

The Spokeswoman

Vol. 1, No. 1 June 5, 1970

A twice-monthly newsletter on women's liberation

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Department
Moves on Equal Pay

The U. S. Supreme Court has decided that women are entitled to the same wages as men if they hold identical jobs. In a landmark ruling on May 18, the Court let stand a lower court order that Wheaton Glass Co. of Millville, New Jersey pay more than \$250,000 in back wages to women. The Labor Department brought the suit in 1966, after it was found that the company was paying men selector-packers 21½ cents more an hour than women doing the same work. In another case won by the Labor Department, the U. S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, recently ordered the American Can Co., Dixie Products Division, to pay more than \$100,000 in back wages to 60 women cup-machine workers and also to raise their rate of pay by 20 cents an hour.

An estimated \$17-million in back pay is owed to women workers who have been discriminated against under the Equal Pay Act of 1963. According to Mrs. Morag M. Simchak, chief of the Labor Department's division which handles equal pay matters, employers violating the Equal Pay Act have already paid a total of \$2-million in back pay to women and a few men. Mrs. Simchak said that 140 cases involving lesser wages for equal work have been filed in court to date. Some of the actions have been settled, some are in court and some out-of-court settlements are in negotiation. Equal pay complaints have risen from 351 in 1965 to 565 in the current fiscal year. Not covered by the law are executive, administrative and professional employees and outside personnel. Two bills now before committees of Congress, one introduced by Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) and the other by Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) would include these workers. Contact: Mrs. Morag M. Simchak, Room 5119, Labor Department, Washington, D.C. 20210 (Tel: 202-393-2420, ext. 2781).

According to the latest figures reported by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, the median male wage earner in 1968 made \$7,664 while the median for women is only 58.2 percent of that, or \$4,457. The gap between the earnings of men and women workers has been widening for more than a decade. In 1965, women's median income was 60 percent of men's, and in 1955, women's median wage was 63.9 percent of men's. The wage study, based on Bureau of Census figures, dealt only with full-time workers and the gap varied widely by occupation group. *The 1969 Handbook on Women Workers* is available free from the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Miriam Ringo, a management consultant, recently completed "The Well-Placed Wife," a study of women married to top Chicago-area business and professional men. When respondents were asked, "If you could lead your adult life over again, what would you do?" most answered they would get a more career-oriented education and pursue a career. "The Well-Placed Wife" touched only briefly on this yearning for accomplishment, and Mrs. Ringo is now seeking funding of about \$10,000 to pursue this aspect of the study. Contact: Marlam Ringo, John Palsios & Associates, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604 (Tel: 312-922-8836).

Recent firings at Grove Press which coincided with union organizing and women's liberation activity highlight several major developments in the publishing industry, which has an unusually high percentage of women workers and a very low percentage of women executives. Nine members of the editorial staff of Grove Press Inc. who had been active as feminists and union organizers, including Robin Morgan, were fired April 9 and 10. Prior to that, Grove had been a target of union organizing activities of the Publishing Employees Organizing Committee of the Fur, Leather and Machine Workers Joint Board (AFL-CIO).

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Women Make
58.2 Percent Of
Average Male Salary

"Well-Placed Wife"
Would Like A Career

Grove Press Fires
Women Activists

On April 13, members of the Women's Liberation Movement seized the executive offices of Grove Press and demanded that Grove use the profits from its sex-exploitation publications for day-care centers, for bail money to release 100 prisoners a month from the Women's House of Detention and for a fund for divorced and recently widowed women. As a result of the sit-in, nine women were arrested, although Grove Press has since dropped charges.

Women On Move In
Publishing Industry

New York women say that the entire publishing industry is ripe for union organizing. According to Robin Morgan, women have been fired recently at Harper and Row, McGraw-Hill and *Modern Bride* for a combination of union organizing and women's liberation activities. At Doubleday, buttons recently appeared on the desk of every employee reading "Doubleday — love it or leave it."

Playboy Fires Woman

There have been other recent firings and resignations related to women's liberation activities. In Chicago, Shelley Schlicker was fired by *Playboy* for revealing an internal policy memorandum about the women's liberation movement to other employees of *Playboy*. A memo from publisher Hugh M. Hefner to a *Playboy* editor called for a "devastating" and "non-objective" article on women's liberation for the May issue. In the memo, Hefner identified women's liberation as "the natural enemy."

Other Firings
And Resignations

Susan Dodd, a research assistant at Chicago's Adlai Stevenson Institute, was fired, allegedly for talking to secretaries about women's liberation. . . . In Boston, Antonia Chayes resigned as assistant dean at Jackson College because she could not get financing for programs on continuing education, a day care plan or a family life study. . . . In Washington, Barbara Howar announced she will resign June 11 from "Panorama" because the men with whom she shares billing on the daytime talk show make more money than she does.

EDUCATION

College Admissions
Show Discrimination

A study of 240 American universities just completed at the University of Wisconsin in Madison shows that they discriminate against women in college admission. The report says, "at the low ability level, males were preferred over females. At the higher ability levels, this difference disappeared. Since in the high school population, there are more students, both male and female, at the lowest of our ability levels than at higher levels, it is clear that, overall, women are discriminated against in college admission."

Political Scientists
Condemn Hiring
Faculty By Sex

At an April meeting of the Western Political Science Association, the Association went on record condemning university political science departments that discriminate by sex in hiring. All departments were asked to redress the imbalance between the sexes, with the immediate goal of hiring women faculty in proportion to the number of women graduate students. Women political scientists were added to all committees, advisory and editorial boards. At the meeting, the Women's Caucus for Political Science, formed last year to act within the American Political Science Association to achieve equity for women (Box 12859, University Station, Gainesville, Florida 32601), presented the following sex breakdown for faculty at UCLA and Stanford:

UCLA	MEN	WOMEN	STANFORD	MEN	WOMEN
professor	628	25	professor	490	8
associate professor	311	24	associate professor	215	10
assistant professor	543	68	assistant professor	289	31
instructor	26	15	instructor	98	43
lecturer	266	86	lecturer	89	30

LEGISLATION

The New Jersey Assembly has unanimously voted to amend the state civil rights law to include women. Introduced by Mrs. Millcent H. Fenwick (R-Sommerset), the provision adds the words "or sex" to the 1941 statute which prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.

Only Six States
Ensure Rights
Of Women

There are six states which deal with women's rights in their constitutions. The scope of three states' provisions is limited to specific rights: Mississippi protects the property rights of women; California protects access to employment and professions; and New Jersey simply states that certain language is meant to include both sexes. The Utah and Wyoming provisions provide for equal "enjoyment" of civil, political and religious rights. Only the Hawaii Constitution provides affirmatively that "no person shall be discriminated against because of sex."

Women Testify for
Equal Rights
Amendment

Despite the charge that the hearings were a delaying tactic, numerous women testified May 5-6 before the Senate subcommittee on equal rights in favor of the constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights to women. Most national women's groups sent representatives to testify. A trio from Washington Women's Liberation made a dramatic presentation based on this position: "We support our sisters who want this amendment, but we say nothing less than a revolution of this violent, corrupt society can satisfy our demands."

Tax Benefits
For Singles

William L. St. Onge (D-Conn.) has introduced a bill (HB 16564) into Congress which would extend to all single persons the same tax benefits of income-splitting now enjoyed by married persons filing joint returns.

Florida Passes
Anti-Alimony Bill

On April 11, Florida's state Senate passed a bill that would relieve divorced husbands of having to pay permanent alimony if their former wives are able to work. A strong advocate of the bill is Senator Beth Johnson, a widow with three children, who said, "along with equal rights, we've got to assume equal responsibilities." The bill, which now goes to the House, was introduced by Senator John Bell, who is divorced.

POLITICS

President Stalls
Report on Women

Numerous women's groups continue to press for release of the President's Task Force Report on Women. For several months now, White House spokesmen have promised its "imminent" release. According to inside sources, the report calls for: 1) a national system of day-care centers for all pre-school children, 2) enforcement power for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 3) federal funding for state status-of-women commissions, 4) correction of sex inequities in the system of social-security benefits, and 5) a White House conference this year on women's rights and responsibilities.

The report also recommends that a White House Office on Women's Rights be established. Among its concerns would be the appointment of more women to top government positions. Of some 1,200 presidential appointees so far, only 15 have gone to women, and none were at the Cabinet level. Top legislative priority in the report goes toward passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

RELIGION

Women's Actions
Within the Churches

In early May, the Episcopal Diocese of New York endorsed a revision of canon law at the national level to permit women to become priests. . . . Two days later, women delegates at the annual meeting of the American Baptist Convention served notice that next year they will demand a woman president. . . . Sally Priesand, 23, is studying at Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College to become a rabbi. . . . The Episcopal Church is expected to seat women delegates next fall at its policy-making general convention. . . . Women have been given the right to read the Bible and act as song leaders during Catholic mass when no men are available. . . . The Vatican recently refused to accredit a woman diplomat as West Germany's representative at the Vatican. . . . At a March meeting, the women's organization of the three-million-member Lutheran Church in America called on the church to admit women to the ministry. . . . The National Coalition of American Nuns, representing 1,400 sisters, issued a statement last July saying, "We protest any domination of our institution by priests, no matter what their hierarchical status."

