what he's saying, but my Winnipeg friend comforts me saying it's OK. - he's not saying anything. She knows.

All 16 B. C. Women walk in - plane late - and want to be registered immediately, have run out of kits, trying to capture something of Shreyer's speech for this article.

Some points to note:

"There are still some inequities between men and women." He's obviously very proud we're holding the conference in Manitoba. Good place, too, he says. After, all, this is where people like Nellie McClung hail from AND Manitoba was the FIRST province to grant women the vote in 1916. He is happy that women won the vote - definitely get that feeling.

Winds up by saying he can't figure out why women don't run (should send him an old article I happen to have lying around entitled "Why women don't run for office").

He finishes by asking for suggestions and advice from conference. (A delegation of 25 Manitoba women presented a brief to him 3 hours before asking for 3 things, like more daycare, really radical demands. He's obviously forgotten already. Friend tells she thought he took a short sleep during the reading of brief.

Rosemary Brown is introduced. Her speech is warm and sets the beginning of what we hoped the conference would be. She talks about how women had been ignored within and without party, books that have been written about the NDP that have been written down to the last intensive detail and which do one-liners at best on Grace MacInnes. She stresses that it is important to fight and keep on fighting and hopefully the end to that will be soon. (I am not too sure, especially after experiencing the previous horror show and there's more to come folks.) She tells us to support candidates who are feminists first. She stresses that feminism and socialism are an integral part of one another, a new concept for a lot of people there. I admire her courage, not everybody in this party has stood ground on their beliefs in situations when it's been expedient not to. The crowd loves her, she receives a standing ovation, I can tell everyone there is very impressed. I am extremely proud of her, too.

We break for free beer and goodies. Workshop leaders meetings called. Chrissy, Nicki and I go for drinks with Sharon and Beth, come home around 3:00 a.m. and die.





BATTLE HYMN OF WOMENS LIBERATION

1. When I first joined the party, I
was hopeful as could be
And I gladly worked to give our boys
a large majority,
But I'm sad to say that it has been a
hollow victory
Oh! what happened to the N. D. P.

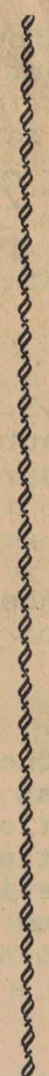
CHORUS

Speed up Women's liberation
Speed up Women's liberation
Save the future generations
We can win if you'll work with me.




- 
2. A New Deal was their promise
and they claim that's what we've had
But if we dare to query this, it really
makes them mad
They call us agitators and they say ~~that~~
they'd be glad
If we left the N. D. P.
- 

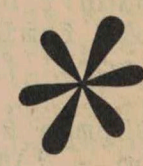
CHORUS:

- 
3. Federally the scene is worse-Injustice
Minister Lang
Sounds humane enough when he declares
no murderer should hang
But speak of women's rights, and
Otto doesn't give a dang
It's a rather mixed philosophy.

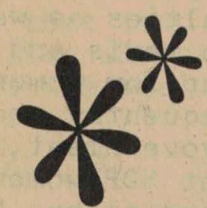
CHORUS:

4. On the question of abortion,
he is backed by friend Trudeau
These two who'll never need one
say their conscience tells them NO
Both are anti-daycare and on birth control
they're slow
It's virginity for you and me.
- 

CHORUS:

5. Well, we've had a new election
and we've filled the place with men
Who are sworn to lick inflation
and to make things bright again
They all claim they could do it -
they just don't say how and when
Bet they won't ask you and me.
- 

CHORUS:

6. Don't speak again of justice or of
true equality
'Til mothers, sisters, daughters
of traditional roles are free
Our goal must be two members -
one a he and one a she
Then we'll really have democracy.
- 

CHORUS:

sung to: "Solidarity Forever"
courtesy of Anne Boulton
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

CONFERENCE in RETROSPECT

Saturday July 27th

Approximately 200 women registered.

The workshops were:

- * Party Structure & Electoral System
- * Women in the Labour Force
- * Women & Education
- * Women & Health

(Workshops were held morning and afternoon).

We break for lunch and go at it again. Here I must mention, all thru the Conference, the food was fantastic - Winnepeggers sure know how to eat and it was all FREE.

Women and The Law

The Women & the Law Panel was held in the main hall complete with skits to prove points and questions on each point. It was educational and a lot of women learned some new information about discrimination they hadn't been aware of before. (The old familiar 'you mean there's still more' feeling.)

At 7:00pm a Banquet and Panel discussion - "Women Running Winners and Losers"

Basically it was a discussion by several NDP women who had run and been "winners or losers". Some of the anecdotes were funny and interesting but the B.C. delegates felt the emphasis was being placed on getting elected and winning rather than developing strong feminist and socialist ideas and their implementation.

Grace McInnes gave a speech that

was well received about her political experiences but also stressed that we should work together as people in order to get elected.

Sunday July 28th

Sunday started off with Provincial reports. Some points raised were:

P. E. I.

Delegates from P.E.I. were hopeful that they could start a really active women's group.

N. S.

Women were very concerned about parity within the party.

QUEBEC

The delegate from Quebec felt that the problem was that until the question of separation in Quebec was dealt with by the NDP, women's issues couldn't possibly be started on. Their main area of concern was working with co-ops and unions.

ONTARIO

Ontario women appear to be having the same difficulties as we are and although Stephen Lewis and Floyd Laughren speak up for women's rights in the house frequently and are ridiculed by the government, they have tried to get NDP women elected to boards and commissions but have not had much success to date. Still hanging in there and fighting tho'.

MANITOBA

Their report centered around their presentation to Schreyer of their brief, and his attitude of indifference to their problems. One woman I spoke to said because their committee has only been in operation for a year and their demands have not been flatly refused, that they are following the same course of action the B.C. women followed in the beginning, i.e. trying every possible door. They could foresee becoming quite militant as a matter of course in the future if their demands weren't met.

ALBERTA

Alberta women have formed a NDP Women's caucus since Dec.'73. Their policies are much the same as ours but are very concerned with the matrimonial property laws because of the situation many prairie women find themselves in vis-a-vis the Murdock vs. Murdock case.

