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Source: November 1982 issue of Southern Africa Magazine.

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- Africa News, P.O. Box 3851, Durham, NC 27702.
- Black United Front, 415 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217-(212) 622-6026
- Clergy and Laity Concerned, 198 Broadway Avenue, NY, NY 10038-(212) 964-6730.
- Campaign to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa, 1901 Que Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-(202) 234-9382.
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- Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Drive, Rm. 566, NY, NY 10027-(212) 870-2293.
- International Defense and Aid Fund, Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138-(617) 491-8343-(212) 697-4838.
- Lawyers Committee/Southern Africa Project, 735 15th Street, NE, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20005-(202) 628-6700.
- Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, 211 E. 43rd St., Suite 506, NY, NY 10017-(212) 986-7378.
- South West Africa Peoples Organization of Namibia, 801 Second Avenue, #1401, NY, NY 10017-(212) 986-7863/557-2450.
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- United Nations Centre Against Apartheid, NY, NY 10017-(212) 754-6674.
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A. Employment Bureau

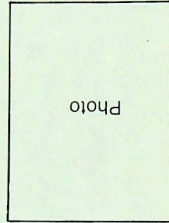
B. Employer
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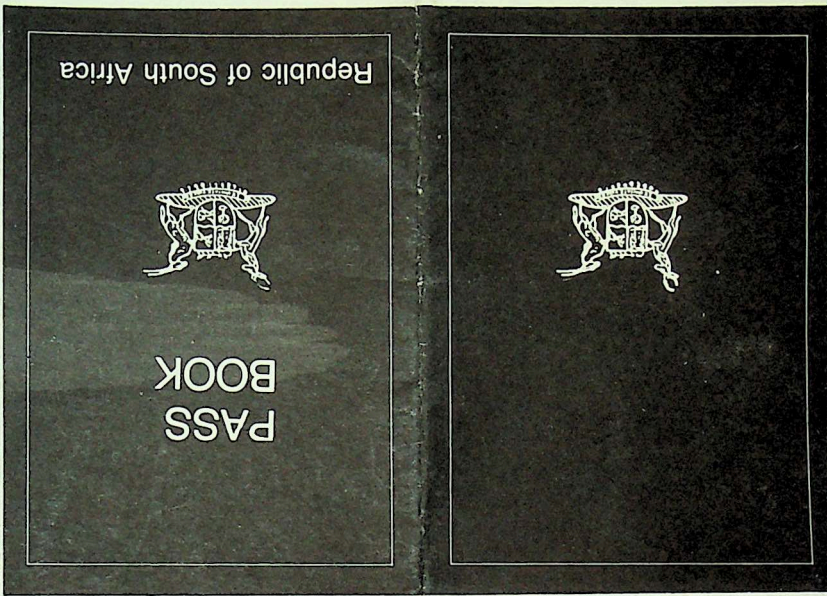
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HUMAN RIGHTS
IN SOUTH AFRICA
I N V A L I D

Because
your
skin
is
black,
You

- Don't have the right to choose where you work
- Don't have the right to choose where you live
- Don't have a right to live together with your family
- Don't have any political rights

All the restrictions on black South Africans are spelled out in the PASS LAWS.

Hunger,
Misery
And Your
Responsibility
For Your Neighbor

constantly
force you
to break
the
PASS LAWS

New legislation will make the existing penalties even harsher:

**500 dollars
or 6 months in jail**

- for those who shelter people who are looking for work.
- for not having a permit to stay in an area while you are looking for work.

**5000 dollars
or 12 months in jail**

- for employers who give work to Blacks without a residence permit.

GNP may reflect value of housewives' labor

1975

WASHINGTON (UPI) — What's the value in dollars and cents of the housewife's chores — cooking, washing dishes, changing diapers?

The federal government will attempt to find out this year using funds provided for the Commerce Department in President Ford's 1978 budget.

In past years, some women who stay home while their husbands are earning money for the family have contended their contributions should have monetary value.

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census Bureau, which separately gather statistics on much of the nation's economic activity and population trends, will ask Congress for \$274,000 to undertake "a new initiative" to develop "mea-

asures related to the quality of life."

The idea is to figure into the quarterly gross national product, which measures the value of all the nation's goods and services, "qualitative variables" such as the value of housewives' services. It would be the first attempt by the government to measure such activity.

The department budget for fiscal 1978 totals \$1.9 billion, a reduction of \$124.8 million — or 5% — from current spending.

Some expenditures proposed for the Commerce Department include:

- \$801.4 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including \$253 million for loans, loan guarantees and repayment assistance to states affected by offshore energy develop-

ment activities. The department has asked Congress for \$110 million to fund the offshore program during 1977 and \$143 million for 1978.

- \$280.2 million for the Economic Development Administration and the regional action planning commissions, a reduction of \$171.1 million from the amount appropriated for 1977. The major part of the reduction will come at the expense of EDA's regular public works program.

- \$30.3 million to continue preparation for the 1980 census.

- Appropriation of \$30.2 million in funds now available for preparation for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Another \$5.8 million was requested for 1978 to build facilities for the athletes who will participate.

Big Losers in the Hot-Stove League

By Nancy Seifer

All women work in America, possibly with the exception of the disabled and some of the very wealthy. Yet only very recently has nonsalaried work in the home been measured in terms of dollars and cents. The results are startling.

In a pamphlet entitled "What's a Wife Worth?" the Chase Manhattan Bank estimates that the average housewife, with no outside job, spends a total of 99.6 hours a week at twelve different jobs in the home. Listing jobs like nursemaid and laundress, cook and dishwasher, seamstress and maintenance "man," the bank calculates that if those services were paid for, they would cost \$159.34 each week, or \$3,285.68 a year. All together, it concludes, America's housewives are worth over \$250 billion a year and would raise the gross national product over 35 per cent.

Even when housewives hold paid jobs as well, they spend at least six hours more each week working than their husbands do, when jobs, commuting time, housework and family tasks are all considered. Janice Neipert Hedges and Jeanne K. Barnett reported in the April, 1972, "Monthly Labor Report" that wives who are employed 30 or more hours a week spend an average of 34 hours a week (almost five hours each day) on household tasks.

Until recently, housewifery was always taken for granted, without being taken seriously. The skills of a housewife have no market value (except if they are practiced in someone else's home), and are held in such low esteem that they do not even count toward social security. A housewife shares her husband's pension, but is not entitled to one in her own right. Yet it is clear that if the occupation of housewife were suddenly abolished, the impact would be greater than the most cataclysmic strike the nation could ever be faced with.

Women are beginning to demand some form of financial security for their later years in compensation for all their years of work in the home.

At a 1970 National Consultation on Working Class Women sponsored by the National Project on Ethnic America and the National Council of Negro Women, a participant said:

"A crazy idea is a union for housewives and I'm serious about this. The powerlessness that we've been talking about comes from the fact that women, particularly the wives of working-class men, have absolutely no security. What happens if the husband drops dead? They know they can't get along on Social Security. What happens if he simply gets tired of her nagging and walks out? A union could give some sort of security to these women, get them over the hurdle and into the next step of life."

Unionizing housewives may not be the most realistic solution, but proposals to attach monetary value to housewifery are rapidly gaining acceptance. The Federal Government's joint economic hearings in July, 1970, on the economic problems of women brought public attention to some of the major inequities faced by housewives.

Pressures to remedy them are growing, including proposals to allow for contributions to Social Security in amounts equivalent to the self-employment rate, to extend coverage of disability insurance, and to provide special retirement benefits for all mothers.

Under current policies, the inequities are enormous and they hit the wives of low wage earners the hardest. If a husband dies at a young age, the wife may be left with a survivor's benefit too small for her and her children to exist on. If a woman enters the work force after 20 to 30 years of homemaking, her pension, by the time she retires, will not come close to covering the cost of living.

And if a housewife gets divorced after less than 20 years of marriage, she may not be entitled to any of the benefits her husband receives at retirement, even if she spent 19 years raising their children and making it possible for him to earn that pension. Understandably, the insecurity faced by many working-class housewives in cases of divorce, or the unemployment

or death of their husbands, is enormous.

Working husbands stand to gain as much as their wives from a change in the present system. If a longshoreman, for example, is ill or disabled, his wife and small children will get regular disability payments. But if his unsalaried wife becomes disabled, even if there is no one to take over the household or care for the children, he gets no help at all. And if the working wife of an unemployed construction worker dies, no matter how many years she may have worked, he receives no support from the Government. (If he died, she would get a widow's benefit.)

As a question of pure economics, the innovation lag in the Government's retirement system, which does not yet recognize the monetary worth of housewifery, may be costing our society more than it knows.

At a time of skyrocketing inflation and financial insecurity as well as growing family instability, the absence of retirement pensions for housewives can only serve to push even greater numbers of low income women into the workplace—women who may be happier as full-time housewives and would help slow the disintegration of the American family by raising their own children at home.

And the fewer the mothers there are who remain at home, the more Government will be forced to spend on day-care facilities, and the more it will lose through tax deductions for child-care expenses.

In addition to providing housewives with a long-overdue sense of financial independence and security about their old age, a monetary reward in the form of a pension would, as Miriam Rinen of the Illinois Commission on the Status of Women put it, "Give some dignity to a group of citizens too accustomed to putting themselves down as 'just a housewife.'"

Nancy Seifer, director of community relations for the National Project on Ethnic America of the American Jewish Committee, is author of the pamphlet "Absent From the Majority: Working Class Women in America," from which this article has been excerpted.

Wife's Work in the Home
by a Domestic Economist

1. The first part of the work is the preparation of the household. This includes the cleaning of the house, the washing of the clothes, and the making of the beds. It is a very important part of the work, and it is often the most tedious and time-consuming part. It is also the part of the work that is most often overlooked by the public. The public often thinks of the housewife as a person who is simply sitting at home and waiting for her husband to come home. In reality, she is a busy person who is constantly working to keep the household running smoothly. She is the one who is responsible for the cleanliness and order of the home, and she is the one who is responsible for the well-being of her family. Without her work, the household would be a chaotic and uncomfortable place to live. Her work is the foundation upon which the family is built, and it is the most important part of her life.

2. The second part of the work is the preparation of the meals. This includes the shopping for the groceries, the cooking, and the serving of the food. It is a very important part of the work, and it is often the most enjoyable part. The housewife is the one who is responsible for the health and well-being of her family, and she is the one who is responsible for the quality of the food that they eat. She is the one who is responsible for the taste and appearance of the food, and she is the one who is responsible for the timing of the meals. Without her work, the family would not have any food to eat, and they would be unable to survive. Her work is the heart of the household, and it is the most important part of her life.

A Day's Work at the Family Court: Youth Crimes and Custody Cases

By BARBARA CAMPBELL

Young boys accused of crimes, accompanied by grim-faced parents, hostile couples fighting over custody, frightened women seeking protection and angry men asking for visiting rights to see their children were in the continuous flow of people who came before Judge Edith Miller, one day last week, in Family Court.

The judge had admitted a reporter to view the once closed-court proceedings under new Family Court rules that allow judges to decide who can view the proceedings. The rules went into effect Jan.

These guidelines affect 138 Family Court judges statewide—among them 39 New York City judges—and provide that members of news organizations and others, including representatives of medical, legal, social welfare, educational and charitable organizations, can be allowed in the court at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Judge Miller, who is the assistant administrative judge, arrived in her courtroom to face a crowded calendar last week. She was presiding in Intake A, the equivalent of the arraignment division of Criminal Court, and handled more than 30 cases before the luncheon break. Custody cases were the most frequent.

Visiting Rights Sought

"I haven't seen my child in over two years," said a slender young man standing before the judge. He and his former wife had agreed on visiting but, according to him, she had not allowed any visits. When he did visit, he said, there were arguments.

Judge Miller signed an order of protection for the wife, who had said she feared her husband, and directed that the man have visiting rights. She cautioned the young man that if he assaulted his wife, she could have him arrested.

"Believe me, judge," the wife said, "if it's anyone needs protecting it's me."

Another man sought custody of his child. Judge Miller read the record and frowned. The mother had already killed one of her children and she was being deported. The judge advised the man that while he was not legally married to the woman, under a new law he could file a paternity petition. She advised that he do so and ordered that the child remain with the man's mother.

Many Custody Cases

"We've got so many custody cases today," Judge Miller said to Steven Pokart, the Legal Aid guardian assigned to the court, and Margaret Robinson, the probation officer, during a brief lull before the next person was escorted in. "It's the holidays. People feel lonely during Thanksgiving and Christmas. They want to see their children."

Susan Kornhauser, the attorney from the Corporation Counsel, was sitting in for juvenile cases. She said in an aside: "We've got to make sure these delinquents are not let go. Last week this court paroled two rapists."

A young man, accused with three others of holding up a store at gunpoint came in with his well-groomed mother. One of the women who had been held up was there. The boy said he did not do it and had been arrested because he had been outside the store. Miss Robinson recommended parole. Miss Kornhauser urged detention.

The judge wanted to know whether it was his first offense. He said yes and was paroled in his mother's custody.

Judge Miller said she had come under a lot of pressure to remand juveniles to detention centers but she felt she had to decide on the basis of their records.

"I believe it should be prerequisite for every person who passes the bar to spend one day and night in jail," she said, "and I believe they would not suggest so lightly that these kids be remanded to jail."

Women Work and Men Change

Males May Opt For Leisure Or Not Accept Transfers

By ANN CRITTENDEN

Robert D., who is in his late 50's, is now engaged primarily in writing a cookbook for businessmen. A few years ago when he lost his executive job in a publishing house, he decided to stay at home and write. He was able to do this, rather than face the frequent humiliations of job-hunting in late middle age, because his wife holds a well-paying job in one of the city's top law firms.

"Why should he work, when we don't really need the money?" she asks.

Gary R., a political scientist, chooses to do policy writing on social issues for a nonprofit research organization, at a decidedly lower salary than he could command even in academe. He can afford to do this, even when he and his family live in costly New York City, because his wife Joan, a chemist, earns almost twice as much as he. Asked if this bothers him, he replies, "Are you kidding?"

What happens to men as more and more women assume a greater share of the family's financial responsibilities? Is it largely a plus, as the two examples above would imply, or are unsettling developments in store for men as the husband-breadwinner and wife-homemaker family model continues to break down?

According to the Department of Labor, that stereotype is valid for only 34 out of 100 husband-wife families today, compared with 56 out of 100 a quarter of a century ago. But the shift is only beginning to be studied, although the changes are likely to be revolutionary.

Isabel V. Sawhill, an economist with the Urban Institute, a policy research organization in Washington, argues that the increased financial power of women has already contributed to rising divorce rates—currently the highest in American history and in the industrial world—for women no longer need marriage for economic survival. Within marriage she sees women's bargaining power and authority rising.

Economists have also observed recent changes in the work habits of men with working wives.

As Sar Levitan of George Washington University's Center for Social Policy Studies put it in a recent con-

versation, "Males are starting to behave more like women" in their patterns of work.

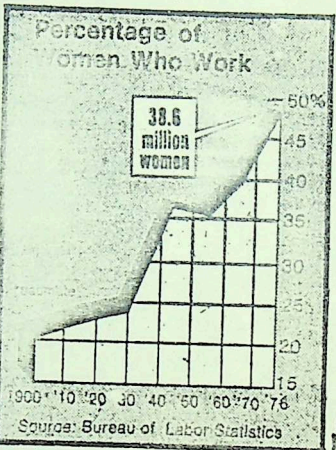
For example, men with working wives are less likely than other men to accept frequent job transfers from city to city—exactly like women who decline transfers because of their husbands' jobs.