ORGANIZATIONS

NOW Plans
Nation-wide
Strike

New NOW president Aileen Hernandez announced plans for a nation-wide strike of women on August 26 — the day 50 years ago that women won the right to vote. Mothers will be asked to leave their children in government and business offices to dramatize the need for a national child care system. Women will also be asked to refrain from all shopping that day. Secretaries are asked to stop their typing in protest against "the relegation of women to the lowest paid, least rewarding jobs."

Women's Liberation
Centers Open

In New York, the Women's Liberation Center has now opened at 36 West 22nd Street, New York, New York 10010 (212-691-1860). In Chicago, the Chicago Women's Liberation Union has been operating since November at 2875 West Cermak Road, Chicago, Illinois (312-927-1790). A steering committee of representatives of the more than 30 member groups meets once monthly, and city-wide meetings are held as specific issues arise. In Atlanta, NOW, Women's Liberation and the YWCA hold open house at their Center at 72 Edgewood Avenue every Tuesday.

Professional Women
Organize

A national Professional Women's Caucus was formally structured May 29-31 in Washington, D.C. More than 300 women attended an organizational meeting April 13 in New York City. Aims include expanding existing civil rights legislation, pressing for the revision of tax laws to permit the deduction of child and home-care costs, lobbying for government-aided child-care facilities, compiling a directory of professional women active in women's rights, and initiating and coordinating studies on the status of women. Contact: Doris Sassower, Sassower and Sassower, 1450 Broadway, New York, New York 10018 (Tel: 212-239-8012).

Talent Bank
Seeks Applications

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (BPW) announced that they have received several hundred applications from women interested in federal appointments for their Talent Bank. To date, the White House has contacted the Bank twice for resumes of women to be considered for commission openings. However, no decisions have yet been made on these appointments. BPW continues to seek applications from women who could qualify for high-level policy-making positions within the federal government. To obtain an application, write Mrs. Judy Kaufman, BPW, 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (Tel: 202-293-1100).

PUBLICATIONS

Woman's Place — Options and Limits In Professional Careers, by Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, 221 pages, University of California Press, \$6.95.

The Rise and Fall of Feminism in America, by William L. O'Neill, 369 pages, Quadrangle Books, Chicago, \$7.95.

Lone Woman (story of Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman of modern times to graduate in medicine), by Dorothy Clarke Wilson, Little Brown & Co., Boston, \$8.95.

"Women in the University of Chicago," (the "Neugarten Report"), Report of the Committee on University Women, May 1, 1970, available without charge from the University.

The first bookstore in the nation specializing in feminist literature has been opened in Chicago by NOW officer Mary Jean Collins-Robson as a mail-order house. For a brochure, contact: New Feminist Bookstore, 1525 East 53rd Street, Room 503, Chicago, Illinois 60615 (Tel: 312-268-3535).

CONFERENCES

August 28-30, National Conference on Feminism, New York City. Contact: Human Rights for Women, Box 7402, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D. C. 20044

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The Spokeswoman

Vol. 1, No. 2

June 30, 1970

A twice-monthly information service for women

POLITICS

This Woman
Belongs In
The House

Running on a peace and women's liberation platform, Mrs. Bella Abzug carried the 19th Congressional District of Manhattan to enact her slogan: "This woman's place is in the House (House of Representatives). As a Democrat, she'll be a shoo-in in the November election. Mrs. Abzug startled New York City by defeating Rep. Leonard Farbstein, who has been a representative since 1956 and was considered virtually unbeatable. There was little difference between Abzug and Farbstein on any issue except women's liberation, and observers have agreed that it was the women's vote that did it.

HEALTH

Women Ridicule
Paternalism Of
Doctors

About 30 women from the Chicago Women's Liberation Union staged a multi-skit play on women's health problems at the Peoples' Health Care Convention in Chicago June 20. The event was staged by medical rights groups as a "counter-convention" during the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. The skits, enthusiastically cheered by the audience, portrayed how women suffer at the hands of doctors in trying to use natural childbirth methods, getting abortions, getting birth control information and even getting doctors' attentions. The recurring theme was the patronizing and demeaning attitude of doctors towards women. (Doctor/actors were named Dr. Paterno, Dr. Schmuck and Dr. Mindfuck.) . . . The A. M. A., meanwhile, passed a resolution on abortion after stormy debate. It provides that doctors should follow their own consciences in accordance with the laws of their states. . . . New York State's new abortion law goes into effect July 1. It makes no restriction on abortions except that they must be performed within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger, and that the patient and doctor must agree to the abortion. N.Y. Blue Cross has announced it will provide cash benefits from \$50 to \$150 for subscribers getting abortions in member hospitals. (See article on New York abortion by Linda Greenhouse, *New York Times Magazine*, June 28.)

Canadian Caravan
For Free Abortion
On Demand

Members of the Vancouver Women's Caucus led a motorized caravan across Canada in May, gathering women as they went, to present their cause to Parliament: *free abortion on demand*. Hundreds strong, they marched through Toronto to gather support. According to Gwen Hauser writing in *The Pedestal*, "The response we got was overwhelming. People lined up outside their houses and on the streets, giving us V's, fists and waves and shouting encouragement." The women held an open rally outside Parliament and an inside meeting to present a brief for free abortion, delivered a coffin topped by the tools of a hack abortionist, to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's home and climaxed the demonstration with a direct confrontation of Parliament. While sisters demonstrated outside, 36 women chained themselves to chairs in the galleries and spoke out on abortion. Members of Parliament, shouting "whores" and "sluts," rushed to the galleries to dislodge them, and the speaker adjourned the session.

. . . So Poor
Women Suffer

On June 15, approximately 60 members of the Caucus met with Trudeau, who had been away during the May demonstration. The women charged that hospitals were not performing abortions for all women who wanted them. They criticized as restrictive the 1969 legislation that authorized a therapeutic abortion if a hospital panel of three doctors recommends it to save a woman's life or health. Trudeau responded that the laws reflected the public morality and that it was up to the women to change this. The *New York Times* reported this exchange: " 'How do you know you speak for the women of Canada?', Trudeau challenged. The women reasserted their claim that 200,000 Canadian women died each year as a result of illegal abortions. 'That will elect about four M.P.'s,' Mr. Trudeau said." The *Pedestal* reported this exchange: "Women: 'If someone close to you needed an abortion, she's get one. Rich women can get safe abortions. It's poor women who suffer.' Trudeau: 'So?' "

ABORTION

(continued)

Elsewhere, a three-judge federal panel ruled June 17 that **Texas** abortion laws are unconstitutional because they infringe on the fundamental right of single and married women to choose whether or not to have children. However, **Dallas** district attorney **Henry Wade** said he would continue trying abortion cases despite the decision. In **California** the same day, a municipal judge in **Santa Ana** ruled unconstitutional that portion of the **California** abortion law which denies a woman's right to decide whether or not she wishes to bear children. However, he upheld that portion which requires abortions to be done by physicians in hospitals or clinics. Also in **California**, the legalized abortion initiative failed to win a place on the November ballot because backers got only 168,010 of the required 325,173 signatures.

EMPLOYMENT

Sex-Bias Suit
Filed Against
Libbey-Owens

The Department of Justice filed a landmark sex-bias suit July 20 against Libbey-Owens-Ford, Inc., a Toledo-based glass maker. The United Glass and Ceramic Workers of North America and its Local 9 in Toledo were also named as defendants. The suit, based on Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, seeks preliminary and permanent injunctions against the company and the union to require equal opportunities for women in hiring, job assignments, promotions, overtime work and seniority. The suit specifically charges that Libbey-Owens hires women for production jobs at only one of its five Toledo-area plants and then assigns them to "less-desirable and lower-paying jobs" subject to a high frequency of layoffs. The suit also contends that labor contracts between the company and the Glass Workers Union short-change women employees on seniority. Instead of basing seniority on total time with the company, it is based on service in certain jobs from which women either have been excluded or have had only limited access. M. B. Burwell, vice president of employe relations for the company, blamed the trouble on the conflict between federal law and the Ohio Female Protective Law which requires special conditions for female workers, including hours limitations. Libbey-Owens employs about 5,400 persons, of whom only 200 are women!

