

Wages for Housework and Welfare

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

Panels
Speak out
Movies and songs
Food and child care provided



WELFARE IS THE FIRST MONEY WE WOMEN HAVE WON DIRECTLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE WORK WE DO IN OUR HOMES.

IT IS NOT MUCH AND IT HARDLY PAYS FOR ALL OUR WORK. BUT IT IS A START AND IT IS OUR MONEY.

MONEY WE DON'T HAVE TO ASK ANY MAN FOR.

To thousands of us it makes the difference between being able to keep our children or having to give them up for adoption; being able to walk out on an unwanted relationship or being forced to stay with a man, even if he beats us up, because we depend on his money; being able to spend time with our children, or go crazy trying to handle the housework and a second job; being able to get by or see our children and ourselves starve.

This is what the "welfare mess" is really about!

BUT WELFARE ISN'T ENOUGH! WE MUST MAKE THE GOVERNMENT PAY ALL OF US FOR ALL THE HOUSEWORK WE DO.

Married or not, native or immigrant, with or without children, lesbian or straight, young or old, with or without a second job.

The unpaid work we all do in our homes, every day of the year, is the source of our weakness at every stage of our lives, wherever we are: at home and on the second job, in the hospitals and at the supermarkets, in the courts and at the welfare office.

AS LONG AS HOUSEWORK IS NOT CONSIDERED WORK:

We pay a heavy price for the little we get from welfare
Our lives are investigated as if we had committed a crime
They call us "bums" and "parasites" to divide us from other women
We women are pitted against one another as if our problems and our work were not the same



BUT WE REFUSE TO BE DIVIDED ANY LONGER

The attack on welfare women is an attack on all women:

To keep us in line
To keep us all working for nothing
To convince us that housework is not work, that we should not be paid for it, that we should do it for "love."

BUT LOVE DOESN'T PAY OUR BILLS

This is why we fought so hard for welfare and THIS IS WHY WE ARE CALLING THIS CONFERENCE, to break our isolation, to unite the power of our struggles and organize

**TO RESIST THE WELFARE CUTS
TO RESIST THE CRISIS
TO WIN WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL WOMEN**

**UNITED WE CAN WIN WHAT IS OURS
BECAUSE THERE ARE MILLIONS OF US WHO ARE SAYING
NO MORE WORK FOR NOTHING!**

We have been divided in the past, welfare women versus women "supported" by a man versus "working" women. But we know we can't afford these divisions because it means scabbing on ourselves. The struggle of welfare mothers has given power to all women because it has opened the way for all of us to demand that housework be paid. And this time, WITH THE POWER OF OUR NUMBERS, WE WILL WIN A WAGE and not a pittance that can always be taken away from us as if it were a charity.

The Conference will be held at:
THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
50 Monroe Place (corner of Pierrepont)
Brooklyn, New York

Near Boro Hall Subways:

7th Ave. IRT to Clark St. stop
turn left on Clark to Monroe
then right to end of block

Lex. IRT to Boro Hall stop
walk north three short blocks to Pierrepont and left to Monroe Pl. 1 1/2 blocks

IND to Jay St. stop
turn left on Jay St. to Tillary
turn left on Tillary to Cadman Plaza West
turn right on Cadman Plaza West to Monroe Pl. and walk left to end of block

WE ARE ALL WELFARE MOTHERS

Not only because thousands of us ARE A HUSBAND AWAY FROM WELFARE but because:

We are all made to feel guilty for the money we receive whether we get it from a man or from the government. We must be "grateful," keep bustling around to show "we deserve it" and there is always somebody controlling how we spend it, in case we should "waste it" on ourselves. In the meantime the government makes billions off our work because we raise all the workers of the world for them—so many for their factories and armies, so many for their typing pools and kitchens, and so many who will never get a paying job because having unpaid workers around keeps everybody else in line.

We are all forced into low paying jobs where we end up doing more housework—nursing, cleaning hotel rooms and hospital wards, waitressing and mothering everybody—and we are forced to accept low wages because the alternative is working at home for nothing at all.

