

11  
12

# Wages for Housework

From the Government  
For ALL Women

MEANS THE POWER TO RESIST  
FORCED STERILIZATION  
AS WELL AS  
FOCED MATERNITY

THE POWER TO DECIDE  
WHETHER OR NOT  
WE WANT TO HAVE CHILDREN,  
WHEN, HOW MANY, AND UNDER  
WHAT CONDITIONS



N.Y. Wages for Housework Committee

## Forced Sterilization

is one of the many ways in which governments all over the world try to control the conditions of our work and the conditions of our life.

They want to decide how many children we should or should not have, who is allowed to have children when, and under what conditions, because it is from our uteruses that all "their" workers are born, and our "product" is too precious for them to leave any decision in our hands.

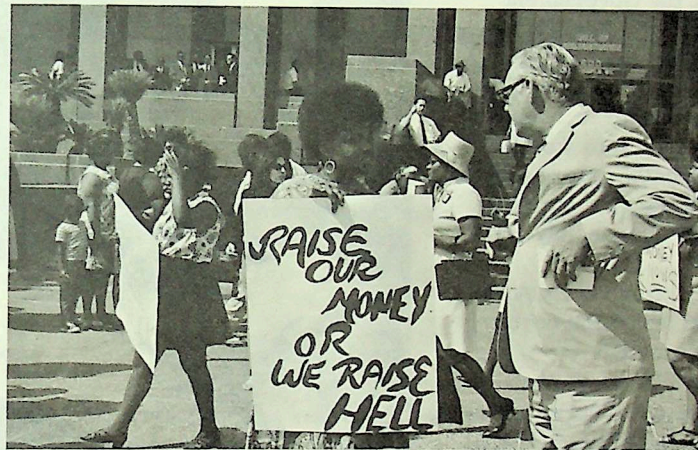
WHEN THEY NEED MORE WORKERS, WE WOMEN ARE FORBIDDEN ANY FORM OF CONTRACEPTION AND WE ARE CONDEMNED TO UNINTERRUPTED MATERNITY, OR WE ARE FORCED TO RESORT TO BACK STREET ABORTIONISTS OR TO PROFESSIONAL BUTCHERS WHO MAKE MILLIONS OFF OUR BELLIES.

WHEN THE WORKERS WE PRODUCE ARE NOT DISCIPLINED ENOUGH, OR WHEN WE CLAIM SOME MONEY FOR THE COST OF RAISING THEM---THAT IS, WHEN WE ARE NOT DISCIPLINED ENOUGH---THEY STERILIZE US.

No matter what it is called, in Bombay as in Puerto Rico or New York, "Family Planning" is a massive attack on women's bodies TO STERILIZE US AND THEREBY KILL THE STRUGGLE WE AND OUR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN MAKING.

IN THE USA IT IS WELFARE WOMEN AND BLACK WOMEN IN PARTICULAR WHO ARE THE MAIN TARGET OF THE GOVERNMENT STERILIZATION POLICY. 3

THE SAME GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY STERILIZED 35% OF THE WOMEN IN PUERTO RICO, AND SENT ITS EXPERTS ALL OVER THE WORLD TO ENFORCE COMPULSORY STERILIZATION ON ALL THOSE WHO ARE WAGELESS BUT REFUSE TO STARVE.



The government does not want our children when we are on welfare, because we have forced it to give us some money for raising them, and the government is always shopping for the cheapest workers.

They are also worried that without a man's authority in the house, we women are becoming "too independent", and raising children who are not willing to settle for the first lousy job that comes along, but instead are ready to fight to get what they want.

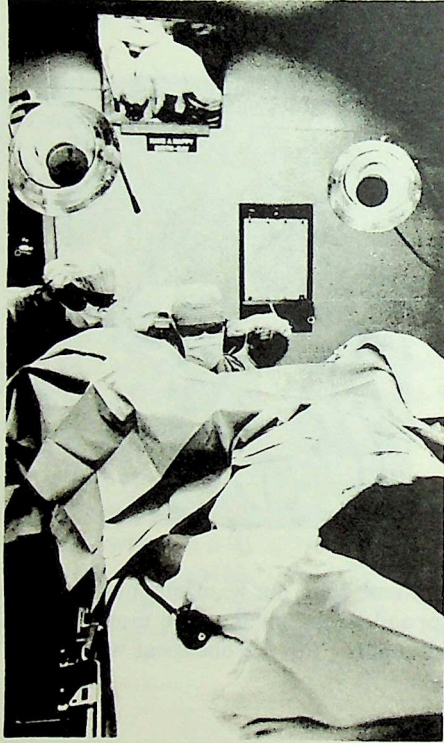
This is why, even according to government statistics, thousands of women are sterilized every year and STERILIZATION IS THE ONLY PROGRAM OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS FAMILY PLANNING AND 90% SUBSIDIZED BY GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

4

WHEN THERE ISN'T A MAN'S PAYCHECK TO "PROTECT US", THE THREAT OF STERILIZATION IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT MANY OF US STAY AWAY FROM HOSPITALS AS MUCH AS WE CAN AND NEVER GO THERE WITHOUT FEAR.

