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Rapists get Go-Ahead Sentence

FACTS

Join the forces: license to rape

June 1977: Thomas Holdsworth, soldier in the Coldstream Guards walked out of an Appeal Court with a suspended sentence, after raping Carol Maggs, and causing her injuries which put her in hospital for two months. The three "Justices": Roskill, Slynn and Wien.

Judge's comments: "he allowed his enthusiasm for sex to overcome his normal good behaviour." . . . his "career would be completely destroyed if this sentence of three years were to stand." (Wien).

October 1977: Royal Navy Engineer Maurice Markham was sentenced to six months for attempted rape and actual bodily harm. The judge, Peter Mason, a wartime Royal Artillery Officer.

Judge's comments: "It would be a shame if the country loses your services. . . . It might be best if after your sentence this whole thing be forgotten and you reinstated in the Royal Navy."

January 1977: Private Roger Surch received a suspended 2-year sentence after raping a woman in Northern Ireland. The court was told that his commanding officer would be happy to have him back in the King's Regiment if he did not go to gaol.

May 1977: Two Guardsmen in the Coldstream Guards, like Holdsworth, kill two gay men. Gay women and men are investigating how army training takes attack on gay people as normal like rape. Sentences: one jailed for life, one for 5 years.

Rape of Children: a trivial offence

September 1977: Manchester. Judge Zigmund gives John Burgess, 20, a suspended 6-month-sentence and £ 100 fine for sexually assaulting a 3-year-old girl. Burgess' father a business man and a land-owner.

Judge's comments to the mother of the child: "You will forget it and so will your little girl."

October 1977: Aylesbury. Ronald Stevens, 57, village headmaster in Bletchey, sentenced to 18 months suspended sentence for 29 assaults on girls aged 9 - 12.

November 1977: Southampton. Children's Home Head, Harry Bunker, sentenced to 30 months for sexual assaults on girls in the home over a period of 6 years.

One mercy for men, one mercy for women

Mr. Justice Wien (see above) giving 2-year suspended sentence to a man who had killed his wife: "her death was the result of her husband's "years of torment, sexual deprivation and humiliation."

Mr. Justice Croom-Johnson, giving a man 3 years suspended for killing wife: ". . . provocation has gone on so long." No such sympathy for Norcen Winchester, Belfast, sentenced to 7 years for killing her father. He had raped her continually for years and beaten and raped her little sisters.

Through the law's fingers

In 1976 there were 1,094 cases of rape known to the police in England and Wales.

These cases were only the tip of the iceberg. Many rapes are not reported because of the treatment the victim gets. Many rapes fall outside the legal definition. There were 10,901 reported cases of "indecent assault" by men against women. There were uncounted rapes of wives by husbands: rape in marriage is not a crime in Britain.

Of the 1,094 less than half, 428 reached the Crown Court for trial.

112 were acquitted.

78 were sent to borstal, put on probation, fined, given conditional discharges, etc.

11 received suspended sentences.

238 received immediate prison sentences.

Of those who were sent to prison, 47% received 3 years or less. As it is normal to serve 2/3 of a sentence, or less, by the end of next year all but 126 of the rapists will be back on the streets-- or still on the streets.

If the Home Secretary wanted to tell men to go ahead and rape, could he find a clearer way?

The bias of the authorities cannot be hidden

It is a standard practice for the Judge to warn the jury; that women lie about rape. As Judge Sutcliff told a jury, "It is known that women in particular and small boys are liable to be untruthful and to invent stories."

October 1977: London. Detective Chief Inspector in Markham case says of the woman, "I doubt whether she's as clean and innocent as she would like us to believe."

In 1976 The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board paid out £ 9,000,000 to people who suffered criminal damage. For the injuries she sustained, Carol Maggs was offered £150.

The reluctance of the police to pursue rape charges, the fact that it is the woman put on trial instead of the man, the frequent go-ahead sentences even when a conviction is finally obtained have caused such fury that one Judge (Justice Kilner Brown) is afraid "if courts don't crack down, sex offenders could be tarred and feathered by vigilantes."

For more information: WOMEN AGAINST RAPE, Women's Centre, 138 Drummond Street, London NW1, Tel: 624 6364, Maid's Causeway, Cambridge Tel 57142
79 Richmond Road, Bristol Tel 422116

Is Finland to become the first country in the world to pay housewives? Lesley Adamson examines the prospect and looks at the Finns enlightened approach to liberation

The longest running pay dispute of all

FINLAND in the brief autumn is a grey hiatus. The too hot summer and the tourists are memories. The Christmas card winter of ice and snow is yet to come. So rain drips dismally through the fading light and everything waits.

This year one of the things the women of Finland are waiting for is the outcome of their campaign to pay wages to stay at home wives and mothers. If it succeeds they will be the first women in the world to have their traditional contribution to society acknowledged in such a practical way.

But if it happens, it won't happen to Finnish women throughout the country immediately. It's a regional matter, and only in a couple of regions has the campaign got as far as schemes being put to local authorities for consideration when they parcel out their money for next year's budget.

The amount of cash mentioned in the schemes doesn't raise homemaking very far up the wages ladder, but few women are willing to make an issue of that just at the moment. It is the principle which is important, not just for Finnish women but for the rest because if there is a happy ending to the Finnish campaign then there would inevitably be repercussions across the globe. If Finland points the way, it will

be that much harder for the others to resist going down the same road.

It would not be the first time that Finland had leaped into the "liberation" lead, either. In 1906 it became the first country to give women the vote, and since then it has generally taken an enlightened approach to matters like back-up services for working mothers. The modern women's movement might well claim credit for some of the recent improvements in the lot of the Finnish woman, but she already had a head start over the women of many other nations.

The movement itself has declined in popular appeal since the last decade. In the Sixties the movement drew in the professionals and middle-classes, and now it is losing many of them, following a universal pattern. The emphasis had shifted, said one woman who used to be enthusiastic and active. Now she dissociates herself entirely.

She had felt in the beginning it was worthwhile to campaign for specific things for women; suddenly she was

part of a movement that was campaigning against men. If the battle for women's legal rights and social status was largely won, why couldn't the movement have used its influence to make life better for people, regardless of sex, why did it all become so negative? No one could give her the answers, and so she left.

Of course, there were no easy answers. Several years ago Finnish writers were pointing out that women in Finland had more rights than many of them dared to use. It's a mainly rural country with half a million living in and close to the capital, Helsinki, and the other four million scattered very thinly indeed across the pine forests, lakes and peatlands. You can drive for hours without seeing a soul, perhaps never meeting another car. And the lives of many of the rural women follow the time honoured shape; sharing the farmwork and letting the "progress" of the big city and the world beyond pass them by.

A divorced woman can still be made to feel disgraced if she returns

to her home village (though naturally, a divorced gamut of social stigmas which used to keep women everywhere "in their place" are alive and well and living in the backwoods. Gradually and inexorably the old attitudes are breaking down, but in the meantime there is a reluctance by the women to make much use of the rights that have been freely given or won for them.

Presumably that's how the Finnish husband likes it, because in Helsinki where over 60 per cent of the married women work, practically all jobs are open to them, one in three marriages ends in divorce and the suspicion is that the figure will rise.

Finland, which spends an enormous amount on health and social care, has long accepted the one parent family and provided eagerly for it. Unmarried mothers, for example, can live in special single parent communities with resident nurses to care for their children while they work or study. When they move out after a year or two they are helped to find flats.

A single woman — or man — bringing up a child is given top priority because the government deems it in the national interest to ensure that the children are not "disadvantaged," as current jargon has it, and therefore likely to grow up to be burdens on the State.

It was in that gap between official equality for women and the unofficial discrimination against them that the women's movement flourished. Having seen women achieve so many legal rights, it was frustrated by seeing that social attitudes at a personal level lagged behind. True, more than a quarter of the seats in the Helsinki parliament are held by women, and that compares well with other countries. True, more than half the students at the universities and colleges are women, and that's good news.

But the liberated lady working at a professional job in Helsinki is likely to insist that the jobs are in practice harder to come by, that the pay is often unofficially lower, base rate and probably no more. And, familiar grumble, she's convinced that

women have to work harder and longer for promotion — and quite likely not get it even then. Nothing, in fact, has changed.

Like all societies, Finland has a social pecking order which is only explained by delving into its history, but results in day to day discriminations. Until fairly recently the Swedish speaking Finns were top dogs, assured of the pick of the jobs, certain of the university places. Even now the remnant of that superiority keeps the Finnish speakers waiting in the shops while the other customers get the service and the smiles.

Of course, said one Swedish speaking Finn, the old system was not fair, the minority should not have ruled the roost. And yet she admits there is nostalgia, among the Swedish speakers, for the old days, and she was shocked that her son had to go to Sweden to get into university.

Finland has some 400,000 young men and women studying and working abroad, and the problem has been well known to the other factions

of Finnish society for generations.

If the Swedish speakers were on top of the pile the Lapps came a long way down, and there is concern in some quarters that the north of the country is neglected while there seems to be no shortage of money for lavish health projects and social services in other regions. And on the lowest rung come the gipsies, a Finnish "problem" since they crossed the Russian border, but barely accepted as part of Finnish society at all.

If the Helsinki professional woman who told me she was disillusioned with the women's movement is still tempted to think of herself as a second class citizen she hasn't to look far for assurance that there are several other classes to go before she reaches bottom. And that's one of the things she had in mind when she talked about working towards better lives for people, instead of pursuing ever narrower aims for women.

It would come, after all, to much the same thing, she said: "Until we improve and change men's lives, how can we expect them to accept the changes in women's lives? We know from experience that unless both men and women are ready for changes, they are not worth making; either women don't make use of their new rights, or they risk divorce. What kind of freedom is that?"

WOMAN'S WORLD

DECLARING WAR ON MEN WHO ATTACK WOMEN

"THERE ARE still too many people who don't consider rape to be a serious crime — unless of course it happens to their wife, sister or daughter."

The speaker is Priscilla Allen, an American writer living in Princess Road, Kilburn. She is an attractive, softly-spoken woman in her early thirties — and she is one of the founder members of the Women Against Rape campaign (WAR) which received its impetus in the wake of the Carol Maggs case.

Carol Maggs, you will remember, was the victim of a brutal rape by a soldier, Thomas Holdsworth.

Holdsworth was set free by a court which said it did not want to destroy the young man's promising career in the army.

WAR was formed before the Carol Maggs case hit the headlines, but the resultant publicity gave the group more immediate public recognition than it might otherwise have had.

WAR's first public meeting was held in June last year.

Since then, WAR has grown in strength and similar groups have been formed all over the country.

On December 12, WAR presented a document to the Home Office, asking that the Home Office publicly support their demands.

WAR has had no reply to date.

But what do the WAR

members expect the Home Office to do?

"First and foremost, the Home Office can stop what we call 'go-ahead' sentences," said Priscilla.

"Six months suspended, fines and brief prison sentences are a signal to every man that the law says he can go ahead and rape.

"Long-term prison sentences aren't a good thing, but at present, it's the only way in which a judge can demonstrate that he considers rape to be a serious crime.

"We believe that economic dependence on men is one of the root causes of rape — there is a proven connection between battering and rape — and the government must arrange for women to have enough money and therefore the social standing, to protect themselves from a situation where she feels in danger of rape.

"Even simple things like ensuring that there is adequate street lighting at night and police protection available for those who want it, will go a long way to stopping rape.

"And when women are raped they should be given automatic compensation by law, without having to undergo a second trial."

The rapes which are reported

are still only a percentage of those which take place, and WAR believes that many things could be done to encourage women to report every rape.

Ideally it would like to see state-funded rape crisis centres all over Britain.

It also feels that too many many people (men and women) still believe that a rape victim must somehow have brought it all on herself.

Acceptance

Recognition of the seriousness of the crime by the law and the government would encourage acceptance of the fact that a woman who has been raped deserves only sympathy and caring concern and not, as sometimes happens, a further attack by policemen, doctors, lawyers and the press.

There are those who believe that there will always be rape, that it's natural for men to feel uncontrollable sexual urges, that rapists should perhaps be scolded like naughty children, but not treated as criminals.

Not surprisingly, the members of WAR would disagree strongly. Priscilla says that rape is the ultimate rejection of any idea that women are equal to men.

"If men really respected women as their equals," says Priscilla, "there would be no rape."

● If you would like more information about WAR or would like to attend its public meetings, it can be contacted at 29, Lydford Road, London, N15 or at 138, Drummond Street NW1 Tel: 624 6364 or 800 7379.