SASK.

The SNDW are experiencing the same difficulties we are in B.C., they are unhappy with tokenism - one woman per board or committee.

They are also bitter about women being allowed to run in losing ridings and never allowed to run in winnable ones. This was a theme that was echoed all thru the Conference.

They have had a few bits of legislation that tend to help women as a sideline almost, but don't take care of the real problem.

B. C.

B.C. women gave a report stating basically the problems we have been facing with the government. Need I say more?

The Workshop Reports came out a rather mixed bag. It was recommended that we vote on them as recommendations in principle and that formalized written reports be mailed out to all the delegates with a mail ballot for finalization. As per usual there just wasn't enough time to deal with half of them so we felt rather than leave some out, we would take this direction.

At this point, during lunch a group of women, mostly B.C., Sask. and Man. delegates got together and discussed the direction the Conference was heading. There seemed to be some polarization on the concept of whether it was more important to get a socialist government elected or to keep that elected government socialist.

The afternoon session was titled-
"Where do we go from here?"

We felt some specific tone along the lines of Rosemary's speech might be acceptable. We received permission from the chair and the convention for the B.C. Women to read their manifesto (see June Priorities) to the conference as an opening to this debate. It was received with a standing ovation by about 2/3 of the delegates. Discussion centered around the manifesto, the previously mentioned 'concept' and a resolution was passed to run a woman leadership candidate federally who endorsed women's rights policy as a priority. There was heavy debate about a 'feminist' candidate so the convention settled for the above.

Committees were struck to deal with:

- a) finding this candidate
- b) planning strategy for the next federal convention
- c) keeping ongoing contacts with women all over Canada.

At this point, we were all very tired, had run past a half hour more than we had intended to, so we adjourned.

The general feeling I got from the convention was that we came away with stronger feelings about our goals and a possibility of future building of the Federal N.D.P. Women's Committee.

Special Thanks

Obviously everybody worked hard but I'd like to give special thanks to Nancy Eng who was an excellent chairperson, Carla Funk, the Federal Women's Organizer who has accomplished super-human tasks and the Manitoba Women who worked so hard and extended their hospitality to us.

....Sandra Boucher

P.S. If it sounds like the Convention was boring, it wasn't. I enjoyed every minute of it. It's just that as I've been writing, I've been getting tired and it is showing.

tape library

(The following request has been severely shortened due to lack of space.)

Vancouver Status of Women,
2029 West 4th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

July 30th, 1974.

Dear Sisters:

We have a problem and hopefully a solution.

Since its inception, the Vancouver Status of Women has been asked to provide speakers, chair panels, and lead group discussions on women's issues. We have done our best, but the calls upon us have become more frequent. Experts on

specific subjects are not always available at the time they are needed. When requests come from outlying areas of B.C. there is also the frustration imposed by a lack of financial resources to send a speaker to the group seeking aid.

A make-do answer is to provide books, briefs, articles, papers, etc. Printed words, unless they are exceptionally eloquent, are a somewhat cold and remote means of communicating in a field in which it is good to convey more than mere information.

The idea we have come up with is that of an audiovisual library. Building up a collection of audio cassette tapes and video tapes on a variety of subjects of particular concern to women.

We believe that if it is not possible in some instance to provide a qualified speaker in person, a tape is by far the next best thing and can, in a group setting, provoke a lively and satisfying discussion.

The proposed library would be a growing project. Tapes on relevant subjects could be purchased from various sources as they become available. We have already begun to record reminiscences of the older women who were involved in the early suffragist movement.

We are not asking you for financial assistance. What we plan to do is apply to a number of foundations, gov't. departments, and other possible funding sources for grants to establish and maintain the proposed library. We have been asked to submit, along with our grant application, letters of support from organizations that endorse the concept of an audio-visual lending library. We hope you will see this as an opportunity to further the cause.

Sincerely,
Ombuds Staff
Glinda Sutherland.

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

Having recently returned to live in B.C. it was a most pleasant surprise to discover PRIORITIES - to read about an organized, articulate and angry group of women determined to correct the many situations which obviously need correcting.

Perhaps you might be interested to know about two other provincial issues deserving of your attention:

Last August, after much persistence, I was finally permitted to present a Brief relating to the \$2.25 million grant voted by the Ministry of Health towards the care of Vietnamese children. However, to date, only \$300,000 has been released with very little public accounting of its disposal, and no indication when the balance will process NOR whether the accrued interest will be added to the original grant.

Why the delay in releasing the balance when the need is so desperate in a country where there have been another million and a half victims in the past year alone? and where Canadian so-called "aid" projects and military shipments continue to help keep that war going.

A second contact with Victoria cabinet members took place last month and related to the recent appointment of a Mr. Chinh The Vu, a former World Bank Official, recently arrived from his post with the Thieu military dictatorship in Saigon. No one seemed to know why he should be on the B.C. N.D.P. government payroll, to the tune of \$28,000 per annum.

Although readers of PRIORITIES must find themselves submerged in the daily problems resulting from the intolerable increase in the cost of living, unemployment, inflation, the terrible destruction of the environment, as well as the pressing need for more adequate medical facilities, child care centres, improved housing, employment and educational conditions, it might appear that they would have little time to worry about the rest of the country, let alone the wide world.

However, included in our cries for justice must be the demand that every Canadian, in this very rich country of ours, should not only be able to support a family in decency, but should not be obliged to do so by producing items destined to slaughter fellow human beings elsewhere. As long as we clamor for our own rights only with narrow provincial borders, ignoring the priorities which governments set for gaining greater profits and controls -- just so long will our complaints be ignored. The race for international markets is calculated to preserve a system where recognition of "women's rights" is not included.

By embracing into our area of concern the entire international scene, we will find ourselves better equipped to hit at the heart of our own repression as women. For those who seriously opt for socialism we must take a lesson from the Chilean experience. Parliamentary democracy will be permitted only so long as it does not interfere with the rights of capitalism. Our strategies must, therefore, be carefully geared to the realities of our circumstances.