In addition, men, as women traditionally did, are beginning to prefer shorter work hours to higher salaries. Mr. Levitan, who has studied the phenomenon, believes it is a direct result

for families in which other members of the family worked.

In addition, two women economists, Cynthia B. Lloyd of Barnard College and Beth Nemi of Rutgers University, reported evidence during the recession, of men moving in and out of the labor market more frequently than in the past. Traditionally most men stayed in the labor force from their first job until retirement.

This new pattern for men resembles the behavior of women, who tend to move in and out of the job market as job opportunities change, leaving during recessions and reentering during periods of high employment.



The New York Times/Jan. 9, 1977

But during the 1975 slowdown, the two economists estimate, three-quarters of the workers who stopped trying to find a job were men aged 20 to 59. Then, as the economy picked up last spring and summer, they came flooding back into the job market.

Although the reasons for this behavior have yet to be established, the economists argue that men may be able to wait for an improved job climate because their wives are supporting them. As evidence, they note that fewer women left the job market in the last recession than ever before.

The partial dependence of men on women's earnings may be one reason that even during the worst recession since the 1930's there has been little perceptible backlash against women's job gains. (Another probable reason is that most women still work in such traditionally "female" jobs as teaching, nursing and clerical work.)

This is in sharp contrast to the often harsh attitudes and even laws detrimental to women working prevalent during the Great Depression. Nevertheless, Dr. Lloyd, who is planning more research into the impact of women's work on men's behavior, half-jokingly speculates that if men realize that they are beginning to act more like women, a greater backlash might develop.

'Why should he work, when we don't really need the money?' asks the breadwinner.

of two-paycheck families. Men are in a financial position to opt for more leisure, and they need more time to handle household tasks that were previously relegated to women.

This changed financial condition is, of course, the easiest measure of the impact of working women. Last year, the median income of families with wives in the labor force was \$17,237, or 35 percent higher than the income of families with nonworking wives. In 1973 wives were responsible for 30 percent or more of the income in 43 percent of American families.

During the recession, that additional income was particularly important. In families where only the husband worked, real purchasing power, after inflation, declined 8.1 percent from 1973 to 1974, or 2 1/2 times the decline

SUNDAY
1/9/77
N.Y. Times

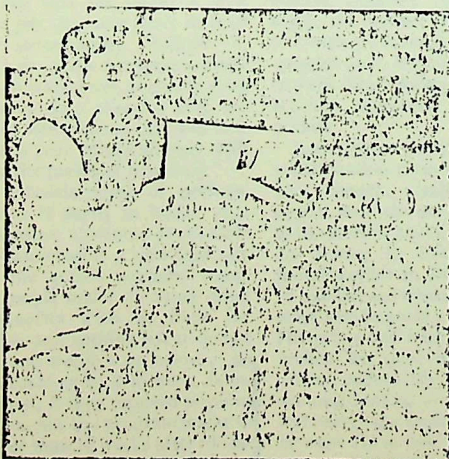
The great male cop-out from the work ethic

A new disappearing act. How the disenchanted are living without jobs

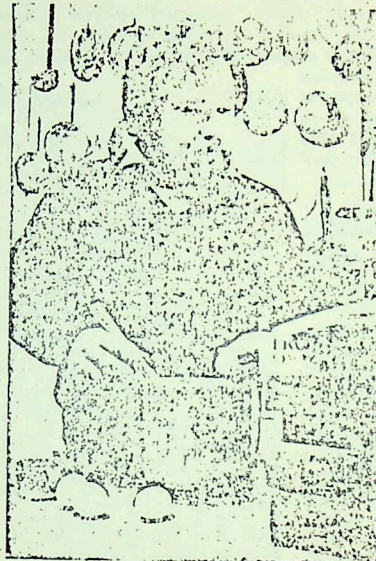
When the mail-order company that employed him closed its regional operation, says a former \$30,000-a-year suburban Philadelphia executive, "I found myself, at 45, in a situation where I could do anything I wanted." What he did was drop out of the labor force. He read books on male liberation, "found out where the clean socks came from," and became a house husband supported by his wife's earnings as a psychotherapist.

This man is one of a growing breed—males in the prime working years of 25 to 54 who have opted out of the job market. Some will probably reenter it sooner or later: young married students or men—many of them black—who are temporarily discouraged by today's high unemployment rate. But increasing numbers have apparently discovered that contemporary society offers new government- and corporate-financed alternatives to working for a living, or that, like the Philadelphian, their place is in the home.

Working wives. Bureau of Labor Statistics figures tell the story. The percentage of prime-working-age men in the labor force was a stable 97% from 1950 through 1966. But from 1967 to 1976, it dropped from 96.6% to 94.2%. Put another way, the number of men outside



Disabled: Houston postal worker Ullcnk clears his old salary in benefits while waiting for a desk job to open up.



House husband: Former warehouseman Bentley has kept house in California for over six years.

the labor force grew 71% over the past nine years, in good times and bad, until now some 2.2 million neither hold nor seek jobs.

Their lot is cheerier than it would have been a decade ago. The disabled among them (a category that covers half of the 2.2 million) can more easily collect disability benefits under revised Social

Security and other programs, and such benefits are generally higher now than they were in previous years. And the able rebels of this group can more freely cast off company bonds, thanks to a more supportive social atmosphere and, frequently, a working wife.

Not so coincidentally, the years of declining male work-force participation were also years of rising participation for married women aged 20 to 54. Some 41.5% of married women worked in 1967 and some 52.4% in 1976. Among male work-force dropouts 25 to 34, 63% have wives who work. During the same decade, books such as *The Greening of America*

expressed and inspired widespread questioning of the work ethic.

"I wouldn't go back to corporate ulcer factory under circumstances," says Robert Huchingson, 53, a former vice-president of Falstaff Brewing Corp., St. Louis. Huchingson has looked for a job since Falstaff sold in May, 1975. He remarks comfortably that his savings "adequate," his wife teaches, education for his four children paid for. He enjoys writing short stories, although he has not yet sold one. "I'm perfectly satisfied making more money is not so important," Huchingson says.

Retiring early. That attitude growing," says an official of National Council of Compensation Insurance in New York City, national rate-setting organization. The council had to raise work compensation premiums by 47% last year, mostly because sick and disabled workers stay away from work longer than they formerly. Rather than rush back to work, they seem willing to make do with benefits that are better than they used to, although usually still well below normal salaries.

This attitude toward work—expressed repeatedly by respondents to a BUSINESS WEEK survey and confirmed as widespread by experts in the field—casts new light on the potential impact proposed legislation moving the statutory retirement age from 65 to 70. Apparently headed for final passage in Congress soon, the bill has raised concern that a surge of working elderly will crowd younger workers onto the employment rolls.

But the 1967-to-1976 figures from BLS suggest that many men under 65 would take advantage of voluntary early retirement at the same time that younger men would work longer under the proposed law. The figures "indicate that a substantial number of men do dread retirement but look forward to it if they could just finance it," says Professor Herbert S. Parnes of the Center for Human Resource Research, Ohio State University.

Among all males, the downturn in work-force participation was steepest for blacks, but this decline started before 1967 and appears to be tied to the difficulty of finding jobs more than to anything else. Some black age groups have dropped as much as 20% in work

home participation since 1955, and the average decline among blacks since 1967 was 7.2%, to 88.5%.

Charles Benjamin, a black official of the Seattle-King County (Wash.) Manpower Consortium, notes that many blacks "just simply float around," living a hand-to-mouth existence. And John Holman, a Social Security Administration official in Pittsburgh, lists some of the resources of such an existence: churches and the Salvation Army for food, public washrooms, and sometimes lodging—and even one Pittsburgh organization that gives as much as \$14 weekly in spending money. But few would deliberately choose this way of life Benjamin adds.

Lifetime benefits. The disabled face no such stark prospect, especially if they hold jobs in the public sector or in union-

The number of nonworking males grew 71% from 1967 to 1976—to 2.2 million

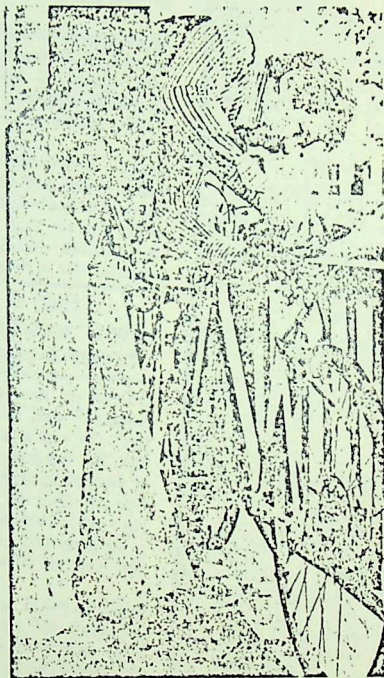
ized industries. A 27-year-old Los Angeles man who was employed as a custodian at a public college, for instance, injured his knee while lifting a garbage can last June. He collected temporary workers' compensation for several weeks, returned to work, and found the job painful. He has been receiving long-term benefits since Sept. 15 on the ground that his bad knee makes him permanently incapable of doing his job. He also collects enough additional money from the college's benefits program (a common fringe benefit among public institutions) to make up the difference between the disability check and his former paycheck. He visits the insurance carrier's doctor daily to verify that his knee still hurts. He is not sure he will ever work again.

Experts say that the longer a man stays off the job, the more likely he is to stay away permanently. William V. DeWermann Jr., a BLS demographer and a specialist in work-force dropouts, cites Census Bureau data showing that the proportion of men who say they will seek work within a year "drops sharply with increases in the period of inactivity."

Careless administration of workers' comp systems is partly to blame, says William Johnston, chairman of the Ohio Industrial Commission, a unit that sets policy for the state's workers' comp. "I've seen people under 35 being given lifetime benefits with no hope for anything else, and nothing left to do but drink beer and watch soap operas," he says. Some could go back to work, Johnston points out, if they received physical rehabilitation, but the program ought to begin no later than 12 weeks after illness or injury. "Unless you catch them by the time a compensation syndrome sets in," he says.

Some 70% of the Ohio cases are lower-back ailments—a widespread cause of disability. Notes Johnston: "Children and wives are always telling Dad not to lift or drive. So whether he has a long-term problem or not, he sure believes he does."

Matching salary. In addition to encouraging rehabilitation, Johnston seeks to guard against cheating by having two



Occasional worker: Former salesman Christner, of Pittsburgh, gets by with occasional odd jobs.

doctors examine each patient. As a result, the number of beneficiaries added to Ohio's permanent disability rolls has dropped from 300,500 in 1975 to 100,800 in 1976. This represents a payout of \$93 million, compared with 1975's \$186 million.

Even when cheating or a neglected rehabilitation program are not in question, though, disability payments do permit men who are marginally disabled to be selective about what work they will do. Jimmy R. Ulicnik, a 29-year-old postal worker in Houston, was injured 16 months ago when he swerved his post office jeep to avoid a car and overturned. His pelvic and internal injuries and his broken leg have healed, but he still cannot endure the rigors of "constant walking, getting in and out of the jeep, and carrying a mail pouch on my back," he says. He is now waiting for the post office to find him a desk job that he can perform without so much discomfort.

With his post office checks and

compensation payments, Ulicnik clears the same \$740 a month he earned before, losing only overtime and night-differential pay. His wife, Susan, works, too, although she was also on disability pay for six months when she slipped a spinal disc while moving her husband's wheelchair. They and their two children scraped some during this period of double disability, but they still retain two cars, a mortgaged home, and investment property that, in another era, might have been sold off to keep Ulicnik from having to perform painful work.

For older workers, the combination of early retirement and disability pay can actually exceed salary, according to some employers. Says Alan Strohmaier, General Motors Corp.'s assistant director of unemployment and workers' compensation: "A large portion of workers retiring before 62 are getting some form of workers' comp." The \$650 monthly pension for a 30-year veteran, together with a disability payment of \$528, adds up to more than his former salary in some cases, he says.

Marginal existence. The combination of pension and disability payments has spurred 80% of retirees at one Detroit-area plant to file for disability claims, Strohmaier says. At a similar plant, only 3% of retirees have filed for disability. So Strohmaier suspects that workers at the first plant are getting aggressive instruction on how to claim benefits.

The Big Three auto companies are prime victims of this formula, because United Auto Workers' pensions are among the best in the country. And Michigan disability

law requires only that work aggravate a health problem to qualify a worker for benefits, not that it be the cause of the problem.

But aside from pensioners and older workers drawing disability benefits, more married students, other young husbands, and middle-aged men are staying home and letting their wives earn the paycheck. For example, a 31-year-old sales clerk in a Boston camera store quit his job last spring to take care of his nine-month-old daughter. He now does odd jobs and collects unemployment benefits—a common pattern among recent work-force dropouts. His wife is writing her doctoral thesis in anthropology and earns a small amount by tutoring.

Food stamps, family gifts, and a loan taken by his wife round out their income, so that the move involved no great change in lifestyle. "We had been living as students for 10 years," this man says, "which means we're really living a

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marginal existence." He reasons that his wife's doctorate will always outearn his bachelor's degree, and if there is to be only one breadwinner, he says, "I'll gladly defer."

Staying home. Richard Ireland of Denver, also 31, has two master's degrees in education, but he has been content for the past five years to let his wife, a physician, earn the money while he stays home doing the cooking and washing. "If I ever do work, I will create the job," he says.

Ireland stresses that he enjoys working with people, but that a brief stint as a teacher soured him on institutions. "I'm not willing to play the politics of getting a job organized to deliver what I want it to," he says.

The ultimate self-described "house person," however, may be Allen B. Bentley, 32, who has not worked for more than six years. He quit his job as a warehouseman at Sears, Roebuck & Co.'s Los Angeles center in the summer

'My only regret is that I didn't do it years ago,' says a 38-year-old male dropout

of 1971 and moved in with his brother and sister-in-law in the San Francisco area while he hunted for a new job. "But I took the rest of the summer off, and when everyone else went back to work in the fall, I just didn't." He liked his new role so much that when his brother got divorced and moved out, Allen stayed on with his brother's ex-wife and her two children.

All of the support for Allen and the two children comes from his sister-in-law's salary as an \$18,000-a-year special-program teacher at a Hayward (Calif.) elementary school. "It's definitely still work," says Bentley, describing his routine of seeing the kids off to school, cooking, cleaning, doing the laundry, shopping, and maintaining a \$75,000 home. In fact, Bentley says, it is harder than his warehouseman's job because it is a 24-hour responsibility, with the male-oriented chores of fixing cars and chopping wood added to the domestic work. But the only time Bentley thinks about a regular job, he says, is around the end of the month. "when the money around here starts getting pretty thin."