Judge under fire puffs peace pipe



Picture: JACK MANWARING

IT LOOKS like that moment in the TV commercial when the pipe smoker demonstrates his utter contentment.

But in this case we'll probably never know if the judge was merely putting up a smoke screen to hide his feelings.

For Mr Justice Wein had just heard angry wives call for him to be sacked—along with two other

COOL FACE OF JUSTICE

judges who freed a guardsman jailed for a brutal sex attack.

Eight members of the Women Against Rape group chanted 'Get the judges out!' outside West-

minster Abbey at the start of yesterday's traditional procession to the Strand for the opening of the new law term.

The demonstrators carried banners saying: 'Judges, we charge you with rape' and 'Rape in marriage is a crime.'

Perhaps at the end of it all Mr Justice Wein felt the need of a calming pipe, when he lit up on the steps of the Law Courts.

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4.10.77 Daily Mail p 15

Women Against Rape

licensed bar

BENEFIT

women only

food

PARTY & DISCO

raffle

STAR ATTRACTIONS =

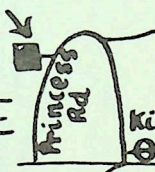
* D.J. Terri Quaye

* Clapperclaw (live satirical music)

TICKETS = 60p

40p (claimants, pensioners)

7.30-12.00pm. CARLTON CENTRE



Belsize Rd

Kilburn Park

Kilburn High Rd

SATURDAY 4th MARCH



For further information ring: (01) 800 7379 - 221 5754

On the 12th November, the Home Secretary made the following statement on the impending strike of firemen. "There may well be people who will die, who would not have died. Even if it is only one person, that would concern me."

WE THE UNDERSIGNED DEMAND THAT MR. MERLYN REES, THE HOME SECRETARY, MAKE PUBLIC WHETHER HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DANGER POSED TO WOMEN'S LIFE AND LIBERTY BY RAPE AND BY RECENT COURT DECISIONS SUPPORTING RAPE.

This is the first strike of firemen in over 50 years. Rape has always been with us, and if Mr. Rees is genuinely concerned with loss of life and liberty, he will speak out now about this massive daily threat to women.

In June of this year three Appeal Court Judges let Guardsman Thomas Holdsworth go free after brutally raping a 17-year-old woman. The judges said they were acting in the interests of the rapist's "promising career in the army". Carol Maggs, the raped woman, exposed the facts to the press, and millions of women all over the country and in other parts of the world protested this decision which gave men in uniform - and therefore all men - license to rape.

But on October 20th, in Snaresbrook Crown Court, this license was renewed. Judge Peter Mason sentenced Royal Navy Engineer Maurice Markham to six months imprisonment after he had pleaded guilty to attempted rape and causing actual bodily harm. Judge Mason was quoted as saying, "It would be a shame if the country loses your services." He sent a statement to the naval authorities asking for Markham to be reinstated.

Judge Mason must have been aware of the Holdsworth decision and the anger that followed it. His decision can only be seen as a counterattack against the mounting protest, a further attack on Carol Maggs and on all the women who supported her, and a further rape of Markham's victim.

More and more, women are asking, is license to rape a "perk" to supplement low pay in the armed forces? Are women expected to "serve their country" by peacefully allowing themselves to be raped by anyone in uniform? Is the ancient tradition of rape by occupying troops to be perpetuated (for example in Northern Ireland) and be extended into Britain itself? Are the defence forces there to defend us or attack us? Are the armed forces immune from what little of the law protects us from rape?

More and longer prison sentences will not in themselves stop rape. But the sentences we are seeing now, and the accompanying comments from judges are nothing short of support for the rapist from those in authority, and a green light to all potential rapists.

Every woman, young, old or still a child, married or single, lesbian or heterosexual, and whatever her race or class, is forced to live with the fear of rape. The government spends a defence budget of at least £4,000m. to "protect the population" but saves pennies by refusing to light dark streets.

Rape in marriage is not even illegal in Britain, and many women are forced to submit to rape and battering because the government has not recognised their right to financial independence - the key to being able to walk out on a violent husband.

One argument against demanding that individual judges' decisions be censured is the "independence of the judiciary". In fact judges who condone rape often also dismiss the raped woman with comments such as "no permanent harm was done" and "you will forget it". In both the Holdsworth and the Markham cases, the fact that the defendants were servicemen was the main factor in their release. Since this is the case, we are determined that judges be made to understand that the judiciary must be independent from the armed forces and that a place on the Bench cannot guarantee to any judge his right to punish the victim and support the criminal. Justice must be done and must be seen to be done, if not by judges then by those who have ultimate responsibility for the courts.

The scandal over British justice is mounting, here and in other countries, where the news has been spread by women in Britain and Northern Ireland, and published in the press all over the world. We cannot allow the Home Secretary to pretend nothing is happening. So long as he stays silent, he is in effect condoning what police, courts and other state authorities are doing. Rape cannot be a matter for a gentleman's agreement behind the scenes.

WE DEMAND IMMEDIATELY A PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM THE HOME SECRETARY. The Home Secretary must know what is happening. Is he for rape or against it? If he does not come out publicly against it, we will be forced to assume he is for it.

SIGNED (individuals)
(official title
if any)

ON BEHALF OF (GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS WHERE APPLICABLE)
.....
.....
.....
.....

Please return to Women Against Rape
Women's Centre
138 Drummond Street
London N.W. 1 . Tel: 624-6364, 800-7379
Bristol (0272) 422116
Cambridge (0223) 57142

"There may be people who will die who would not have died. Even if it is only one person that would concern me" said the Home Secretary of the firemen's strike (the first in history).

THE HOME SECRETARY MUST SAY: is he concerned about the daily danger to women created by rape and by courts that give the go-ahead to rapists?

Every woman, whatever her age, race, nationality or position is forced to live with the fear of rape, in the streets and in our own homes. And women have made it abundantly clear that we cannot tolerate courts which encourage rape, which put the victim on trial and show the rapist sympathy and support.

June 1977: 3 Appeal Court judges, Justices Roskill, Wien and Slynn, let a rapist Thomas Holdsworth walk free because they felt his "promising army career" was more important than a woman's suffering. Carol Maggs, the raped woman, exposed the "Justices" to the press, and millions of women all over the country protested that this decision gave men in the forces - and therefore all men - license to rape.

October 1977. Flying in the face of women's fury Judge Peter Mason gave a 6 month sentence to Maurice Markham, a rapist from the Royal Navy, and told him "it would be a shame if the country loses your services." Women Against Rape invaded the court house.

THE HOME SECRETARY MUST SAY: Are women expected to serve our country by peacefully allowing ourselves to be raped by anyone in uniform?

Are we one of the perks of the job to make up for low pay and bad conditions in the armed forces?

September 1977. Judge Zigmond in Manchester let a man off with a suspended sentence for raping a 3-year-old girl. He told the 3-year-old's mother, "you will forget it and so will your little girl." The same judge gave a young man one year for petty theft. The mother has not forgotten and has got thousands of other women, and men, to support her demand for the judge to be sacked.

THE HOME SECRETARY MUST SAY: is rape of children really a trivial offence?

Carol Maggs and 3 year old's mother are among the women picketing the Home Office today. Women all over Britain and Northern Ireland and women all over the world are fighting to stop rape. Are the forces of authority behind us or against us?

THE HOME SECRETARY CANNOT STAY SILENT as though nothing were happening. WE DEMAND URGENTLY A PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM MERLYN REES on the way justice is being administered in rape cases.

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

Women, and men, who want to support this demand can contact us at the Women's Centre, 138 Drummond Street, London NW1, tel 624 6364, 800 7379 Women's Centre, Maid's Causeway, Cambridge, tel. 57142, Bristol 79 Richmond Road, tel 422116

LONDON. With banners reading "Join the forces—licence to rape" and "A judge a day lets a rapist away," 25 women from various groups—including Wages Due Lesbians and the Maureen Colquhoun Action Committee—picketed the Home Office in Queen Anne's Gate. The picket was part of a continuing campaign by WAR (Women Against Rape) against recent court decisions which, they say, "give men, and particularly members of the Armed Forces, licence to rape."

Among the demonstrators was Philomena O'Grady from Manchester, whose three year old daughter had been raped by a 20 year old man. The girl suffered internal bleeding and stretch wounds. Ms O'Grady told GN, but the man was only given a six month suspended sentence when he appeared before Mr Justice Zigmund at Manchester in September.

The judge told Ms O'Grady: "You will forget it and so will your daughter."

In comparison, Mr Justice Mars Jones last month imprisoned a 36 year old Blackburn man for four years after he had admitted sexual offences involving a boy of 13 he had picked up in a park.

Prison

Mr Justice Mars Jones said: "Apparently you do not think there is anything wrong with corrupting young lads under age. It is my paramount duty to protect the public and I have no alternative but to pass a substantial prison sentence."

WAR claims that judges are showing themselves to be biased against women in their handling of rape cases.

Ms O'Grady, who has formed a WAR group in Manchester, has organized a petition calling for the dismissal of Mr Justice Zigmund. The petition has so far been signed by 7,000 people, she said.

She told the story of the rape of her daughter over a loud-hailer as civil servants hurried out to and back from their lunches. Few people stopped to listen. The majority of men who passed by laughed.

Cases

The demonstrators handed out leaflets demanding a statement from Home Secretary Merlyn Rees. The leaflets also demanded judgments against rapists that have particularly angered women's groups. These included:

The case of Thomas Holdsworth, of the Coldstream Guards, who was given a suspended sentence in June for committing a brutal sexual assault on Carol Maggs, then 17.

Royal Navy engineer Maurice Markham, who was sentenced to six months imprisonment in October for attempted rape and actual bodily harm. The judge, Mr Justice Peter Mason, told him: "It would be a shame if the country loses your services."

Gay murder

The WAR leaflet also drew attention to the killing of two gay men, John Fore and Dennis Chalke, by soldiers Dale Patrick Martin and Anthony William Bottrell who, like Holdsworth, served with the Coldstream Guards.

"Gay women and men," stated the leaflet, "are investigating how Army training takes attacks on gays as normal—like rape."

There were two men in the picket, representing the Payday group (Men in Support of the Wages for Housework Campaign). The Wages for Housework Campaign itself was also represented.

Support was also given by the Royal English Collective of Prostitutes.

After picketing the Home Office, the demonstrators went to Buckingham Palace and delivered a letter to Prince Charles saying that, as an officer in the Royal Navy, he had the responsibility to make a public stand on the issue—particularly in regard to the Markham case.

W.A.R. at Home Office and homos at the War Office!



Women pickets outside the Home Office demand an end to "go ahead" sentences given to rapists

Biggest union meeting boycotts Scarborough

THE 700,000-strong National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) will not be holding its 1981 conference in Scarborough, because of the town's refusal to accept a conference booking from the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

The NALGO conference, Britain's largest union conference with 2,000 delegates, was invited by Scarborough Council and agreed

to meet there in 1981.

But at its last national executive meeting, NALGO was asked by EC member Mike Blick to join the boycott of Scarborough, until the local council lifted its ban on CHE.

He told the committee that Scarborough councillors had shown "plain, old-fashioned prejudice."

And he told Gay News: "I still hope very much that NALGO can

meet there in 1981, by Scarborough changing its mind on CHE."

Previous conferences to have boycotted Scarborough include the Liberal Party, the Society of Civil and Public Servants, and the National Union of Students. It is thought that the town's financial losses have now topped the one-million mark.

Complaint

LONDON: Robert Box, editor of the homosexual sex-mag *Mister Quorum*, has complained to the Press Council over an article in *The Sun*.

The article, titled "Scandal of the Child-Sex Mags", said *Mister Quorum* published full-length colour photographs of children—a statement denied by Robert Box who said that his models were in the 18-25 age range.

Blasphemy meeting

LONDON: A public meeting on the Gay News trial is to be held in Brighton on January 9. Starting at 8pm, there will be speakers from the gay movement, the labour movement, and from the church. The meeting is to be held at St Matthews Church Hall, on Brixton Hill opposite the town hall.

Court snubs prosecution over new sauna trial

LONDON: Charges have been dropped against the last remaining defendant in the Hereford Sauna Case, after an Old Bailey judge told the police they were wasting public money.

In a previous eight-day trial, before Judge Marman, the jury had been unable to reach a verdict in the case of Mr H, who was charged with buggery.