We, who live under peaceful skies, dare not forget that there are others who are still living "where the planes come like birds and the bombs fall like rain". When we succeed in determining that those planes are no longer fitted with Canadian aluminum (one ton of which is used in each B-52 bomber) we will find that our struggle to improve our own lot will have sharpened significantly.

Claire Culhane

name change ?

Dear People:

I am enclosing a change of address form and a check to renew my subscription since we are moving to Toronto. I want to continue getting PRIORITIES, because it is a good magazine, and I'll look forward to hearing news about what is happening in B.C.

How about an article on keeping your own legal name at marriage? I think it would be interesting to do a survey of how many women in Vancouver keep their own names and why, and of what problems they may encounter.

Two recent circumstances made me think of such an article. An acquaintance about to be married, came to me in great anxiety to ask about the legality of keeping her own name -- she had phoned five lawyers and they all confused her by saying such things as "I would not touch that one with a ten-foot pole", - "What will your husband say". All were men. She just didn't believe me when I said that at present there is no law which says you have to change your name.

The second instance occurred at a

surprise shower I heard about. At the shower the girl about to be married was harassed for two hours about the illegality and immorality of her decision.

Reaction, when I kept my own name, included amusement, incredulity, and antagonism. Luckily, my husband thought it was great. I think such an article might be worthwhile.

Jean Clifford

discontented

Dear Friends:

Someone loaned me a copy of PRIORITIES and I thought that I would like to subscribe even though I have too many things coming into the house now!

When the N.D.P. first got in, many of the members made some quite radical statements, but they seem to have retreated from their former position.

I never expected anything but reforms from the N.D.P., and I suppose they have found to be true, what was always said years ago in the C.C.F., that you can't reform capitalism to any extent.

Unfortunately, the best things that have been done have received the most criticism - i.e. the Land Act and the Mining Act - both fairly mild.

Instead of sticking to their guns and at least pleasing the radically inclined, they have compromised and displeased nearly everyone. Whatever they do, the pro-profit type will raise hell, so they may as well do something worthwhile

and stick to it.

The use of herbicides and pesticides and 1080 is quite inexcusable.

Very best wishes to you.

Eve Smith

cheers!

Hi Priorities:

Enclosed is a check for \$6.00 for 6 copies of June, and July PRIORITIES already received by Kamloops N.D.P., and please send another 12 of this month's (July). It is one of the best issues I have received, and I am mailing it out to many people just to get them interested in subscribing to PRIORITIES, and some to people who have had a hard time understanding the relationship between feminism and socialism. The supplement is tops.

Terri Ash

anger!

Dear PRIORITIES Sisters:

Please accept my loving compliments and thanks for the last issue of PRIORITIES. I like the layout very much, and the whole achievement, content and form is really first class.

I do disagree with you, Shelley, about Individual vs. Collective Action. Reading your account of the street incident I felt echoes of the fury and pain I've felt in similar situations - and also felt moved to make a few tactical suggestions about how to deal with

such encounters. I agree that it's futile to try to present a rational argument in such a situation; he'll interpret it as a subtle invitation to proceed, if you treat him like a human being.

I think it is important to realize that one is dealing with two necessities: 1. to educate the poor fool a bit, if possible (after all, he's probably married to a sister, he may have a daughter - and, difficult as it is at times to see, let alone admit, he's a human being too) and 2. to maintain, if possible, one's own sanity. Both these aims, in my opinion, can be achieved by shouting your favourite obscenity in a deafening bellow (e.g. Fuck off, asshole!) and/or by clouting him as hard as you can with a hard, preferably heavy object. The latter method should not be used in private, where he might hit you back, but only in daylight on busy streets. I find an ordinary \$1.29 clipboard very useful for this purpose, and you can use it for other things too, such as keeping a journal, or lists, in. It also has the dubious advantage of being non-lethal. It's an interesting fact that all the men I've employed these techniques on have either shut up or run away, which says something interesting about our powerlessness. I also believe that in future these men may be slightly more hesitant about drawing the attention on women on the street - after all, who enjoys being slugged or sworn at as a response to lust? And who knows? Maybe he'll begin to see women as angry, clipboard-wielding, and profane, instead of as holes to be got into, and you have to admit that's an improvement. Or he

might complain to a woman friend of his, and she might clarify it for him.

However, the main advantage of hitting and shouting is that you don't store that rage. I remember the first time I burst out of my shell of downcast-eyes silence; my first feeling immediately afterwards was of profound, exhilarating relief, release. Whereas if I get to feeling angry but don't express it I can count on a heavy depression or a splitting headache' or a snappiness-with-my-kids-over-nothing in a couple of hours' time. Suppressing rage uses up a lot of energy and makes us tense, so it does nothing at all for developing our strength. It only poisons our minds and bodies and hearts. And as far as having that anger-energy to direct into political action is concerned, I would bet that we all have stored in us so much fury from all those years when we didn't even know we were denying and suppressing our rage and grief about men that we may never get to the end of it no matter how much of it we channel into feminist action.

I don't believe that individual and collective action are mutually exclusive, as your analysis implies. It's possible and indeed necessary to be engaged in both at once, since we function in both spheres anyway and since one without the other is incomplete.

Esther

priorities

Letter to PRIORITIES:

When Norman Levi became responsible for child care, he

announced that parent-community groups wishing to establish child care centres would have their capital expenses covered by government grants. With this assurance the Kitsilano Child Care Society began to fight its way through the jungle of red tape surrounding child care.

Our first task was to obtain a site. While we were doing that, the government announced that portable buildings would be provided for us and other groups using city land. When the design was unveiled, it was so unsatisfactory that it aroused widespread protest and was eventually cancelled. Groups were told to design their own centres. After much hard work (none of us were draftspeople or architects), about a dozen meetings and many revisions to try to meet licensing requirements, we designed a building which suited our needs at minimum expense. We were getting estimates on it when the government announced, without prior consultation, that it was having portable units built and we could have one if we wished. They were not only poorly designed, but could not be licensed for the kind of centre we wanted. Our group and several others rejected them. We were assured that our capital grant would still be available.