Federal Contractors
Will Hear Program
On Sex-Bias

Feminists are expected to disrupt a national closed-circuit tv program called "New Dimensions for EEO" scheduled for July 30. Sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Industrial Council, the "first national video teleconference on equal employment" will be filmed in Washington, D.C. and beamed simultaneously to 14 cities. Top government officials from the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Justice will address such problems as: "What kind of sex discrimination violations are giving companies the greatest trouble?" and "Which statutes prevail in the case of a conflict between federal and state protective laws for women?" Companies who hold federal contracts are invited to send representatives at a cost of \$60 apiece.

Pittsburgh Press
Will Appeal
Bias Conviction

On July 23, the Pittsburgh Mayor's Commission on Human Relations found the *Pittsburgh Press* in violation of the law for using "male" and "female" categories in its help wanted advertising. The paper was ordered to cease and desist within 30 days, but the paper has entered an appeal. The powerful Newspaper Publishers Association, which filed an amicus brief in the case, is supporting the newspaper's appeal. The City Council passed the law preventing sex discrimination, the strongest such law in the nation, after pressure from Pittsburgh N.O.W. Contact: Jo Ann Evans Gardner, 726 St. James Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232 (Tel: 412-621-4753).

Industry Shown
Low on Women
Management

A recent survey of corporate executives on the employment of women found that "while 94% of the companies conducting management training programs open them to women, only 74% of these firms had women participants." Other findings were that:

- 47% of the companies still use "male" and "female" listings when advertising job openings;
- 81% of the companies' health insurance plans provided for the wives of male employees while only 74% covered the husbands of female workers.
- 31% had a workforce that was more than half female, but percentage distribution of females was heavily weighted in rank-and-file office jobs and low in professional and management categories. 45% of the firms had 71% or more women in general office work, while 73% had less than 5% women professional and technical employees. Similarly, 26% had no women working as first-line supervisors, and 43% had less than 5% women supervisors. Management

EMPLOYMENT

(continued)

above first-line supervisors was even more male-dominated: 87% had 5% or fewer women in these categories; 39% of these had no women at all in management positions.

The survey, sponsored by the Bureau of National Affairs and the American Society for Personnel Administration, is available from L. R. Brice, ASPA, 52 East Bridge Street, Berea, Ohio 44017 (Tel: 216-234-2500).

Brief:

In **Boston**, six women copy editors at Little, Brown and Co. have filed a sex discrimination complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. Copy editors and editorial assistants at nearby Houghton Mifflin Company are considering a similar action. . . . In **Portland, Oregon**, striking women members of Retail Employees Local 1092 have been picketing Safeway stores in six Oregon counties because of the company's unequal pay scales between men and women doing the same kind of work. . . . In **San Francisco**, 20 members of women's liberation picketed the giant Crocker-Citizens National Bank, charging that the institution is the "worse discriminator" against women of the state's three biggest banking chains. By comparison with Bank of America and Wells-Fargo Bank, 20% of whose executives are women, Crocker-Citizens has only found management jobs for 71 (or 4%) of the 6,000 women it employs. . . . In **Dallas**, Mrs. Mildred Parker has filed a lawsuit against LTV Aerospace Corporation charging that she is paid less than men for doing the same work. In **Wallace, Idaho**, five women are working as the first all-woman slash crew in the history of the U.S. Forest Service, clearing and burning debris from a logging operation. In **Columbus, Georgia**, Mrs. Sue Thoresen, staff member of the Muscogee County Planning Commission, resigned when she was offered a promotion to a job at a \$9,500 salary because the man holding the post previously had earned \$10,800. . . .

In **Farmington, Connecticut**, Laverne Nichols, 32, has charged that the township school board refused to promote her to head custodian only because she is a woman, and has asked her union, Local 1456 of the American Federation of County and Municipal Employees, to fight her case. The man who got the promotion had only 90 days seniority compared to Mrs. Nichols nine years. . . . In **Burlington, Iowa**, Charlotte Bixenman, 29, has become a card-carrying member of construction and general laborer's union local 525. Although she will continue with the same duties, her salary will jump from \$2.25 an hour to \$3.05. According to the Labor Department's 1969 figures, 1,800 women are registered in apprenticeship fields, an increase of 72% over 1968. Areas include plumbers, operating engineers, shipfitters, aircraft mechanics, shoe repairmen and cheesemakers. . . . In **Geneva, Switzerland**, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women adopted a strong resolution urging Secretary General Thant to give women more high-level jobs on the United Nations staff. . . . In **New York City**, Joan Manley has been named publisher of the sales division of Time, Inc., the first such appointment in Time's 47-year history. . . . In **Montana**, Kathy Huppe resigned her Miss Montana title in early July because she could not keep her anti-war views quiet enough to suit pageant officials.

POLITICS

Push to Pass ERA

Feminists won a major victory July 20 when Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Mich.) succeeded in collecting 218 signatures for her discharge petition on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). This is the third successful discharge petition in the last 10 years. Rep. Griffiths plans to force a vote on the petition on August 10. If the vote carries as expected, women will then meet the real test of whether we can muster the two-thirds vote in the House necessary for adoption. Since the powerful union lobbyists, with the exception of the United Auto Workers, are opposed to the ERA, women fear some congresspersons who say they favor the ERA will be absent from the vote. A list of congresspersons favoring the ERA is available from Flora Crater, 2310 Barbour Road, Falls Church, Virginia. Women are urged to write their congresspersons asking their presence during the vote and their support for the amendment without any crippling amendments. . . . Four attempts by N.O.W. to get members of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments together to act on the ERA have failed for lack of a quorum. Those who missed the meetings are Senators Eastland, Hruska, Fong, Erwin and Griffin.

POLITICS (cont.)

Women Candidates
Mixed Bag
For Feminists

Five women are expected to join 11 women incumbents in Congress after the fall elections, although only one has close ties to women's liberation — Bella Abzug of New York (*The Spokeswoman*, June 30). The other four — Ella T. Grasso of Connecticut, Louise Day Hicks of Massachusetts, Phyllis Schlafly of Illinois and Ann P. Uccello of Connecticut, reflect traditional politics. Louise Day Hicks is infamous for opposing Boston school desegregation and open housing. Mrs. Grasso, Connecticut's Democratic secretary of state, is "not a crusader for women's liberation," according to a writer for the *Congressional Quarterly*. Mrs. Uccello, the Republican mayor of Hartford, is expected to be sympathetic to women's rights. Phyllis Schlafly, a former Goldwater supporter, has said, "I don't believe in women's rights, I believe in chivalry."

In addition to the five major challengers, there are several women running for Congress this year who are conducting strong campaigns but are regarded as underdogs. These include Senate candidate Lenore Romney of Michigan and House candidates Kathleen Z. Williams of Indiana, Marian McQuade of West Virginia and Janet Roberts Jennings of Illinois, the only black woman running for Congress this year. The 11 women members of the 91st Congress are, in addition to Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, who is not up for election this year: Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.), Florence P. Dwyer (R-N.J.), Edith Green (D-Ore.), Martha W. Griffiths (D-Mich.), Julia Burler Hansen (D-Wash.), Margaret M. Heckler (R-Mass.), Catherine May (R-Wash.), Patsy T. Mink (D-Hawaii), Charlotte T. Reid (R-Ill.) and Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Mo.). . . . Rep. Griffiths, a respected seven-term member of the House and a member of its powerful Ways and Means Committee, has been approached about being Majority Whip in the new Congress next January if the Democrats retain control of the House. To express support of Rep. Griffiths, contact: Rep. Carl Albert (D-Okla.), who is expected to be the Speaker of the House.

ACTIONS

Women in New York City and Chicago held "ogle-ins" recently to dramatize the offensiveness of men making overtures in public places to women they don't know. The demonstrators directed at male bystanders the whistles and one-liners women so often hear. Sponsored by BITCH, the New York action focused on construction workers. In Chicago, the scene was LaSalle Street. . . . Waving signs that read, "Women are sisters, not playmates," "Men can be tender too," and "I have a small penis," fifty members of Men Against Cool picketed Chicago's Playboy Club in late June in the city's first male-organized action against sexism. . . . On July 7, Panther member Joan Bird walked out of prison on bail, largely due to the fund-raising effort of the Committee to Free Joan Bird, part of a city-wide Women's Union. For several months, women worked to raise the bail with benefits, mailings, leaflets and street actions. Joan Bird's attorneys uncovered a law that permits acceptance of a face amount of federal, state or city of New York securities in lieu of cash bail. They thus were able to post \$100,000 bail by purchasing only \$40,000 of state bonds which on maturity would value \$100,000. Joan Bird has been in and out of jail since January of 1969, her latest arrest being on conspiracy to blow up New York buildings with the Panther 21. Observers agree that evidence against her is scant.