The police demanded a re-trial, and Mr H appeared again at the Old Bailey on December 2. But neither of the two police sergeants in the case turned up. One was awaiting surgery in hospital whilst the other was away in Germany at a family funeral. The prosecutor asked for an adjournment until the officers were back on duty in London and available to give evidence.

It was then that Judge Laughton-Scott intervened to ask

the prosecutor whether he was determined to proceed.

Was the prosecutor aware that trials at the Old Bailey cost a great deal of public money? This was, said the judge, the case of a man in semi-private indulging in a "peccadillo" with another consenting adult. He referred also to the opinion of the previous trial judge on the amount of court time that had already been taken up with the case.

What did the prosecutor wish to do?

The prosecutor wished to put in a quick telephone call to the Metropolitan police solicitor's office. And he returned to the court to say that the charge would be dropped.

Mr H was then set free by the court, and looks like having a happier Christmas than he expected.

LONDON. Demonstrators from ALGG (All London Gay Groups) picketed the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall recently to demand an enquiry into British Army training methods.

The demonstration followed a Gay News report revealing soldiers on certain combat courses are trained to react to homosexuality with uncontrolled violence.

Five women—representing the WAR (Women Against Rape) group, Wages Due Lesbians, and the Maureen Colquhoun Action Committee—joined the twelve-man picket.

During the 1½ hour lunchtime demonstration, 600 leaflets were handed out to civil servants entering and leaving the Ministry, and to passers-by.

The leaflets stated that the brutal sexual assault on Carol Maggs by guardsman Thomas Holdsworth and the killing of gays John Fore and Dennis Chalke by guardsmen Dale Martin and Anthony Bottrell resulted from Army training methods that equate the "proving" of "masculinity" with military efficiency.

Both Dale Martin and Anthony Bottrell were serving with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards—as was Thomas Holdsworth.

Enquiry

"We demand an enquiry into training methods which have resulted in the vicious rape of a woman and the brutal murder of two homosexual men," stated the ALGG leaflet.

But many civil servants, striding briskly out of the Ministry of Defence, were less than interested. One demonstrator told GN: "I've had one 'bugger off', several 'piss offs' and one 'my old regiment'."

Nearly all the insults were delivered in good "Oxbridge" accents, he added, "the minions were quite polite about it."

Police

Two policemen who—together with a third stationed at the Ministry door—had been present at the beginning of the demonstration were gradually joined by four more over the course of the 1½ hours.

But, apart from some aggressive warnings that anybody who caused an obstruction would be "nicked" and orders to keep the Ministry steps clear, there was no confrontation.

In fact, one policeman seemed as if he were trying to help the demonstrators present their case in the best manner. He told them to stand still at the side of the Ministry steps and not to wander about.

"It looks a bloody shambles otherwise," he said.

Letter

Before they left, the demonstrators tried to deliver a letter addressed to Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, calling upon him to make a statement.

They were not allowed to approach the entrance to the building but a Ministry of Defence security officer was sent out to collect the letter.

Ghost of Gay Street

BATH: Ms Margaret Royal, a West Country ghost-stalker, has come across an unusual spook in Bath.

At the time she has herself, for the phantom—dressed in Regency-style, with white hair tied back in a bow—only appears to men.

And his customary haunt is a path behind Gay Street!

Ms Royal told the Western Daily Press: "I am not going to speculate on why he only appears to men."

Evening News

LONDON: THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 1977. 8p



Joanna Casatello and Maxine Jones on the ground outside the court as other demonstrators are moved away. Picture by Gerry Dalton.

Police foil rape protest

ALERTED police foiled a bid by "Women Against Rape" protesters today to invade a Crown court.

About a dozen women and children were bundled out of court at Snaresbrook before they could reach the courtroom where Mr. Justice Peter

By PETER OLIVER

Mason QC was hearing a case.

The attempted invasion was to protest against a six-month sentence Judge Mason imposed last week on naval officer Maurice Markham, 19, for attempted rape. The judge

said he hoped the navy would re-instate Markham.

Protest leader Ruth Hall, 27, said: "We are angry that judges are freeing rapists so they can still serve their country.

"They seem to be giving army and navy officers the licence to rape.

"The judge's sentencing was a replica of the Holdsworth case, the guardsman freed in June."

The protesters carried on chanting outside the court building, and later warned: "You judges can't expect any peace. We will be back."

Another protester Joanna Casatello, 22, claimed a nine-year-old girl Maxine, who came with her, had been injured as police bundled them out of court.

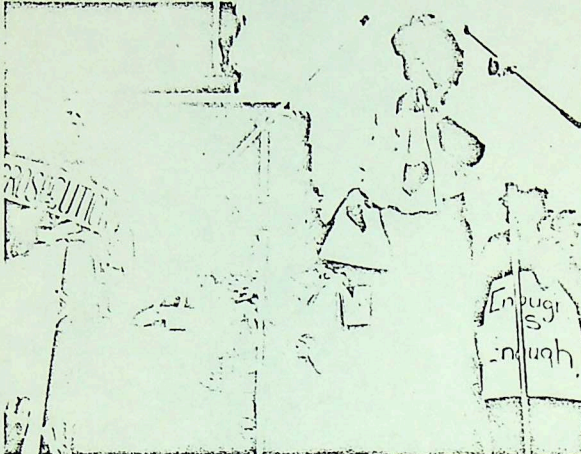
WEATHER SERVICE

This evening: Rain.
Tomorrow: Mainly dry and bright. Rather warm, max. temp. 16C (61F). Wind moderate south-westerly.

Irish Sea: Rough. Channel and North Sea: Moderate. Channel: Slight. North Sea: Light, becoming mode-

Outlook: Rather cloudy. Rain at times. Cooler.
Sun sets 4.43 p.m., rises 6.47 a.m. Moon rises 5.11 p.m., sets 8.5 a.m. High water London Bridge 2.4 p.m. Tomorrow 2.26 a.m. 2.37 p.m. Lighting-up: 5.13 p.m. to 6.17 a.m.

NEWS



Chief prosecution witness at trial

GUILTY!

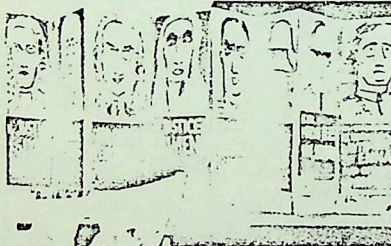
THREE JUDGES were found "guilty of rape and conspiracy to rape" at a public trial held in Trafalgar Square recently.

The Women Against Rape group organised the trial at which Lord Justice Roskill, Mr Justice Slynn, and Mr Justice Wienn—the judges at the centre of the row over the release of guardman Tom Holdsworth—were declared guilty by a jury of 200 women. The verdict was also endorsed by the majority of the large crowd of onlookers—men and women.

Chief witness for the prosecution was Carol Maggs, the victim of Holdsworth's brutal sexual

assault. Other witnesses included a friend of the woman injured by a broken bottle when she was attacked outside a feminist disco in Vauxhall (see GN123), and representatives of women's groups from Britain, Canada, and the USA.

Also declared guilty of "conspiracy to rape" were Elwyn Jones, Lord Chancellor; Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary; Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services. The "court" demanded damages from "all those who take by the daily rape of women—£10,000 for every woman in the country."



The defendants declared guilty

Mother appeals

LONDON: A lesbian mother has won the right to live with her lover openly. The Appeal Court recently rejected an application by her ex-husband that would have forced her to hide her lover away whenever her children came to visit.

Lord Justice Stamp said that keeping the lover—known to the children as "Auntie Pat"—hidden would do more harm than good. "Better, I think, to let them meet her in an ordinary way and to see her living in the house with their mother," he said.

Overwhelmed

Both he and Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce held that this would make it far easier for the daughter, aged 9, and the son, aged 5, to come to terms with their mother's lesbianism. If the fact were kept secret the children could be overwhelmed by a sudden discovery of the truth in the future.

"It is important for both these children to continue to develop a close and affectionate relationship with their mother," said Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce. But he added: "On any view, the only real hope that the children have of attaining emotional maturity without profound disturbance is if the parents, and 'Auntie Pat,' are capable of a quite unusual degree of wisdom and tact. If that is so, I think the future for these children is bleak."

Lesbian Peachy

sues benefit

psychs

from Gay Community News

MASSACHUSETTS: A lesbian woman is attempting to raise between five and ten thousand dollars to pay for legal action against neurosurgeons who, she claims, administered more than 50 electric shock treatments to her against her will.

She also claims that she was coerced into having a cauterisation, an experimental psycho-surgical technique which caused her "to have minor and minor seizures." She wiped out all memory of her high school education and has made it impossible for her to hold down a job. She asserts that the psycho-surgery performed on her is part of a "new wave of leibodomies aimed against 'maladjusted' women and other minorities."

LONDON: Hot Peaches are back in London. After a tour of America, Jan, Vienna, Munich and Berlin, the American gay theatre troupe Jimmy Connors, Tom McKay, Peggy Shaw, and pianist Jan Robbins is making two concert appearances at the ICA on August 5 and 6. Hot Peaches will also unveil its new show, "Trinity autobiographical" at the Oval with performances from August 8-14. The performance on August 9 will be in aid of the GN Fighting Fund.

Mormons

SALT LAKE CITY: A local hotel, owned by the Mormon Church, recently cancelled reservations for a human rights conference. The Church, which virtually runs the state of Utah, discovered that the conference had been sponsored by gay organisations.

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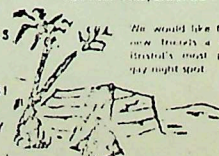
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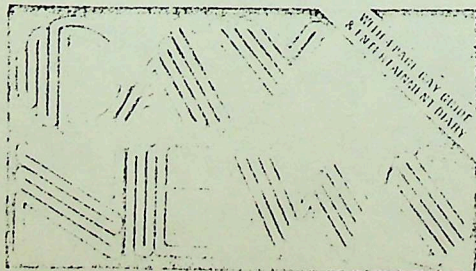
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NUMBER 124
July 28 -
August 10, 1976

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FORTNIGHTLY

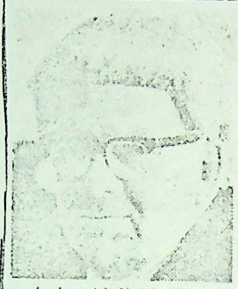
Backing 3.12.77 for rape *Quoniam* sentences

A judge said yesterday that women's organisations were right to protest against lenient sentences for rapists. Judge Neil McKinnon, QC, 68-year-old father of seven, was passing sentence in a rape case at the Old Bailey.

He sentenced a man to six years' imprisonment for rape and a concurrent four-year term for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Before the court was Mr Samuel Pilgrim (40), a pump operator, of Netherwood Road, Hammersmith, London, who had pleaded not guilty to raping and assaulting Miss X, a 29-year-old American secretary. He claimed that she had consented to intercourse and that he acted in self-defence when he struck her.

Judge McKinnon told him: "If sexual offences are not punished in accordance with the tariff we have in this court then we shall certainly hear from the women's rights organisations, and quite properly so."



Judge Neil McKinnon

Judge backs rape protest

AN Old Bailey judge said yesterday that women's organisations were right to protest against light sentences for rapists.

Judge Neil McKinnon, 68-year-old father of Sun Page Three girl Kathy McKinnon and six other children, made his comment when he jailed a man for six years for raping a 29-year-old secretary.

He told 40-year-old pump operator Samuel Pilgrim: "This is the least sentence I can properly pass."

Bottle

The judge added: "If sexual offences are not punished in accordance with the tariff we have in this court, then we shall certainly hear from the women's rights organisations and quite properly so."

The court heard that Pilgrim attacked the girl in his flat at Netherwood Road, Hammersmith, London, after meeting her at a party.

He hit her over the head with a bottle, cracking her skull.

Sex fury backed by judge

A JUDGE yesterday backed protests at "soft" sentences for sex attackers—by jailing a vicious rapist for six years.

Judge Neil McKinnon, QC, told factory worker Samuel Pilgrim that the sentence was "the least I can possibly pass."

He added: "If sexual offences are not punished in accordance with a tariff we have in these courts then we shall hear from the Women's rights organisations—and properly so."

Terrified

The Old Bailey heard that Pilgrim raped a 29-year-old American secretary after cracking her skull with a vodka bottle.

The woman was so terrified she submitted to intercourse. Afterwards, she fled from the house, wearing only a dressing gown, and was taken to hospital.

Pilgrim, 40, of Netherwood Road, Hammersmith, West London, denied the offence and claimed his victim consented.

He was also jailed for four years, to run concurrently, for wounding the woman.