We know that the Government "guidelines" cannot "guarantee that sterilization is elective".

Today, more than ever, women are being coerced into sterilization by all possible forms of violence and blackmail: sterilization is up 300% since July 1970.



Some women, often very young, are sterilized under the cover of "medical reasons". Others are forced under the threat of being cut from welfare, to "give consent" while in labor or after an abortion. Still others are handed the story that this is the "only effective method of contraception", that it is reversible, and in any case, "it's nothing", "just a stitch", a "bandaid operation".

BUT EVEN IF WE ARE NOT FORCED TO SIGN, EVEN IF WE GIVE "OUR INFORMED CONSENT", NO STERILIZATION IS REALLY "ELECTIVE" AS LONG AS WE DON'T HAVE MONEY IN OUR HANDS TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN WE MAY WANT.

5

AS LONG AS WE HAVE NO MONEY OF OUR OWN BECAUSE WE WORK FOR NOTHING AT HOME AND FOR CRUMBS OUTSIDE THE HOME, NONE OF US CAN CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN, AND ALL OF US FACE STERILIZATION EVEN IF OUR TUBES ARE NOT CUT.

Many women today refuse to have children because having a second job is the only way of getting some money of our own, and we know that we can't handle both and must "choose" between the two. THIS TOO, IS FORCED STERILIZATION.

Some women refuse to have more children, or any children at all, because every child is more isolation, more dependence, more unpaid work for us, and we can't afford to pay this price.

The collapse of the birth rate to a record low shows the struggle we women are making to refuse the extra work every child imposes on us. BUT THIS STILL IS NOT A CHOICE.

A REAL CHOICE MEANS:

IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE OR NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN

AND ONLY WE WOMEN ---NOT THE GOVERNMENT---CAN MAKE

THIS DECISION.

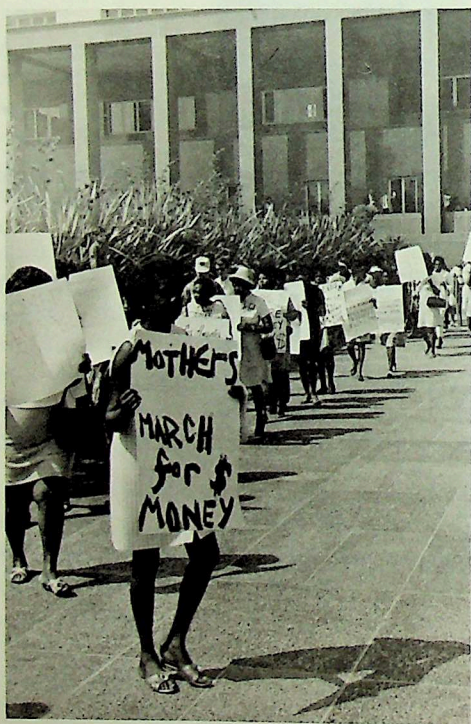
OUR WOMBS ARE NOT GOVERNMENT PROPERTY!

6

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST STERILIZATION AND FOR CONTROL OVER  
OUR BODIES BEGINS BY HAVING MONEY OF OUR OWN---MONEY WE  
DON'T HAVE TO WORK HARDER TO GET.

WE WANT

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FROM THE GOVERNMENT  
FOR ALL WOMEN BECAUSE MONEY IN OUR HANDS  
MEANS THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING CHILDREN  
WITHOUT PAYING FOR THEM WITH OUR LIVES.



7

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FOR ALL WOMEN MEANS

THE POWER TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO HAVE  
CHILDREN

THE POWER TO DEMAND SERVICES TO CUT DOWN ON HOUSEWORK  
AND THIS MEANS FIRST OF ALL FREE DAYCARE  
CENTERS OPEN ALL DAY LONG AND IN OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD

THE POWER TO TAKE A VACATION FROM HOUSEWORK, INCLUDING  
FROM OUR CHILDREN

THE POWER TO REFUSE THE DOUBLE SHIFT OF A SECOND JOB,  
WHICH IS NOW OUR ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO WORKING  
FOR NOTHING

THE POWER TO DEMAND FREE MEDICAL CARE, INCLUDING FREE  
CHILD BIRTH, AND METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION  
THAT DON'T RUIN OUR BODIES AND OUR SEXUALITY  
AS WELL.



New York WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE

CAMPAIGN OFFICE 288 - B Eighth Street

BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11215 tel. (212) 965 4112

Open Wed. & Sat. 11 a. m. to 4 p. m.

Books - Pamphlets - Posters - Record

Video tapes - Film - Speakers available