We all face sterilization because even if our tubes are not cut none of us can afford to have the children we want and pay the price in work, isolation and dependence that comes with them.

And we all want LESS WORK, MORE MONEY AND MORE TIME FOR OURSELVES TO DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO DO WITH OUR LIVES.

FOR EVERY WOMAN WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK MEANS

LESS DEPENDENCE

MORE POWER

MORE CHOICES IN OUR LIVES.

Come to discuss how to organize to resist the welfare cuts and demand **WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL WOMEN.**

Some Facts about WELFARE

The biggest lie is that welfare provides "income" to people who do not work. In reality 85% of welfare recipients are unsupported mothers, who have a *full-time job at home* raising the kids, keeping the house running, and trying to make ends meet on a welfare budget.

To get on welfare is itself an endless job. We wait long hours in welfare offices, wait for letters that never arrive, go back and forth because we "don't have the right documents," we are screened in "face to face" interviews with social workers. They want to discourage us from getting what we are entitled to. They figure that if they keep us waiting long enough we will die before we can collect.

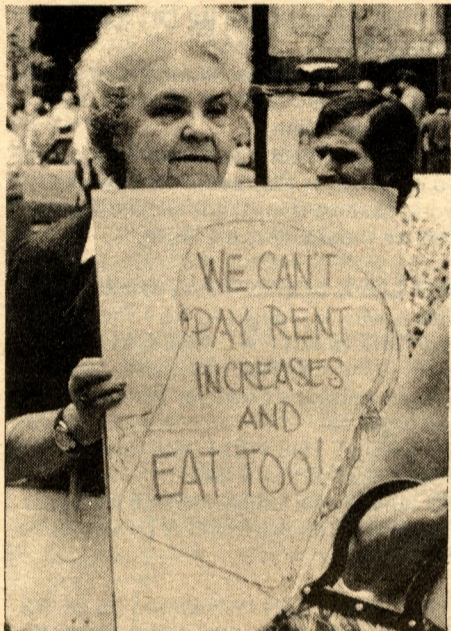


In case we women might have it too easy, when our children are six, they put us on WIN "to work our way off the rolls." But this is just another way of punishing us, because housework does not disappear when our children grow up, and at best we are channeled into the *hardest, most unsafe and lowest paid jobs* around—jobs everybody else has refused.

Since January, '75, the disabled and the senior citizens who don't have Social Security qualify for SSI, which is still welfare, but with a different name and **LESS MONEY** (eg., you don't get Food Stamps). *The majority of SSI recipients are once again women, who don't get Social Security because they "never worked," they "just did housework" all their lives and "keep doing it until they die.*

There is no national standard for Welfare. The excuse is that it is adjusted to the cost of living in every state. This actually means that it must be lower than the minimum wage, as a *discipline on any worker who wants to leave a low-paying job, and as a discipline on welfare recipients who have to accept any job, under the threat of being cut from the rolls.*

In New York City—which has the highest national standards—a woman with three children gets a *maximum* of \$394.00 a month for every need the family has: food, rent, clothing, transportation. A woman on SSI is expected to survive on \$216.00 a month.



Both Welfare and SSI recipients qualify for Medicaid and for Community Services. Both of these programs are further ways of controlling us and making profits even on the pittance they give us. **MEDICAID HAS MADE BILLIONS FOR DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS**, while we had to fight to fill out mountains of paperwork to get a pair of glasses or a blood test. As for Community Services, the key one is **FAMILY PLANNING**, that is, **PLANNED STERILIZATION OF WELFARE MOTHERS** who are not supposed to bring undesirable children into the world. **MOTHERHOOD IN THIS SOCIETY IS SACRED ONLY WHEN THERE IS A MAN'S PAY-CHECK BEHIND IT.**

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO USE WELFARE TO DISCIPLINE EVERY WORKER AND PIT US ALL AGAINST EACH OTHER. They have labelled us "chiselers" and "cheats" to convince other workers that any job at any wage is better than a welfare check. Being on welfare, we are told, means living off other people's work.