Rape protest

A four-woman delegation from Women Against Rape, accompanied by Ms Maureen Colquhoun, Labour MP for Northampton, are to raise their case for a tightening of the law with Mr Brynmor John, Minister of State at the Home Office, today.

Women invade Mormon court

12

THREE screaming women were ejected from the "sex-in-chains" case courtroom this afternoon.

The hearing—in which an ex-beauty queen is accused of kidnapping a Mormon missionary and forcing him to have sex while

chained to a bed—was halted as the women carrying a large purple banner tried to force their way into the courts at Epsom.

There was a struggle as police removed them, all members of the Women Against Rape campaign.

Earlier Mr. Stuart Elgrod, defending 27-year-old Joyce McKinney, said that the

missionary Kirk Anderson was "manifestly unreliable." No tribunal could ever convict on his evidence, he said.

Mr. Elgrod was speaking during his submission to the magistrates that there was insufficient evidence to send Miss McKinney and her friend Keith May for trial on a charge of abducting Mr. Anderson.

"The essence and nub of this case must be your views of relevance and reliability of the two — Mr. Anderson and McKinney."

Whenever Mr. Anderson was challenged about something he had done and whether it could be seen against himself or against the church he simply avoided it.

"He almost puts up a wall in front of him."

Mr. Elgrod said of Mr. Anderson's first meeting with Miss McKinney, in the town of Provo, Utah two years ago: "Anderson told us clearly that there was a girl in the car, a blonde girl, possibly attractive . . . but he was attracted by the car."

"We have heard a lot
Contd. on Page Two

2 L EVENING NEWS

Mormon case

Contd. from Page One

about the standards and ethics of the Mormon church, yet he told us that his relationship with Miss McKinney lasted ten or 12 days.

"He saw her six or eight times not, according to him, because he found her attractive, but because she had expressed certain doubts about the fundamentals of the Mormon religion and he was showing her solutions. . . .

"Anderson claims he saw her in an attempt to answer all her queries and put her mind at rest.

"He admitted, most reluctantly that they were necking, petting and kissing, perfectly normal reactions in this situation, but these are fundamental and cardinal breaches of the Mormon faith.

"Here was this young man seeing this woman to show her the true way, yet he was indulging in these transgressions.

"Can the two be reconciled?"

Mr. Elgrod said when the couple first had sex together at Miss McKinney's apartment "there were at least two occasions when oral sex took place.

Seduced

"According to Anderson he was seduced and when sexual relationships had taken place he took the view that it was disgusting.

"But does he get up and run? Does he go home. No, he admits that he stays in the same bed, naked, with Miss McKinney and that sexual intercourse takes place again.

"Is this consistent with his claim that he had been seduced, if not raped?"

"Is this consistent with his proclamations of his high moral code?"

Anderson's story of how he was held captive in a lonely cottage at Okehampton, Devon, got even "more incredible" by the third day, said Mr. Elgrod.

Unshackled Anderson spent a perfectly normal day talking to McKinney and playing music.

He submitted that the period between the Thursday lunchtime and late Friday afternoon showed quite clearly the absurdity of Anderson's allegations.

"It is the most amazing non-kidnap story one has heard for many years."

The picture of the bedroom scene painted by Mr. Anderson was a "most absurd piece of rationalisation."

"He's lying in his bed unshackled and in comes Miss McKinney wearing for the first time apparently a very revealing negligee.

"A woman who had told this man two days previously her ransom would be to give her a baby.

LONDON: TUESDAY DECEMBER 6 1977 8p

Evenings NEWS

157777
WEST GVE POST

Rape victim to join mass women's rally in London

Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker has agreed to join a mass women's rally in London tomorrow.

The demonstration, organised by Women Against Rape, will take the form of a women's court in Trafalgar Square.

Karen (20), who told her story in the Evening Post earlier this week, is unlikely to speak to the rally.

She will travel with other Bristol women, including members of Bristol Wages for Housework group, in a cluster of cars adorned with slogans and streamers.

In London, they will join a procession of women who will march from Lincoln's Inn Fields to Trafalgar Square.

Among the demands of Women Against Rape are that the circumstances of the victim's life and work should not be brought up in rape trials, and that judges "known to be biased against women" should not be allowed to sit in rape cases.

Karen's husband Clive (22) will also go to London for the event. But he will travel separately from her with other male supporters of the campaign.

The same violence

With the degradation, publicity and interrogation that surround rape cases, women are bound to be reluctant to report being raped to the police.

The situation is even worse for black women. Most of us live in the "twilight area" where we are frequently accosted by men. Where any woman who happens to be walking along the street, especially late at night is regarded as a prostitute and therefore men think they can get away with rape.

Rape against a woman working as a prostitute is the same violence as rape against any woman. If a woman works as a prostitute it is because she needs the money.

NG Steele
94, Richmond Road,
Montpelier, Bristol 6.

Rape victim at demo

15TH JULY 1977
WESTERN DAILY PRESS
Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker, aged 20, plans to travel to London tomorrow to attend a women's demonstration about the rape laws.

Karen, from Redland, was raped as she walked home from her job as a stripper. Her attacker was jailed for three years.

13
1977
1977
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'Rape-case judge callous'

Bristol MP Mr Ron Thomas is to complain to the Lord Chancellor about "callous and insensitive" statements made by a Bristol Crown Court judge sentencing a man for raping a stripper.

Mr Justice Lawson gaoled the man for three years, but said that although it was an unpleasant experience for the woman — a mother of two — no real lasting harm had been done to her.

Mr Thomas (Lab, Bristol North-West) said today: "I am very angry indeed about the reported statement by Mr Justice Lawson that the experience of a woman being raped could be described in such callous and insensitive terms.

"I intend to write to the Lord Chancellor today and urge him to institute an immediate inquiry in regards to the summing up in this case.

"If the essence of this is as reported in the Evening Post on July 8, I shall urge the Lord Chancellor to relieve Mr Justice Lawson from sitting in cases of this kind in the future."



Karen at big rape demo in London

Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker (right) and other women from the city were this afternoon taking part in a Women Against Rape demonstration in London.

Karen (20) was expected to take a place on the platform at the rally, which was in the form of a women's court, in Trafalgar Square.

The demonstrators' demands include that the circumstances of the victim's life and work should not be brought up in rape trials.

Members of the Bristol contingent, some of whom are pictured left before leaving the city, include representatives of the local Wages for Housework group.

Homes bid for rape victims
Ev. Post
 22-2-81

A Bristol women's group are to back two West rape victims in their attempts to get council homes.

Karen Crocker (20) lives in a basement at in Redland with her husband and two small sons. The other victim lives in Bath.

Bristol Wages, for Housework group announced today that they will make approaches to the local authorities in Bristol and Bath to try to help them get rehoused.

"After going through an experience like rape, they are entitled to some consideration," said Suzie Fleming, a member of the Bristol Group.

OPINIONS

She said hundreds of women had turned up in Trafalgar Square for the week-end demonstration organised by Women Against Rape.

Speakers included Karen Crocker and another Bristol woman, Norma Steele. Mrs Crocker told the rally about her ordeal and how it had affected her marriage and her outlook on life.

Caricatures of three Appeal Court judges involved in the recent guardsman case and members of the Government stood at the base of Nelson's column, as witnesses told of their own experiences and opinions of rape and sexual assault.

MP sends law chief rape girls' interview

interview

A copy of the Evening Post interview with rape victim Karen Crocker (20) will be sent to the Lord Chancellor, MP Mr Ron Thomas promised today.

Mr Thomas, MP for Bristol North West, has already asked the Lord Chancellor to bar Mr Justice Lawson from judging similar cases in future.

The judge caused a storm of protest when he said that although the rape was an unpleasant experience for Karen, she had suffered no real lasting harm.

'APPALLED'

Mr Thomas said today: "I am certain that most if not all of the readers of the Evening Post who read this moving interview will like me, feel appalled at the words used by Mr Justice Lawson.

"I have already written to the Lord Chancellor and I will be sending him a copy of the interview which I believe is a complete vindication of my demand that the judge should be relieved from making judgments in cases of this kind in the future."

CLOSE UP: Page 3.

17th July 1977 Bristol Evening Post

'We are branded as prostitutes' — rape meeting

By LIZ RICHARDS

COLOURED women in Bristol are being branded by police as prostitutes as they walk through the streets at night, said Mrs Norma Steele, of the Black Women for Wages for Housework group.

"Many of us, who are forced to live in areas like St Paul's and also have to work at night, have to walk home.

"The police are on the look out for prostitutes and so if they see a woman alone their attitude is that we are all prostitutes."

Mrs Steele (27), a mother of two, who lives in Montpelier, was one of five speakers at a Women Against Rape meeting held in Stokes Croft, Bristol, last night.

All five attacked the police, and also the courts, for their attitude to rape victims.

HIDDEN

Mrs Steele said: "Women just do not trust the police or the social workers. They are afraid to report a rape because of the attitude from police."

The all-woman meeting, attended by about 40, heard from Ruth Hall, Women Against Rape, London, that there is a great deal of hidden rape.

The campaign will eventually be asking the Government for several changes in the present law, including

compensation for rape victims.

Mrs Hall said WAR were concerned at the attitude of the courts and to "go-ahead" sentences passed on rapists.

"The Home Secretary will have to act. At the moment, the police back up the rapist, the courts back the police and then the Government is, as such, backing up the rapist.

'PAY'

"When society has to pay for rape, then they will stop it. We believe we can stop rape. It is not here to stay. It is intolerable."

WAR are also campaigning for rape in marriage to be recognised as a crime.

A meeting to form a Bristol group of WAR is being held at 79, Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol at 8 pm on December 14.



Bristol speakers at last night's Women Against Rape meeting held in the Swan Inn, Stokes Croft (from left) Suzie Flemming, Norma Steele, Karen Crocker and Jenny Smith, with their petition, calling for changes in the present rape law.

EVENING POST, MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 1977—1

AID BID BY RAPE VICTIMS

A CALL for the Government to compensate rape victims was made last night at a Bristol meeting for women.

Ruth Hall, aged 28, from the London Wages For Housework Campaign said: "We think the state should pay for rape. Once it has to pay, it will take steps to stop it."

Nearly 50 women were at the meeting, at The Swan, Stokes Croft.

One of the speakers was Bristol rape victim Karen Crocker, 21, now living in Hull, who described her experience and the effect of the court case when the judge said that no real lasting harm had been done to her.

Norma Steele, of the Bristol Black Women for Wages for Housework, said black women in St Paul's, Bristol, were in particular danger from rape because police regarded all women there as prostitutes.

"We are not able to report rape because of the attitude of the police."

'It doesn't matter...'

I was very pleased with the coverage your newspaper gave to the recent Women Against Rape meeting.

However I am rather concerned at the implications drawn from the first part of the report about prostitutes, which suggested I regard prostitution as a disrespectful job. The point I was making was that I believe the police treat black women in the same way they treat prostitutes — with insults and the assumption that if the woman is raped it doesn't matter.

Attitude

As I said at the meeting, the police view is that prostitutes can't be raped. Anyone "on the game" is supposed to have asked for it. But rape is rape whatever the work the woman is doing and this whole attitude of the police, I believe, increases the likelihood of prostitutes and every other woman getting raped.

And the attitude to black women generally means that we face rape and are unable to report this to the police.

N J Steele
Black Women For
Wages For Housework
94, Richmond Road,
Montpelier, Bristol 6.

Women in Czechoslovakia are campaigning to secure the release of Alena Boronova, a woman doctor who castrated two men who had raped her. A court in Prague has given them suspended sentences while it has sent Alena Boronova to gaol for seven years. Women in Britain join with the women of Czechoslovakia in demanding that Alena Boronova be released from prison.

Police and courts, in the East or West, in fact everywhere in the world, have never defended women. Our ordeal in court in rape cases is known as the "second rape." The campaign of women in Czechoslovakia is part of a worldwide movement of women to stop rape by any means necessary. When Inez Garcia, a Chicano woman, and Joan Little, a Black woman, in the United States killed the men who raped them, women organised to defend their right to protect themselves. Recently schoolgirls in Soweto, South Africa, stoned to death a man who had raped their teacher. These actions not only have the effect of dealing out justice to the rapist (and only women are in a position to deal out justice) but also make it clear to other would-be rapists that we are not going to tolerate their assaults on us. Women in Wisconsin, USA, mobilised successfully to remove a judge who had called rape "normal." All over western Europe women have taken to the streets in torchlight processions to refuse the curfew recommended by police and upheld by judges, and to reclaim the night.