EDUCATION

Anti-Nepotism Rule
Rescinded in Arizona

An anti-nepotism rule that operated to exclude faculty wives from faculty positions in the Arizona state university system has been rescinded. The Board of Regents abolished its long-standing policy while a class declaratory judgment action attacking the rule was pending in the state courts. Brought by five faculty wives who had been affected by the rule, the complaint asked the court to declare it invalid under state law and the federal constitution. The case remains before the court, as of July, 1970, while the plaintiffs watch what action the administration takes to implement the policy change. Contact: Heather Sigworth, College of Law, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois 61820.

Women Cite Flaw
In Green Bill

Regarding Rep. Edith Green's Omnibus Post-secondary Education Act of 1970 (*The Spokeswoman*, June 30), Columbia University Women's Liberation is emphasizing that while Section 805 is beneficial to women, Title VII (Prevention and Control of Disruptive Acts) provides for the repression of student and faculty activists. According to CUWL, "The 'disruptive acts' which Title VII deals with are so broadly defined as potentially to stifle expression of justifiable grievances by powerless groups."

EDUCATION (cont.) In testimony on the Green bill, Dr. Pauli Murray, professor of American Studies at Brandeis University, described a great discrepancy between the high number and quality of women college graduates and the low number of women faculty members. Her study of Brandeis University showed that women

REPORT:

49.1% of all degrees conferred (arts and sciences)
51.7% of all honors
40.2% of highest honors
11% of arts and sciences faculty
4% of all full professors

For copies of the testimony, contact: Dr. Pauli Murray, Box 4, Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

Columbia Survey
Illustrates Sex
Discrimination

Columbia Women's Liberation has completed an excellent report on discrimination against women at that university. Their survey shows a great discrepancy between the number of women who completed PhD's at Columbia and the number of women on the faculty. The report, published in the *Barnard Alumnae*, Spring 1970, gives numbers and percentages for each discipline and each school within the University and salary comparisons between men and women and cites the lesser endowment, facilities and salaries of Barnard compared to Columbia. The Committee on Discrimination Against Women Faculty called on the university to launch a full study of the status of women, to make a commitment to equal status and prove it by hiring more women at all ranks in all divisions, become active in child care and paid leave for child birth efforts, and establish a Committee on Employment Practices to investigate hiring patterns. Contact: Dr. Carole McDonald, Department of Anthropology, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027.

Berkeley Action
For a Free Future

In Berkeley, Women of the Free Future burned academic degrees, theses, the university academic plan and other "sexist" literature and documents at a rally on the University of California, Berkeley, campus "to dramatize the irrelevance of present-day formal education to women's needs and the discrimination against educated women and all women in the job market." The women stated that although 46% of Berkeley undergraduates and 26% of graduate students are women, only 2.6% of the professors are women. A woman college graduate in California earns an average of \$4,000 a year, the same as a man who quits school after the eighth grade, according to the group. The women demanded a Women's Studies Department with free and open admission for all women, a stipend for every woman who attends the university and decentralized childcare centers all over Berkeley for any parent who needs them.

Briefs

California Institute of Technology will accept women undergraduates for the first time next fall. Of 77 women applicants, 30 were accepted. . . . The UCLA Extension Center has opened an information center for women at 10966 LeConte Avenue, Room 20, Los Angeles, California. . . . Three lawyers, two women and one man, were recently fired from Continuing Education of the Bar, a part of the University of California's Extension Department (Berkeley) for what they said were women's liberation-related activity. . . . In Seattle, a University of Washington library assistant is spearheading a protest against sex discrimination. Protestors are to meet with university officials to discuss their demands. . . . At Williams College (Williamstown, Pa.), which recently accepted its first women students, about 25 members of women's liberation raided a men's clothing store to protest the sale of pennants that read, "When better women are made, Williams men will make them."

LAW

Women's Equality
Act of 1970

On June 30, Rep. Abner J. Mikva (D-Ill.) introduced the Women's Equality Act of 1970 (H.R. 18278) to carry out the legislative recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities. The bill goes to the Judiciary Committee headed by Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), where the Equal Rights Amendment has so long languished. Contact: Rep. Mikva, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

LAW (cont.)

Developments
In Public Places

A bill to bar discrimination against women in public places such as restaurants and bars was recently passed by the New York City Council, 34 to 1. The bill will become law when Mayor Lindsay signs it. Last June 27, Federal Judge Walter R. Mansfield, in a civil rights suit brought by two women, ruled that McSorley's Ale House in Greenwich Village was a public place and could not bar women as it has for the last century. The ruling was later stayed pending an appeal by McSorley's. . . . On July 9, the Massachusetts legislature repealed a statute which prohibited women from being served at a bar or lounge unless seated at a table. . . . In June, London women stormed El Vino, a Fleet Street pub, to break a century old tradition that forbids women to stand at the wine bar.

ACLU Appeal on
Property Case

On July 21, the American Civil Liberties Union filed an appeal in the United States Supreme Court to overturn an Idaho Supreme Court decision (Reed v. Reed) which denied a woman the right to administer her son's estate. A state code says, "Of several persons claiming and equally entitled to administer, males must be preferred to females." The ACLU argues that the statute violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

WELFARE

Senate Finance Group
Holds Back On
Family Assistance

Nixon's Family Assistance Plan appears bogged down in the Senate Finance Committee since only one Republican committee member is firmly supporting the administration's effort to bring it to the floor and Democratic members will not act without Republican commitment. The committee staff found several flaws in the plan, as passed by the House, and the administration, in attempting to repair them, brought in controversial amendments, labeled "devastatingly regressive" by the National Welfare Rights Organization. Among other things, these amendments would permit public housing tenants whose income increases past present eligibility levels to stay on, but at an increased rental based on a percentage of income, and beneficiaries of the family assistance plan would be made ineligible for the free medicaid program. A compulsory health insurance program, under which most of them pay part of the insurance cost, would be substituted. Both this and a new food stamp program would to some extent abandon the basic money-to-the-poor principle of the income approach by deducting charges in advance. According to journalist Tom Wicker, "The bill can be improved on the Senate floor, or in conference with the House, or by amendments in years to come. But if it languishes much longer in the Finance Committee, it will be dead for this year and no one can say when anything like it might get another chance."

Washington
Welfare Mothers
Voice Grievances

In Washington July 16, the City Welfare Board hastily adjourned a meeting in the face of angry welfare mothers who were urging the board to reverse its previous decision to cut off emergency aid to recipients of reduced state welfare grants. Council members said they would not act unless the mayor signs a resolution providing supplemental aid to AFDC families. . . . In late June, 32 members of the National Welfare Rights Organization were arrested and later released when they forcibly entered a Washington, D.C. welfare office to present claims for furniture allotments from the emergency assistance fund.

ORGANIZATIONS

NAACP

The NAACP had to send out a special press release after their annual convention June 28 because the women's rights platform which passed was completely overlooked by the media. The NAACP board was directed to establish a special national committee to make recommendations on how the NAACP "may improve its commitment to and practice of equal rights for women," including "equitable female representation on the board of directors." The convention resolved that the NAACP take action to implement six recommendations:

- that all federal programs include an equitable number of women and men in their staff and in the participants.
- that the office of federal contract compliance guidelines on sex discrimination be expanded to include goals and timetables;
- that to the extent not already done, data collected by the federal government include collection, tabulation, and publication of economic data by sex;

ORGANIZATIONS

(continued)

- that women receive equal pay for equal work;
- that the Fair Labor Standards Act be extended to cover every job within reach of federal authority.....All employees, including domestic workers and all other workers in the United States should be paid not less than the federal minimum wage; the equal pay provisions should be extended to executive, administrative and professional employees;
- that Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 be amended to include sex (regarding public accommodations).

Contact: Elizabeth Scott, president, Council for Women's Rights, Tel: 412 824 8000, ext. 211 (office) or 412-243-5710 (home).

ACLU

Due to the efforts of an ad hoc committee on women's rights formed at the American Civil Liberties Union's conference June 2, the organization resolved to support litigation to eliminate sex discrimination. It was also resolved that "specific action is required to insure that discriminatory laws applied to women because of their marital status be abolished; government assistance not be awarded or denied because of sex; a woman have control over her own body; no sex quotas be permitted in government-funded colleges or universities; pregnancy and motherhood, *per se*, not be considered cause to involuntarily terminate the employment or education of women."