Opting out. Men such as Bentley, who are not on disability and not in school, constitute a third of all male nonworkers among both blacks and whites. Although the government disclaims any knowledge of their ways, lumping them simply as "others" in its statistics, the BUSINESS WEEK survey indicates that many are actually off-and-on workers. Sometimes the work is legal, such as carpentry, and sometimes—as one BUSINESS WEEK reporter discovered—it is illegal, such as

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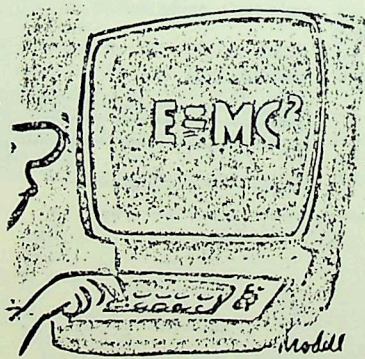
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selling drugs. Either way, men in this
group work as unofficially and occasion-
ally self-employed persons, thus evading
labor-force statistics.

Bart Christner, for example, was
earning about \$20,000 as a salesman of
bakery equipment and supplies. He did
not mind being on the road but hated
returning to his home office in Pitts-
burgh. "It was a drag," he says. "Every
day the same routine." So he quit in 1972
and has not had a steady job since.

Christner, 36, stays off welfare ("Wel-
fare is only for poor people"), shares an
apartment with a cousin, and supports
himself by doing odd jobs in the building
trades, often for friends. A small income
from a marriage property settlement
helps. If he really hustles, he can make
\$300 a month, he says, but he seldom
pushes that hard.

More permanently disabled workers, early retirees --and more working wives

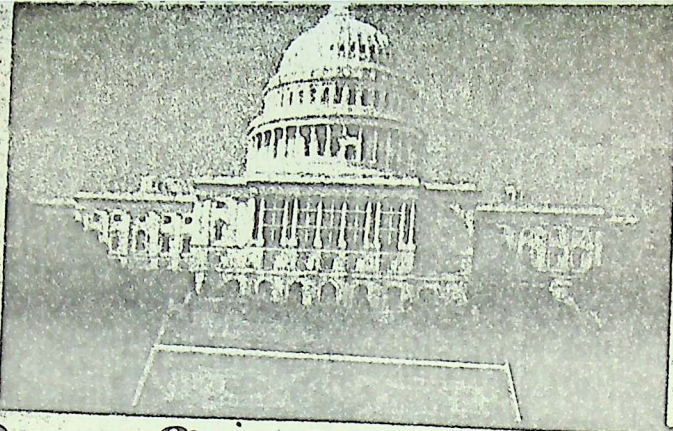
Christner says he misses some of the
things a salary could buy, but he adds
quickly: "When I had the money, I
wasn't happy. I didn't have the time to
enjoy it." In the old days, he had three
weeks' vacation; now he gets to Florida
in the winter for a month or two.

'Playing by ear.' Arnold Amare, 43,
resigned a \$15,000-a-year job as a
supervisor in a marine and electronics
factory because the Madison (Conn.)
executive found that as his salary
increased, so did his blood pressure and
the demands on his family time. Now
most of the family income comes from
his wife, a \$17,000-a-year assistant
professor at Southern Connecticut Col-
lege in New Haven. Amare's wife also
earns \$2,000 as a Madison selectwoman.
Amare adds to that by installing burgla-
ry and fire-detection systems "on a low-
level, undemanding basis." He recently
turned down two lucrative job offers. He
prefers to be at home with his two sons
and manage his wife's campaign.

In a few areas, work-force dropouts
have begun to form a substantial
percentage of the population. In the
Florida Keys, an entire subculture of
boat dwellers has abandoned regular
work for a life of sailing, fishing, and
odd-jobbing.

Two of the newest recruits are Will
Adams, 38, and his wife, Donna, 31, who
are moored at Boot Key marina aboard a
22-foot sloop named Echoue (which
means "run aground" in French). He
has taken an unpaid leave of absence
from a \$13,500 job as a French professor
at Lamar University in Beaumont, Tex.,
and she left a \$6,000-a-year job at the
college. He doubts whether he will
return. "I'll just play it by ear and see
he says. "My only regret is that I didn't
do it years ago."

SOCIAL ISSUES



\$\$\$ Benefits for Housewives



Alfred E. Gescheidt

A report on the bills now pending in Congress that will, if passed, bring long overdue recognition and suitable financial rewards for the valuable work done by homemakers

By ANN FOOTE CAHN Today's housewife may still be a long way from earning a weekly salary, but with the passage of a welter of bills now pending in Washington, she may soon receive the financial return that her hard labor merits.

Recent figures confirm, in fact, that the average housewife provides an estimated \$13,400 worth of services in the home annually—what with child care, cleaning, chauffeuring, cooking and the like. But many wives are totally dependent on their husbands or, in event of divorce, death or separation, deprived of resources altogether. According to a report by the International Women's Year Commission, only 14 percent of divorced women are awarded alimony and a mere 44 percent are allotted child support, of which fewer than half collect either regularly.

Is it any wonder, then, that feminist groups have rallied to the homemaker's cause, or that a myriad bills—some 450 regarding women's rights alone—have been introduced in Congress to provide some much needed relief!

(continued on page 26)

BENEFITS FOR HOUSEWIVES

continued

Many of the bills are designed to restructure the tax and Social Security systems, so the nonemployed spouse will be less dependent on the breadwinner in the family. Others are calculated to recognize the economic contribution of the wife who works both inside and outside the home. Still others cover a diversity of issues, ranging from opening up new job opportunities for women to expanding child-care services to eliminating sex discrimination in insurance.

Some of these bills may have been passed—or dropped altogether—by the time this article appears. Others may take months, or even years, to come up for a final vote. Their ultimate fate, of course, depends not just upon lobbying efforts and political leadership, but grass-roots support by the women of America—and that means you.

Here are some of the bills pending in Congress that are forerunners in their field and most likely to pass:

DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS

Displaced Homemaker Assistance Act. Cosponsored in the House of Representatives (H.R. 10270) by Rep. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-Calif.) and Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.)

The plight of the displaced homemaker who, owing to divorce, death or separation, is suddenly thrown on the job market without skills, work experience or other means to support herself or her family, has been widely publicized. This bill, recently proposed as an amendment to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA), would set up some fifty service centers across the country that would provide job training, placement, counseling, and in some cases actual stipends for these 2.2 million women. Any housewife who is over forty, widowed or divorced, and has worked in the home for a number of years without wages but is not entitled to Social Security, welfare or unemployment insurance, would be eligible. Displaced Homemaker bills have already been approved in a number of states, but many lack the funding that federal legislation could provide. The outlook for passage of this bill is excellent.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Equity in Social Security for Individuals and Families Act. Cosponsored in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3247) by Rep. Donald F. Fraser (D-Minn.) and Rep. Martha Keys (D-Kans.)

Under current Social Security laws the housewife is not only relegated to dependency status but she cannot qualify for disability pay, leave benefits to her children if she dies or even receive retirement pay if she is divorced before ten years of marriage. (Until a recent law was passed, effective January, 1979, it was twenty years of marriage.) Even if she decides to go out to work, the homemaker may not be much better off. Most women's salaries are so low that it often turns out they're entitled to higher benefits as their husbands' dependents than as wage-earners.

The Fraser-Keys bill is designed to "desex" this system by splitting a couple's income for crediting purposes—whether the wife works inside or outside the home—and assigning both spouses their own individual wage record on which future benefits are based. Couples could be credited with either 50 percent of their combined earnings or with 75 per-

cent of the higher salary, whichever is larger. This means if a couple had a combined income of \$20,000, one earning \$12,000 and the other \$8,000, each would be credited with \$10,000; and if one spouse earned the entire \$20,000, each would be credited with \$15,000.

Besides equalizing benefits for both spouses, this bill would also establish the important concept of "portability"—that is, a woman could take her Social Security record with her, whether she stayed in the marriage or not. In addition, she'd be eligible for disability insurance with attendant Medicare benefits regardless of her age, survivor benefits for any minor dependents, and a pension at age sixty-two even if her husband had not retired. The outcome of this bill is uncertain until a government task force, appointed to investigate discrimination in the Social Security system, reports its findings this summer.

PENSIONS

Homemaker Retirement Bill. Sponsored in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1649) by Rep. Paul Trible (R-Pa.) and in the Senate (S. 1783) by Sen. Wendell Anderson (D-Minn.)

Some twenty-six million housewives are now ineligible not only for Social Security but for practically all other pension plans. The 1976 Tax Reform Act does permit a woman to share a joint Individual Retirement Account with her spouse, but she is dependent upon her husband's "good will" to participate in the plan, and she can be credited with only \$875 annually. Under the proposed bill, homemakers could set up IRAs of their own and invest up to \$1,500 a year provided that they were not covered by any other retirement plan. Since IRAs are tax-sheltered, this means that a twenty-five-year-old woman who invested, say, \$1,500 a year in an IRA account paying 7.75 percent interest would get \$32,405 in annual net retirement income at age sixty-five. If she invested the same sum in a regular savings account and paid taxes annually on the earnings, her retirement income at sixty-five would be only \$19,116 a year—or less than half as much. This bill has strong congressional backing, and passage is probable.

JOBS

Part-time Career Opportunity Act. Introduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1627) by Rep. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-Calif.) and in the Senate (S. 518) by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.)

Many housewives want—and need—to take an outside job but are prevented from doing so because of their duties and responsibilities in the home. One solution, of course, is part-time work, but many of these jobs are dead-end, low-paying and unrewarding. They're also the first to be eliminated during times of economic trouble. The passage of this bill—aimed at opening up thousands of part-time career opportunities at practically all levels of the federal government—would not only accommodate those wives and mothers unable to work full-day shifts, but would also offer the kind of job challenge and responsibility for which many are qualified. Passage of this bill will be difficult because federal agencies are reluctant to restructure or increase the size of their staffs.

Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act. Sponsored in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2732) by Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.) and in the Senate (S. 517) by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.)

This bill authorizing federal (continued on page 162)

WONDERFUL WINDOWS

continued

1. Measure to P, bottom and sides of window frame. Using your measurements, shorten or lengthen pattern pieces shown in Frame Diagram, page 160, to fit your window.
2. Mark pattern directly on hardboard with pencil, ruler and try square.
3. Cut hardboard with saber saw.
4. Paint front of all hardboard pieces with wood primer. Let dry.
5. Paint primed board with 2 coats of blue latex; let dry and sand lightly between coats.
6. Enlarge stencil patterns, page 158 (see How to Enlarge Patterns, page 144). Make one large leaf motif, one patterned round motif (repeated

in the not-too-distant future. But a number of other bills are also pending—some more visionary than actually viable—which, according to most women's groups, reflect genuine needs. Among the more outstanding in each area:

7. Tape patterns to work surface (surface will be cut into). From acetate cut one 8" x 16" piece, one 5" square piece and one 8" x 12" piece. Read rest of procedure in this step and follow same steps with excess acetate to practice cutting out stencil with swivel or mat knife. Then tape 8" x 16" piece of acetate on top of combined leaf and patterned round motifs and cut out stencil. Repeat with 5" piece on patterned round motif for single patterned round motif and 8" x 12" piece on set of circles.
8. Following photograph for placement, tape one combined leaf and patterned round motif stencil on blue painted hardboard piece. Adjust position as necessary if you have lengthened or shortened the hardboard pieces. Mix a tiny bit of

yellow ochre into white paint. Hold stencil brush perpendicular to stencil surface. Dab on paint, moving brush up and down, rather than stroking as for regular painting, to prevent paint from seeping under stencil. Remove stencil and wash between uses. Carefully pat dry with paper towels. Complete all motifs, following photograph for placement. Let dry.

9. Drill pilot holes for nails straight through hardboard, placing hole in center of each round motif.

10. Following photograph, nail hardboard to surround window, using 2½" finishing nails.

(To make curtains shown, cut two 45" lengths fabric. Fold and press ½" at cut ends. Fold 2" back, stitch 1" from fold and then 1" below stitch line to form rod casings.)

The End

\$\$\$ BENEFITS FOR

HOUSEWIVES continued from page 26

agencies to experiment with "alternative" work schedules over a three-year period, would enable women to arrange their job hours to suit their personal convenience. They'd just have to be present during a specific core period—from eleven to three o'clock each day, say—and put in the required number of hours each month. This means a woman could begin work earlier in the morning and leave earlier in the afternoon, work longer hours each day but fewer days each week, or work longer days one week and shorter days the following. This bill is more likely to pass than the preceding one because it wouldn't necessitate the hiring of new personnel.

Private Sector Part-time Employment Act: Sponsored in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2102) by Rep. Barber B. Conable, Jr. (R-N.Y.)

Women interested in working part-time for private employers and enjoying such fringe benefits as sick leave, vacations and pensions would do well to keep their eye on future developments of this bill. Not only does it seek to upgrade the permanent part-timer's employment opportunities, but it offers prospective employers tax credits of up to 25 percent on wages paid as an incentive for hiring part-timers. Passage of this bill is currently unlikely because of high costs and administrative problems.

TAXES

Head of Household Tax Equity Act of 1977: Introduced in the Senate (S. 1644) by Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Oreg.) and in the House of Representatives (H.R. 8734) by Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.)

Women have long chafed over the fact that single mothers with children to support are not eligible for the same tax benefits as married couples. Studies show that single heads of households—of which some 80 percent are women—have many of the same financial burdens as two-parent families, but the single head of household earns on the average less than half (or \$8,295) as much as the married couple (\$16,775). Under this bill, which seeks to offset some of the imbalance, the standard tax deduction for the single parent would be raised from \$2,200 to that of the married couple, \$3,200. This bill has a good chance of passing because it has strong congressional support and is relatively inexpensive to implement.

Most of the aforementioned legislation has a fairly good chance of adoption, if not during the current session of Congress, then

whether they were enrolled part- or full-time in a school, a college or a university.

• **SOCIAL SECURITY:** Some 13.5 million mothers of minor children are currently employed outside the home. A new Benefits for Spouses bill (S. 304), introduced by Senator Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), seeks to equalize benefits for both husband and wife, so the family receives the same protection in the event of the death of either parent. It also allows for the recalculation of benefits—based on the combined earnings of both spouses—in those instances where the impact of the wife's earnings might not otherwise be reflected.

• **INCOME AND TAXATION:** While many people believe the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment would solve a multitude of inequities, some insist the housewife will never be fully protected until the passage of the Bonnie Plan (H.R. 7358). Introduced by Representative Clifford Allen (D-Tenn.) and named for Bonnie Cowan, his legislative aide who drafted the bill, the plan would recognize marriage as an equal economic partnership by making couples swear on their joint income tax returns that the reported assets were equally shared—even if the wife didn't earn so much as a penny.

If you wish to support any of the bills listed above, ask your congressman and/or senator to give it his endorsement. Be sure to mention the name of the bill, its number and the sponsor in the House of Representatives and/or Senate. You might also get in touch with the congressional committee or subcommittee considering the bill (the sponsor's office can give you the name) and urge its enactment. You can phone, write, send public opinion telegrams or Mailgrams. Remember, at vote time, it's action, not intentions, that register.

For more information on the current status of legislation for women, contact the American Civil Liberties Union, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; the Congressional Clearinghouse on Women's Rights, 722 House Annex Building No. 1, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), 733 15th St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005. Legislative wrap-ups and newsletters on federal laws that affect women are also published by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, 2012 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, and the Women's Washington Representative, National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045, respectively. Write them for the name—and prices—of their publications.

• **EDUCATION:** Many housewives would like to go back to school but are unable to finance the move. Under a popular bill—the Tuition Tax Credit Act of 1977 (S. 2142)—cosponsored by Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Bob Packwood (R-Oreg.), a taxpayer, his or her spouse and dependents could each take a tax credit of 50 percent of their tuition costs up to a maximum of \$500 per year,

The End

Would you work for \$7 a week? PHILLIDA BUNKLE discusses how the proposed mother's benefit would make entering the workforce an unattractive proposition for most mothers.