The truth is that they have used welfare recipients to keep wages down by forcing us women to take any jobs other workers are refusing, and by keeping the man on the run so they would be "free" to go to any place where cheap labor was needed. *This is what the "no man in the house" rule was really about.* But their plans have backfired. Now the government is afraid that without a male authority in the house we are becoming too undisciplined and they are offering "bonuses" to turn the men in.

They want us to be ashamed for getting this money, as if it were charity, and they have tried to control, check and investigate how we spend it. But our struggle has forced them to loosen the purse strings and repeal their regulations. **WITH MORE MONEY IN OUR HANDS WE HAVE REFUSED THE BLACKMAIL OF THE SECOND JOB THAT DOESN'T EVEN PAY ENOUGH TO GET US TO WORK. WE HAVE SHOWN TO EVERY WORKER THAT ONLY THE STRUGGLE PAYS!**

They've tried to divide us from other women, picturing us as lazy and immoral. Instead, our struggle has made it visible to millions of women that **HOUSEWORK, UNPAID WORK, IS OUR COMMON PROBLEM.** It has opened the way for *all of us* to **DEMAND WAGES FROM THE GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY FOR RAISING OUR CHILDREN BUT FOR ALL THE HOUSEWORK WE DO AND FOR ALL OF US.**

We women are not fooled any longer. We know they praise our virtues only to confirm our slavery, and we are *all rebelling against our work.*

What are we guilty of?
We have cut down on the number of children we have because every child is more work for us.

We have run away from our homes because our isolation and dependency in the family was choking us.

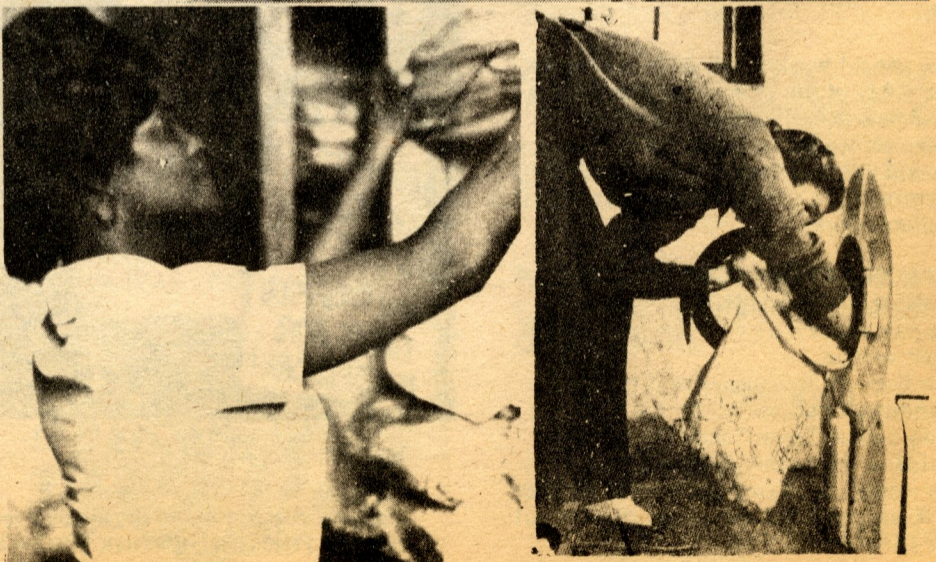
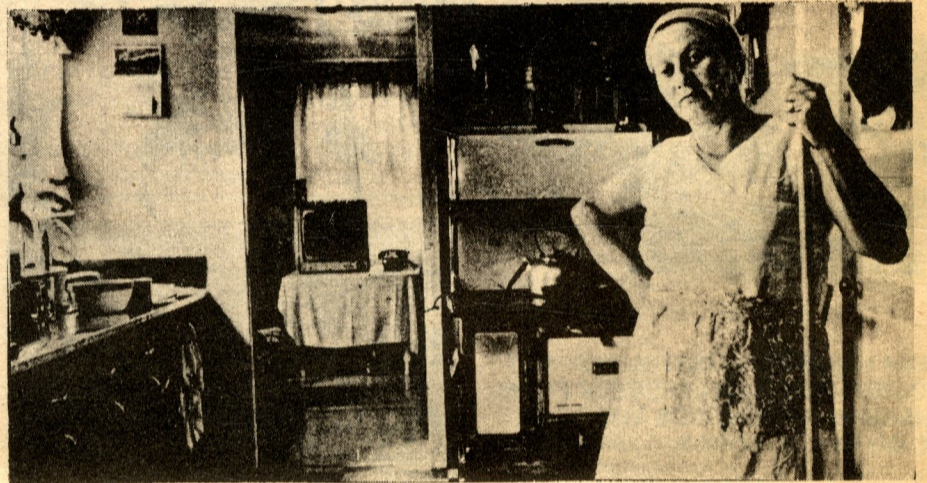
We have taught our children to fight back and expect more from life than an assembly line or a kitchen sink.