Now, after a year of work, of meetings, of filling in forms, discussions with officials, after receiving three separate assurances that the capital grant would be forthcoming, we discover that it may be indefinitely delayed. Our application has apparently been waiting unsigned on Mr. Levi's desk for weeks - his department has overspent its budget and childcare has to go begging.

Mr. Levi may be the obvious villain

but he isn't the only one or even the main one. The minister of finance has the real say in how government money is allotted. The message is clear: child care is not a priority for this government. But "24-hour community-controlled day care" was part of the program on which they were elected.

While they can't find money for childcare, they always seem able to hire expensive consultants to tell them what their policies should be. Meanwhile our children are growing up isolated and bored in cramped apartments being shunted around to different babysitters every six weeks. A year's delay may seem like nothing to a cabinet minister, but it's half of their lives.

Mr. Barrett, Mr. Levi: you do not need experts to tell you what the people want. The people themselves told you what they wanted on election night. We want what we voted for, and that includes childcare. Not only has the government broken its election promises; it has led us and many other parent groups to spend time we could ill afford, by holding out promises of centres that have failed to materialize. We know that our government has done some good things since coming into office, but how can we defend them to parents who have been involved in this kind of exercise?

Beth Mares
Joan Fletcher
Mary Ann

Membership is \$5.00 and that means your admission is \$1.00 Wed., Thurs., & Sun and \$2.00 Fri. & Sat. For non-members, its \$1 more each time. Lots of space, tables etc. pool tables and pinball machines, a terrific steel dance floor; beer available but no wine or liquor so bring your own. Entertainment now and then and they hope frequently in the future.

Dear Priorities,

With great pleasure I wish to renew my subscription to Priorities. It has been a very important stimulus to me this past year, recognizing how the socialization of girls from their earliest years shapes their entire lives as women and their expectations for themselves. It has often come as a painful revelation to me to realize how stereotyped my own views of women's roles are. It has been extremely interesting to see how my daughters now discuss issues and plan their futures. The Women's Committee has been a means for me to learn about a political party and what input members can make to their government.

There lies the disappointment! - the realization that it is so difficult to achieve any legislation which will better conditions in all women's lives.

In sisterhood,
Margaret Beardsley
Coquitlam.

Vancouver Ms.

Have you been to "Vancouver Ms"? It's the only all-women and women-only club in Vancouver and you should go there.

Address: 2089 West 4th
Phone: 738-5821

Open: Wednesday through Sunday nights.

more letters ...

Honourable Minister Dennis Cocke
Department of Health

Dear Mr. Cocke,

This letter is in response to your recent statements urging the medical profession to resist demands for abortion past 14 weeks of pregnancy.

You seem not to be aware of the obstacles created both by hospitals and physicians in this province which limit access to early abortion.

The following descriptions are the experiences of seven women in British Columbia who sought abortions before they were 12 weeks pregnant. They were unsuccessful in obtaining them until the 16-20 week period of pregnancy when the procedure (saline induction) is complicated, involves 2-3 days in hospital and is a risk for the women.

1. A is 16, from Burnaby. Her parents accompanied her to a gynecologist in New Westminster when she was 11 weeks pregnant. He refused to recommend her for an abortion. She came to the Vancouver Women's Health Collective and was referred to a physician in Vancouver who performed a saline induction at 17 weeks.

2. B is 24, lives in Prince George. She saw a doctor when she was 9 weeks pregnant. By the time she was scheduled for admission because of delays in the hospitals' review board meeting, she was past 12 weeks pregnant. She came to the Health Collective and was referred to a doctor in Vancouver who performed a saline induction.

3. C is 18, lives in Haney. The doctor she saw when she was 8 1/2 weeks pregnant said he would have

to do a hysterotomy) like a Caesarean section birth) and that she might bleed to death. She was finally referred to a doctor in Vancouver via the Health Collective, who did a saline induction at 16 weeks.

4. D is 22, lives in Nelson. She came to Vancouver when she was 10 weeks pregnant, having been refused an abortion by a doctor in Nelson. When she called Vancouver General Hospital she was told of their requirement that she must have resided in Vancouver for the previous six months. By the time she was referred to a doctor in Vancouver who would arrange for her admission to VGH, she required a saline induction.

5. E lives in Langley. She was refused an abortion in Chilliwack because of their residency requirement. By the time she was referred to a Vancouver doctor via the Women's Resource Centre in Abbotsford, she required a saline induction.

6. F lives in Abbotsford. She was refused an abortion by two doctors in New Westminster before she was 12 weeks pregnant. Via the Abbotsford Women's Group she was finally referred to Vancouver where she required a saline induction.

7 E is 16, lives in Coquitlam. She went to a doctor there with her father, suspecting pregnancy, although she had not missed a menstrual period. The doctor delayed testing for pregnancy and ultimately refused to refer her for an abortion. She went to two more doctors before she obtained an abortion; it was a saline induction.

The experiences of these seven women have come to our attention because they sought assistance in negotiating their way through the medical-legal maze in their attempts to secure an early abortion.

We know other women whose stories are similar and we can be sure that there are many more women in British Columbia who have suffered the same indignities and obstructions and have not been able to obtain abortions, even late ones.

It is the responsibility and commitment of this government to ensure easy access to contraception and abortion in British Columbia. This has not been achieved as the above experiences demonstrate.

It is clear that limiting abortions to 14 weeks of pregnancy serves only as a cause for further suffering. The solution to the problem of late abortions lies in sex and birth control information, effective distribution of contraceptives, and the creation of facilities for abortion in every community in the province.

Furthermore, far from obstructing the rights and health of women who are seeking abortion, physicians and hospitals must participate in assisting them.

It is critical that you urge their participation and insist on their support in dealing constructively and humanely with the problem of late abortion,

Sincerely,
Melanie Conn, Chairperson,
NDP Women's Health Subcommittee.

open letter

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Chatelaine Magazine:

Editor

Erna Paris' June '74 article on why secretaries hate their jobs is a poignant indictment of the capitalist system. People should not be treated as pieces of office equipment to be used to make profits for someone else.