The idea of a State paid wage for mothers has been discussed in B.S. by Toni Church, (Oct. 1974, no.23), Cathy Wilson, (Jan. 1975, no.26) and Julie Thompson, (June 1975, no.30). The issue takes on greater urgency now that the Parliamentary Select Committee on Women's Rights has recommended implementation of the wage after wider study of its implications by an interdepartmental committee. Feminists can no longer evade the practical and ideological implications of the idea. Practical considerations:

The Select Committee was careful not to specify a particular figure for the wage but the most practical sum suggested seems to be about \$10 a week. Both Brian Easton and Cathy Wilson pointed out in their submiss-

ions to the Committee and their published articles that the cost to the State could be partly offset by taxing the wage itself, and ending the husband's tax exemption for a dependent wife. For a household with an income equal to the average male wage this would amount to a loss of about \$2 a week. Brian Easton points out that a fairly large wack of the rest could be raised from the increased tax that working women will pay with equal pay. Furthermore despite the Committee's reluctance it is highly unlikely that the wage will be considered independently of existing allowances such as family benefit. The bureaucratic inefficiency of two benefits covering the same area would almost certainly dictate that the wage would incorporate the existing \$3 a week family benefit. There

More on the mothers' wage

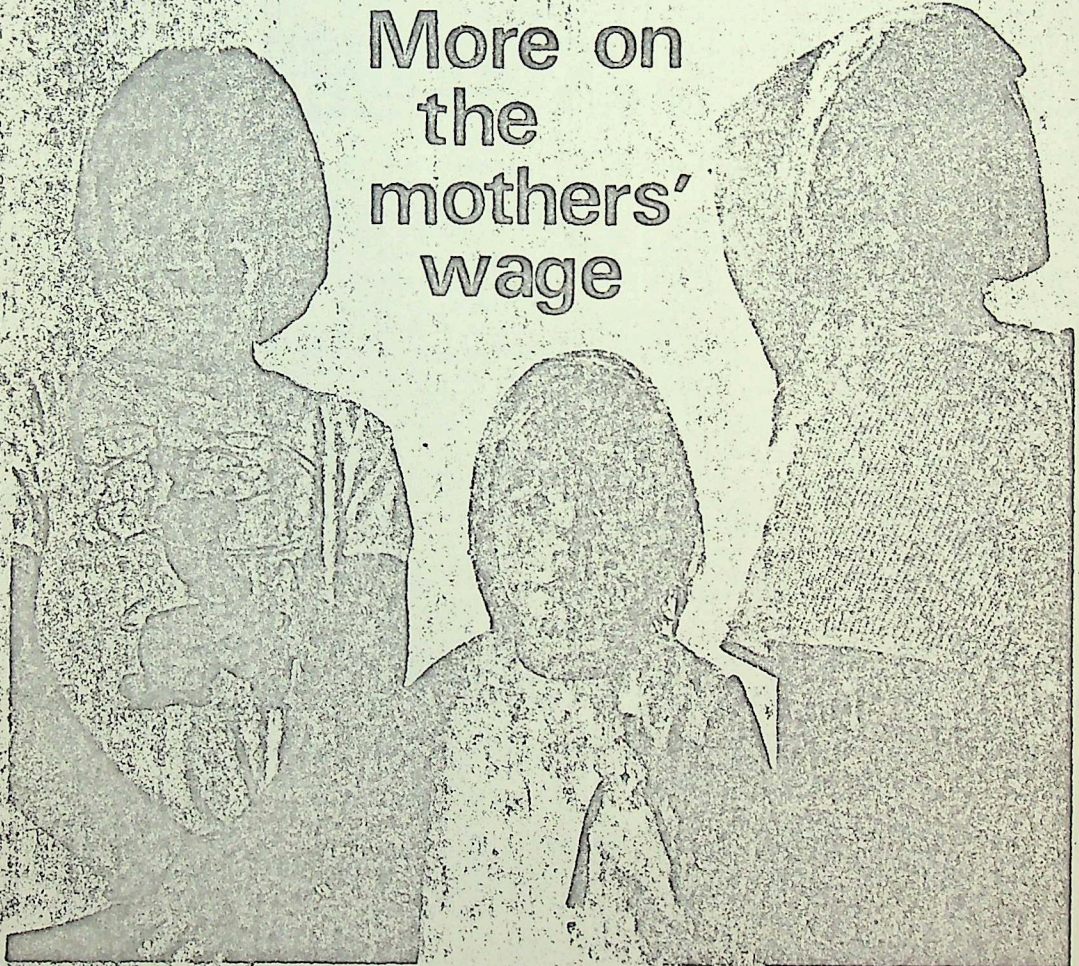


PHOTO: SANDRA CONEY

will therefore probably be little additional money devoted to women. Set up along the lines being currently discussed the wage would represent rather a redistribution of existing resources. To understand the intention of this redistribution it is necessary to understand the practical effect of the proposal.

Most consideration so far has been given to the effect of this redistribution upon the intended recipient, the 'home worker'. Its full implications cannot however be understood without also considering the wage from the perspective of the wage working woman.

All the advocates of the wage note, as a justification of its necessity, that the last decade has seen a great increase in the proportion of women especially married women who work. In the decade 1961-71 the economic activity rate for married women increased by 10% from 16% to 26.1%. Half of the female labour force is now married. In 1971 37.8% of all women aged 15-64 years old were working, and in urban areas this was over 40%. Attitudes to the wage are largely determined by reaction to this change.

It is quite clear that the wage is to apply only to what the select committee calls 'full time mothers'. The age of the children for whose care the wage is to be paid has not been determined but most advocates expect that it will apply to pre-school children. To understand the significance of the wage we must consider its effect upon the working woman with pre-school children. At present the average female wage is \$73.21 a week. Women therefore earn an average of \$3806.91 a year, of which they pay \$826.41 in tax. The average cost of day care in commercial premises is between \$15 and \$20 a week, averaging about \$18. This will cost the woman approximately \$936 a year. Such a woman will also get \$156 a year in family benefit. Her total income will therefore be \$2200 a year (see fig. 1). The home working woman with one pre-school child will also get \$156 a year family benefit and a tax concession on her husband's income, which is worth \$75 a year if he earns the average male wage. The working woman will therefore be \$1969 better off than her non-working equivalent. That is she has an incentive to work for \$1969 a year or approximately \$40 a week.

It is the intention of the proposed scheme to change the relative position of these two groups of women. Assuming that the tax structure remains the same, under the proposed scheme the working woman will pay the same tax and child care costs but will lose the \$156 a year family benefit. The home working woman's income will however increase by the amount of the wage. This means that the working woman will be only \$1450 a year better off than the home worker. That is her incentive to work will be reduced to about \$28 a week. The scheme will then represent a considerable disincentive to women with pre-school children, to work.

The Select Committee did not commit itself to paying more for each additional child, but the advocates of the wage seem to assume that this will be the case. Cathy Wilson says payment should be proportional to the 'number of persons cared for by the homemaker'. (The decision of whether to pay for duration of number has

some strong implications for family spacing). If this is the case, and it seems likely, then the 'working' woman with more than one pre-school child will be particularly disadvantaged in relation to her non-working sister, (see fig. 2). Most day care centres reduce the cost to about \$30 a week for two children in the same family. At present the working woman with two pre-school children will profit by \$1732.50 a year from her work, and will be \$1345.50 a year better off than the non-working woman with two children. Her current incentive to work is about \$26 a week. Under the proposed scheme however her total income would be \$1420.50 per year compared to the \$1115 a year of the home working mum. Her total incentive to work would therefore be reduced to \$305.50 a year. Clearly very few women would find it worth their while to work full time just to end up \$6 a week better off. In the case where there are more than two dependants the woman is absolutely better off staying home.

Which groups of women workers will be most affected? There are three groups of women workers who will be most affected by this reduced incentive to work; part time workers, professional women, and poor women.

(i) Part time women workers :

Much of the recent rise in female work force participation is accounted for by the increase in part time workers. In the decade 1963-73 part time female workers increased by 141% (compared to 66% for men). Many of these workers would probably be women with small children. The Select Committee made it quite clear however that the wage is "an allowance to those with full-time family responsibilities". That is part time workers would forfeit the wage. Since part time workers are mostly badly paid it means that it would be hardly worth while for many women with pre-school children to work part time, especially if they had to pay for day care by the hour as many do.

I work part time and am better paid than the average, however, under the new scheme if I had one pre-school child I would end up less than \$900 a year better off than the woman next door. It simply wouldn't be worth my time to work as hard as I do for such a small effective gain. With the small income received by most part time women workers the \$520 a year offered to them would be a substantial disincentive to work.

Most of the work available part time is in the 'women's work' category. The part time worker at present tends to be exploited. Nevertheless the extension of part time work is a positive move, toward the more flexible job structures which may potentially allow greater role flexibility.

(ii) Professional women :

While the number of professional women is small, they have a disproportionate importance, because high achieving women affect society's estimate of women's capabilities, and the value placed on higher education and training. Furthermore it is largely professional women who are breaking into fields previously prohibited or inaccessible to women. For this group of women continuity of employment is crucial. Many women, such as myself,

would never be reemployed in their speciality if they ever gave up work. I know of two women for example, one an industrial chemist, one the head of the largest pathology lab in Australasia who could only find work as lab. technicians when they wanted to return to work. This was partly a reflection of their own loss of confidence in their ability to stay abreast of the subject which had got worse the longer they were away from work involvement. In the advanced technical fields where the content of the subject changes continuity is very important, and it is in these fields where scepticism of women's ability is greatest. While the financial disincentive to work may be of slight importance to such women the psychological disincentive might be important. Such women carry a disproportionate psychological load because of the strain of their isolated and conspicuously deviant positions. Many high achieving women are plagued by anxiety about their deviance from the female norm and some try and solve this by becoming enslaved to what they conceive to be the stereotype role. The motherhood wage is a clear sanction by the government of a 'norm' for female behaviour. By increasing approval for the full time motherhood option this sanction will significantly increase the load on 'deviant' women.

(iii) Poor women :

The group most affected, will however, (as always) be the poorest working women. Poor women have no choice about whether to work full time in grotty jobs for an effective \$1450 a year gain. These women will probably earn less than the average, but an income of \$520 or \$1040 will not give them the freedom to choose not to do irksome jobs. To the poor woman with more than one pre-schooler the wage could be a disaster. She would work to make an effective gain of \$305 a year, or more likely skimp on day care costs leaving the children in some undersupervised situation, thus possibly perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Poor women who may already envy their lower middle class sisters who can afford not to work, will be all the more resentful when they find they have to work full time to end up only \$26 a week better off. They will carry an increased economic as well as psychological burden, to pay twice over for the necessity of working. In effect the motherhood wage asks the poor to subsidise comparatively more privileged women. In a sense the wage sets out to appropriate the gains women have made through equal pay to redistribute them to more privileged non working women.

FIGURE 1. The position of wage working women with one pre-school child compared to the home working woman with one pre-school child under the existing scheme and the proposed motherhood wage.

	WAGE WORKING WOMAN WITH ONE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD		HOME WORKING WOMAN WITH ONE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD		TOTAL INCOME OF WAGE WORKING WOMAN.	TOTAL INCENTIVE TO WORK.
	Gain	Loss	Gain	Loss		
EXISTING SITUATION.	Annual pay	3806.91				
	tax		826.41	Annual tax rebate	75.00	
	cost of day care		936.00	family benefit	156.00	
	family benefit	156.00				
	TOTAL	3962.91	1762.41	TOTAL	231.00	2200.50
PROPOSED MOTHERHOOD WAGE.	Annual pay	3806.91		Annual tax rebate	75.00	
	tax		826.41	motherhood wage	520.00	
	cost of child care		936.00			
	TOTAL	3806.91	1762.41	TOTAL	595.00	2044.50

FIGURE 2. The position of a wage working woman with two pre-school children under the existing scheme and the proposed motherhood wage.

	WAGE WORKING WOMAN WITH TWO PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN		HOME WORKING WOMAN WITH TWO PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN		TOTAL INCOME OF WAGE WORKING WOMAN.	TOTAL INCENTIVE TO WORK.
	Gain	Loss	Gain	Loss		
EXISTING SITUATION.	Annual pay	3806.91		Annual family benefit	312.00	
	tax		826.41	tax rebate	75.00	
	cost of day care		1560.00			
	family benefit	312.00				
	TOTAL	4112.91	2386.41	TOTAL	387.00	1732.50
PROPOSED MOTHERHOOD WAGE.	Annual pay	3806.91		Annual Motherhood wage	1040.00	
	tax		826.41	tax rebate	75.00	
	cost of day care		1560.00			
	TOTAL	3806.91	2386.41	TOTAL	1115.00	1420.50

Kennedy Calls for New U.S. Industrial Policy

By WILLIAM SERRIN
Special to The New York Times

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 20 — Senator Edward M. Kennedy today told delegates to the United Steelworkers of America convention that the country must create an industrial policy to sustain its basic industries.

Senator Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, told the 3,300 delegates that the United States needed a steel industry that "ranks first, works best, and produces the most steel of any nation in the world."

Echoing a favorite theme of steel union leaders, the Senator added that the Government must attack what the "dumping" of steel in the United States by foreign manufacturers at subsidized prices. He said the United States should try to break down what he called unfair trade barriers that closed foreign markets to American products.

"No steelworker should ever lose a job because our Government refuses to act against subsidized foreign steel," Mr. Kennedy said.

Mr. Kennedy received his only standing ovation when he called for a comprehensive and bilateral freeze on nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union.

His speech seemed to be the highlight of the first day of the five-day convention. The American steel industry is beset by reduced production and widespread layoffs, and the meeting has so far been largely devoted to attacking the economic policies of the Reagan Administration. Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is scheduled to speak later this week.

Given the union and the industry's problems, there has been relatively little debate on internal union policies. This has distressed the handful of dissidents here, but the union leadership appears to believe that it and the rest of the nation's labor movement can best combat industrial and social problems with political action rather than through introspection.

participation in industry and pressures for decentralization and institutional reform also suggest a new approach.

Many of these efforts may be flawed by the rather unrepresentative political institutions that are trying to carry them out. They may also fail. Yet, as serious efforts to tackle difficult problems, they deserve greater recognition than the rather clumsy recent actions of the United States toward Italy and France have implied.

Not that the United States is immune to the infection. The need for Americans to modify their expectations of unlimited cheap energy is the functional (perhaps even moral) equivalent of the Europeans' need to adjust to lower rates of economic advance.

Although the problem in the United States is arguably more tractable, the sluggish movement toward a serious energy policy and apparently virulent pressures to seek protectionist solutions at the expense of others have not suggested that the road to viable consensus here is much easier than in Europe.

Yet since, for good or ill, the United States occupies the position of an elephant in the Western canoe, it has to accept both some limits on its freedom of safe action and some dependence on others more handy with paddles. This fact, too, calls for an unusual delicacy of touch from United States policy.

This combination of economic crisis, political uncertainty and philosophical divergence cries out for a joint effort to confront the longer-term social and economic problems of the developed countries. Those members of President Carter's entourage who were once in the Trilateral Commission—a group of private citizens dedicated to closer cooperation between North America, Western Europe and Japan—advocated such an effort from outside government, but have made only limited progress in that direction.