WEAL

The Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), which is finding the federal government very inactive in pursuing its 100-plus suits against universities for sex discrimination, is pressing its case in Washington against the Newspaper Publishers Association for its continued sex-segregation of help wanted ads. WEAL's College Action Committee has sent a mailing to 1900 deans of women detailing WEAL's interest in equal educational opportunities. A folder on WEAL's speakers bureau is available from Sally Mann, 3303 Linden Road, No. 104, Rocky River, Ohio 44126. Contact: Nancy Dowding, president, WEAL, 22414 Rairlawn Circle, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126.

Briefs

The Other Women, Ltd. (O.W.L.) has been formed to help divorced wives get jobs and cut their financial ties to their husbands. Contact: O.W.L., 153 East 18th Street, New York, New York.
Los Angeles' **Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)** has announced plans to build a 30-story, \$10-million Central City structure which will have residence accommodations for young women and married couples, as well as young men. Five women were initiated for the first time into the Washington chapter of **Sigma Delta Chi**, professional journalistic society, in June. Women are also expected to be appointed soon to the board of governors. The National Press Club has also indicated that women will be accepted in the near future. Greater Cleveland's 1,100-member **Women Speak Out For Peace and Justice** supports its anti-war and anti-racism activities via a "peace boutique." Women Speak Out, formed 2½ years ago after the Jeanette Rankin Anti-war Brigade, participates in peace demonstrations, has petitioned against the draft, helped organize the national Vietnam moratoriums, and halted military officers from lecturing at Cleveland Heights High School. Contact: Women Speak Out, Box 18138, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

MEDIA

Children's Books –
Will They Stop
Sex Stereotyping?

Publishers' Weekly (July 13, 1970) has published answers of children's book editors from 38 houses when queried about how women's liberation is affecting their editorial considerations. Sixteen said the current movement was not affecting their editorial thinking; 16 said it definitely was and in many cases cited titles; six gave less definite answers. McCall's Jean Reynolds said the movement had made her "unconsciously more careful about watching for bland, silly mothers" in stories. Holt's editors "try never to force characters into preconceived molds, e.g., all little girls being encouraged to do 'girl' things. . . . Boys in stories are often forced into false male roles."

Several publishers said they are issuing children's books responsive to the women's movement. Crowell launched a *Women in America* series in early 1969 and has nine titles, including *Sea and Earth: The Life of Rachel Carson*. *To The Barricades: The Anarchist Life of Emma Goldman* will be published in 1971 and *Famous American Women* this May. Cowles plans a history of the women's movement

MEDIA (cont.)

for ages 10-14. Four Winds has announced *What You Should Know About the Women's Liberation Movement*. Lerner's *Protest* will cover women's movements and *The Reformers* will sketch the lives of mid-19th century female reformers. Macrae Smith plans a career book for women that will include many occupations hitherto thought exclusively "masculine." Westminster Press is projecting more biographies of women (not necessarily famous) who accomplish things, and a girls' (nonacademic) career series. Messner recently published *Eloquent Crusader: Ernestine Rose*. Random House plans a trade edition of the 1961 *Mommies at Work*. And Fortress Press is bringing *Adam's Fractured Rib* out this summer.

BUSINESS

Nine women filed application in Florida for a bank to be capitalized at \$1-million. Besides regular banking functions, the First Women's Bank of Florida will inform women about handling money and act as a training ground for women in finance. Contact: Sophia Englander, 4620 Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33140 (Tel: 305-538-6438). . . . Jane Evans, 25, has been named president of the \$12-million-a-year I. Miller Shoe firm based in New York City. With five years experience in the shoe business, Ms. Evans said "It's a fantastic challenge and I know I can do the job." . . . In June, Jane R. Larkin, a partner in Hirsch & Company (Wall Street), joined Muriel F. Siebert and 1,364 men as a member of the New York Stock Exchange. . . . Also in June, Myrtle Green became the first woman director of Wieboldt Stores, a \$125-million Chicago retail chain.

RECOMMENDED

READING

"This Ad Insults Women," by Elizabeth Fishel, *Newsday* (Long Island newspaper), July 18. A devastating article telling it like it is about media misrepresentation of women.

"Violence and the Masculine Mystique," by Lucy Komisar, *Washington Monthly*, July, 1970. "Today the masculine mystique is no longer just a matter of concern for the women who have suffered its ill effects most universally. The caveman mentality outlived its usefulness when technology made the hunter obsolete, and its extension into national and international politics now threatens to destroy everything men and women have built since then."

"On Women's Liberation," by Claire Moriarty, *New Politics*, Spring, 1970. A "brief analysis" of "the more prevalent distortions foisted upon women in the name of women's liberation."

"Out To Finish What The Suffragettes Started," by Caroline Bird, *Think*, July-August, 1970. A 'state of the movement' description including a statement of demands and attitudes common to feminists.

NOTICES

Women of San Francisco Newsreel are making a 50-minute film on the women's movement and need \$4,000 in contributions. Contact: Women's Film Crew, San Francisco Newsreel, 451 Cortland, San Francisco, Ca. 94110.

The New Feminist Talent Collective has been formed "to meet the demand for speakers on women's liberation." Contact: Jacqui Michot Ceballos, NFTC, 148 West 68th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Women are seeking funds and articles for a new magazine, the *Women's Rights Law Reporter*, which will cover legal tools in women's rights efforts and legislative, court and administrative actions in the field. Contact: Ann Marie Boylan, School of Law, Rutgers University, 180 University Ave., Newark, N.J. 07102 (Tel: 201-621-1766).

Everywoman, a West Coast feminist newspaper, is asking women to help prepare a *Dictionary of Sexism*. Each volunteer takes a letter and goes through that letter's section of an unabridged dictionary, noting sexist definitions on file cards. The Dictionary will be published by Everywoman Publishing Company. Contact: MANGLISH, Everywoman, 6516 West 83rd Street, Los Angeles, Ca. 90045.

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The Spokeswoman

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A twice-monthly information service for women

POLITICS

This Woman
Belongs In
The House

Running on a peace and women's liberation platform, Mrs. Bella Abzug carried the 19th Congressional District of Manhattan to enact her slogan: "This woman's place is in the House (House of Representatives). As a Democrat, she'll be a shoo-in in the November election. Mrs. Abzug startled New York City by defeating Rep. Leonard Farbstein, who has been a representative since 1956 and was considered virtually unbeatable. There was little difference between Abzug and Farbstein on any issue except women's liberation, and observers have agreed that it was the women's vote that did it.

HEALTH

Women Ridicule
Paternalism Of
Doctors

About 30 women from the Chicago Women's Liberation Union staged a multi-skit play on women's health problems at the Peoples' Health Care Convention in Chicago June 20. The event was staged by medical rights groups as a "counter-convention" during the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. The skits, enthusiastically cheered by the audience, portrayed how women suffer at the hands of doctors in trying to use natural childbirth methods, getting abortions, getting birth control information and even getting doctors' attentions. The recurring theme was the patronizing and demeaning attitude of doctors towards women. (Doctor/actors were named Dr. Paterno, Dr. Schmuck and Dr. Mindfuck.) . . . The A. M. A., meanwhile, passed a resolution on abortion after stormy debate. It provides that doctors should follow their own consciences in accordance with the laws of their states. . . . New York State's new abortion law goes into effect July 1. It makes no restriction on abortions except that they must be performed within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger, and that the patient and doctor must agree to the abortion. N.Y. Blue Cross has announced it will provide cash benefits from \$50 to \$150 for subscribers getting abortions in member hospitals. (See article on New York abortion by Linda Greenhouse, *New York Times Magazine*, June 28.)

Canadian Caravan
For Free Abortion
On Demand

Members of the Vancouver Women's Caucus led a motorized caravan across Canada in May, gathering women as they went, to present their cause to Parliament: *free abortion on demand*. Hundreds strong, they marched through Toronto to gather support. According to Gwen Hauser writing in *The Pedestal*, "The response we got was overwhelming. People lined up outside their houses and on the streets, giving us V's, fists and waves and shouting encouragement." The women held an open rally outside Parliament and an inside meeting to present a brief for free abortion, delivered a coffin topped by the tools of a hack abortionist, to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's home and climaxed the demonstration with a direct confrontation of Parliament. While sisters demonstrated outside, 36 women chained themselves to chairs in the galleries and spoke out on abortion. Members of Parliament, shouting "whores" and "sluts," rushed to the galleries to dislodge them, and the speaker adjourned the session.

. . . So Poor
Women Suffer

On June 15, approximately 60 members of the Caucus met with Trudeau, who had been away during the May demonstration. The women charged that hospitals were not performing abortions for all women who wanted them. They criticized as restrictive the 1969 legislation that authorized a therapeutic abortion if a hospital panel of three doctors recommends it to save a woman's life or health. Trudeau responded that the laws reflected the public morality and that it was up to the women to change this. *The New York Times* reported this exchange: "How do you know you speak for the women of Canada?", Trudeau challenged. The women reasserted their claim that 200,000 Canadian women died each year as a result of illegal abortions. "That will elect about four M.P.'s," Mr. Trudeau said. *The Pedestal* reported this exchange: "Women: 'If someone close to you needed an abortion, she's get one. Rich women can get safe abortions. It's poor women who suffer.' Trudeau: 'So?'"