Here in Britain, after Carol Maggs spoke out against the Appeal Court which freed the soldier who had raped her, women are organising over individual cases of rape and Women Against Rape are circulating a petition demanding that Appeal Court Justices Roskill, Slynn and Wien be sacked. Other demands on the petition call for the disqualification of judges known to be biased against women from sitting in rape cases; for full compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, without a second trial, for women who have been raped; for the recognition of rape in marriage as a crime; and for the financial independence that will permit any woman to leave a rape-risk situation.

In addition, Women Against Rape have invaded Roskill's court, the Ministry of Defence, the Athenaeum (a private club that Justice Slynn belonged to), and the Guardian after it published an article called "A Rapist's Reply." We held our own court on 16th July in Trafalgar Square where hundreds of women heard testimonies from women in many different situations (full-time housewives, prostitutes, lesbians, children, factory and office workers, Black women, single mothers and older women and immigrant women). We passed sentence on judges and other representatives of government and industry in which we demanded three billion pounds reparation (or 10,000 pounds for every woman in Britain).

Women in Czechoslovakia are behind the same iron curtain that we are, with little or no money of our own and therefore with much less social power than men. On the

other side of the curtain are government and industry and the courts which uphold men's power over us in order to uphold their power over everyone. Financial dependence on men means that we are always expected to be sexually available, in the home, on the street, and in our workplaces out of the home. Our financial dependence is therefore at the root of our vulnerability before individual men, the courts and the police. Women Against Rape attack the roots, but we also attack every shoot and branch, wherever rape rears its ugly head. Alena Boronova has again shown that if law and order will not protect women, we women will protect ourselves.

Women Against Rape hold open meetings every two weeks to which all women are invited. Copies of the petition and of our Statement of Aims can be obtained from 138 Drummond Street, London NW 1, or by calling 01 624 6364.

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

Bristol, Cambridge, London

15th July 1977

BRISTOL EVENING POST

Now help offers roll in for rape victim

By QUITA MORGAN

Rape victim Karen Crocker was today offered help, advice and an invitation to attend a rally in London.

Karen, a 20-year-old mother of two, told in yesterday's Evening Post how the incident in April had changed her personality and almost wrecked her marriage.

Today a variety of organisations and individuals praised her courage in speaking out and criticised the fact that no official agency had tried to help her earlier.

THE OFFER of help came from Bristol Victims Support Scheme;

THE ADVICE was from Cheltenham MP Mr Charles Irving, who urged her to consult her own MP and find out if she can claim compensation from the Criminal Injuries Board; and the

INVITATION to speak at or listen to the London rally was issued by a group of Bristol women who are taking part.

'Others'

Karen's husband Clive (22) said they would consider all three offers.

"We are glad that all this has come out in the open

now," he said. "We hope it will help other victims as well as Karen."

The couple say they received no outside help until the situation drove Clive into hospital for treatment for depression.

No organisation is obliged to seek or offer help for rape victims.

Mr Irving, who is chairman of a pressure group called the National Victims Association, today urged the Government to place a statutory responsibility on somebody to let appropriate organisations know when a victim needs help.

'Scandal'

"The whole system nationally of dealing with victims of crime is a total scandal," he said.

"Hundreds of millions of pounds are spent every year on giving help, aid rehabilitation and so on to offenders. That money is spent quite properly.

"But that does not mean society should turn its back on victims, who are

often left to struggle along without much care from anybody."

He also called on the Government to provide funds for organisations like the pioneering Bristol Victims Support scheme, who try to provide some of the help Karen needed.

"We are grateful to Bristol for having set a national lead in this," he said. "We are also grateful to Bristol police for their co-operation."

Mrs Catherine Hawkins, administrator of the Bristol scheme, said Karen's case had not been drawn to their attention — possible for geographical and financial reasons.

"At the moment we are not covering the whole of

Bristol, because of lack of funds," she said. "We would not normally hear about such a case unless it was in one of the areas we cover."

Emotional

She said that in 85 per cent of the cases dealt with by the scheme's volunteers, they had provided emotional support of the shoulder-to-cry-on variety.

In the other cases they had supplied information concerning insurance, crime prevention and other matters.

Suzie Fleming, of Bristol Wages for Housework Committee, offered to try to arrange transport for the Crockers if they

decide to join the London rally on Saturday.

The demonstration, organised by Women Against Rape, will take the form of a women's court in Trafalgar Square.

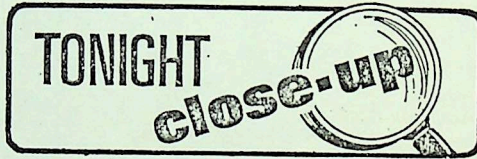
The victim in the controversial guardsman case is planning to take part.

'Insinuation'

Bristol Wages for Housework Committee today issued a statement expressing sympathy for Karen Crocker in the ordeal she had faced.

They also praised her courage in speaking to the press and said they were angered by "the insinuation that because she worked as a stripper the rape was not so serious."

They add: "We fully support the demands of Women Against Rape, in London, that the circumstances of a woman's life and work should not be brought up in rape trials, since they have no bearing on the subject of the trial — which is whether the woman was raped."



22 November 1977

BRISTOL BOYCOTT OF SCHOOLS AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT
MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

The boycott of children today from schools in Bristol, to protest the National Front meeting tonight at Sefton Park School, in the midst of the Black community, has been a great success. The boycott, called by Black Women for Wages for Housework and Montpelier and St Pauls Parents and Friends, was organised four days ago, after local officials refused to meet with West Indian, Asian and white parents about the proposed meeting.

Mrs. Norma Steele of Black Women for Wages for Housework has said, "Sefton Park was chosen because we Black mothers had been organising with white mothers from this school to stop the education cuts. These cuts meant children would be sent home from school if teachers were off sick. We can't afford to lose the wages or become unpaid teachers for our friends' children if we are full-time housewives. Nor is it in the Education Act that our children must go to school with the National Front."

Fifty percent of children at St Barnabas School in St Pauls were kept away from school by their mothers, and all over Bristol there were empty school desks. The mothers recruited church halls and community centres and organised film shows and entertainment for the children.

"We have made clear that we mothers will not be divided, whatever local officials do or don't do," said Mrs. Steele. "We want to stop the National Front meeting to prevent violence now and in the future, and we mothers are taking the lead."

For further information

- Mrs. Norma Steele (0272) 426386
- Miss Suzie Fleming, Montpelier & St Pauls Parents and Friends (0272) 422116

Information in London: Mrs. Selma James, Wages for Housework Committee, London, 459 1150

Let light e'er shine on
power, lest that power
corrupt.



Front and the law

THE NATIONAL Front is entitled to hold public meetings in areas where they have a local election candidate.

That is the law, applying to all political parties.

The National Front is a political party.

It is putting up a candidate for the Bristol District division in an Avon county by-election, and has hired Sefton Park junior school in which to publicise its candidate.

The school is in the heart of a multi-racial area, which is ripe territory for the Front.

It is provocatively anti-racial, and the coloured communities are reacting predictably.

Insensitive

They have protested to Councillor Norman Reece, Avon Education committee's chairman, at the insensitivity of allowing the Front to meet here.

But if Councillor Reece, or anyone else in a position to do so, bans this hall to the Front, they will break the law.

The Front can be refused access to any hall in which it wants to hold a political meeting.

But for election purposes they must have full, free-of-cost use of "any suitable room in the premises of a county, or voluntary school situated in the electoral area."

Ignore it

The immigrants must recognise that this is the law of the land in which they have chosen to live.

It is a law which must be respected.

The immigrants' best course would be to ignore the National Front.

It is an organisation with more than fascist undertones, seeking to feed today on the publicity it would deny others tomorrow if ever it came into power.

The only way to keep it out of Sefton Park school is its political proscription.

4—EVENING POST, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 1977

'Ban Front meeting' bid goes on

Some children were absent from schools in the Montpelier and St Paul's districts of Bristol today as their parents answered a boycott call protesting against tonight's National Front election meeting at Sefton Park Junior School.

About 70 of the 270 pupils at Sefton Park were missing from their classes.

"The majority of them are coloured children," said headmaster Mr W Ashley. "But it is impossible to say exactly how many are absent specifically because of the boycott."

Today is a Moslem holy day, which could account for some absenteeism, and headmasters believe some pupils could be taking advantage of the situation by playing truant.

DEPUTATION

More than 50 children were spending the day at the Inkworks project at Hepburn Road, St Paul's, said a spokesman, for the organisers of the boycott: the Black Women Wages for Housework and Montpelier and St Paul's parents' and friends' groups.

This afternoon a deputation were meeting Avon education chairman Cllr Norman Reece in a final bid to ban the meeting.

He has already told the protestors that legally there is nothing he can do as the law requires the Returning Officer to keep a list of public buildings available for use at election times and anybody has the right to use them.

Condemnation of the National Front's policies came from the North Bristol Council of Churches this afternoon. They said their activities "damage" relations built up in multi-racial communities.

MEN AGAINST RAPE

As men, we fully support the lead being given by Women Against Rape in exposing the hypocrisy of the government, and of Home Secretary Rees in particular. He has spoken of his 'concern' at the possibility of 'even . . . only one person' dying as a result of the firemen's strike. This is revealed as cynical politicking when set beside his complete failure to express concern for the life and liberty of rape victims, and his tacit endorsement of recent encouragement to rapists in the courts.

In July, in a statement supporting the Petition of Women Against Rape, we wrote about the release of Guardsman Holdsworth as follows:

Guardsman Holdsworth's defence used the fact that he was a soldier to get him off. The Court of Appeal confirmed that violence was expected of him, as a soldier and as a man. Men in uniform—soldiers, police—represent what is expected of all men. We are all expected to be experts in violence. That means we are expected to have power and authority over women, to use violence or the threat of violence first of all against *them*.

The reported remarks of Judge Mason, in the recent case of Royal Navy engineer Markham ('It would be a shame if the country loses your services') amount to a reaffirmation of judicial policy in the face of protest against the Holdsworth judgement. The endorsement of rape by government and the courts makes women justifiably more suspicious of *every* man. It serves to divide women from men even further at a time when recession is already setting those with no pay increasingly against those with low pay.

In our earlier statement, we wrote:

Women Against Rape have shown how women's weakness in the face of men's violence is rooted in their lack of money. The more women are financially independent of men, the easier it will be for men to refuse to play the policeman and foreman, in marriage or in the street, at home or abroad.

Women Against Rape are voicing the question of countless women when they ask: '... is licence to rape a 'perk' to supplement low pay in the armed forces?' Given that servicemen represent the violence that is expected of all men, we ask: are leniency towards rapists in the courts and the continuing legality of rape in marriage seen by government as 'perks' for *all* men? Is unrestraint of rape part of a package, in return for pay restraint? We have no doubt that it is.

Pay Day
79 Richmond Road
Bristol BS6 5EP
(Tel: 0272-422116)
189 Highbury Quadrant
London N.5

Wages for Housework Campaign Bulletin



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Hookers fight back

By JUDY RAMIREZ

TORONTO — In 1975 the Ontario Appeal Court acquitted Ottawa prostitute Louise Rolland on the grounds that her wink to a prospective customer did not constitute "soliciting". The police were forced to stop harassing anyone they suspected, and charge only women who "made a nuisance of themselves". Arrests dropped dramatically. Hookers got a real boost in their working conditions, along with the possibility of making more and paying out less in fines. It didn't last long.

In Toronto, City Hall recently pushed the panic button and launched a heavy-handed campaign to "clean up Yonge St.". Since it began, roughly six months ago, Toronto police have been making one sweep arrest after another. The scene of 6 or 7 women being dragged out of body rub parlours to waiting paddy-wagons has

become a familiar one on the 6 o'clock news. The Courts have also cracked down as never before: they are keeping hookers awaiting sentence in custody, and imposing stiff fines and jail terms which are completely without precedent.

Central to this campaign of intimidation is the crackdown on sex shop operators. City Council recently approved 100 recommendations which would provide much stricter licensing regulations. The aim is to force sex shops to come under the "body rub parlour" category which most have managed to dodge so far. The yearly fee for body rub parlours is \$3,300 as opposed to the \$55 fee most nude amusements are presently paying! In addition to getting its cut from the sex industry (the moralists are obviously not above pimping!), City Hall wants greater control over the "product". There is pressure on Ottawa to bring back the "vagrancy" laws which would

allow any woman to be arrested for standing around on the corner. This street harassment would drive many women into the newly licensed body rub parlours, where regular Government inspection would be awaiting them. Also, changes in the zoning laws are being sought by City Hall, which could banish the whole "sex strip" to a deserted industrial area near the docks, thus bringing it "under control".