What is needed is a truly collective and systematic effort to interrogate the future and to lift the eyes of harried senior officials from their immediate national troubles (which have excessively dominated their efforts to deal with such recent problems as the steel crisis) to the implications of the longer-term processes of change in the international economy.

As a start, the forthcoming summit meeting in Bonn should be used as a deadline to help overcome the long-standing bureaucratic and other obstacles to the closer collaboration on economic matters among the developed countries to which most subscribe in principle and few in practice.

Christopher J. Makins is director of the Western European trends program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

New York Times 10 weeks 1978

'Ancients,' 'Moderns'

By Christopher J. Makins

WASHINGTON—The debate about the economic and social problems of the industrialized world, like the (rather more sterile) philosophical dispute at the University of Paris in the 15th century, has its "ancients" and "moderns."

Today's "ancients," well represented by an Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development committee of experts in their report "Towards Full Employment and Price Stability," assert that nothing much is wrong that traditional economic medicine will not cure. It may not taste nice, they say, but swallow hard and in a few years the good health of the 1960's will return.

By contrast, the new "moderns," whose ideas the O.E.C.D. is also assembling as part of another broad study, assert that something fundamental has changed. The days of rapid growth are over for the foreseeable future, they believe; the industrial countries face social problems of a new and intractable kind, and the industrialization of the developing world, combined with the ending of the oil age, threatens unprecedentedly difficult economic and social adjustments. The traditional medicine, in this view, is not just too weak—it is only indicated for treating part of the disease.

Many Europeans are more inclined to the "modern" persuasion than Americans, to whom the views of the "ancients" tend to be more congenial. But which of the two schools is more correct is not necessarily the most important question for policy-makers, whose business it is to deal with such uncertainty. For even if the "ancients" are right, the time required for the traditional cures to work will involve a painful period of adjustment for the advanced democracies—of declining industries (such as steel), and of lower expectations. Surviving this transition will require political institutions strong enough to create and sustain a delicate domestic consensus. And if the "moderns" have well perceived the future, the need for more effective institutions will be even greater, so that new sources of social cohesion can be tapped.

Many Europeans—for example, the British, French and Italian Governments—have recognized the need for new techniques of consensus-building to reinforce more stringent economic policies. Ideas for greater worker par-

tion's major steel producers can resume the July discussions, which were aimed at reaching a new contract to replace the one that expires next August.

Steel makers have said they desperately need wage, benefit and work rule concessions to reduce labor costs and revitalize the industry.

Meanwhile, at the convention, Jack Barr, a delegate from the Local 1397, based in Homestead, Pa., rose to tell Mr. McBride that he was being barred from distributing his unit's newspaper to other union members on the convention floor.

The local is headed by Ronald W. Weisen, a union dissident from the Pittsburgh area and a foe of Mr. McBride. The newspaper, the "137 Rank and File," carries several articles accusing Mr. McBride of being excessively cooperative with the steel industry and demoralizing the industry and its demands for contract concessions.

Mr. Bair asked Mr. McBride what union rule barred the local from distributing its paper.

Mr. McBride called the paper a "rag" and a "discredited document." He said if the Homestead local wanted to pass out the paper outside Convention Hall, where the meeting is being held, "you have a perfect right to do that."

Mr. McBride later told reporters that it was "union policy" that no local papers could be distributed at the convention floor.

Argument Over Paper

Include value of housewives' work in GNP figures, council report says

By PATRICIA BELL
Special to The Globe and Mail

OTTAWA — The federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women marked its fifth anniversary this week by publishing a study of the five million Canadians known as housewives.

"These are the women whose work is invisible, taken for granted and noticed only when it's not done," said Monique Proulx, family studies professor and researcher.

"Nobody thinks of the work involved in keeping food in the refrigerator, the house clean, the children well-behaved and in good health . . . this study may make people aware that their welfare depends on this work."

Although the 80-page report goes to great lengths to emphasize the hours worked and the value to the economy of the housewife, Miss Proulx said in an interview that she did not want to add to a growing thrust in Canadian society to steer women out of the work force and back into the home.

"The major purpose of this study was to reassure those women who are now working in the house that we are not neglecting them, that we haven't forgotten them. The Advisory Council gets many telephone calls from housewives who feel the women's movement is putting them down," she said.

"They call themselves home engineers and the queen of the house because they need to restore pride in their situation . . . when you live in a society that assesses everything in monetary terms, what does it mean to have a job with no pay? It means a sense of uselessness and feeling of guilt when you use your husband's money to buy something that's not strictly for the house or for your children."

Miss Proulx said that the value of housework to the Canadian economy has been estimated at approximately equal to one-third of the Gross National Product of the country since 1919 although it's never been included in the calculation of the GNP.

In spite of modern appliances, women still report spending between 20 and 60 hours each week on housework, depending on the number of young children in the house and whether or not they also have paid employment.

If this were added to the GNP, it would be only a symbolic gesture and cost the economy nothing, but it would show proof of women's role in the economy and

give further legal recognition to the right of women to an equal share in the family assets in case of marriage breakdown, Miss Proulx said.

She arrived at the figure of five million housewives by using Statistics Canada's classification of any woman 15 years of age and over who is not a student and is not in the labor market. To that figure she added the number of women currently unemployed.

Any legislative reforms to improve the housewife's condition must take into account the fact that many of the women who are housewives today had no choice to work outside the home and it may be impossible for them to enter the labor market,

she said.

"We need to say publicly that what they do in the home is of value — but young women today must look to their futures and a long-term career with housekeeping as only a small part of it," Miss Proulx said.

"As long as attitudes to a woman's place remain unchanged, an excessively large share of the family responsibilities, both in education and housework, will continue to rest on her shoulders . . . if she goes to work outside the home, she must take on two roles. Too often she feels she must apologize to her children, her husband and sometimes even her fellow-workers for having a job," she said.

June 14/73 Globe

Article
F-1

CETA PROGRAMS: More than 3.3 million persons obtained public and private employment through the Labor Department's Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) programs in fiscal year 1978, the department says. Cost to government was \$9.6 billion.

HOUSE-HUSBAND: A District of Columbia Court of Appeals panel has ruled that a man who acts as a "house-husband" in a second marriage while his new wife works must make support payments for children of his first marriage "based on the value of his services to his present family."

The case involves Kenneth Freeman of Relay, Md., who was ordered to pay his former wife \$350 a month for support of their two children.

Freeman, a former \$24,000-a-year consultant, quit his job to tend a baby born of his second marriage.

The panel determined that his babysitting services provided his current wife the opportunity to earn \$24,000 a year at her government job.

EQUAL MEALS: A federal judge in Grand Rapids ordered Michigan State University to provide the same meals and room allowances for members of its women's basketball team as it does for its men.

The women complained in a suit that their budget was \$13,500, compared to the men's \$120,000, and that they received only \$11 a day for meals and were assigned four to a room on the road, while the men were given \$16 a day to eat and slept two to a room.

BLACK GRADUATES: Predominantly white colleges which two decades ago denied blacks admission have now combined with the South's black colleges to lead the nation in producing black graduates.

A Southern Regional Education Board study shows that 49 percent of all black graduates in the country come from schools in 14 Southern states, 69 percent of them historically black colleges.

The number of black students attending colleges and universities has risen from 522,000 in 1970 to 1.1 million, the report says.

BALTIMORE POLICE: An agreement between the Justice Department and the Baltimore Police Department will result in more blacks and women being hired in that city as police officers.

It commits the department to appoint at least 20 percent of the places in the next three training classes to qualified blacks, eliminates height and weight requirements, and increases substantially the number of women officers.

GOLDWATER PACT: A group of undocumented workers from Mexico have signed the first labor contract with an Arizona citrus farm partly owned by Robert Goldwater, brother of Senator Barry Goldwater.

The group, which until recently had been leading strikes in Arizona groves, contracted with Goldmar Inc.'s Arrowhead Ranch, near Phoenix.

The contract provides for a base pay of \$3.50 per hour for the 15 workers on an hourly wage at the ranch and the 300 to 400 harvesters who are paid by piecework. It also provides for health insurance and an economic development fund under which management will pay 10 cents for each hour worked per worker.

PREGNANCY LAW: A new Federal law requiring employers with 15 or more workers to have health plans that include pregnancy goes into effect April 29.

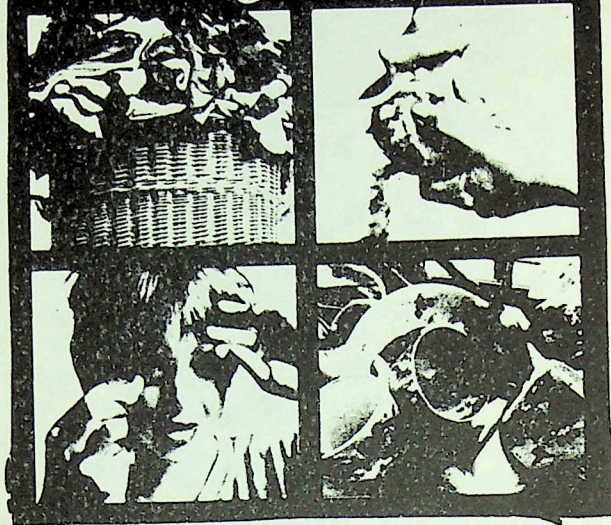
It will make employers provide sick leave or disability benefits to women whose pregnancies keep them from working and offer coverage for normal pregnancy and delivery costs in company health plans.

RACE FACTOR: White students were denied equal protection under the Constitution when the University of North Carolina tried to assure minority representation on the student council and honor court, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., ruled in a 4-3 decision.

According to the Bakke decision, said the court, race may be considered in setting up standards, but it may not be the determining factor.

There aren't many men
would tolerate a woman's
working conditions.

Fulham group.

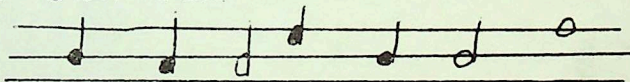


PAY THE HOUSEWIFE.

100 YEARS AGO A RUSSIAN WOMAN SAID
"WOMEN WILL NEVER TAKE PART IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE
WHILST THEY ARE TIED TO HOUSEWORK AND CHILDREN".

ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI. 1872.

1972 = THIS STILL RINGS TRUE, DOESN'T IT? SOONER OR
LATER WE ALL FALL FOR THE "JUST YOU AND ME AND BABY
MAKES THREE" ROUTINE.



THE MEDIA - PAPERS, RADIO AND T.V. - ALL PLUG THE
SAME LINE. WHILE UNILEVER HAS US PONDERING THE CHOICE
BETWEEN DAZ AND OMO AND WE ARE JUDGED BY HOW MANY
NEAT, CLEAN, OBEDIENT CHILDREN WE CAN PRODUCE.

LETS MAKE THE BASTARDS PAY!

SUGGESTED WAGE RATES OPEN TO NEGOTIATION

HOUSEWIFE.	— £ 6.00.
WOMAN + 1 CHILD	— £ 12.00.
WOMAN + 2 CHILDREN	— £ 18.00.
WOMAN + 3 CHILDREN.	— £ 24.00.

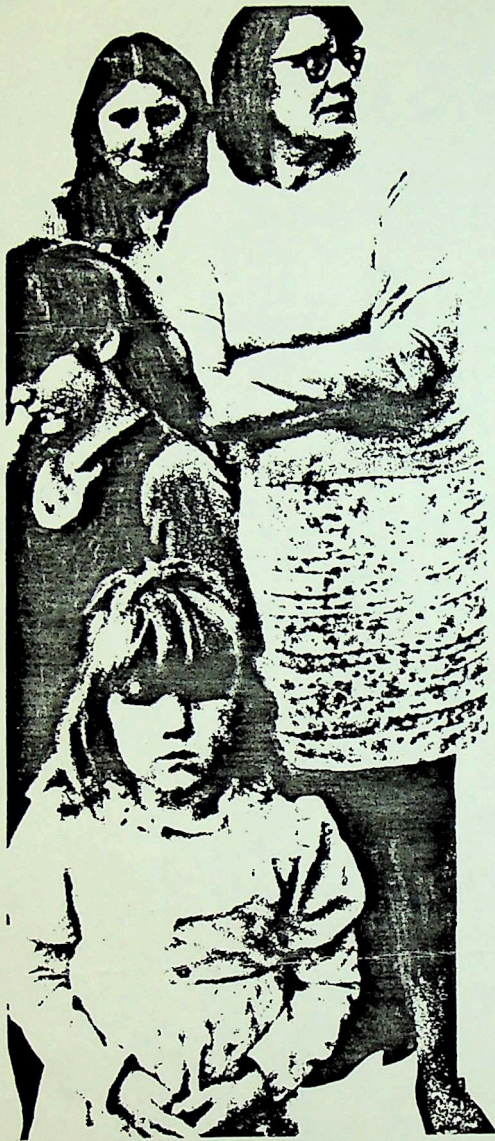
ADD £ 6 FOR EACH CHILD.

PRESENT SOCIAL SECURITY WAGE.

WOMAN + 1 CHILD £ 6.30 + RENT.

WE REALISE THAT THIS IS A SHORT-TERM GOAL BECAUSE WE
LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN WOMEN ARE SUFFICIENTLY
LIBERATED FROM THEIR ROLES SO THAT ANYONE CAN BE A
CHILD REARER

PAY THE HOUSEWIFE.



POVERTY - a woman's question

"FEMINISM IN ITALY" with

PAULA CIARDI, of the
Feminist Network of Tuscany

A FEMINIST COMMISSION MEETING
New York Local

SUN 6 NOV. 7:00 - 9:00 PM ³⁷²Central
Pk. W. (at 97th St.) Apt. 19N.

CLASS ON:

FEMINISM, SOCIALISM, AND ISSUES
OF GENDER

Will deal with women and work; the
family in Marxist-feminist thought;
women, Marxism and social change, etc.

Taught by:

RUTH SPITZ, labor economist,
KATE ELLIS, writer and professor
of literature,
PAT MANN, philosopher, and
JEAN ANYON, educational
sociologist.

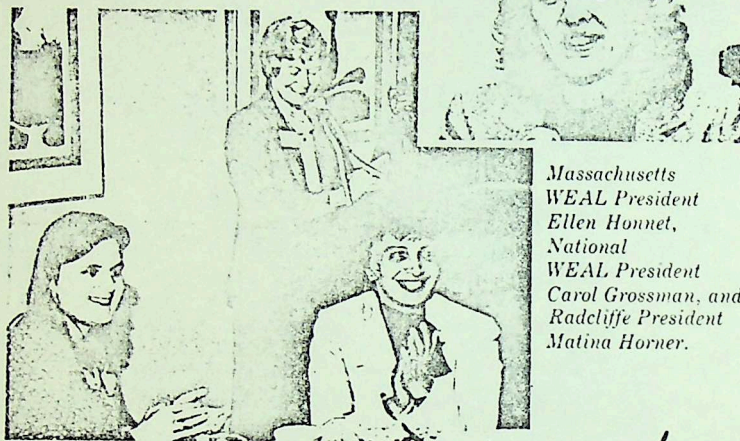
4 Sun. evenings at 7:30 p.m.: Nov.
20th, Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th also
at the home of Ruth Spitz (see above).
\$10 for course; \$2.50 per lecture.