We have pushed for higher wages on the second job and refused the jobs they were forcing on us.

We have refused the blackmail of "Love." Nurses have walked off of hospital wards; Secretaries have refused to make coffee for their bosses and smile on command; Teachers have fought for shorter hours; Prostitutes are organizing all over the world; but

Worst of all crimes WE HAVE STARTED DEMANDING TO BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE WORK WE DO IN THE HOME. WE HAVE SAID: LOVE DOESN'T PAY THE BILLS. WE WANT WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK; AND IF WE DON'T GET IT WE WILL REFUSE TO WORK ANY LONGER.

IT IS BECAUSE WE WOMEN ARE FIGHTING BACK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CRACKING DOWN ON US. THE PRESENT ATTACK ON WELFARE WOMEN IS ONLY PART OF A GENERAL ATTACK ON ALL WOMEN TO PUT US BACK IN LINE.



THIS IS WHAT THEIR CRISIS IS ALL ABOUT

TO MAKE US WOMEN PAY FOR WHAT WE HAVE GAINED. BUT WE ARE SAYING NO! NO TO THE WELFARE CUTS. NO TO THE CUTS IN MEDICAID AND FOOD STAMPS. NO TO THE LAY-OFFS AND CUTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH MEAN LESS MONEY AND MORE WORK FOR US. WE ALL NEED MORE MONEY NOT MORE WORK!

As usual in an election year, what they call "the welfare mess" is a political football, with politicians competing to show how tough they can be in cracking down on welfare "cheats." Reagan claims there's a "welfare queen" in Chicago who makes \$150,000 a year tax-free; so Ford proposes to cut 5 million people off of food stamps.

THEY BLAME WELFARE MOTHERS FOR USING UP THE MONEY. But when city services, daycare centers, hospitals are shut down, TODAY'S "WORKING" MOTHER, being the last hired and the first fired, IS TOMORROW'S WELFARE MOTHER.

THE CITY, THE STATE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT KEEP PASSING THE BUCK BACK AND FORTH TO EACH OTHER. BUT THEY NEVER PASS THE BUCK TO US. The state audits the city's books and the federal government audits both. They charge each other with inefficiency and making overpayments, and each threatens to withhold its share of the welfare payments from the others, while they all withhold them from us.

THEY RECOMMEND THAT MORE MILLIONS BE SPENT TO DETECT FRAUD, WHILE MORE MILLIONS ARE TAKEN OUT OF OUR HANDS. They want to computerize the whole welfare system so that we will be up against the machine with less of a chance of getting what we need. That would also save them the cost of paying social workers, who like us will find themselves on welfare.

CUTS IN THE FUNDS FOR DAYCARE PROGRAMS ARE FORCING MORE AND MORE WOMEN OUT OF PAYING JOBS AND ONTO WELFARE. This saves the companies the trouble of laying women off. The closing of daycare centers guarantees that we women will be forced to go back home and stay there. In the daycare centers themselves our children are being tested and screened for "criminal tendencies" and the government is starting to keep files on them from childhood.