Your proposed solution of opening up some management positions to women will only allow some of the most talented and dynamic slaves to join the ranks of the overseers cracking their whips over their former office mates.

The reason the liberation movement remains isolated and aloof from the lives of most women is that the movement's aims have too often been limited to opening positions on the top of the exploitive system to upper class career women.

We have to look beyond the psychological dimension of male power tripping and see that their oppression is also essentially economic. Women provide an army of cheap labour. Just as the blacks in South Africa have to be constantly bullied and humiliated, women must have their self-esteem pruned down every day, because if we see ourselves as worthwhile people making a vital contribution to our system of production, we could not be denied a fair rate of pay.

Women are the under-class supporting capitalism the way the Negro slaves supported the plantation system.

Instead of scrabbling over each other competing for favours we have to come to terms with each other and organize. In union there is strength. Nothing is keeping unions out of our offices except women's unwillingness to face the unreality of their situation as exploited workers and by scrapping our Hollywood dreams of "success" under capitalism.

While catching up with men in trade unions, who now have the most basic rights of being treated as individuals with rights and dignity, we have to lead the fight for industrial democracy on the job.

Our dynamic and talented sisters should have positions of responsibility, but as elected leaders, not appointed overseers.

The easiest place to start industrial democracy is in government owned industry like the Hydro, or in industries under state capitalism like the companies acquired by the B.C. government. No private owners will squawk that their powers and rights as owners are being taken away.

And we have to get involved in politics to make sure that private capitalism is replaced by public ownership wherever possible as an interim step to real industrial democracy. Getting involved in politics means more than making coffee and licking envelopes. We have to run for office to take power ourselves.

In B.C., Rosemary Brown, a member of the Legislature, has introduced a private members bill calling for Affirmative Action. It calls on the government to make up for its sex discrimination in past hiring practises.

Secretaries of the world UNITE, ORGANIZE AND VOTE LEFT. You have nothing to lose but a pinch on the bum,

Yours for Freedom,
Ms. Betty Hlookoff
R. von Fuchs.

open letter

The following is a copy of an open letter sent to the Democrat, used also as an editorial in the Kamloops constituency newsletter.

For the past few months, I have been increasingly disturbed by the widening rift between the NDP government and the Women's Rights Committee of the B.C. New Democratic Party.

As a woman, I have felt that the problem which exists for women in Canadian society. and the type of change needed to alter women's roles, are not fully understood by many people, and especially not by the M.L.A.'s and Cabinet Ministers who make up our democratic socialist government.

Through an analogy, I would like to try to express the feelings that I have about women's rights and the attitude which should be adopted by party members who do not feel intimately involved in the struggle; or the men who, for the most part, do not even recognize the problem.

- Before slavery was abolished, many blacks were not badly treated by their masters. They had good living conditions and their economic situation was more secure before abolition than after. There were probably many blacks who did not feel oppressed.

Many women live in situations where they are happy, enjoy relative freedom, and are economically secure.

- the kind slave owners undoubtedly felt betrayed by their slaves because they thought they had been generous and tolerant. They had done everything possible for the blacks except treat them as equals or give them their freedom.

Many men feel personally betrayed because women who are close to them are seeking to change their lives; to gain their freedom or independence. They have not felt as if they have been oppressing women.

- Many slaves felt terrified of freedom, especially the older ones who had long lived in slavery. They feared the future because they didn't have the training or skills to be independent, and because they had grown accustomed to thinking they were not capable of an independent role.

Many women feel frightened of the effects of women's liberation on their lives.

In each of the examples, there were the other blacks who did, in fact, feel oppressed, were badly treated, and were economically insecure.

The economic and social condition of blacks could have been improved by legislation enforcing minimum standards of living and education and laws preventing the cruel treatment of slaves. But even though their standard of living may have improved, their status would not have changed. They would still be slaves.

This is how I feel about the legislation passed by our socialist government. It is for the most part an attempt to better the conditions of women, but it does not alter the basic problem. Women are not treated as equal independent beings in our society. They are slaves to a tradition.

There are specific changes which the government could make which would drastically alter the status of women in Canadian society.

- the Affirmative Action Plan would go a long way to giving women equality in the work place.

- to remove all sexist texts from school curricula would begin the process of changing the way which society views women's roles.

- free 24 hour user-controlled daycare available to all would free women to take an active role in society on many levels.

There are many other changes needed but these are three which I see as being basic to our struggles to become actively involved in the creation of a democratic socialist society.

How should we as socialists see the struggles of women? We do not work for change in society only in areas which will be of personal benefit to us. We try to look at society as a whole, and to effect changes which will lead to a more just and equitable society for all.

Even though we may not feel personally oppressed, we must give solid support to any group which does feel oppressed and we must work to release them from their bondage. For deep concern for our brothers and sisters is intrinsic to socialist philosophy.

So when our government continually says to us, after having all these arguments explained in great detail through letter, briefs and meetings, "What is it you people want?", can anyone blame us for reacting strongly and vocally?

We know what we want, and you know what we want. And you know we are not going to be bought off by bits and pieces of legislation aimed at making little improvements but no real change. We want socialism for women as well as men.

Terri Ash,
Kamloops.

***** RAPE RELIEF *****

874-7911

- a group of lay women who have come together to provide support for rape victims

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THANKS TO RADFORD

Hon. Jack Radford
Min. of Recreation & Conservation
Legislative Buildings
Victoria

Dear Mr. Radford,

I am writing to convey to you my pleasure at reading your recent statement and press release announcing your intention to seek a provincial study directed towards developing programs to provide equal opportunity for females in sport and recreation.

Since your press release, many women from around the province have called me in support of your action, and I know I speak for them in saying that your statement is the first clear response of any Cabinet Minister to the spirit of NDP policy on women's rights.

You may not be aware of it, but the Women's Committee last year passed a resolution calling for just such a study, but time pressures prevented it from reaching the Convention floor. It nevertheless received the endorsement of NDP women and I am sure would also have received Party endorsement.