Readings for class include selections from the following:

Out to Work by Alice Kessler-Harris, Oxford University Press;
"Women of Color," Women Organizing (Summer, 1983);
"Feminist Perspectives on the Family," Women Organizing
(Summer, 1982);
Women and Revolution, ed. by Lydia Sargent, South End Press;
Sweden's Right to be Human: Sex-Role Equality: the Goal and
the Reality, by Hilda Scott, Allison and Busby (London).

For more info call DSA office at: 260-3270.

Ellen Goodman, speaking upon receipt
of WEAL's Elizabeth Boyer Award.



Massachusetts
WEAL President
Ellen Honnet,
National
WEAL President
Carol Grossman, and
Radcliffe President
Matina Horner.

WEAL Honors Ellen Goodman

Pulitzer Prize winner Ellen Goodman received WEAL's 1981 Elizabeth Boyer Award for her outstanding contribution to the women's movement.

At a sold-out awards dinner in Boston Nov. 12, WEAL members and Goodman fans celebrated the wit and wisdom of the syndicated columnist.

A special cocktail reception before the event was sponsored by Massachusetts Senators Edward Kennedy and Paul Tsongas and Representatives Barney Frank and James Shannon. Sheila Clemon-Karp, an aide to Shannon, and Patti Saris from Kennedy's office presented letters congratulating Goodman and expressing support for public policies that improve the economic status of women.

Rep. Margaret Heckler appeared in person to honor Goodman.

Budget Cuts

(continued from page 1)

These changes come on top of older women's already depressed economic situation.

Jobs

Among people older than 40, unemployment is one-third higher for women than for men. The average unemployed woman who is older than 55 remains jobless for 19 weeks—almost twice the average for younger women.

Older women who are employed, like younger women, are victims of occupational segregation and are concentrated in low-paying, low-status jobs, most of which provide little or no pension coverage. Women older than 45, or one-third of all working women, earn only 55 percent of the average man's wages. By their mid-40s, many women have progressed to the top of their job ladders, stuck in dead-end jobs for the rest of their working lives.

Low wages, no savings, interrupted work histories and inadequate retirement incomes combine to insure poverty in old age.

Longevity and Poverty

Women have longevity on their side. At age 65, women can expect to live on the average 18 more years, while men can expect to live 14 years.

Yet more than one-fourth of all elderly women live near or below the poverty line, and women account for 85 percent of all aged unmarried people living in poverty. Indeed, 60 percent of all unmarried women older than 65 depend on Social Security as their only source of income—an average of \$3,649 a year. And women comprise 72 percent of all the aged who receive Supplemental Security Income, a form of welfare to aid the elderly poor. Elderly women surviving on Social Security alone receive about \$500 more than this guaranteed income.

Pensions

As for pensions, only 13 percent of working women receive them, and the average woman's private pension adds up to only \$2,186 a year. Only 2 percent of widows collect on their husband's benefits.

Good News

In what has been called President Reagan's worst political defeat to date, Congress voted to restore the \$122 minimum Social Security benefit to individuals currently receiving it, regardless of other pension income. Most of the 3 million recipients of the monthly payment are elderly women who have worked part time or sporadically on low wages.

However, no new individuals become eligible after December

(continued)

About WEAL

The Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) is a national membership organization dedicated to securing the economic, educational, and legal rights of all women through a program of research, public education, and legislative advocacy.

National President: Carol B. Grossman
Executive Director: Char Mollison
Legislative Director: Patricia Blau Reuss
Research Director: Maxine Forman
WWR Editor: Susan Aliff
Designer: Sharon Musikar

The WEAL Washington Report (WWR) (USPS # 396-450) is a bimonthly publication written and edited by WEAL. Membership in WEAL is \$25 (\$20 of which goes to support the WWR). Non-members subscription categories are: \$20 per year for individuals, \$50 for non-profit and educational institutions, and \$100 for businesses and governmental agencies. Dues and contributions are tax deductible. This newsletter may be reproduced in whole or in part provided credit is given to WEAL. Second class postage paid at Washington, DC.

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Hers

Mary-Lou Weisman



Alexa Grace

THE LITTLE RED HEN is the unrecognized tragic heroine of the feminist movement. It may not have been Anon's literary intention to fashion an allegorical feminist figure out of an egg-laying bird, but her intuitive unconscious must have known what it was doing.

That better personification of the present-day feminist than a bird with ruffled feathers asking other barnyard creatures to help her out with domestic chores? Implicit in this cautionary narrative, although unsaid, is that the reason why Little Red Hen is looking for someone to help make a loaf of bread is that she is getting her B. at Yale and simply does not have time to die the baby, prepare for her moot court trial and bake the bread. (Like all good allegories, this one invites interpretation.)

Unable to find anyone who would help her plant wheat, harvest the wheat, take the wheat to the miller's to be ground into flour or find the dough for the Cuisinart, Superhen did it all herself.

And, when the barnyard creatures gathered around to help her eat the bread, she had her little moment of self-righteous triumph. She slammed the door in their snouts and flounced off to consume the entire loaf herself at one sitting, thus forming the first example of compulsive eating and the oral tradition.

Like so many feminist antiheroines from Anna Karenina to Nora, the Little Red Hen had a tragic flaw. She was a whiner. She flapped around from pig to pig asking for help when what she really needed was parking, a concept perhaps too sophisticated for her bird brain.

"Help" is a tricky word — a verbal wolf in sheep's clothing. Once it gets its paw in the door, it becomes a domestic menace, tearing at the very fabric of marriage — the female warp and the male woof. Along with God, Country and Mom's Little Pie, it would seem that "help" could do no

The Hers column was designed as a forum for writing by women. For the next several weeks it will be written by Mary-Lou Weisman, the author of *Intensive Care: A Family Love Story.*

It's time for Man the Helper to evolve further.

wrong. Could kinder, more altruistic words come from the mouth of man than "Sure, I'll help?" They sure could. They would be "It's my turn to take charge."

The distinction is subtle. It is the difference between assisting with a particular task and taking responsibility for its performance. At the present evolutionary crossroads the distinction is crucial. If men and women are both out there in the marketplace, hunting and gathering, how come, when they both get home from a hard day on the veldt, she knows what's for dinner and he doesn't?

What is at stake here is nothing less than the survival of the species, yet man, alas, persists in playing his customary, annoying evolutionary role: that of missing link.

Male helpers come in many varieties. Worse than useless is the barely bipedal "Where do you keep the ice cubes, Hon?" type. Having just discovered his opposing thumb, he will occasionally lope about the kitchen, volunteering to unscrew the lids of mayonnaise jars.

Somewhat more evolved, but still intensely aggravating, is the disingenuous "Just let me know what I can do" genus, Cro-Magnon. His cranial capacity is slightly larger than his predecessor's, but, unfortunately, he uses it to play dumb.

Next in that long, slouching, hairy line is Homo erectus, the Dawn of Civilization types, those who

are just beginning to see the enlightenment. They constitute the first tentative appearance on earth of Man the Helper. More domesticated than his lumbering ancestors, Man the Helper agreeably drips the hollandaise into the blender but does not chip the centrifuged egg yolk off the cabinet doors. He will vacuum but he never changes the filter bag. He will put the wash in (some advanced subspecies even transfer it to the dryer) but he will not fold. He puts dishes into the dishwasher but he does not unload them. He carries groceries into the house but he doesn't put them away. He shops for groceries but he will not make a list. He will play with the baby but he has no sense of smell.

While distinctly better adapted than his forebears, Man the Helper, perhaps because of insufficient right-brain development, or possibly out of sheer perversity, has been unable to conceptualize the difference between helping and taking responsibility. As a result of this defect he frequently incurs the wrath of his mate and creates a marital environment that threatens to bring on another Ice Age.

Bewildered and eager to bring about a thaw, Man the Helper reverts to primal arboreal behavior — chest pounding, and when that doesn't work, a dozen red roses, and if that doesn't work, that old Stone Age standby, "Let's go out to dinner."

What he cannot or will not understand is that very few domestic chores legitimately require a cry for help; indeed, only two: folding king- or queen-size sheets and moving a grand piano.

All others such as cleaning, shopping, cooking and child-care can, of course, be more easily and quickly accomplished with help, but the very word help implies that one person is assisting while another is in charge. He may help her do the housework. He may even do a full 50 percent of the job, but it is she who is responsible for recognizing that the place is a mess, she who announces that it is time to clean and she, not he, who knows they are running out of Ajax.

In the genus known by the generic label Homo sapiens, it is she, not he, who deserves the title sapiens. It is a title most working wives are eager to share with their husbands. In addition to working the same hours outside the home, laughing at the same jokes, liking the same friends, sleeping in the same bed and loving the same children, it would be the ultimate marital, never mind civilizing experience, for her to share the same rung on the evolutionary ladder. It is lonely at the top.

While he may be sapiens as all get out at his job, as is she, he seems to pass through the Neolithic on his way home from work, arriving at his front door in a sadly devolved state; howling for his roots and tubers.

Perhaps the evolutionary tree needs pruning. The female branch extends from Pithecanthropus erectus through Doris Day to Gloria Steinem. How come the male branch is lopped off at Rock Hudson? Darwin only knows.

One thing is certain, however. Mankind is out on a limb. Man the Helper is an evolutionary dead end, as doomed as the dodo. Looking at the big evolutionary picture, it's time for a mutation. Civilization awaits the emergence of Homo domesticus responsabilis.

Hers

Mary-Lou Weisman

AN over-40 feminist contemplates a face lift with the same ambivalence with which an environmentalist with bugs in his garden eyes a can of DDT. Such embarrassing encounters with hypocrisy, such uncomfortable moments of truth, are visited upon the passionately committed with awful frequency. Perhaps the point is to keep us humble.

Didn't we mean it when we declared that we would no longer contort or pervert our true female features in order to conform to the oppressive demands of a dominant patriarchy?

Yet, here we are, more of us middle-aged women than ever before, touching the tips of our fingers to the tops of our cheekbones, giving little surreptitious upward tugs, assessing that new, smooth face through slightly Orientalized eyes and wondering, "Would I?"

Well, don't ask me. I've been standing in front of the bathroom mirror, hoisting my persona for the past two years, questioning my motives, and I still don't have the answer.

Some days I tug, and turn my head slowly, like the old M-G-M lion, examining my newly taut jawline until it pivots out of view, and scold myself for expending so much energy on what is nothing more than a trivial, privileged obsession.

Whom, after all, do I most admire — a serene, confident woman who would yield with grace to the natural aging process, or a frantic narcissist who would buy a 10-year reprieve by, quite literally, tying someone to slit her throat. I ought to be named of myself, and I am. But not ashamed enough, it seems, to stop obsessing.

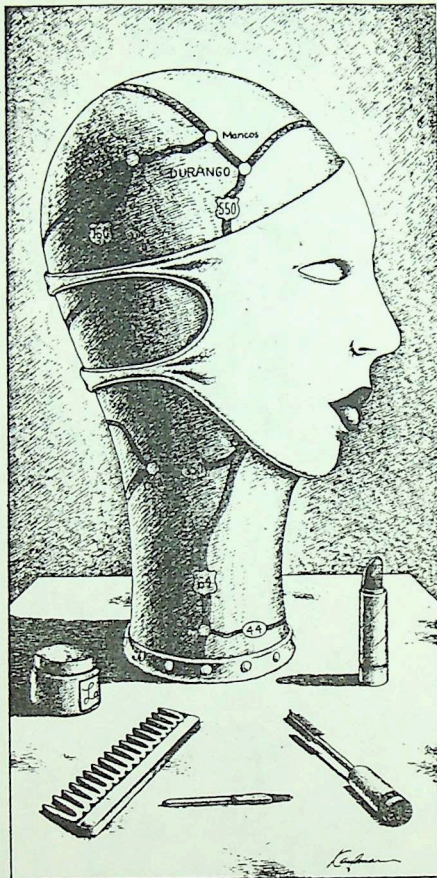
On other days, as I exact my pound of crepey flesh by grabbing at the nape of my neck, and look like Ronald Reagan in a wind tunnel, I see the absurdity of my obsession. Even as we live in a world where the population of middle-aged and elderly people is gaining on the young, still we do not take advantage of our numbers.

On my most idealistic, high-minded days, I want to fling myself against that impossible, oppressive youth cult. Someday, I tell myself, the vogue of trying to look young while growing old will, like other social fashions, spend itself and vanish. At times like this, I remind myself that yesterday's abject pulchritude is today's repulsive cellulite.

Ah, but can I wait? Can that brave, nascent sprout of self-worth and self-determination planted in feminism 15 years ago take root and flourish in this predominantly alien environment?

On other days, I wonder if the face lift is a feminist issue at all. I suspect that there are increasing numbers of men, too, who, in the privacy of their throats, lay down their razors and tug upward at their sideburns. Some of them, like some of us, get out of sheer vanity. Other men, like some women, suspect — and they are probably right — that a face lift improves their chances in a marketplace world where the competition for jobs favors the young.

As for myself, I am not competing for a job in the marketplace world. I am sitting in the back room of my house, typing and growing dewlaps where no one who reads me can see me. Nobody cares how old writers get, or how old they look. The worst



Robert Kaufman

A face lift poses a potent metaphor.

that can happen to you is that your publisher will leave your photo off the dust jacket.

I do not think, however, that too many men worry, as they tug after shaving, that their wives will leave them for a younger, smooth-skinned man. That mostly happens to women, and it happens a lot. And when it does, it is so severe a blow that even if she never wanted one before, she gets a face lift and ventures forth to compete with younger women for a man her own age, or older.

So maybe that's the bitter extent to which the face lift is exclusively a women's issue.

But I am not looking for a man. My husband says he likes the way I look. He confesses that he sometimes looks at younger women, but then he reminds himself of how little he'd have to talk about with them, how shallow they'd seem, how boring.

"And vapid," I add too eagerly. "You forgot vapid."

And some days I indulge in rationalization. It's not that I want to look younger, I tell myself; I just want to look neater. But I cannot hide behind that little semantic fiction for long. "Neater," when it comes to skin, means "younger." I know of no old person whose skin responded to use and gravity by slipping upward and tucking itself in behind the ears with hospital corners. I must face it. I do want to look younger.

There is a place out West where the states of Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona meet. A stone is planted on that spot so that tourists can photograph each other. I remember getting down on my hands and knees on that stone, much to my children's delight, so that I could truly say I'd been in all four states at once.

Standing here in front of the mirror, I wonder if I am at a philosophic intersection where vanity, vogue, fear of aging and insecurity meet and collide.

I still have the map we used for that westward drive from Connecticut to California 13 years ago. The children took turns drawing a heavy pencil line over every highway and rural road we traveled that lovely summer. There was a detour to show our older son the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N. Y. We laugh out loud whenever we look at that map and see that we started our trip west by heading due north.

Whenever we drive west, we use that map. It's fun to remember where we've been. Besides, an old map has other advantages. Thirteen years ago I struggled at the end of each day to fold the map closed and put it in the glove compartment; now it practically folds itself along well-worn lines. We've briefly discussed the obvious advantages of plotting future trips on a cleaner, neater map, but we prefer the old one. It has character.

Can I feel about my aging face the way I feel about that map? There is, written upon it, every gene I inherited, every smile I smiled, every scream, every frown, every cry; every time I squinted, every cigarette I smoked, every hour in the sun (before, and after, I knew it aged the skin); even every ambivalent tug I've tugged these last two years. It's all there — written all over my face. It is my legacy. It is my self.