LEGISLATION

California Bill
Weakened

On June 8, California's Senate Finance Committee seriously undermined a bill designed to end job discrimination against women. The committee voted first, to amend AB22 so it will not affect present retirement pension or insurance benefit plans and, second, to amend it to repeal all state protective labor laws. N.O.W./Berkeley organized letter-writing campaigns to urge senators to restore the bill to its original form.

DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON

Lady Replaces
Feminist On
E.E.O.C.

A Buffalo, New York socialite who says she has "never worked for remuneration" has been chosen to fill the vacancy on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Former Commissioner Elizabeth Kuck, a feminist, and the only woman commissioner, was informed by the White House in June that she would not be reappointed although she had done "a fine job." The new commissioner, Mrs. Irene Walczak, paints, does needlework, supports the Buffalo Philharmonic and serves on the board of the State University College of Buffalo, according to columnist Vera Glaser. An FBI investigation is underway, and if no problems develop, Mrs. Walczak will succeed Ms. Kuck on July 1. Protests against this appointment may be lodged with the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, which has veto power. . . . The National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) recently took issue with the E.E.O.C.'s poor showing on behalf of rights for women. (See *Background on Federal Action Toward Equal Employment Opportunity for Women*, available from Lucy Komisar, N.O.W., 100 West 12th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, Tel: 212-WA9-1610.)

New Guidelines
An Empty Gesture

Two N.O.W. members slipped into a meeting of federal contractors and heard Seymour Maisel, chief of the New York regional office of Federal Contract Compliance for the Defense Department, say repeatedly that failure to deal with sex discrimination would not make contracts "unawardable." Incidents such as this have led various women's groups to charge that the guidelines to assure equal job opportunity for women on government contract work are an empty gesture by the Nixon Administration.

Provisions Of
Guidelines

Issued June 9, the guidelines say that contractors must maintain written personnel policies expressly indicating that there shall be no discrimination against employees on account of sex. Collective bargaining agreements on conditions of employment must be consistent with the guidelines. The new guidelines also prohibit employers from:

- Making any distinction based upon sex in employment opportunities, wages, hours, or other conditions of employment;
- Advertising for workers in newspaper columns headed "male" or "female" unless sex is a bona fide occupational qualification;
- Making any distinction between married and unmarried persons of one sex unless the same distinctions are made between married and unmarried persons of the opposite sex.
- Denying employment to women with young children unless the same exclusionary policy exists for men.
- Penalizing women in their conditions of employment because they require time away from work for childbearing. Whether or not the employer has a leave policy, childbearing must be considered a justification for leave of absence for a reasonable length of time;
- Maintaining seniority lines or lists based solely upon sex;
- Discriminatory restricting one sex to certain job classifications and departments;
- Specifying any differences for male and female employees on the basis of sex in either mandatory or optional retirement age.
- Denying a female employee the right to any job that she is qualified to perform in reliance upon a state "protective" law.

The guidelines also specify that covered employers shall take affirmative action to recruit women to apply for those jobs where they have been previously excluded.

WEAL Lodges
Class Action Suits
Against Universities

The guidelines relate to Executive Order 11246, which requires federal contractors to prove affirmative action in prohibiting discrimination by sex. On the basis of Order 11246, the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) launched a major campaign this spring against educational institutions, which are not covered by Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. WEAL has now brought a class action suit against more than 100 universities, including the University of Maryland, Harvard, M.I.T. and the entire higher education system in Florida. According to a spokesperson for HEW's Office of Civil Rights, in charge

of conducting compliance reviews, only one new investigation (at the University of Maryland) has been launched in direct response to WEAL's charges. HEW investigators are looking into WEAL's sex-bias charges at Harvard and at Manhattan Community College (New York) as part of broader reviews. Assistant Labor Secretary Arthur A. Fletcher wrote WEAL in early June that Labor was asking HEW to conduct reviews at all campuses under attack by WEAL. However, lack of personnel will seriously curtail investigations.

First Draft Of
Guidelines Was
Watered Down

Alleen Hernandez, president of N.O.W., charged June 26 that the new guidelines were deliberately watered down from the draft issued in January, 1969. The new guidelines do not set goals or time-tables to end discrimination by sex. Although pensions, health plans and welfare benefits are an integral part of compensation, the guidelines ignore mention of equal fringe benefits for men and women. On the subject of bona fide occupational qualification, the guidelines are weaker than both EEOC guidelines and court decisions of recent years.

N.O.W. Files
Complaint With
Labor Department

Ms. Hernandez announced the filing of a complaint by N.O.W. with Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson charging that federal contractors in a list of more than 1,300 major U.S. corporations are not in compliance with the Executive Order. The complaint demands that no contracts be awarded to companies who file affirmative action plans that do not deal with equal opportunity for women.

Green Bill Takes
Women's Rights
To Universities

The phalanx of women's groups which testified for the Equal Rights Amendment again turned out to support Rep. Edith Green's (D-Oregon) Omnibus Postsecondary Education Act of 1970. Hearings were held in mid-June before the House Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Rep. Green. Section 805 of the bill would:

- add sex to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in any program receiving federal financial assistance;
- amend Title VII of the same Act to include educational institutions;
- add sex to the discriminations under the jurisdiction of the Civil Rights Commission; and
- extend coverage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to executive, administrative and professional employees.

Griffith Circulates
Discharge Petition
For Equal Rights
Amendment

Rep. Green won the spotlight at the hearings by announcing that she had withdrawn her longstanding opposition to the equal rights amendment and had signed Rep. Martha Griffith's (D-Michigan) discharge petition to the House Judiciary Committee, asking for the amendment's release. Women are urged to call, write or wire our congressional representatives asking them to sign this discharge petition. If 218 members sign, the amendment will come directly to the house floor for debate and vote. Since congressmen are reluctant to undermine their colleagues, signatures will be difficult to get. The Judiciary Committee is headed by Emmanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), who has said the bill will be released "over my dead body." After a May 9 N.O.W. rally in Brooklyn, Rep. Celler stated that he would hold hearings on the amendment. This has been interpreted as a diversionary tactic to undercut the discharge petition.

Esch Amendment
Permits
Discrimination

Women are asked to urge their congressmen to vote down the Esch Amendment to the Equal Opportunities Enforcement Act (HR 17555), which permits racial and sex discrimination in pension and retirement plans. According to Rep. Martha Griffiths, the principal lobbyists for the Esch Amendment are the Bell Telephone Companies, who have long relegated women to the lesser paid jobs and who fear that the elimination of sex differences in retirement age may increase company costs.

Related
Documents

The Half-Eaten Apple, an excellent analysis of discrimination in the universities, is available free from Ann Scott of N.O.W. (50 Willowbrook, Buffalo, New York 14221). Includes a description of WEAL's actions, statistics on educational discrimination, and Scott's model "Plan for Affirmative Action."

Sex Discrimination and "Protective" Labor Legislation, by Susan Dellar Ross, New York University Law School, New York, N.Y. A meticulous analysis of state labor laws which concludes that "applying [them] to women only [is] discriminatory and harmful."

EMPLOYMENT

Has Anyone Been
Fired Lately?

Women In Publishing, a group organized in May to tackle the publishing industry's discrimination against women, joined members of the Publishing Action Committee in picketing McGraw-Hill June 24th to urge the unionization of its employees. The 100 demonstrators drew large crowds, and expressions of support from McGraw-Hill employees. Leaflets headlined, "Has Anyone In Your House Been Fired Lately?" were distributed. One demonstrator explained that approximately 40 people have been fired in recent months, most of them women who were active in union organizing. Women In Publishing meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Women's Center, 36 West 22nd Street, New York City.

Men Protest
Woman's Promotion

Some 35 men walked off the job June 22 at Allen Industries (Herrin, Ill.) after a woman was awarded a job that formerly was held by a man. The action provoked the shut down of the sew and trim division, which employs 500 persons.

"Let Them Check
Freight Cars"

Six Penn Central System office women were assigned to jobs as checkers of freight cars at Detroit-area railroad yards after they complained about sex discrimination to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. The women had been employed as clerks and typists. Climbing in and out of boxcars as railroad checkers is a backbreaking job, but a company executive said, "They asked for equal rights, so what are they complaining about." Eleanor Hannon, 51, a widow with five children, said, "I can't afford to quit. But I don't know how long I can last on this job, particularly if I have to work a night shift." The transfer from the office pool to the freight docks is within the scope of the railroad's contract with the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

Women Sue G.M.