CUTS IN PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY MEAN NOT ONLY THAT DISABLED AND ELDERLY WOMEN ARE WITHOUT PROPER MEDICAL CARE AND LIVING EXPENSES, BUT THAT THEIR WOMEN RELATIVES HAVE MORE WORK TO DO TO CARE FOR THEM AT HOME. When Governor Carey calls for "local care of the retarded and unruly" he means not only that women are expected to take care of their disabled relatives at home, but that we must volunteer our time to work in community centers that will otherwise be closed down due to budget cuts.

Ford's proposed cuts in the Food Stamp program would go into effect by June—just in time for the presidential conventions—cutting more than 5 million people out of the program.

THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS ALREADY TAKEN AWAY OVER \$100 MILLION THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO PROVIDE MILK AND HIGH PROTEIN FOOD FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND INFANTS. THIS MEANS STARVATION FOR MANY OF US, WHO WITHOUT FOOD STAMPS CANNOT EAT AT ALL; AND MALNUTRITION AND MORE WORK FOR ALL OF US IN TRYING TO FEED OUR CHILDREN AND OURSELVES.

Already in North Carolina a child has been reported to have kwashiorkor, a malnutrition disease commonly found in underdeveloped countries! But North Carolina is in the USA, supposedly the richest country in the world.

They are cutting Medicaid funds to us when they know it's the labs and the doctors who are ripping off millions of dollars from the government for medical care they don't even provide. Again, with less money for medical care mothers must double as nurses and doctors at home.

ALL THESE CUTS WILL DRIVE MORE OF US TO SELLING OUR BODIES ON THE STREETS IN ORDER TO GET MONEY TO FEED AND CLOTHE OUR CHILDREN AND OURSELVES AND TO PAY THE RENT, BECAUSE IN SOME WAYS IT'S LESS PAINFUL TO TURN A FEW TRICKS AT NIGHT THAN TO HASSLE AT THE WELFARE OFFICE ALL DAY, OR RUN ALL OVER THE PLACE TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET THAT WILL NEVER MEET.

We know that the slots they divide welfare money into are phoney—like taking money out of one pocket and putting it in the other.

ADC, FOOD STAMPS, MEDICAID, AND SSI ARE ALL ABOUT THE SAME THING: THE LITTLE GIRL WHO GROWS UP ON ADC EATING FOOD BOUGHT WITH FOOD STAMPS AND SEEING DOCTORS THROUGH MEDICAID EVENTUALLY BECOMES THE ADC MOTHER WITH HER OWN CHILDREN TO TAKE CARE OF AND EVENTUALLY BECOMES THE OLD WOMAN LIVING ON SSI.



The government already recognizes that children don't live on love alone. It gives money to Foster Parents (from a minimum of \$150 to \$204 a month per child depending on age + medical bills and clothing). But when it comes to our own children we are expected to do the same work for nothing. Do they want to force us to swap our children so that we can afford to live?

"... while one of every three mothers with preschool children holds down a job, there is room for only 900,000 of their six million children in licensed child care centers." NYT—Tues., 1/13/76, p. 22

"'Are we to be penalized for living?' Eva King of New Brunswick, a 77-year-old nurse, asked as the committee began public hearings on the proposed state budget cuts." NYT—Wed., 2/18/76, p. 41

"According to the dictionary, the word 'welfare' means a condition of 'health, happiness and prosperity.'" NYT—Sun., 1/18/76, p. 35

Recently in the USA, the courts have assigned large sums of money to husbands whose wives were severely injured to pay for "lack of services." But do we have to be run over by a car to see our work recognized or paid? And why does this money go to the man and never to us anyway?

"The subcommittee staff found that ... 'any medical testing laboratory which is so inclined can bill Medicaid for a patient a doctor has never seen, for blood never drawn, for tests never performed, at a rate exceeding four times cost and twice the prevailing charge for private paying patients, with a nearly absolute assurance that they will not be caught and prosecuted.'" NYT—Thurs., 2/19/76, p. 31

We know that all her life she never has enough, because all our lives we never have enough. We know that the welfare mother in the V'IN program, no matter what kind of training she gets—if she gets any—never really gets a paying job because there is no daycare center that she can trust to take care of her children, and because finally there is no paying job for her. So when they talk about cutting back ADC, SSI, and all the other programs they are really talking about cutting our lives and the lives of our families into little pieces.