On these days, standing at that philosophical intersection, it seems that the face lift is a frivolous issue, but a potent metaphor. It is a metaphor for no less crucial a question than how we face up to ourselves, as reflected in our lives as well as in our mirrors.

The bottom line, the ultimate wrinkle, is the integrity of the self. I wish I could face it down, but I can't. One must fight for one's self, even though the reward for waging that battle is often no more, but never less, than the cold consolation of integrity.

That's why I haven't gotten a face lift — so far.

quotidiano donna

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il regime lancia lo stile fioroni

la nuova trasmissione televisiva di nanni loi insegna a fare l'identikit, il disco con la voce di toni negri regalata dall'*espresso* ai suoi lettori invita alla caccia del telefonista del caso moro, la stampa è concorde nell'accreditare la rivelazione-continua di fioroni. di questo personaggio pubblichiamo alcune lettere che da sole bastano a gettare molte ombre sulla sua personalità e sui suoi intenti

ROMA — L'articolo del «decreto legge» Cossiga che prevede la riduzione della pena alla metà per il terrorista pentito ha un nome e cognome: Carlo Fioroni. È la sua «garanzia», la promessa pagata in anticipo

ti tutti i calcoli il «terrorista pentito» uscirà dal carcere, tempo tre anni. Se non avesse confessato a scapito degli altri — perchè lui si tiene sempre accuratamente fuori: «quel giorno non c'ero».



ogni collettivo 10 abbonamenti

Questa settimana abbiamo 1.000 nuovi abbonamenti. Per riuscirci è necessario che oltre alle singole lettrici si mobilitino tutte le donne che operano in strutture come consultori, coordinamenti sindacali, corsi delle 150 ore, collettivi, ecc. Se ognuna di queste strutture sottoscriverà 10 abbonamenti *Quotidiano donna* avrà garantita la sua sopravvivenza per tutto il 1980.

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*una farsa
dal finale scontato
sta per andare in scena
a venezia*

filonucleari e incompetenti hanno deciso il nostro futuro: gli esperti convocati al convegno nazionale sulla sicurezza nucleare sono tutti dipendenti dell'Enel o del Cnen. con il loro parere positivo hanno dato il via alle pericolosissime centrali autofertilizzanti.

A Venezia dal 25 al 27 gennaio, andrà in scena la farsa: dal titolo «Convegno nazionale sulla sicurezza nucleare». Nei luoghi cari ad Arlecchino, servo di professione, ma per lo meno scaltro, assisteremo ad un'aula del finale non

Sette miliardi per ogni comune che dirà sì alla centrale

ROMA — (f.d.) Nucleare: Andreatta ha dato il via a 5 nuove centrali. Così dice lui. E' ministro del Bilancio, speriamo per poco. E' presidente della commissione Interregionale

zanzibar: processo il 28 gennaio

Lunedì 28 gennaio ci sarà la seconda udienza del processo contro le 5 compagne arrestate nel locale solo per donne «Zanzibar» il 1° dicembre scorso. Due di loro, Nicola e Tiziana, sono state accusate, in quanto proprietarie del locale, di aver agevolato l'uso di sostanze stupefacenti all'interno di Zanzibar. Le altre tre, Tonla, Enza, Isabella di radunata sodiziosa, resistenza e favoreggiamento alla fuga.

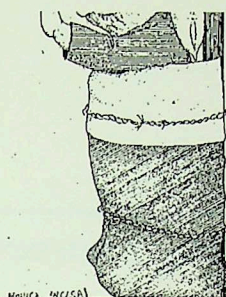
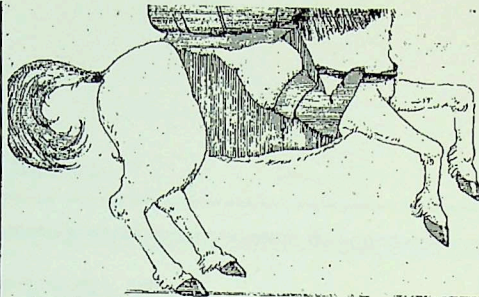
Questa udienza dovrebbe essere definitiva. Tiziana e Nicola continuano a ribadire la loro estraneità ai fatti addebitati essendosi pronunciate più volte contro l'uso e lo spaccio di droga e sottolineano l'importanza politica dell'esistenza di uno spazio solo per donne aperto alla musica, ai dibattiti, agli spettacoli teatrali e alle manifestazioni culturali.

Invitiamo tutte le compagne ad intervenire al processo che si svolgerà lunedì mattina alle ore 9, 1 sezione del tribunale penale, piazzale Clodio.

per la programmazione economica, che l'11 gennaio ha approvato il nuovo piano decennale dell'Enel. E' un tipo duro (sembra un gran ciecone ma sotto sotto è una roccia) che ha la fissa della programmazione «forte» alla tedesca, per tirar fuori il paese dalla «democrazia delle decisioni».

E' sicuro di varare il piano entro 30 giorni e di cominciare i lavori entro pochi mesi. I siti prescelti per gli insediamenti sono segreti, ma si sa già tutto. Le nuove centrali nucleari saranno cinque: sul Ticino a sud di Pavla, nel Molise 6-7 km all'interno del lito-

segue a pag. 2



Purss non è un paese fraterno la guerra dell'oro io che alla guerra mi ci sono ritrovata i giocattolini dei maschi imbecilli

clara valenziano

lila migale

anna piccioni

odda di pompeo magno

a pag. 8/9

padova inchiesta 7 aprile:

la sua incriminazione si è sciolta come neve al sole

con la proposta delle 200.000 lire allegate alla busta paga del marito, la dc ha inteso dividerci tra sposate e non sposate e ribadire la dipendenza dall'uomo. bisogna assolutamente continuare il dibattito.

PADOVA — Il 17 gennaio è stata interrogata a Padova dal giudice Palombolini in presenza dell'avvocato Vincenzo Todisco, quale sostituto dell'avvocato Tina Lagostena Bassi, Mariarosa Dalla Costa nota esponente del movi-

mento per il salario al lavoro domestico di Padova. Il mandato di comparizione notificato l'8 gennaio, dopo che il 7 luglio scorso già aveva ricevuto una comunicazione giudiziaria per partecipazione a banda armata, le contestava

l'organizzazione e dirigenza di Potere operaio, nonché l'organizzazione e dirigenza di «Autonomia operaia organizzata».

L'abbiamo intervistata subito dopo l'interrogatorio.

segue a pag. 3

a pag. 2



la vipera domanda: "si dice donna o si dice zero?"

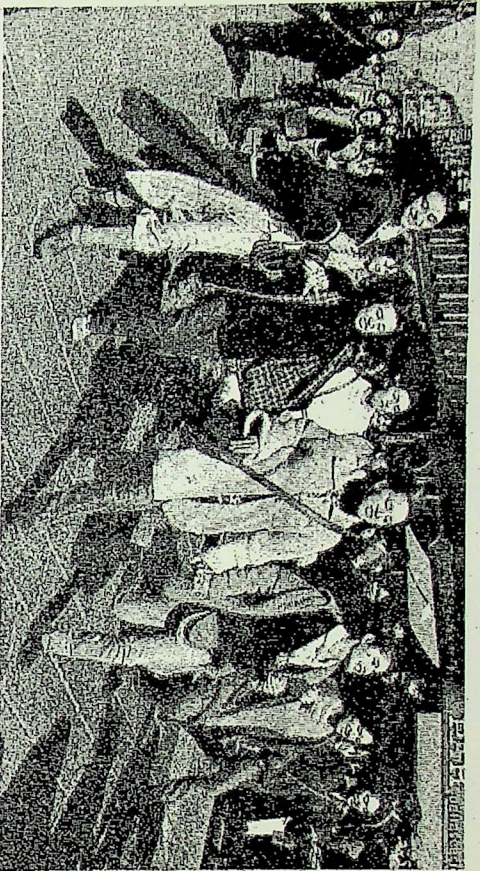
l'autista del pulmino violenta una scolaretta

una bambina è stata violentata dall'autista del pulmino della scuola. del fatto, subito messo a tacere, ci hanno informato le donne di un collettivo femminista di udine.

a pag. 5



movimento



FIRENZE — Nella foto: un momento della manifestazione regionale contro la violenza istituzionale e non, organizzata dal movimento femminista toscano.

la sua incriminazione si è sciolta come neve al sole

segue da pag. 1

di mandato di comparizione si è rivelato totalmente incredibile — ci dice Mariarosa — vista l'inesistenza anche di cosiddetti indizi. Infatti, se ci si vuole riferire al periodo intorno al '68, tutti sappiamo come fosse caratterizzato da una fase alta di movimento che coinvolgeva, in un dibattito molto allargato, diverse componenti sociali. In tale movimento si sviluppava senz'altro anche una tematica operaista. Che il mio contributo di allora a quel dibattito politico e a quella militanza spontanea possa configurarsi come organizzato e dirigente di Potere Operario mi pare del tutto ahinivo perché non vi era, a quel tempo, alcuna struttura organizzata e quindi è inconcepibile che io organizzassi o dirigessi alcun gruppo extra-istituzionale. Dal '70 in poi, la mia storia, come ho avuto modo di ribadire, è nota a tutto il Movimento femminista in Italia e all'estero. Le prime definizioni, che sono state alla base del discorso politico che da allora ho portato avanti, ho cominciato a formularle proprio in quell'anno a seguito di discussioni comuni con compagne inglesi e americane. Altrimenti all'analisi della famiglia come luogo di produzione anziché solo di consumo, del lavoro domestico come forma specifica del lavoro di riproduzione della

forza - lavoro, della donna come soggetto di tale lavoro.

Altrimenti alla richiesta di salario al lavoro domestico, richiesta fondamentalmente di una giornata lavorativa complessiva più corta e in cambio dell'orario per la donna, su cui tante lotte sono state condotte in vari paesi. Anche in Italia lo Stato, di fronte al rifiuto delle donne di lavorare in cambio di miseria, è costretto ad alzare il tiro della risposta. Alcuni esponenti della democrazia Cristiana proposero oggi 200.000 lire mensili da aggiungere però alla busta paga del marito. Sappiamo che questa «elusaola» oltre a voler ribadire per la donna l'obbligo alla dipendenza dall'uomo, intende dividere le donne stesse tra loro, anzitutto quelle sposate da quelle non sposate. Ritengo impronunciabile aprire con forza il dibattito su questa proposta perché quei soldi sono una minima parte di ciò che ci spetta, a tutte indiscriminatamente, e li vogliamo, aumentati di molto e direttamente nelle nostre mani.

A Mariarosa è stata manifestata tutta la solidarietà del movimento femminista italiano e internazionale come testimoniano il primo telegramma di Kate Millet, che pubblichiamo, e le firme di adesione che si sono via via aggregate.

NEW YORK. Sabato 14 luglio 1979. Protestiamo contro l'atto infamante

torio portato avanti dalla Magistratura italiana contro la nostra compagna Mariarosa Dalbosco, che è stata indebita di partecipazione a banda armata e contro un'inchiesta aperta contro di lei.

Mariarosa Dalla Costa è molto conosciuta nel Nord America per il importante contributo che ha dato allo sviluppo della teoria e della lotta femminista. Non sarà lasciata se-

Esprimiamo tutta la nostra solidarietà alla nostra compagna e ci mobilitiamo finché sarà fatta completa riparazione delle accuse mosse che rappresentano un attacco al Movimento Femminista Internazionale.

Kate Millet, Rose Baxendale, Liz Ewson, Jessie Gliberman, Healths Rights,

Wima Carfenzis / Elaine Karp, Frances Spinnel, Mary Camp, Barbara Brown, Susan Bishop, Dolaine Earle / Barbara Ehrenreich / Judith Kanter / Marco St. James (Congo) / Gyl Nichols / Ruth Perle / Ruth Willmore (Spain) / Rib S. National Union of Journalists (London) / Sophie Cobbs (Ireland) / Rosa - left and feminist Type - setter (London) / Eileen K. renahor (Spain) / Rib coll. & three writers' union (London) / Amanda Schepferne (Spain) / Rib and Radical feminist Group (London) / Wages for housework Committee: New York & New Orleans / New Orleans women against violence against women / Red of feminist women / Health Center Los Angeles / Feminist Women Center di Chicago / San Diego, San Ana, Concord (Calif.) e di Atlanta (Georgia) / Rita Carls / Nuala Asse (Ireland) / Rita Carls / National women health center work / The state of the women community health center, Cambridge (Mass) / The Lesbian Community Fund, Toronto / Toronto Yriges for housework committee / Elean Agger, Toronto / Toronto un mag / Barbara Kild / Toronto feminist women health center / Lesbian mothers' national defense fund, Seattle (Washington).

“signor procuratore non ci metti in gabbia, farai i conti con la nostra rabbia”

questo uno degli slogan più gridati alla manifestazione organizzata dai collettivi femministi toscani che si è svolta a Firenze sabato scorso in occasione del processo d'appello contro il carabiniere violentatore di una minorene assotto in prima istanza.

centinata i collettivi presenti alla manifestazione, provenienti da tutta la toscana.

FIRENZE — Contro ogni violenza istituzionalizzata e non che opprime le donne. Con questo tema sabato 19 gennaio si è svolta a Firenze una manifestazione regionale promossa e sostenuta dal Mov. femminista toscano, dall'Udi e dalla Corrente delle donne rivoluzionarie.

Due gli obiettivi dichiarati dall'inchiesta: la denuncia della violenza sessuale collegata ad uno specifico e gravissimo fatto di cronaca. Una giovane donna di Grosseto, Annalisa, ha subito stupro da parte di un carabiniere che nel processo di primo grado è stato assolto. La donna si appella contro questa violenza, e questa assoluzione infamante. Giovedì 24 avrà luogo a Firenze il processo di appello contro i violentatori. Il movimento femminista, solidale con la donna, scende in sua difesa e per sostenere l'impegnativo confronto con l'opinione pubblica: la proposta di legge di iniziativa popolare contro la violenza sessuale. In un momento politicamente molto difficile per tutti le donne di Firenze e della Toscana si sono ancora una volta rivelate capaci di portare in piazza qualche centinaio di persone. Si è ripetuto così lo spettacolo sempre suggestivo dello «sindacato» nel centro storico di Firenze di un corteo formato di donne, per lo più molto giovani capaci di esprimere i loro contenuti di vita e di lotta attraverso canti e slogan bellissimi.

Vengono riproposti con forza i temi ormai storici, accanto a quelli più legati all'attualità del momento: la famiglia, la sessualità, il lavoro, i servizi sociali, il rifiuto del part-time,

nasce in urss il primo giornale femminista

10 dicembre 1979: esce il primo numero dell'Almanacco: «La donna e la Russia», realizzato da un Collettivo di donne di diverse città, Leningrado, Tallin, Novosibirsk, Arktangelsk. Pubbliciamo integralmente l'apello e nel prossimo numero, il loro editoriale.

Appello - «Il primo giornale della donna libera.

Care sorelle, fin dal nostro ingresso nella vita, facciamo l'esperienza di quanto pesi sul nostro corpo, il destino di essere donne.