You may be interested in hearing a personal account of problems parents are facing in finding sport and recreational opportunities for girls. For the past four years, I have tried to find such activities for my son and daughter, who are two years apart in age. Although my daughter is older and actually more athletic than my son, I was only able to find activities for my son who has been involved in a number of different sports for years. My daughter is not 11 years old and even if equal opportunities were available tomorrow, she would not take advan-

tage of them since she has learned that sports are not for girls and would not feel embarrassed and intimidated by participating. Had she the kind of opportunities which I hope your study will provide, she would not feel the way she does now. I'm afraid it's too late for her, but not too late for the other thousands of girls who will benefit immeasurably from your action.

I hope that the proposed study will proceed as quickly as possible and be undertaken by people sympathetic to the problem. I also hope you will entertain the idea of special incentives for girls to counteract the many attendant problems of equalizing opportunities, - the present hostility of many leagues and coaches against girls, the severe lack of competent adult females to take on training tasks (they being products of the same society), and the second class status inherent in segregated sports, to name just a few.

Thank you again for your initiatives in this area. If our Committee can assist in any way, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,
Sharon Yandle, Chairwoman.
Standing Committee on Women's Rights,
B.C. New Democratic Party.

*** VICTORY * * ***

*Kamloops women
re-introduced our res-
olution on Aug. 9th. It
passed overwhelmingly
with only 2 dissenting
votes!*

and in reply-----

on childcare hearings:

Dear Ms. Yandle,

Thank you for your letter of June 5 and your expression of support for my statement on initiating a provincial study directed towards developing programs to provide equal opportunities for females in sport and recreation.

The Honourable Ernest Hall has responded to my statement by establishing a three department working committee on this question to meet with various groups to solicit opinion and to receive briefs.

I am enclosing a copy of the press release announcing the formation of this committee. Since the press release was issued, in addition to Mr. Hall's Department and mine, the Honourable Eileen Dailly has also been asked to name a person to this committee, which is only now getting off the ground.

Special incentives for girls to counteract the many attendant problems of equalizing opportunities is a proposal I personally favour.

I hope that the Standing Committee on Women's Rights will take the opportunity to submit a brief to this special government committee.

Incidentally, I was interested in hearing of your personal account of problems you faced in finding sport and recreational opportunities for your daughter. As a parent of four daughters, I assure you I can appreciate any experience through which you and your daughter have gone.

Jack Radford.

Ms. Jill Brown
Secretary, Steering Committee
B.C. N.D.P. Standing Policy
Committee on Women's Rights.

Dear Ms. Brown,

Thank you for your letter of June 17 in which you indicate that our public hearings on the draft regulations on child care will be restricted to Vancouver.

At the present time, I believe the only public hearings are planned for the Lower Mainland. However, Mr. Levi and I have agreed that we want the hearings to be much more broadly based and do plan to have hearings elsewhere. You will be pleased to know that we are both in favour of changes that will much more closely reflect some of the needs you have been concerned with over the past number of months.

We have found some difficulty in publicizing meetings of this type and would be only too happy to get in closer touch with groups such as yours, in order to get the kind of input that is necessary.

The second problem we have is the fact that we had a protracted Session of the Legislature that put all our plans almost into animated suspension and therefore we are much later on this whole question than we would have liked to have been. Another problem is the question of staffing which is also taking us some time,

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Dennis Cocke

Jim Taylor Sun, June 15

I would appreciate suggestions as to what we should do with Carol Forbes, the mouthy Ms. who led the Mothers' March on Little League that forced it to allow girls in the boys' leagues. Ms. Forbes now says she's going after Babe Ruth Leagues and eventually the majors. A baseball stuffed in her mouth? Drown her in Gaylord Perry's tobacco? Make her listen to the collected speeches of Bowie Kuhn? If the lady would come down off her pulpit long enough to think, she is working toward the elimination of girls' sports. Because once the teams are open, how many girls will be good enough to stick? Or does she care? People who scream that loudly about something that stupid are usually looking out for TV cameras, not for kids . . .

RECENT READINGS

PRIVILEGE OF SEX: A CENTURY OF CANADIAN WOMEN, edited by Eve Zaremba, House of Anansi Press, Toronto 1974. Paperback, \$3.50, Cloth, \$8.50.

This is the kind of book that I hope there are going to be more of, which is, I realize, an awkward way of saying that Privilege of Sex represents a beginning in the long process of discovering the heritage of women in this country.

The book title is from Anna Jameson, "where she is idle and useless by privilege of sex, a divinity and an idol, a victim or a toy, is not her position as lamentable, as false, as injurious to herself and all social progress, as where she is the drudge, slave and possession of man?" And in various ways, all the items excerpted in this book address themselves to this question.

Privilege of Sex is divided into three sections. The first, "Brothers, Husbands, and Fathers" includes excerpts from Anne Hampton, Frances Stewart, and Anna Brownell Jameson. These are letters and journal entries describing life in the young colony of Canada in the 1830's; to my mind they collectively form an image of the life of gentlewomen in this era that is much more vivid and thought-provoking than the 'standard' Susanna Moodie, whose works I have always found extraordinarily dull. These women describe and discuss and question their situation as women in this new world, sometimes explicitly, sometimes by indirection. And as the quotation from Anna Jameson shows, she at least got at the core of that question.

The second section is ironically entitled "A woman's Place. . .", ironically because the events described in the two events comprising this section expose that cruel cliché for the farce it is. Theresa Gowlock tells of her experiences as a captive of Indians during the North West Rebellion in 1884-5. Her husband was killed—they had been married only a few months, but in spite of all her training towards passive dependence, she endured the ordeals of captivity for a period of months, and survived. N. Davenport describes her 100 mile journey through the bush from Quebec City to Lake St. John. Her husband's nerve cracked and he virtually collapsed in despair, members of the party were lost, starvation was imminent—but "N" coped, led, and she too survived.