But whatever measures City Hall finally chooses, the politicians' primary aim is clearly to bring hookers back in line because prostitution is losing its stigma. Hookers have become too visible, too upfront, and too numerous. Housewives are doing it for extra spending money. Students are doing it to put themselves through school. And young girls are getting into it because it beats being a cashier or a file clerk. Politicians everywhere have tol-

erated "the world's oldest profession" as long as prostitutes remained isolated from other women. They have always been held up as the symbol of female degradation, precisely to keep the rest of us "coming across" for free. And not only in bed. For many of us it's a package deal which includes cooking, cleaning, shopping, and raising children.

But all that is changing. Women have been demanding their wages in many ways, and "alarming" increases in the rate of prostitution have become common in large cities everywhere. So have struggles for welfare, daycare, unemployment insurance, family allowances, etc. And the politicians are worried.

When thousands of immigrant parents and children recently held a noisy protest march in Toronto, after the slain body of Manuel Jacques was found on Yonge St., City Hall and Queen's Park had a heyday. The fact that those accused of Manuel's murder are four gay men, added more passion to the promises of cleaning up "the fifth".

The issue for most of the immigrants matching, however, was the right of any immigrant boy to earn his money on the streets of Toronto. When you come halfway across the world in order to feed your family, and even young children must help earn the family's wage, the right to safety on the streets is the right to economic survival. And nobody knows what that's all about better than the women of all races and nationalities who are earning their living on the Yonge Streets of Canada.

City Hall used the march to appoint a special prosecutor to deal with all the charges being laid in the Yonge St. crackdown, and to make solemn vows about speeding up the whole process. This from the very same politicians who are in no hurry to raise the wages of immigrant mothers who fill Toronto's sweat shops, so that our children won't be forced out on the streets to make up the difference!

Less money for women, in fact, is what the Yonge St. crackdown is

all about, and similar crackdowns have been underway in New York, London, Vancouver, Detroit, San Francisco, Washington, Boston. . . . But prostitutes everywhere are fighting back publicly, and winning unprecedented support. In recent months, mock street trials were held in S.F., Los Angeles, and Boston, which accused Government and business of pimping off prostitutes and off the work of all women.

The events were attended by hundreds of women, many of whom "testified" from the crowd about their struggle for money. In the Boston trial, Ms. Anonymous Prostitute, speaking for PUMA (Prostitutes' Union of Massachusetts) told the large crowd in the Boston Commons: "My crime is not actually having sex — work which all women are supposed to do for free — but, rather, demanding money for it." Wilhelmine Brown, of Black Women for Wages for Housework, said: "They punish welfare mothers and prostitutes for getting money, for the work all women do — they make it a crime for women to refuse to be poor."

In Canada, prostitutes from Toronto to Vancouver are speaking out more openly than ever. Recently, one told the "Toronto Star" that she considers herself a social worker. "We perform a service for these men", she said. "We help them with their problems and stop them taking their frustrations out on other people." In Quebec, a 19-year old stripper who earns \$425 a week told the "Montreal Star": "I'm into stripping and I don't feel degraded by it." If Government continues to cut back and unemployment continues to rise, many more women will be saying the same, because nothing is more degrading than having no money.

The Wages for Housework Campaign fully supports these demands and announces the upcoming visit of Margo St. James, of COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethies) to Toronto! Housewives and hookers will be making a common cause Nov. 25-30 in a series of public events. Watch your local newspapers for more information.



"Every little girl learns by the time she's five how to put the hustle on her Daddy for a new toy."

Margo St. James, founder of COYOTE (a loose woman's organization)

Women 'try' rape judges

By HEATHER STIRLING

LONDON, ENG. — It was front page news all over Britain, and, in Canada, we read about it in "The Globe and Mail". On July 16, 1977 five hundred women held a public tribunal in Trafalgar Square, in London, to indict the "Queen's Justices" who had set free a convicted rapist.

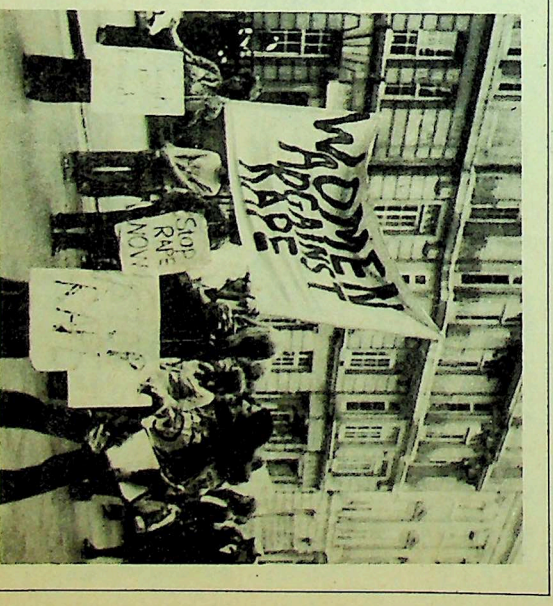
Guardsman Tom Holdsworth brutally raped 18-year old Carol Magee and was sentenced to three years in prison for it. On appeal, three judges freed him so as not to "interfere with his military career". Carol Magee came forward publicly to denounce the decision and hundreds of women came forward with her.

On June 26, Women Against Rape, a London-based group connected with the Wages for Housework Campaign, invaded the High Court where one of the Holdsworth judges was hearing a case. They demanded the immediate dismissal of all three judges, the disqualification of judges known to be biased against women from hearing rape cases, the recognition of rape in marriage as a crime, automatic financial

compensation for all rape victims, and financial independence for every woman so we can leave any situation where we feel the danger of rape exists. The judge was forced to leave the court, and days later, several Labour MP's tabled a motion calling for the dismissal of the three judges!

The public outcry against the Holdsworth case culminated with the Trafalgar Square tribunal. Carol Magee was the star-witness and she spoke out against the "rape of justice" in the courts. Also testifying were Helen Buckingham of PLAN (Prostitution Laws Are Nonsense), and an Asian woman from strikebound Granwick's who told the crowd that the older immigrant women had to make their native dishes for the bosses and the younger ones had to sleep with them in order to keep their jobs!

The powerful two-hour trial found Government and industry guilty of "conspiracy to rape and perpetuate violence against women in all its forms". Canadian women salute our sisters in Britain with a National Day of Protest Against Rape on Nov. 5!



Hundreds of women join march led by Women Against Rape, London, England, July 16, 1977.

WELFARE: Every mother is a working mother

"Chatelaine" magazine recently ran an article about a deserted mother of two who went on welfare. "Living a dejected existence" was her description of her life. Until she remarried and went back to school, that is. Then her "climb to self-respect" began, with "everything coming up roses"! The message is less than subtle: welfare mothers lead meaningless lives and contribute nothing to society. They should find a man and/or go out to earn a living.

For those of us who do, of course, there are "rewards". Such as the federal Government's witch hunt against housewives on UIC. After we take on a "real job" and claim the benefits we are legally entitled to, we are weeded out as "freeloaders", just the same! The new reason for not giving us our money is that we are only "secondary wage earners". The truth is that we are just plain SECONDARY, because our first job in the home does not rate hard cash like other jobs.

Our weakness as women is that the overwhelming majority of us still work 16-hour days in the home and never see a pay-check. That pegs the value of our time, generally, to the lowest level of any workers in society. And nowhere is this clearer than when we go outside the home for a second job. We get palmed off with wages so low that we earn only 50% of what men earn — and the gap is increasing! Waitresses in Ontario are currently fighting to keep up with the minimum wage! The paltry wages of immigrant women working as domestics have no legal protection whatsoever. Women teachers and social service workers, who have "made it" into

professions, are getting hit with enormous speedups, and many are losing their jobs altogether.

Women lack the leverage to get a better deal not because we aren't in unions — two thirds of Canada's workers aren't, and the wages here are among the highest for any industrialized country! Nor because we aren't better qualified — on the average, women workers in Canada are slightly better educated than male workers! We lack leverage because our unpaid housework stamps CHEAP all over us.

Our biggest source of power as women is precisely the welfare mother who put a price tag on raising a family and won us our first wage for housework. The very fact that some women have a wage for that work automatically puts more leverage in the hands of all women. That can be seen clearly in Ontario where between 1961-1973 there was a 300% increase in the number of sole-support mothers on welfare! This at the very same time the divorce rate rose by 295%! Welfare money has clearly been our ticket out of marriages we would otherwise be trapped in. It has also been our ticket to greater sexual autonomy, with the possibility of lesbian women having children because we no longer have to depend on a man's wage to afford them.

Welfare has also raised women's bargaining power in the paid labour force because, for the first time, we have an alternative to the low wages the female job ghettoes offer us. The power to say "no" has always gotten workers more money, and we women are no exception. Without welfare those wages would be even lower. Between 1969-75, with the increasing num-

bers of women demanding welfare, the minimum wages rates throughout Canada doubled, substantially closing the gap between low and average income workers. Men gained from our struggle because many of their wages rose and immigrants, who are at the bottom of the wage scale, gained enormously.

This is precisely why the Government keeps the welfare wage so low, and why women on welfare are held up for public scorn as being "dependent", "parasitic", etc. Poverty and humiliation will prevent more women from demanding welfare, the Government hopes, which in turn will prevent wages, generally, from "skyrocketing". The 46,000 FBA mothers in Ontario presently receive only 60% of what they need to live "adequately", according to a recent study done by the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto. And they are losing ground, despite a recent increase. Many a welfare mother is forced to use her benefits as a basic wage and pick up other money "on the side". The Government calls it "fraud", we call it survival.

In the USA, where the welfare rights movement was so massive that the number of families on welfare rose from 1.5 million in 1969 to 2.5 million in 1970, the gains we made are under systematic attack. As in Canada, more and more women have claimed welfare as their RIGHT, in spite of the poverty and the put-downs. Breaking the power this money has given women and all other workers is the No. 1 priority of Carter's new "Program for Better Jobs and Income".

The program is designed to cut off 1 in 3 welfare recipients in the USA, 90% of

in Canada). For us, the "right to choose can never be only the right to abortion, but must also be the right to have all the children we might want.

We, therefore, demand of the Canadian Government:

1. FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND — Until contraception is fully safe and we don't run the risk of damage to our health, we need to abort freely without harassment about "multiple abortions"; without having to beg a handful of "therapeutic committees" throughout Canada and Quebec to take our "exceptional case" into consideration; and with free access to abortion counseling in our own languages.
2. FUNDING FOR CLINICS AND RELATED BIRTH CONTROL SERVICES IN ALL IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE IMMIGRANT WOMEN WHO USE THEM
3. Because as immigrant and as women we have always been poor, we want abortion to be fully covered by OHIP (with no doctor's fees added) and fully available to women who can't afford OHIP
4. FUNDING FOR CLINICS AND RELATED BIRTH CONTROL SERVICES IN ALL IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE IMMIGRANT WOMEN WHO USE THEM
5. We want the money to control the programs ourselves because the lack of it has always meant government programs which force us either to have more children than we want or to not have those we do want
6. We want services which recognize that immigrant women often refuse contraception because our experience has taught us to be suspicious of the methods available, and not because we are "backward"
7. We want contraception to be free of charge and available to women of all ages in their own languages.
8. Finally, to ensure that we are in a better position to choose freely, we demand of the Canadian Government:
 1. LIVING WAGES WITH FULL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW FOR ALL OUR WORK BOTH IN THE HOME AND OUTSIDE
 2. FULLY PAID MATERNITY LEAVE WITHOUT LOSS OF SENIORITY OR BENEFITS
 3. FUNDING FOR 24-HOUR CHILD-CARE CONTROLLED BY US WITH PAID STAFF BOTH IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND IN EVERY SWEATSHOP

Is abortion the "right to choose"?

By JUDY RAMIREZ
TORONTO — In 1973 the US Supreme Court made abortion legal after years of organizing by the women's movement. The new law was immediately used by Chicago's Mayor Daley to round up pregnant welfare women and force them to "accept" abortions in order to stay on benefits. What the women's movement called "the right to choose" was precisely the opposite for thousands of Black, Chicana, Latin, and poor white women.

In 1977, Medicaid funds for sterilization are being increased at the very same time that the US Supreme Court has ruled that individual states are not legally required to provide Medicaid for "elective abortions" for the poor.