Three women employes of the Fisher Body plant in suburban Norwood (Cincinnati) filed suits recently asking more than \$3.5 million in damages from General Motors and Fisher Body, charging discrimination because of their sex. The suits, filed as class actions, claim that more than 200 women worked at the plant at one time and now only 73 are employed there because women are fired sooner than men and either not rehired or are rehired much later than men when vacancies occur.

CONFERENCES

Women Censure Nixon

More than one thousand women at the Women's Bureau 50th Anniversary Conference June 10-12 expressed sharp displeasure with President Nixon's disregard of the problems of women, signified by his non-appearance at a White House fete. Spokeswomen said that the only reason they did not stage an action was because they did not want to undermine Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, head of the Women's Bureau, who had negotiated the release of the President's Task Force Report and the guidelines on sex discrimination for federal contractors. The conference overwhelmingly passed a recommendation to support the Equal Rights Amendment and Rep. Martha Griffith's petition to bring the amendment directly to the floor of the House. Other recommendations included promotion of Koontz to assistant secretary of labor (some said she should have been named secretary rather than James D. Hodgson, who reportedly has a patronizing attitude towards women), adoption of the Task Force recommendations, and a vast increase in child care facilities.

F.E.W. Works For More

Federally Employed Women (F.E.W.), a national organization organized to attack government discrimination against women employees, held a conference June 19-20 in Washington. F.E.W. makes a strong case for the sorry plight of women in government: only 2 percent of all women hold a Civil Service grade of 15 or higher and 80 percent are in grades 1 to 6, the lowest paying spots. In comments directed at panelist James E. Johnson, vice chairman of the Civil Service Commission, several women claimed that federal supervisors preselect people for promotion and sometimes bypass merit system procedures. F.E.W. has grown from 18 members when it began in 1968 to more than 1,000 members. For information, contact: Daisy Fields, F.E.W., Suite 487, National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Feminists Demand
\$100-Million
In Reparations

Feminists demanded \$100-million in reparations for "sexploitation" from New York City's top 100 advertisers at a Conference on Women June 4. The money would be used to provide free child care, free abortion clinics and free legal services. Participant Florynce Kennedy pointed out that this amount is only one third of the annual advertising budget of one consumer company - Proctor and Gamble. Co-sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Women's Unit of Governor Rockefeller's Office, women's liberation groups were invited to open dialogue with conservative women interested in the movement. Implementation of the reparations demand and a resolution to support the women's strike on August 26 are to be discussed in future meetings. (For information, call the Women's Center, 691-1860, 36 West 22nd Street, New York, N.Y.) Ti-Grace Atkinson defended prostitutes as the only honest women, and demanded repeal of all laws concerning abortion. Robin Morgan, author of "Goodbye To All That," criticized the conference for not providing day care. The entrance fee of \$2.50 and the choice of a weekday afternoon for the conference were seen as narrowing the scope of participants, since it excluded welfare mothers and working women. A suggestion was made to give the money from admission to the women striking the Bell Telephone Company, with an additional \$10,000 to be demanded from Governor Rockefeller. The plan was abandoned when the organizers said it would put them in a financial bind.

Conference
Postponed

The Conference on Feminism planned for August by Human Rights for Women has been postponed indefinitely because of non-substantive response.

REPORTS

A Matter Of
Simple Justice

After a delay of six months, the White House has finally released *A Matter of Simple Justice*, the Report of the President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities. The report is radical for its context and is an important tool for reform-minded women's groups. Thus far, the only response to the report from the Administration is the issuance of guidelines for federal contractors (see this issue). Space prohibits summarizing the report, but it is available free from the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

SURVEYS

Career Women
Approve Feminists

Chicago's Harris Trust and Savings Bank has released a study of the "typical" Chicago career woman, described as a college graduate in her early 40's, probably in the field of communications, responsible for supporting only herself, earning almost \$15,000 per year, and expecting to work at least 30 years of her lifetime. Sixty percent of the respondents agreed that the feminist movement is making valuable advances in the area of career quality for women. However, 85% denied that the militant approach is the only way to fight male supremacy. Nine percent indicated they were strongly militant.

Almost two-thirds of the women surveyed rejected the idea that a man's job should be superior to his wife's, with married women feeling more strongly than unmarried women on this point. More than three out of four disagreed with the statement "By necessity, a woman who wants a career loses some of her femininity." The women were divided, however, on the statement, "A woman should use her femininity subtly to advance her career." Respondents largely agreed that a woman should be treated as an equal to men professionally, but as a woman socially.

While 43% agreed that the barriers to the employment of women in management are almost insurmountable, only 6% agreed with the statement, "I would rather work for a woman than a man." A Harris Bank spokeswoman noted that "In the last analysis, career women may be creating a barrier to their own advancement by not accepting women bosses themselves." Copies of the survey may be obtained from Sharron Hannon, Harris Bank, 111 West Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois 60690 (Tel: 312-461-6624).

AAUW Surveys
Members

In a recent survey by the American Association of University Women to determine attitudes regarding the changing role of women, 43% of the women and 60% of the men said a woman's first responsibility is to be a feminine companion of men and a mother. Fifty-six percent of the women and 61 percent of the men agreed with the statement: "women do not wish full equality if it means loss of femininity." The AAUW, with about 170,000 members all of whom have at least one college degree, asked for the opinions in its January journal and received 7,000 responses by February 23. Copies of the survey are available from the AAUW, 2401 Virginia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 (202-338-4300).

RECENT
PUBLICATIONS

At least seven newspapers are now being published by women. They are:

- Ain't I A Woman?, W.L.F., 301 Jefferson Bldg., Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Twice-monthly, \$4 per year.
- Everywoman, 6516 West 83rd Street, Los Angeles, California 90046. Twice-monthly. \$2.50 for 10 issues. Also, a catalog will be ready July 15 of material available from Everywoman Bookstore.
- It Ain't Me Babe, Box 6323, Albany, Ca. 94706. \$1.80 for six months.
- Off Our Backs, 2318 Ashmead Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Bi-weekly. \$6 for one year.
- The Pedestal, Vancouver Women's Caucus, 307 West Broadway, Vancouver, B. C., Canada. Monthly. \$1.50 per year. Also write for list of pamphlets.
- RAT, 241 East 14th Street, New York, N.Y. 10008. Bi-weekly. \$6 per year.
- S. F. Women's Liberation internal newsletter, 2414 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. \$1.

A new women's magazine joins the ranks of *Aphra*, *Women: A Journal of Liberation and No More Fun and Games*. It is *Up From Under*, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012. Bi-monthly. \$2.50 for five issues.

Besides *The Spokeswoman*, two newsletters have recently surfaced: *Title VII Report for women in business and the professions* (Barbara Jordan Moore, 866 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, bi-weekly, \$38 per year) and *Washington Newsletter for Women* (Angela Schreiber, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036). A fourth, *Skirting The Capitol*, is a bi-weekly on women and legislation which is well into its first year. Contact: Marion Ash, Box 4569, Sacramento, Ca. 95825. \$15 per year.

Most women's organizations now publish newsletters for their members which are available on request at small sums. One brand-new newsletter, published by a N.O.W. committee, is *Sisters In Poverty*. Contact: Merrilee Dolan, editor, 1712 Gold Street, S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106.

Women across the country are subscribing to the *Miami Herald* because of its scoops and feature articles on women. Write: *Miami Herald*, Miami, Florida 33101.

A list of some 70 books on women, both published and soon-to-be-published, appeared in *Publishers' Weekly*, March 30, 1970 (pages 50-51).

Notes From the Second Year: Women's Liberation - Major Writings of the Radical Feminists. Shal-mith Firestone, Anne Koedt, editors. Box AA, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011. \$1.50

Cornell Conference on Women, proceedings from conference January 22-25, 1969. 100 pages of panel discussion on politics, education, the black woman and women's self-image. Available for \$2.50 from Sheila Tobias, Day Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850.

Women's Heritage Calendar and Almanac, first product of the "first all-woman corporation in the nation devoted solely to the creation and merchandising of products for liberated women by liberated women." For catalogue write: Women's Heritage Series, Inc., 838 15th Street, Santa Monica, Ca. 90403.

The "Women's Free Press" was announced in May, 1970 by KNOW, Inc., a non-profit corporation founded by Pittsburgh feminists. For a price list of available reprints, contact Jo-Ann Evans Gardner, 726 Saint James Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232 (412-621-4753).

"Cutting Loose," by Sally Kempton, *Esquire*, July, 1970. A professional woman's highly personal account of her efforts for liberation when "the enemy has outposts in your head." One comment: "I used to lie in bed beside my husband after those fights and wish I had the courage to bash in his head with a frying pan. . . I didn't dare, not because I was afraid of seriously hurting him - I would have loved to do that - but because . . . I was afraid that . . . he would leave me."