WE REFUSE. THEY HAVE THE MONEY, AND WE WANT IT. We won't accept their taking from our old parents on SSI to give to our children on ADC. We won't accept their taking away our food stamps while giving us money on Medicaid to be sterilized.

We refuse to "go back home" without some money in our hands. And we won't be forced to compete with thousands of other women—our sisters, daughters and mothers—for the few low-paying jobs around, when all of us have already a full-time job at home we are not being paid for.

WE WANT BACK WHAT IS OURS.

AND FIRST OF ALL WE WANT WAGES FOR ALL THE WORK WE ALREADY DO.

WE WANT WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FROM THE GOVERNMENT NOW FOR ALL WOMEN

BACK PAY FOR OLDER WOMEN WHO HAVE WORKED ALL THEIR LIVES FOR NOTHING, SO THAT THEY CAN LIVE OUT THEIR DAYS IN DIGNITY.



WAGES



HOUSE



Salario por el Trabajo del Hogar Y Welfare

EL WELFARE ES EL PRIMER DINERO QUE NOSOTRAS LAS MUJERES HE-MOS GANADO DIRECTAMENTE DEL GOBIERNO POR EL TRABAJO QUE HACEMOS EN LA CASA. NO ES MU-CHO DINERO Y APENAS NOS PAGA TODO NUESTRO TRABAJO. PERO ES UN COMIENZO Y ES NUESTRO DI-NERO — DINERO QUE NO NECESI-TAMOS PEDIRLE A NINGUN HOMBRE.

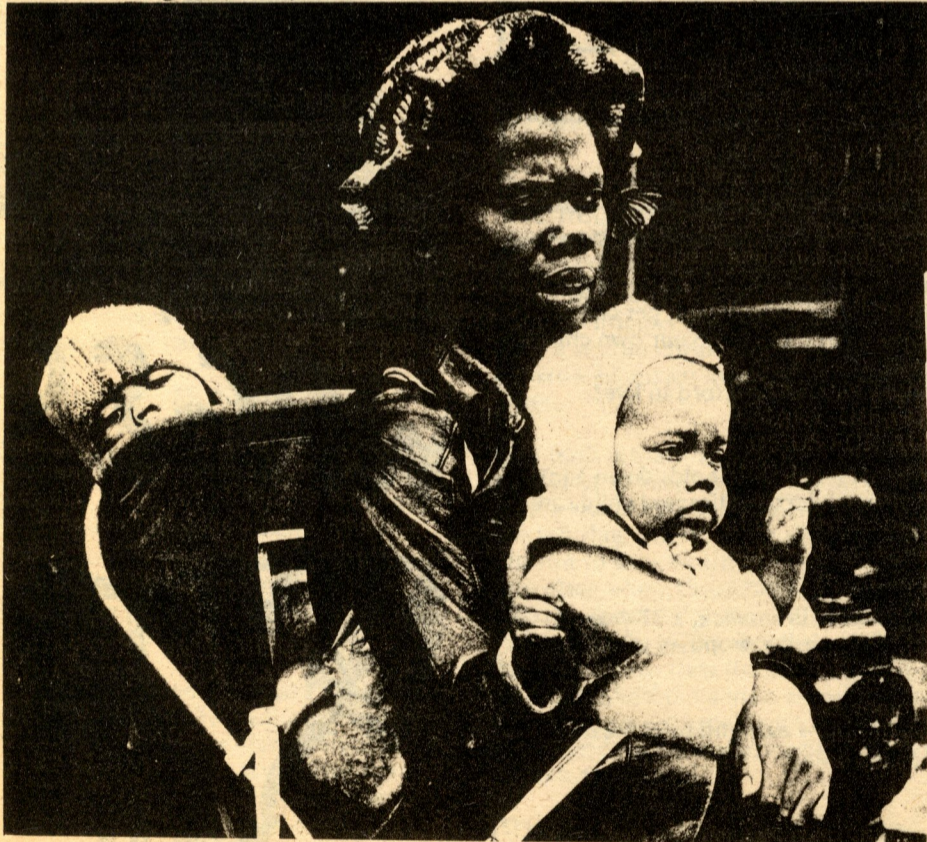
Para miles de nosotras es la diferencia entre tener nuestros hijos con nosotras en vez de tener que dejarlos que sean adoptados:

- el poder de dejar una relacion con un hombre que no podemos tolerar más en vez de ser forzada estar con el hasta cuando nos abusa, porque dependemos de 'su' dinero;
- es el poder de pasar un poco de tiempo con nuestros hijos gozándolos en lugar de volver loca tratando de hacer el trabajo domestico y un segundo trabajo tambien;
- es el poder de "sobrevivir" en lugar de ver a nosotras y a nuestros hijos morirse del hambre.

De esto es que trata el llamado "escanda-lo del Welfare".

PERO WELFARE NO ES SUFICIENTE!

TENEMOS QUE HACER QUE EL GO-BIERNO NOS PAGUE POR TODO EL TRABAJO QUE HACEMOS EN EL HO-GAR: Casadas o solteras, nativas o inmigrantes, con o sin hijos, lesbiana o no, con o sin un segundo trabajo.



THE NEW YORK WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE

We have opened OUR CAMPAIGN OFFICE in a storefront located at
288-B 8th STREET (off 5th AVENUE) IN BROOKLYN

Open WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS 11a.m. to 4p.m.
Phone us at: 965 - 4112 We have discussion groups, video tapes, cassettes, literature, speakers available to talk with your group.
(Non-office hours call: 788 - 2822)

El trabajo sin pago que hacemos todos los dias del año es la raíz de nuestra debilidad durante todas las etapas de nues-tra vida, dondequiera estemos: en el ho-gar, en el hospital y en el mercado, en la corte y en la oficina del Welfare.

MIENTRAS EL TRABAJO DOMESTICO NO SE CONSIDERE TRABAJO: Pagamos caro por lo poco que recibimos del Welfare.

Investigan nuestras vidas como si hubi-eramos cometido un delito. Nos llaman "mendigas" y "parásitas" para dividirnos de otras mujeres, como si nuestro problema y nuestro trabajo no fuera el mismo.

PERO NOSOTRAS NEGAMOS A SE-GUIR SIENDO DIVIDIDAS.

El ataque hacia las mujeres que reciben Welfare es un ataque hacia todas las mu- jeres:

- para mantenernos trabajando por nada
- para convencernos que el trabajo do- mestic no es trabajo, que no debemos recibir pago por el, y que lo debemos ha- cer por "amor".

PERO EL AMOR NO PAGA LAS DE- UDAS.

Por eso es que peleamos tanto por la asistencia publica y *por eso estamos llamando esta conferencia*, para unir el poder de nuestra lucha y organizarnos. PARA RESISTIR LOS CORTES EN WELFARE PARA RESISTIR LA CRISIS PARA GANAR UN SALARIO POR EL TRABAJO DEL HOGAR DEL GOBIERNO PARA TODAS LAS MUJERES.

First Unitarian Church

50 Monroe Pl. (esquina de "Pierrepont St.")
Brooklyn, New York

Boro Hall Subteraneo:

7th Ave. IRT a la parada "Clark St." Haga una izquierda en "Clark St." hasta "Monroe Pl.", entonces haga una derecha hasta el final de la cuadra.

Lex. IRT a la parada "Boro Hall" Camine hacia el norte tres cortas cuadras a "Pierrepont St.", donde hara una izquierda hasta "Monroe Pl." 1½ cuadras.

IND a la parada "Jay St." Haga una izquierda en "Jay St." hasta "Tillary St." Haga una izquierda hasta "Cadman Plaza West" donde hara otra izquierdo hasta el final de la cuadra.

ABIERTO A TODAS LAS MUJERES

Vengan a hablar de como nos podemos organizar para resistir los cortes del Welfare y EXIGIR DEL GOBIERNO SALARIO POR EL TRABAJO DOMESTICO PARA TODAS LAS MUJERES.