The last section "Changes" includes material from Nellie McClung, Marion Cran, Marjory Macmurchy and Agnes McPhail. These are more explicitly political and make direct attempts to assess and explain the situation of women and to offer solutions. The comments which the editor, Eve Zaremba makes on Marjory Macmurchy are really applicable to all four writers: "(Her) analysis does not go very far but many of the factors essential for an analysis start coming to the surface." Somewhat of an exception is Agnes McPhail, who sees the root of the problem as lying in the institution of marriage, and who says tartly, "I suggest that there is a splendid way out of the difficulty of marriage and that is my way - stay out."

The book includes a general introduction which places the works excerpted within the social and ideological framework of their times, and relates them to the women's

S liberation movement of today. There are also detailed commentaries preceding each section, which give brief biographies of the writers and assessments of their work. In short, a very worthwhile book and I hope we'll see a lot more of this type of anthology in the women's movement in Canada.

WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE: FACTS AND FIGURES, 1973. Women's Bureau, Labour Canada, 1974, Free (!)

This publication can serve two purposes. It can, if you wish to indulge yourself in gloom, pessimism and self-pity, give you plenty of reasons to do so. On the other hand, you can also use the

information it contains to shove down the throats of anyone who still thinks women aren't oppressed under capitalism.

Sample " The average annual earnings of women employees who worked 50 to 52 weeks (in 1971) were \$4785.00 compared with \$8646.00 for men. The earnings of men exceeded those of women by 80.7% " (Page 84)

The book is available free from Labour Canada, Ottawa, in Vancouver from Information Canada, 800 Granville Street. It is in both English and French.

Both book reviews by:
Cynthia Flood
Vancouver-Centre

VIVA ZAPATA

SEPTEMBER 14

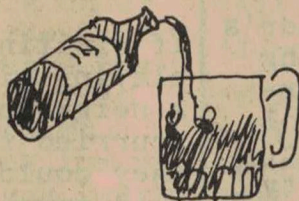
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SEPTEMBER 28: THE ORGANIZER

OCTOBER 12: BED AND SOFA

VIVA ZAPATA! is a biography of the leader of the Mexican revolutionary-agrarian movement between 1910 and 1919. He remains a focus for Indian aspirations to "Land and Liberty". Himself an Indian, Emiliano Zapata led his army of peasants close to winning control of all Mexico, before he was assassinated by an agent of the federal government.

THE ORGANIZER is a compassionate and historically accurate film about the origins of labour's struggles against degradation and exploitation. It is set during the 1880's in a textile plant in Turin and describes the workers attempts at organization following an industrial accident.

SOCIALIST FILM SERIES

EMILY CARR» *Growing Pains*

For many people, perhaps especially in B.C. but also all around the world, the name of Emily Carr means paintings - paintings sometimes terrifying, of huge dark trees soaring and towering from earth to sky; sometimes haunting, of great totem poles; always intense, vivid and evocative of a sense of the power and mystery of nature. For those who have not read her books, a great joy awaits you; for here are humour, slashing satire, a continual seige against hypocrisy in all its forms, vivid portraits and caricatures of an incredible range of people, and overall an exuberant and vigorous love of life.

In her writings also we find discussion of the role of women, both in the narrow Victorian society in which Emily Carr was reared and in the world of artists and art. The passage which follows is taken from Growing Pains, her autobiography, which she completed just before her death in 1945. The book is published in paperback by Clarke Irwin & Co., and costs \$2.50.

* * *

To show Mother I must picture Father, because Mother was Father's reflection - smooth, liquid reflecting of definite, steel-cold reality.

Our childhood was ruled by Father's unbendable iron will, the obeying of which would have been intolerable but for Mother's patient polishing of its dull metal so that it shone and reflected the beauty of orderliness that was in all Father's ways, a beauty you had to admire, for, in spite of Father's severity and his overbearing omnipotence, you had to admit the justice even in his dictatorial bluster. But somehow Mother's reflecting was stronger than Father's

reality, for, after her death, it lived on in our memories and strengthened, while Father's tyrannical reality shrivelled up and was submerged under our own development.

Father looked taller than he really was because he was so straight. Mother was small-made and frail. Our oldest sister was like Father; she helped Mother raise us and finished our upbringing when Mother died.

I was twelve when Mother died - the raw, green Victoria age, 12 years old.

The routine of our childhood home ran with mechanical precision. Father was ultra-English, a straight, stern autocrat. No one ever dreamt of crossing his will. Mother loved him and obeyed because it was her loyal pleasure to do so. We children had to obey from both fear and reverence.

...Every evening at a quarter to six Mother would say, "Children, is every gate properly shut and fastened? Are no toys littering the garden, no dolls sitting on humans' chairs? Wash your faces, then, and put on clean pinafores; your father will soon be home."

If visiting children happened to be playing with us in our garden, or a neighbour calling on Mother, they scurried for the gate as fast as they could. Father would not have said anything if he had found them in his house - that was just it, he would not have said anything to them at all. He would have stalked our front door frowning terribly, hurrying to tend Isabella, the great, purple-fruited grapevine that crawled half over our

house and entirely over Father's heart.

...After Father had fussed over Isabella and eaten a good dinner, he went upstairs to see Mother who was far more often in bed ill than up. He was good to Mother in his own way, gave her every possible comfort, good help, good doctoring, best food, but I resented that he went to Isabella first and Mother after. He was grumpy too when he did go. He sat beside her bed for half an hour in almost complete silence, then he went downstairs to read his paper till bedtime.

I heard a lady say to Mother, "Isn't it difficult, Mrs. Carr, to discipline our babies when their fathers spoil them so?"

Mother replied, "My husband takes no notice of mine till they are old enough to run round after him. He then recognizes them as human beings and as his children, accepts their adoration. You know how little tots worship big, strong men!"