The women's movement is again organizing to protect "abortion rights" and with the same slogan which equates the right to not have children with the "right to choose".

In Toronto, the May 28 Coalition for Abortion Rights formed last spring to protest the growing cuts in abortion services in Canada. The Badgley Report (1976) documented the widespread unavailability of abortions throughout the country. Hospitals are not required by law to set up the "therapeutic abortion committees" which legally decide who "needs" an abortion. Only 1 in 5 hospitals have such committees and many have such committees and many have such committees, the number of abortions they perform, or attaching conditions to it such as "consenting" to be sterilized.

The May 28 Coalition's main slogan "Abortion — a woman's right to choose" was meant to mobilize all women in self-defense. It did no such thing.

Many others have been forcibly sterilized.

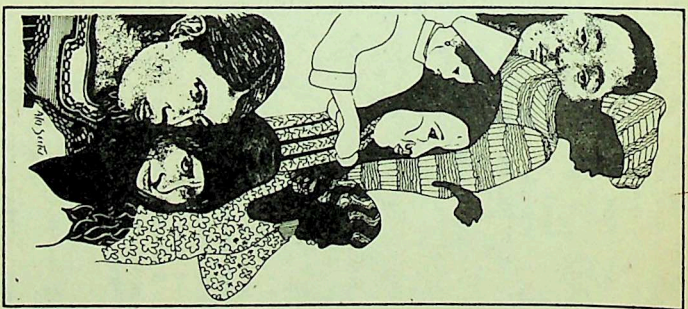
Other women present — some from the Wages for Housework Campaign — supported the inclusion of "the right of all women to bear the children they want to the children they don't want, and not have children, won't give us the right to have those we want, and without that, how can abortion be the "right to choose"? But in the long-hour debate which followed, Coalition leaders insisted that abortion was "the main issue" and that "you can't demand everything at once". The proposed change was voted down.

Shocked, Erica immediately called a meeting of immigrant women (and some men) who work together on health-related issues. The group, which emerged from the conference "A Multicultural Approach to Family Planning and Contraception" last February, was shaken. How could the interests of Black and immigrant women be so callously ignored? To add insult to injury, the Coalition leader which appeared called for the defence of abortion rights only "for all Canadian women"! This in a city of over half a million immigrants.

Despite the mediation attempts of some women in the Coalition (who managed to force changes in the second leaflet, but not the main slogans), the immigrant women decided to oppose the Coalition publicly. A statement was drafted by the Immigrant Women's Centre which said:

The May 28 Coalition for Abortion Rights equates the "right to choose" with ABORTION, when many of us, both immigrant and native-born, are forced to have abortions because we cannot afford to have the children we want. Immigrant women have always experienced coercion either by being forced to have children (because birth control information and abortion services were denied us), or by being prevented from having children (through genocidal birth control practices in the Third World, as well as against Black women in the USA and Native Peoples

WHERE WE ARE FORCED TO WORK



The statement was endorsed by many immigrant organizations such as Black Education Project, Harriet Tubman Centre, Working Women, Centre for Spanish-speaking Peoples, East Indian Employment Development Centre, Women Working with Immigrant Women, etc. The Wages for Housework Campaign also supported it and stayed away from the Coalition meetings and the march. Other women's groups such as Nellie's Women's Hostel endorsed the immigrant women's statement, reflecting the growing financial pressure on women who are native born and educated, many of whom are also being forced to give up the idea of ever having children.

whom are mothers. They will be forced to accept specially created "public sector" jobs at the minimum wage. Even mothers with school-age children will be forced to work outside the home at least part-time, and "strong incentives" are being built in which are intended to drive women back to men in order to survive. "We must make a complete and clean break with the past", said President Carter, in announcing the new welfare reform recently.

He also called the present welfare system "anti-work", because women get benefits for being at home. And this is really the whole crux of the matter: If raising a family is work, then we deserve to be paid for it without having to take on more work outside the home. "Who is working?" has become the million dollar question. Literally, Carter and his pals Trudeau, Davis, Schreyer, etc. are trying to tell us that only if we go out to work are we really working. But we know that EVERY MOTHER IS A WORKING MOTHER, because welfare women have the cash in their hands to prove it.

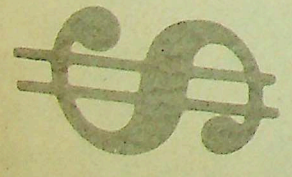
The following resolution was passed by the overwhelming majority of delegates — many of them welfare women — at the annual conference of the Ontario Anti-Poverty Organization, held in June, 1977 in Toronto.

"Whereas women consider raising children a job and welfare a recognition of that job. Be it resolved that the government end its harassment of welfare mothers and grant an immediate increase in benefits."

The media covered both the Coalition march and the immigrant opposition to it. Because of the strength of the opposition, many in the Coalition accused the immigrant women of hurting the abortion cause by the "display of disunity". The Coalition itself had, in fact, voted in that disunity by excluding the interests of the immigrant women from the start.

The message to the women's movement in all of this was loud and clear: there can be no fight for abortion which isn't also at the same time a fight to have all the children we want. The power to refuse to have children we do not want is increasingly dependent on being able to afford those we do want. The impossibility of isolating abortion as "the main issue" was made frighteningly clear in a recent interview with Dr. R. T. Raventholt, director of the US Office of Population, an agency of the State Department. He told the British "Evening Standard" that seventy foreign doctors are currently being trained at Washington University in "advanced fertility management". The \$2.8 million program is creating the medical technology necessary to protect "the normal operation of US commercial interests around the world". The goal? To sterilize 100,000,000 women in developing countries in the next decade.

Is the women's movement planning to tell these women that abortion is the priority because it is the "right to choose"?



No cuts just bucks!

By JUDY RAMIREZ

NY—On May 1, 1977 an article appeared on the front page of the "New York Times" announcing that the City of New York University was "restructuring" its SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) program and introducing "new guidelines" for eligibility. The \$20 million program aids 10,000 Third World students with a stipend of \$1,000 per year, and has been effective for ten years.

The Women's Action Group, a campus organization connected with the Wages for Housework Campaign, organized an emergency meeting to confront the administrators with what was obviously a plan to cut SEEK funds. The "Times" article contained numerous distortions which gave the impression that SEEK students are "poorly motivated" and that they receive \$10,000 a year!

Three hundred students crowded into the Student Union for the emergency meeting chaired by Margaret Prescott-Roberts of Black Women for Wages for Housework. The City University Chancellor was on hand, as were the Acting President and the SEEK Central Budget Officer. They all pleaded innocent to angry charges that SEEK was being slowly dismantled, even though the students were armed with facts which proved the contrary. The university had already withheld over \$2.5 million in SEEK funds from needy students and plans to increase that by at least another \$1.5 million this year!

The shaken administrators agreed to hold a press conference the following week to set the record straight and to answer publicly the charges which SEEK students had made against the university. But the planned press conference never really got off the ground. Leaflets by the Women's Action Group informing students of the event were confiscated from the university print shop—an order later traced to the President's office!

The Women's Action Group has continued to gather hundreds of signatures on their petition 'No Cuts Just Bucks' which began circulating prior to the uproar with the administration. It demands "an im-

mediate end to the dismantling of the SEEK program which attacks everyone in the university and first of all women... no proficiency exams which are designed to eliminate students... no cutbacks in courses which limit students' access to future jobs... and no non-credit courses which increase the work and raise the cost of getting a degree."

It also demands an end to the witchhunt against "welfare fraud" among women SEEK students because "both fundings together are not adequate for subsistence". The Women's Action Group made public a new paternity affidavit which the NY City Social Services Department is forcing all mothers applying for welfare to sign. In it she must reveal whether or not she had sexual relations with other men at the time of conception! The new procedure also gives the welfare department the right to verify that the father is not living in the home, by writing or calling landlords, friends, family, employers, etc.

In taking the offensive against both the cuts in their student stipends and the intimidation of the welfare department, SEEK women are telling the government loud and clear that their figures are way off.

They end their petition by saying: "Women students are doing double work. When a woman takes on the additional work of being a student, her first job—housework—does not disappear. Recent figures by economists estimate the value of housework to industry and government at more than \$21,000 a year, but we women are in crisis with no money we can call our own. Therefore, we demand wages for housework from the government for all women."

The new school year has just begun, and the SEEK struggle at NY City University continues.

For more information contact:
Black Women for Wages for Housework
c/o Brown
100 Beornin Place
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Tel. (212) 834-0992

"When's pay day?"

By FRANCES GREGORY

OTTAWA—That's the question we asked representatives of Prime Minister Trudeau and the Minister of National Health and Welfare when a delegation of 15 women from the Toronto, Kitchener, and Ottawa Wages for Housework Campaign met with them for Mother's Day, last May.

We arrived in Ottawa with a gift-wrapped box containing 10,000 signatures on the Family Allowance Petition the Campaign had been circulating across Canada and Quebec (in five languages) since Trudeau froze the Family Allowance in 1976.

The petition, demanding the promised increase in the baby bonus as well as wages for housework for all women, had already played a crucial role in forcing the government to give back the cost of living raise in 1977. We had also prepared a Brief, "In Defence of the Family Allowance", which outlines how the baby bonus freeze was only a part of the state's plans to force women back into dependency on men, by attacking all the sources of money and power we have gained. (See editorial)

We held a large press conference on the steps of Parliament before going in to meet the brass. The story went out on the wire service and newspapers all over the coun-

try carried it. Radio and television interviews were aired in many provinces, and women from all over, who had signed and circulated the petition, contacted Campaign offices to tell us that had made their Mother's Day!

We began the meeting (which lasted two hours) by outlining the points in the Brief and by saying that women everywhere are fighting back against the Government's plans. A Black woman on welfare said the Government's proposed Guaranteed Annual Income amounts to nothing more than a work incentive program to make mothers take on a 2nd job in order to qualify for assistance. Wages for housework would solve the crisis of poverty in the country, she said. A lesbian woman spoke about how Government cutbacks are making it harder than ever for lesbians to have children, and harder to "come out of the closet at all. Finally a single woman spoke, saying that she wanted to have children without being forced to depend on a man's wage, and that without wages for housework that choice was effectively denied her. The Government officials were clearly amazed that so many women from different life situations could be in one room saying the same thing—we want more money and less work, not the other way around.

CAMPAIGN TROUPERS

We now have a roving comedienne LORNA BOSCHMAN who is booking dates for her 2nd North American tour! Hear the continued adventures of Mary "Q" Normal. And learn of shocking "hidden violence" in tin cans. She's hilarious and you'll love her! Send for her free publicity packet.

We also have a singer-songwriter BOO WATSON (original country rock) whose performance will make any event you are planning! With songs like: State's In the Bedroom Blues, In My Own Backyard, & Daddy—she turns everyday people and places into melodic magic. Sample tapes are available (teel to reel or cassette).

And we have books, pamphlets, video tapes and speakers. For more information write to us at:
Wages for Housework Committee
Box 38, Station E
Toronto, Ontario

Or telephone (416) 466-7457 or 921-9091

Return to:
W/F/H,
Box 38, Stn. E,
Toronto, Ont.

FIRST CLASS



(Branching Out July-August 1977)

Tipping the wage scale

By ELLEN AGGER

The fight against a lower minimum wage for tipped workers is steadily building momentum. The Waitresses' Action Committee, which formed last winter to oppose such a move by the Ontario Government, has been actively organizing among waitresses, who make up 80 percent of workers in the industry.

Our aim has been to put pressure on the Government through a letter-writing campaign, media coverage, and the widespread circulation of our brief, "The Minimum Wage and a Tip Differential". We are also circulating a petition which demands no cuts in the minimum wage for waitresses/waiters, a higher minimum wage for everyone, wages for all the unpaid work waitressing involves, and the removal of tips from taxable income.

Support has come from many organizations including the Status of Women Committee of C.U.P.E., Local 79, the Ontario Status of Women Council, and the Law Union of Ontario. Hundreds of individuals are signing our petition, particularly as unemployment and inflation rise. Ontario now has the second lowest minimum wage in Canada and many women are stuck at the bottom of the pay scale. Women who are not presently working as waitresses but who feel the pinch in their own lives have distributed the petition widely through their own organizations. The Waitresses' Action Committee has met with groups of women in Milton and London, where a successful informational picket through the downtown area was held in May. There has also been a steady stream of articles in women's newspapers and magazines, as well as national press and television coverage. Thousands of women have learned of our struggle in this way.