Non ci rendiamo subito conto della realtà di questa possente tenaglia che ci unifica, ci ter-

se, questo ci sembra fortuito, accidentale. Non riusciamo a credere che la vita possa punire in questo modo esseri innocenti, solo per il fatto di essere donne. Per l'intera umanità, ogni sofferenza è inaccettabile, deve essere alleviata, immediatamente fatta sparire, tranne quella delle donne. La nostra condizione è talmente assurda, insopportabile che a volte ci sembra debba scompa-rire da sola come se fosse un incubo notturno.

Ma niente si modifica da sé. Siamo sicure che nessuno ci aiuterà se non noi stesse. Potremo trovare una via d'uscita solo riunendoci per parla-

Nelle pagine di questo giornale noi metteremo in luce la situazione delle donne nella famiglia, nel lavoro, rispetto alle strutture sanitarie, alla maternità, alla situazione dei nostri figli, al problema dei diritti morali delle donne. Pubblicheremo testi di donne, letterari,

sulla vita politica, sociale, racconti completi sulla vita delle donne della nostra epoca. Vi chiediamo di scrivere i vostri problemi. Mandateci vostri scritti, racconti sulle «sorelle madri», amiche. In caso di necessità, le corrispondenti del nostro giornale verranno a trovarvi per aiutarvi, per quanto ci sarà possibile. Speriamo che unendo i nostri sforzi, usciremo da questa situazione, allevieremo la sofferenza delle donne e metteremo in movimento la liberazione della donna. «Quando si rende palase ciò che è segreto, è la luce», a cura di maria grazia mostra

maria teresa paggi

Study on Definitions of Jobless Is Urged

By FILEEN SHANAHAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10—A group of top Administration officials have recommended unanimously to President Ford that he name a special Presidential committee to study what should be done to meet the mounting criticisms of the nation's most closely watched economic indicator, the unemployment statistics.

No one with any knowledge of how the unemployment figures are compiled believes that they are being falsified in any way. Rather, the criticisms center on whether the current official definitions of unemployment give an accurate picture of the actual amount of joblessness and the hardships it brings.

If the definition of unemployment were changed in the manner proposed by Ronald Reagan, the former California Governor, and other conservatives, the reported rate of jobless might be as much as 4 or 5 percentage points below its present level of 8.3 percent.

Conversely, if the definitions proposed by many liberal academicians and by such organizations as the Urban League were adopted, it would rise by about 2 percentage points.

Committee Urged

The criticisms have become so widespread and intense during the current recession that President Ford's Economic Policy Board has accepted a suggestion from the Labor Department, which has the responsibility for compiling, publishing and analyzing the statistics, that the President name a committee of outside experts from outside the Government to study the controversy.

Members of the board include the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor and Commerce and the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. The board is the Administration's chief coordinating group for economic policy proposals and programs.

Criticisms of the unemployment figures are coming from all points on the political compass and, in many instances, embody precisely conflicting views.

Officials of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which does the actual work on the figures, take some comfort in the fact that their critics are anything but united, but do agree that the time has come for a new look at the way unemployment is defined.

The Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Julius Shiskin, has actively pushed the idea of creating a committee of non-government experts to look at the problems.

At present, the bureau defines as unemployed anyone who was out of work when the Census Bureau's enumerator came to call and who had actively looked for work at any time during the preceding four weeks.

Conservative critics prefer a different measure of unemployment that would include only what they consider serious cases of joblessness. Among the changes in definition proposed by various conservatives are the following:

1 Do not count as unemployed anyone who has a working spouse.

2 Do not count any teen-ager as unemployed who is living with a parent who has a job.

3 Do not count anyone as unemployed who has been out of work for less than a specified period of time, perhaps four or five weeks at the minimum. The period for exclusion from the figures might be even longer for those who are looking for their first job or who are coming into the work force after a period of not choosing to work.

4 Tighten up on the definition of "looking for work" to make sure that all those who say they are unemployed are making a serious search for work.

5 Exclude from the unemployment figures person whose lack of education or previous job experience render them unqualified for most jobs.

Officials at the Bureau of Labor Statistics say that adopting any or all of these criteria would turn the statistics into a measure of hardship rather than a measure of unemployment, and they would not like to see this done.

However, they see some merit in the gathering and compilation of new hardship-of-unemployment statistics, so long as they merely supplement and do not supplant the present method of measuring unemployment.

The bureau experts have a little more difficulty in arguing that the change in the statistics being sought by liberals and black groups would change the fundamental nature of the figures.

Liberals have proposed these three changes in the measurements:

6 Everyone who wants to work full-time but can find only part-time work should be counted as an unemployed person.

7 Individuals who want to work and are available for work but who have not recently looked actively for work because they are sure there are no jobs to be had—these are

called "discouraged workers"—should be counted as unemployed.

Persons at work in special government-financed job programs for the unemployed should be counted as unemployed, because they have been unable to find anything except such artificially created jobs and their situation shows how far short the economic system is falling of creating work for all who want it.

Labor Department experts simply reject this last proposal as not part of any valid measure of employment.

They see more merit in the

inclusion of the part-time unemployed and the "discouraged workers" in the statistics. The discouraged workers present a technical problem, however, according to the bureau experts.

An attempt is made now to identify discouraged workers, but the statistics on the number of such workers are published only quarterly, not monthly, because they are based on a survey of households that are not going to be used in the statistical sample in future months.

The reason that only those households that are going out of the rotating sample are used for this purpose is that the bureau has found that whenever the Government interviewer starts asking questions about why an individual has stopped looking for work, the interviewer gets the kind of answers that require him to count the interviewee as unemployed in subsequent interviews.

Different Questions

Some B.L.S. experts think it would be a good idea to test several types of questions designed to identify those who are to be discouraged to look for work in the hope of finding some questions that do not distort the results and could be used as the base for a monthly report on these workers. The questions asked was recommended, and carried out, the last time that a committee of outside experts studied the statistics.

That was in 1961 and 1962 when a committee of six economists and statisticians headed by Prof. Robert Aaron Gordon of the University of California at Berkeley did such a study for the Kennedy Administration.

The recommendations of the Gordon committee, whose members included experts from labor and business, as well as the university, won wide acceptance and most were put into effect.

A number of the proposals were technical, but the best-remembered recommendation demanded an end to the previous practice of having the unemployment statistics announced by the Secretary of Labor, or some other political appointee, and said the initial announcement should come, instead, simply from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

cf. Outbway

Article de mon
come en 76
liberals
exclusion de
donc pas
discourager
peut le faire
pensez
travailler
uniquement
Calonne

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 1976

NYT January 13, '76

How Do You Put a Price Tag on a Housewife's Work?

By KEITH LOVE

What is the economic value of a housewife?

When is a woman worth more in the home than in the labor market?

Sensing an increasing interest in questions that have intrigued social scientists and economists for years, researchers at the Social Security Administration recently produced some figures for women across the United States.

They found that the American housewife's average economic value, using 1972 data for all ages, was \$4,705.

Changing Value

But the Social Security researchers found that the economic value of a housewife—and its relation to the wage of her counterpart in the labor force—changed as she grew older. A woman in the home was worth \$6,061 between the ages of 20 and 24, while her counterpart in the labor force was earning on average only \$3,884.

The housewife's peak value—\$6,417—was reached between the ages of 25 and 29, the study found. But the average earnings of a woman of the same age range employed outside the home pulled ahead to \$7,495.

That disparity in favor of the working woman grew in succeeding age groups. After age 54, the full-time house-

wife's economic value declined sharply, as her housework apparently decreased.

It is too early to tell whether the Social Security figures will gain currency with economists, who have traditionally chosen not to measure a housewife's productivity because it falls in the so-called nonmarket sector, along with such activi-

ties as charity work and unpaid political canvassing.

There are no specific data on nonmarket productivity, so although the housewife performs vital jobs ranging from housekeeper to babysitter to interior decorator, her work is not computed in the Gross National Product.

The Social Security Administration study found the

lack of specific data unsatisfactory, but the agency felt it had an even more practical reason for computing the housewife's worth.

"We were studying the impact of illness and death on national productivity," Barbara Cooper of the agency's health insurance division said. "And we felt the housewife had to be included."

Using the market-cost approach, which applies the going wage for such jobs as babysitter or cook to the same jobs performed by the housewife, Mrs. Cooper and her associates drew on the results of a 1972 Cornell study of Syracuse housewives to determine the dollar value of housework. The findings of the Cornell study were then applied to all American women, not in the labor force, through calculations using a 5 per cent sample of 1970 national census data.

Effect of Children

The key variable was number and age of children in the home. Women who did housework and also had young children received the highest economic evaluation.

The use of minimum wage levels for computing the economic value of housework led to some criticism.

"Our figures are very conservative," said Mrs. Cooper. She said that some women had called her office with

that complaint. But she added: "The figures are valid if you accept the list of services used, such as dishwasher and homemaker's aide."

One leading economist who questions the Social Security report is Carolyn Shaw Bell, Katherine Cozman Professor of Economics at Wellesley College.

Professor Bell criticized the agency's use of the market cost methodology—that is, applying a cook's wage to the housewife's work.

Swelling the Ranks

"What would happen to the level of wages now paid in the market to cooks and cleaners if all the unpaid housewives joined the ranks?" asked Professor Bell. "There's no reason to think wages would stay as high as they are now."

"Also, some women stay at home to perform these tasks because they don't want to pay the going rate. It's not appropriate to value their time at sums they're unwilling to pay."

But Professor Bell felt that any approach was academic. "Estimating the housewife's worth is a waste of time. You aren't improving her life unless you are fighting for equal rights and more daycare centers."

Carole De Saram, president of the National Organization for Women chapter in New

York City, agrees with the need for more useful battles but she thinks the housewife's worth should be computed nonetheless.

"In our society there is a dollar value on everything," said Mrs. De Saram. "Placing a value on the housewife's work draws attention to her work and her worth."

Insurance Figures

But Mrs. De Saram said she thought the Social Security figures low. She put more value on figures insurance companies use when they have to determine the housewife's worth to her family if she dies or is killed. "Some of the estimates run as high as \$15,000 a year," Mrs. De Saram said.

The University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research has just begun what it hopes will be the definitive study of how nonmarket time is allocated. Housework is a key element of time spent at unpaid occupations.

"We work from the premise that the only scarce resource people have is time," said the Institute's Dr. Thomas Juster, "and we are trying to measure a number of things such as time spent reading and watching television."

"But we will have some figures on the value of housework, although putting a value on a person such as the housewife is grossly inadequate. She does more than the cooking and the cleaning."

Average Economic Value of Housewives and Working Women

Age Group	Average Economic Value of Women Keeping House Using the Market Cost Approach	Average Earnings of Women Employed Year Round and Full Time
15 to 19	\$5,389	\$4,194
20 to 24	6,061	5,884
25 to 29	6,417	7,495
30 to 34	6,416	7,423
35 to 39	5,892	7,289
40 to 44	5,908	7,341
45 to 49	5,222	7,306
50 to 54	5,222	7,387
55 to 59	3,618	7,094
60 to 64	2,942	7,052
65 to 69	2,250	} 5,456*
70 to 74	1,602	
75 to 79	1,090	
80 to 84	634	
85 and over	359	

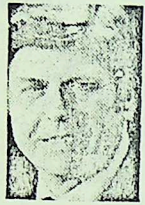
*Composite figure for women aged 65 and over.

Source: Social Security Administration, 1972 Data.

Le donne offrendo: Troppo me mercato e lavoro
alterano lo agere della disocc.

Jerald terHorst

Women distorting jobless figures



WASHINGTON—Something strange is occurring in the politics of unemployment in this presidential campaign. It may be related to the puzzling statistics and to the changed circumstances of the unemployed.

If past years, a jobless rate of 7.9 per cent eight weeks before the election would be catastrophic for any President's election chances. It would signal a devastating recession, the collapse of the economy, and conjure visions of bread lines, closed plants, and gaunt faces of whole families without means of support.

We are not experiencing such despair in 1976. Republican Ford is doing better than expected in many polls in industrial states, although still the underdog. He is concentrating on conquering inflation, not unemployment, and the surveys show that most Americans also worry more about rising prices than lack of work.

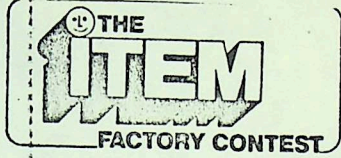
AS IF TO PROVE the point, Democrat Jimmy Carter is saying that while

curing unemployment has a high priority, he is not going to unfurl a lot of new federal programs that might plunge the federal budget even deeper into the red.

Yet a jobless rate of nearly 8 per cent is not a healthy omen. From a peak of 9.2 per cent in May, 1975, the highest since the Great Depression, it fell to 7.3 per cent in May this year, and then slowly began edging back up to its present level.

AFL-CIO President Meany, a sharp Ford critic, notes that 2.5 million more persons are unemployed now than when the President took office. He says the rate would be 10.5 per cent if the Bureau of Labor Statistics actually took into account those who are forced to work only part time or are too discouraged to seek jobs. And in many industrial cities, joblessness is well above the national average.

SO HOW COME the unemployed aren't marching on the white House? And how come Carter and the Democrats can't seem to electrify the electorate? Those confounding statistics may have the answer.



An ad in the News Mill of Issaquah, Wash.:

"FREE—German Shepherd, male, 1 hr. old, good with children."
[And a fast learner.]
Lucia Person, Issaquah.

Page 1 weather forecast in the Seattle [Wash.] Post-Intelligencer:

"PARTLY SUNNY, increasing tonight. High, 50, low, about 40..."
[Outlook for tomorrow: Fire and brimstone over all the earth.]
Dale Sage, Seattle.

A Chicago police boat crew member describing the need for care in rescue operations, as quoted in The Tribune:

"When our 14 tons of steel come up on fiberglass, just one mistake could smash it to kindling."
[Steel or fiberglass kindling?]
S. T. Mead, Chicago.

Delivering a paint commercial, radio commentator Paul Harvey said that the stuff was guaranteed: "If you don't like it, return it and get your money back."
[The first step is to scrape it off the garage.] Charles O. Yankovich, Tampa.

Contributors of items selected for the Item Factory Contest receive a prize—this month, a copy of "The Notre Dame Before and After the Game Cookbook." Send your complete, dated suggestion, with name of source, to: Item Factory Contest, Room 590, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago 60611.

The high rate of unemployment is occurring simultaneously with record high employment. The number of persons with jobs climbed to 88 million in August, up from July and June. Indeed, the total of employed workers has risen steadily in the last year of the Ford presidency. So why then, doesn't unemployment go down?

One often overlooked explanation is that women are pouring into the work force this year at an unprecedented pace. During the last two years, the number of working women has jumped by 2.9 million, accounting for two-thirds of the increase. Women, who made up a third of the work force in 1960, now account for nearly 41 per cent of all jobholders. That's a figure the Labor Department's experts don't expect to see until 1985. Indeed, almost 48 per cent of all women over 16 now work or want a job.

JUST WHY so many women have hit the job markets this year is not fully understood, the experts say. But some of the reasons are pretty obvious. Many wives are seeking to offset the inroads that inflation has made on family income. Then there is the rapidly rising divorce rate. Effective birth control has liberated many young wives. And the women's drive for equality has increased women's hiring opportunities and made it socially acceptable—even desirable—to work outside the home.

Put it all together and it doesn't spell mother. It suggests instead that the unemployment rate, statistically and politically, no longer is a good thermometer of the overall economic condition of the country.

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