...Father insisted that I be at his heels every moment that he was at home. I helped him in the garden, popping the bulbs into holes that he dug, holding the strips of cloth and the tacks while he trained Isabella. I walked nearly all the way to town with him every morning. He let me snuggle under his arm and sleep during the long Presbyterian sermons. I held his hand during the walk to and from church. This all seemed to me fine until I began to think for myself - then I saw that I was being used as a soother for Father's tantrums; like a bone to a dog, I was being flung to quiet Father's temper. When he was extra cranky I was taken into town by my big sister and left at Father's wholesale warehouse to walk home with him

because my chatter soothed him. I resented this and began to question why Father should act as if he was God. Why should people dance after him and let him think he was? I decided disciplining would be good for Father and I made up my mind to cross his will sometimes. At first he laughed, trying to coax the waywardness out of me, but when he saw I was serious his fury rose against me. He turned and was harder on me than on any of the others. His soul was so bitter that he was even sometimes cruel to me.

"Mother," I begged, "need I be sent to town any more to walk home with Father?"

Mother looked at me hard. "Child," she cried, "what ails you? You have always loved to be with your father. He adores you. What is the matter?"

"He is cross, he thinks he is as important as God."

Mother was supremely shocked; she had brought her family up under the English tradition that the men of a woman's family were created to be worshipped. My insurrection pained her. She was as troubled as a hen that has hatched a duck. She wanted to question me but her loyalty to Father forbade.

She said to me, "Shall you and I have a picnic?" - She knew that above all things I loved a picnic.

"All to ourselves?" I asked.

"Just you and I."

It was the most wonderful thing she could have suggested. I was so proud. Mother, who always shared herself equally among us, was giving to me a whole afternoon of herself!

Readers who would like to read more of Emily Carr's writings should look for these titles: Klee Wyck, The Book of Small, The House of All Sorts, and The Heart of a Peacock.

A Women's Group is continuing to meet in Coquitlam:

the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Meetings are planned for:

August 27
September 10
September 24

at:

The Share Society
10 King Edward
(go under the railway
bridge from the same
street as Place des Arts)
Telephone: 526-3791

Two kinds of meetings have been considered, educational and consciousness raising.

Possible topics: Woman - You are not Alone, Reaching out, Childcare needs, and What it Means to be Female.

For further information contact:

Margaret Beardsley - 941-2296
Kay Barsvic - 942-5566

ISIS WOMEN IN FILM

will tour 13 towns in B.C., to put on 3-day film festivals in each town. We will be equipped with films video and other material by women, or on topics concerning women and will hold discussions after the films. Women's groups in Vancouver such as the child care federation, the health collective the birth centre, and rape relief, will provide some written information to take with us and the women's bookstore will be sending a selection of books. The fes-



NOTICES

tival will also be featuring an exhibit of work by B.C. women artists and photographers. This will consist of about 100 slides of art work and about 40 actual works. The exhibit will be supplemented by the work of local artists in each town. A few of the films to be shown are: "It happens to Us" (an abortion film), Nellie Capplans "A Very Curious Girl" "Growing Up Female", the NFB "Working Mothers" series, some short films by B. C. Women film makers and a short film on day care in B.C.

Here is our itinerary and the names of local organizers, should anyone wish to contact them for further information:

Sept.5,6,7: Selkirk College, Castlegar, Marsha Grossbard.

Sept.10,11,12: Cranbrook, Shirley Smith.

Sept. 16,17: New Denver, Sue McKay.

Sept.21,22,23: Kamloops, Pam Smith.

Sept.25,26,27: Kelowna, Teri de Wolf

Sept.29-30, Oct.1: Penticton, Francis Laughlin

Oct 2, evening: Oliver, Rosemary Holmes-Smith

Oct.6,7,8,: Powell River, Shirley May Cole

Oct.10,11,12: Courtenay, Janet Fairbanks

Oct.15,16,17: Nanaimo, Ruth Maijer

Oct. 21-23: Lillooet, Jane McCartney

Oct.25,26,27: Hope, Valerie Martel.

Oct.29,30,31: Aldergrove, Cheryl Doubt.

approved for publication by the candidate

Joan Wallace, the very personable, knowledgeable and highly qualified Liberal Candidate for the Burnaby-Richmond-Delta Constituency has provided a real challenge, and intriguing choice for the voter!

**WILL OUR NEXT M.P.
IN OTTAWA APPEAR
AS A STACKED BLOUSE,
OR A STUFFED SHIRT ?**

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Support the NO OLYMPICS Campaign

WHO IS PUSHING THE OLYMPICS AND WHY?

Eight holding and development companies own a total of 1,440 acres of prime land in the Alta Lake - Whistler area. Three of these companies have options to purchase another 896 acres, which they are currently leasing for as little as \$150 per acre. The eight are: Capilano Highlands Ltd., Garibaldi Lifts Ltd., Whistler Mountain Holdings Ltd., Whistler Heights Properties Ltd., (same people), Bay Shore Developments Ltd., Garibaldi-Whistler Developments Ltd., Alta Lake Developments Ltd., Garran Holdings Ltd., Wall and Redekopp Ltd.

There are some obvious conflicts of interest. Vancouver alderman Geoff Massey is one of the four directors of Garibaldi-Whistler Development. Mayor Art Phillips held shares in Grouse Mountain Resorts Ltd. (which was recently taken over by a large Toronto developer, who then proposed a large ski village development on Grouse Mtn.). Alderman Massey and Mayor Phillips were members of the City Council committee dealing with the Olympic bid.

Some of the directors of the Vancouver/Garibaldi/Olympic Committee are: B. Van Norman (Capilano Highlands), Dick Street (Adventures West Village), Gary Watson and Geoff Massey (Garibaldi-Whistler Development), Nancy Green-Paine (interest in Powder Mountain near Whistler), John Hoegg (Grouse Mountain Resorts), Mayor Art Phillips is a member of the V.G.O.C. Alderman Geoff Massey was a director of the V.G.O.C. when it made its bid for the 1976 Olympics.

to the following people who have sent in donations to help support Priorities:

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DATE _____	DATE _____

If you wish to receive a copy of the NDP Women's Committee booklet, The Case for a Ministry of Women's Rights, please send this form along with 50¢ per copy (35¢ each for orders over 25; 25¢ each for orders over 300) and mail to Priorities, c/o #8 - 2295 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver B.C.

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