Changes in the minimum wage are made at the provincial level by the Cabinet, upon recommendation by the Ministry of Labour and, in this case, also with pressure from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Because such an important decision is made behind closed doors, those to be affected have little chance to protest and put for-

ward their needs. The Waitresses' Action Committee's brief began to force open those doors.

The demand for a public forum on the minimum wage was the major focus of a meeting held with representatives of the Ministry of Labour in late June. A delegation made up of members of the Waitresses' Action Committee, the Immigrant Women's Centre and Opportunity for Advancement (a welfare mother's group), spoke about the disastrous effects on all women of a lower minimum wage for one category of women workers. We emphasized how the position of women in the paid labour market is being eroded, and that such a move against one group would lower the bargaining power of all of us. Marlene Clark, Director of the Women's Bureau, who was present at the meeting, went on record as supporting our call for a government forum.

When the Waitresses' Action Committee formed last December, the question of the tip differential was not considered an issue by anyone except waitresses. The tourism industry had expected it to go through without a fight. Only because we have organized widely and loudly, has the Government been forced to listen. You can help us stop this move by writing letters of protest to the Minister of Labour and Premier Davis calling for a public forum and demanding an immediate raise in the minimum wage across the board. You can circulate petitions to waitresses and other supporters; hold informational pickets; contact your local media about this issue, and spread information to as many women as possible.

For copies of the brief, petition, or to make a donation, write: Waitresses' Action Committee 112 Spruce Street Toronto, Ontario Tel. (416) 921-9091

Send your letters of protest to:

Bette Stephenson
Minister of Labour
400 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario

Premier William Davis, Q.C.
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Wages for Housework Campaign Bulletin

Toronto

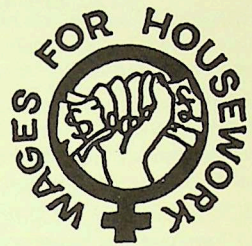
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SAFIRE

"When woman gets her rights man will be right."

-Sojourner Truth, 1867



BLACK WOMEN for WAGES for HOUSEWORK (USA)



Sept. 1968 — Welfare mothers demanding more money for winter in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

EVERY MOTHER IS A WORKING MOTHER

1975 was International Women's Year. Under the auspices of the UN at a world conference in Mexico, it was declared as the beginning of the United Nations "Decade for Women". From the start that conference was divided between the feminist proposals from the West—and the demands for economic independence from the women of the Third World, the historic claim of Black people for reparations internationally. It chose as its themes "equality, development, and peace". But the question for Black women was equality—compared to what?; development—for us or against us?; peace—how, when we are still hungry?

During the same year prostitute women in all the cities, ports, and towns of France waged a massive strike against being classed as outlaws and unfit mothers, taxed and jailed, raped and beaten and fined, for demanding money for the work that all women are expected to do for free. When they were attacked by French feminists telling them they should find "decent" work—or at least agree to bring prostitution more under government control, the prostitute women of France answered: "We are women like all women."

1975 was also the year of the women's general strike in

Iceland. Coming out of factories, offices, schools, and homes, leaving behind switchboards and typewriters and stoves, the women of Iceland left women's work undone. So on the day of October 24, all Iceland came to a halt.

And it was in 1975, at the annual conference of the International Wages for Housework Campaign in London, that Black Women for Wages for Housework was conceived as the way finally to take back what is ours.

But two decades before, Black women of all ages of the world over—from Soweto to New York—had come out of our homes claiming our right to a standard of living equal to the wealth in money and technology that our unpaid work building the world's richest and most developed nations had produced. We took to the streets in marches, boycotts, pickets, sit-ins, freedom rides, rallies, and demonstrations; we took up arms in every possible way demanding food, shelter, clothing, health, education, justice, and peace. With one voice we said it was costing us too much to live among the people we loved in the cities and fields which our own hands had produced. We said *ya basta*—enough. *Uhuru*—freedom

continued on p. 2.

IWY

WHEREAS all women do housework—our first job—for which we receive no money, and the powerlessness of women is rooted in our lack of money;

WHEREAS this powerlessness leads us to financial dependence on men, which means battering and rape in marriage and on the street, and being forced to take on *second* jobs outside the home for low wages;

WHEREAS welfare is the first wage that women in the USA have won for housework, and women internationally are demanding a cash wage for our work:

BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose any cuts in welfare, including President Carter's Welfare Reform Program for Better Jobs and Income (HR 9030), and we demand **WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL WOMEN.**

EVERY MOTHER, *continued from p. 1.*

now. We produced a movement for human rights and national independence among Black people which at once embraced every cause for human freedom. Through our struggle by any means necessary in every area of our lives—as mothers, grandmothers, schoolgirls, teachers, nurses, lesbians, clerks, salesgirls, prostitutes, maids, and housewives—we led not only the Black movement, but the student movement, the anti-war movement, and the women's movement as well.

We were led by Black welfare mothers. No one more expressed the total refusal of Black people, of all people, to be satisfied in a ghetto of poverty in the midst of plenty. And no one had a bigger claim to that plenty than the daughters of the 400 years of slavery that made Europe and America great. It was through the struggle, the work, of Black welfare mothers that International Women's Year was born.

Black welfare mothers took the streets, took over city-halls, offices, factories, and schools, demanding money for the work of raising Black children and being the support and comfort of Black men in the ghettos of America. They demanded money for that work—money which alone could destroy the walls of those ghettos which divide us from other women, from other races, from other nations, from men, from children, and even from ourselves, once and for all. From the bottom of the richest nation on earth Black welfare mothers came out refusing ever to be the bottom again and so led the way for women everywhere to come out to demand the means—the money and the technology—to live our lives as we choose. For when we have no money we can afford to demand nothing else. That money—or the lack of it—in every woman's hands is the basis of our power to demand *everything* else.

By their demand for money in their own hands for themselves and their children, Black welfare mothers established once and for all that EVERY MOTHER IS A WORKING MOTHER. They won the first wage for housework. In claiming their money, they staked everyone's claim. And they are not alone.



Aug. 1976 — Black women demonstrate in Cape Town, South Africa.

FROM SOWETO TO NEW YORK — POWER TO THE SISTERS!

President Carter's Welfare Reform Program for Better Jobs and Income (HR 9030), now under consideration by the US Congress, attacks all the wages of everyone who works—inside and outside the home; rural and urban; white-collar, blue-collar, pink-collar, no collar; women and men; children and adults; immigrant and native; Black and white. Quoting President Carter on the aim of the welfare reform, the *New York Times* on Aug. 7 said that "the system would be so constructed that people in private jobs would always have a higher income than those in public jobs, and so that people in public jobs would be better off financially than those on welfare who did not work."

Calling for the creation of 1.4 million public jobs, the reform would force welfare mothers with children past the age of 7 to take a part-time job outside the home, and mothers with children over 14 to work at outside jobs full-time.

At two national women's conferences recently held in New York, one on the "Homemaker: Career in Transition", and the other on the "Future of Housework", the value to the US economy of women's work in the home was cited at \$350 billion a year. And while economists now estimate that women's services in a family of four are worth from \$15,000-21,000 a year, the Carter welfare reform program would establish a national maximum income of \$5500 a year for a mother with three children and \$2500 for a disabled or aged adult.

Attempting to "ensure that work will always be more profitable than welfare," the Carter welfare reform denies that women on welfare—mothers, disabled women, single women, married women, lesbian women, teenage women, older women, schoolgirls, "unemployed" women—are already working and entitled to a wage for that work. Denying women's right to a paycheck for our work in the home, the reform steals that much more from the paychecks of everyone in every job. It holds the sword of women's poverty over everyone's head.

We don't want more jobs and token training programs. We have never been paid enough for all the work we have already done. We don't need more work. We need more *money* to work less. And no one's work will be done, until the work of being a woman with no money is undone.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said over a decade ago that "a price can be placed on unpaid wages." From the ghettos of South Africa—where Black women work for no wages, with no electricity or running water, producing the workers who produce the gold on which the economy of the world is based—to the tenements and squats of Europe and the USA, women everywhere are naming our price: we want the money to have the children we want and not to have the children we don't want; we want the money to live where and how we want, and to love whom we want.

If International Women's Year is to mean anything for Black women internationally it must mean money to claim what what has already been promised in treaty and in law, what has already been more than earned, what has always been withheld. IWY must mean money to claim all the unpaid wages due us for all our unpaid work.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FOR ALL WOMEN FROM ALL GOVERNMENTS.

SAFIRE: No Pay, No Work



WOMEN'S STRIKE ICELAND

WOMEN'S DAY OFF
OCTOBER 24th 1975
WHY A DAY OFF FOR WOMEN?

The Women's Congress, held in Reykjavik, June 20 and 21 1975, urges women to take a day off on October 24, the United Nations Day, in order to demonstrate the importance of their work.

Why was a motion like that put forward and carried at a congress where women of all ages and political parties were assembled?

- The reasons are many and here are but a few:
- Because when someone is needed for a badly paid low-status job the advertisement specifies a woman.
 - Because average wages of women in trade and commerce are only 75% of the average wages of men doing the same jobs.
 - Because the principal negotiating body of the Icelandic Trades Union Congress has no woman representative.
 - Because the difference between the average monthly earnings of women and men labourers is Iceland kr.30,000 (approx. £100 or \$200).
 - Because farmers' wives are not accepted as full members of the Farmers Union.
 - Because it is commonly said about a housewife "she isn't working—just keeping house"
 - Because there are men in authority unable or unwilling to understand that day nurseries are a necessary part of modern society.
 - Because the work contribution of farmers' wives on the farms is not valued at more than Iceland kr.175,000 (approx. \$500 or \$1,100) a year.
 - Because whether an applicant for a job is male or female is often considered more important than education and competence.
 - Because the work experience of a housewife is not considered of any value on the labour market.
- The general conclusion is that women's contribution to the community is underestimated. Let us demonstrate to ourselves and to others the importance of our role in society by stopping work on October 24th. Let us unite in making the day a memorable one under the theme of the International Women's Year:
- EQUALITY—DEVELOPMENT—PEACE
- Executive Committee for Women's Day Off.

COMPARED TO WHAT?

EQUAL

In 1963 James Baldwin wrote that Black people did not want to be integrated into a burning house: to be equal with white America was not our idea of paradise. We knew it from living in their homes, doing their housework; and we knew it when they followed our lead, making the same struggle against the way all of us are forced to live.

Everyone gets higher wages than Black women; and some Black women get more than others; but nobody—except the precious few who work only to keep us working—gets enough. Black women have always worked outside the home; but our lack of a wage *in* the home means being forced to settle for any kind of work at the lowest pay outside. Still today in the same job ghettos, we have a long history of teaching and typing and serving other people's needs.

And *our* lack of a wage for housework, that we are forced to do it for free, has been the weakness also of Black men, who more than any other group of men are identified with housework and the lack of money. Sharing buckets and mops with our brothers, or sexual competition on the streets—sharing housework is not our idea of equality.

We are always more than equal when it comes to the work, but never equal enough when it comes to the money. We don't want equal poverty for more than double the work.

The International Wages for Housework Campaign is against the Equal Rights Amendment not only because it promises what laws cannot give, not only because equality between women and men cannot be legislated—any more than equality has been legislated between Blacks and whites. We are against the ERA because the legislation of "equality" between women and men—the so-called "equal pay for equal work", when the work has never been equal—is the Man's best cover to keep us all working for nothing and next to nothing.

We take our lead on equality from Sojourner Truth. Born a slave in the state of New York, Sojourner Truth was a leader in the movement for the abolition of slavery and for women's rights. At the first annual meeting

International literature, posters, buttons, potholders, dishtowels, films, videotapes, and speakers available from any Wages for Housework Campaign address.

of the American Equal Rights Association held in New York City on May 9-10, 1867, she said:

I come from another field—the country of the slave.

If it is not a fit place for women, it is unfit for men to be there.

I have done a great deal of work—as much as a man, but did not get so much pay. I used to work in the field and bind grain, keeping up with the cradler; but men never doing no more, got twice as much pay. So with the German women. They work in the field and do as much work, but do not get the pay.

We do as much, we eat as much, we want as much.

What we want is a little money. You men know that you get as much again as women when you write, or for what you do. When we get our rights, we shall not have to come to you for money, for then we shall have money enough of our own. It is a good consolation to know that when we have got this we shall not be coming to you any more. You have been having our right so long, that you think, like a slaveholder, that you own us. I know that it is hard for one who has held the reins for so long to give up; it cuts like a knife. It will feel all better when it closes up again.

When woman gets her rights man will be right.

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