Paneles de discusión

"Speak-Out"

Películas, canciones

Bocadillos y Cuido de los niños gratis

SOMOS TODAS MADRES DE WEL-FARE--no solamente porque miles de no- sotras tenemos solo "un esposo" entre nosotras y Welfare pero porque:

Todas nos sentimos culpables por el dinero que recibimos, sea del hombre o del go- bierno. Tenemos que ser "agradecidas" mantenernos ocupadas para demostrar que lo "merecemos" y siempre hay alguien controlando como lo gastamos, en caso que lo vayamos a "mal gastar" en nosotras mismas.

Mientras tanto, el gobierno hace millones de dolares derivado de nuestro trabajo, *porque nosotras criamos y levantamos todos los trabajadores del mundo para ellos*--tantos para sus factorias y ejercitos, tantos para sus minas, hospitales, grupos de mecanografas, y cocinas; tantos que nunca tendran trabajos pagados porque teniendo trabajadores sin pago mantiene a los otros "en linea".

Estamos obligadas a aceptar trabajos de poca paga donde tenemos que hacer más trabajo domestico--enfermería, limpiando cuartos de hoteles y hospitale, mecano- grafía, trabajo de meseras y tutelando a todos--y nos obligan a aceptar poca paga porque la alternativa es quedarse en casa trabajando por nada.

Todas confrontamos la esterilización por- que aunque no nos ammarren los tubos, ninguna puede, por problemas económi- cos tener los hijos que quiere y pagar el precio en trabajo, soledad, y la dependen- cia que lo acompaña.

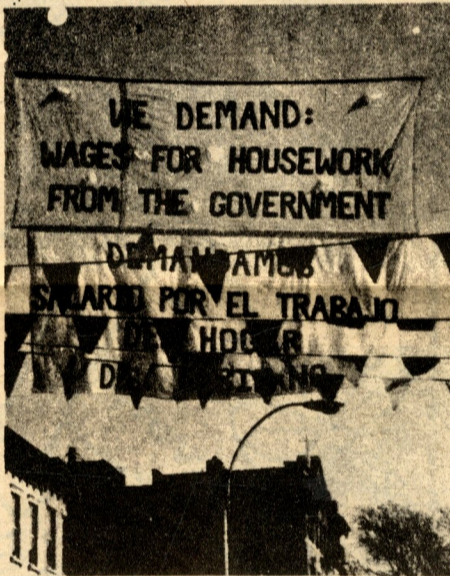
TODAS QUEREMOS MENOS TRABA- JO, MAS DINERO, Y MAS TIEMPO PA- RA NOSOTRAS PODER DECIDIR LO QUE QUEREMOS HACER CON NUE- STRAS VIDAS.

PARA TODAS LAS MUJERES, EL SA- LARIO POR EL TRABAJO DOMESTICO QUIERE DECIR:

MENOS DEPENDENCIA

MAS PODER

MAS POSIBILIDADES EN NUE- STRAS VIDAS



UNIDAS PODEMOS GANAR LO QUE ES NUESTRO, PORQUE SOMOS MIL- LONES DE NOSOTRAS QUE ESTAMOS DICIENDO QUE NO TRABAJAREMOS POR NADA.

Hemos sido divididas en el pasado--mu- jeres que reciben Welfare en contra de las mujeres que son "mantenidas" por un hombre; en contra de las mujeres "que trabajan". Pero sabemos que no podemos permitir que se continúe esta división por- que significa una traición hacia nosotras mismas.

La lucha de las madres que reciben Wel- fare nos ha dado poder a todas las mu- jeres porque nos ha abierto el camino a todas para poder demandar salario por el trabajo domestico.

ESTA VEZ, CON EL PODER QUE HE- MOS ADQUIRIDO POR NUESTRA CANTIDAD, PODREMOS EXIGIR UN SALARIO Y NO UNA MISERIA QUE EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO NOS PU- EDEN QUITAR COMO SI FUERA CA- RIDAD.