SLDB 21 34

spokeswoman

for abortion law repeal

February 1973 10¢



U.S. Supreme Court abortion decision is a victory for world-wide women's rights struggle.

U.S. court decision a giant step

Repeal Canada's Abortion Law Now!

By JOAN CAMPANA

On Jan. 22, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that women have a constitutional right to abortion. This ruling overturned nearly every restrictive abortion law in the country.

Lorna Grant, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws, at a Jan. 26 press conference called the Supreme Court decision "a significant victory in the struggle for women's rights around the world."

She pointed out the importance of the U.S. ruling for Canadian women: it puts the Canadian government under pressure to meet the demands of the rapidly growing movement for repeal of Canada's restrictive abortion laws.

Grant said, "We feel the eyes of the whole world are on the U.S. decision and the Canadian government can't afford to sidestep this -- and Canadian women won't let them sidestep it."

The U.S. ruling allows no legal restrictions on a woman's access to abortion up to 24 weeks (6 months). After that time, some restrictions are permitted; but even up to the ninth month of pregnancy, abortions must be allowed for broad grounds

including emotional, psychological, family and age factors as well as the woman's physical condition. While states may require abortions to be performed by doctors (after 12 weeks) they cannot require them to be performed in accredited hospitals or to be approved by a committee of doctors.

The Supreme Court based the ruling on two important premises: that every woman has a right to privacy (i.e., the right to control her body) and that a fetus has no constitutional rights.

In a telegram to the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition in the U.S., the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws noted the international importance of the U.S. decision:

"Congratulations on Supreme Court decision -- a tremendous victory for all women brought about by the determined and united action of women. We salute the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition for its leadership role in the winning of this victory. Forward to the day when all restrictions on a woman's right to choose are dropped! In Canada we call upon the Canadian government

to follow suit and immediately repeal its abortion law from the Criminal Code."

On Jan. 23, NDP MP Grace McInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway) challenged the Canadian government to act:

"In view of the decision of the United States Supreme Court which will result in broadly liberalized abortion laws in 46 states, and in view of the Canadian Gallup Poll published on January 4 of this year which showed that 61 per cent of Canadian adults agree that the decision on abortion should be made solely by the woman and her doctor, is the government planning to introduce legislation this session to amend the Criminal Code to this effect? . . . Is the government prepared to arrange for a debate on this matter?"

Minister of Justice Otto Lang replied: "No. There has certainly been no decision to have one at the present time."

In an interview, he enlarged on this opinion: "I wouldn't expect it and I don't see the need for it. Our feeling is that we made changes to

abortion regulations only a few years ago (in 1969) . . . There is a good body of opinion that says that's where we should leave it -- certainly that's the government's opinion."

Lorna Grant denounced Lang's statement to the press. "For years we have at least had the promise of a debate on the issue in the House of Commons. Now according to Lang, the government does not even see the need for this. This only serves to point out very clearly the continued indifference of the Canadian government to the needs of Canadian women."

The Canadian Women's Coalition has launched a series of activities leading up to a cross-country conference in Toronto, March 16-18. This conference will bring together women from right across Canada to protest against Canada's restrictive abortion laws and to plan further activities to press for repeal of these laws. The aim of the Canadian Women's Coalition is to build a campaign big enough and powerful enough to compel the government to act.

Maclean's



Madeleine Gobeil's remarkable interview with Simone de Beauvoir, which begins on page 34, makes an important human statement. Testifying at a trial in Bobigny, a suburb of Paris, the French writer freely admitted she'd had an abortion in her youth, and that she frequently lent money and gave addresses to anyone who might need one. Although French law almost never grants the right to abortion, Simone de Beauvoir claimed total complicity with those who had gone through abortions. "Either I lied — I never did any of those things, and they must proceed against me for perjury, a serious offense," she says, "or they must try me for complicity in abortion."

Many Canadians may dismiss Beauvoir's position as inapplicable to their lives because they vaguely remember that Pierre Trudeau "liberalized" our abortion laws back in the spring of 1969. But any woman in this country who has actually tried to get an abortion will have a very different opinion, both of Beauvoir's courageous act of protest and the extent of Trudeau's "liberalization." The fact is that abortion in this country is still treated as a criminal act and is not, as it should be, an issue that is settled between a woman and her doctor. Trudeau's amendment provided only one loophole: abortion became permissible if a doctor received a certificate from a hospital committee that continuation of the patient's pregnancy "would or would be likely to endanger her life or health." Though only such health hazards as kidney failure, diabetes, polio, heart disease and German measles qualify within the law's strictest interpretation, some hospital committees have made their decisions according to more enlightened criteria, such as the mother's simple unwillingness to give birth. (During the first six months of 1972, Canadian hospitals reported a total of 18,801 abortions.)

But according to Eleanor Wright Pelrine, author of *Abortion In Canada* (New Press 1972), there were another 100,000

Making Abortion An Accepted Right Of Women

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

or so illegal abortions in Canada during the past year and "a probable three to four hundred deaths." Part of the problem is that hospitals are not required to establish abortion committees and many don't. Those that do find the committee system time-consuming and embarrassing. The law as it now stands has placed the doctors who serve on these committees in the role of reluctant judges, having to interpret the Criminal Code as they see fit. Inevitably, the patients who can pay for a specialist who brings their case before the committee have a decisive advantage over the less well-off women from the outpatients department.

The solution is to take abortion right out of the Criminal Code (except for those performing abortions without medical qualifications) and leave the decision up to the woman involved and her doctor. Religious beliefs have been considered personal beliefs for a long time so that the repeal would in no way interfere with those whose creed condemns abortion.

Abortion law reform has been supported by many groups, including the Canadian Psychiatric Association, the Alberta Medical Association, the United Church of Canada and the Canadian Labor Congress. At its annual meeting two years ago, the Canadian Medical Association deleted all references to abortion from its code of ethics. Dr. Wendell Waters, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at McMaster University, commented in an editorial in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*: "Doctors should not be forced to play God or assume the function of gatekeepers to decide which unwanted children should be allowed into this overpopulated world, and which ones should not... Their role should be to ensure that the patient really does want the pregnancy terminated, and to make sure that the procedure is carried out early and safely."

Dr. Waters is right but we need men and women with the courage of Beauvoir to change the abortion regulations that now disgrace our law books. ■

reprinted from *Maclean's*, Feb. 1973

review

'Abortion in Canada' argues repeal

ABORTION IN CANADA by Eleanor Wright Pelrine. New Press, 1972. \$1.50

A new edition of *Abortion in Canada* by Eleanor Wright Pelrine is now available in paperback, enabling thousands of Canadian women who couldn't afford the prohibitive cost of the hardcover edition to read this authoritative book on the abortion situation in Canada and the need for repeal of the abortion laws.

The new edition contains the facts, interviews, explanation of the law and reasoned argument for its elimination as did the first edition. But it brings them up to date with the latest statistics and facts. A new final chapter brings the reader up to date on the growing movement for abortion law repeal.

In the introduction to the paperback edition Pelrine notes how attitudes have changed since she first wrote her book in 1970: "As this is written, 13 months later, it appears that majority opinion in Canada favors repeal of the abortion law... More people understand now just how difficult it is to get an abortion under 'The Reform That Hardly Was!'"

The new addition shows that while more abortions are being performed in Canada each year, the number is still small compared to the number of women wanting abortions. It also points out that as abortion becomes more acceptable to more women the number of illegal abortions also arises because of the restrictions and red tape limiting access to legal abortion.

With the changing abortion situation, according to Pelrine, "What remains eminently clear to the author is this: Canada's abortion law, which tramples on the civil rights of a majority of the Canadian population, must be repealed. Further, provincial governments (who are responsible for hospital facilities) must realistically approach the question of establishment and approval of free standing abortion clinics, where abortions may be carried out as quickly, safely, painlessly and competently as

possible." The book explains what exact repeal is -- removal of all references to abortion in the Criminal code so that abortion would no longer be a criminal act but instead an operation like any other. It explains what the present law says and what it does. It restricts access to abortion making it illegal except under certain spelled out circumstances -- if approved by a hospital committee of at least 3 doctors upon the recommendation of

at all. Those hospitals with committees have to reject many applicants just because they do not have the facilities to take all those who apply. Thus as Pelrine points out, sometimes the order in which the applications were filed by the clerk determines arbitrarily who gets abortions in these hospitals and who doesn't.

Pelrine feels that, "It will probably take political action on a mass scale to achieve repeal of our abortion laws. A program of informing the public is

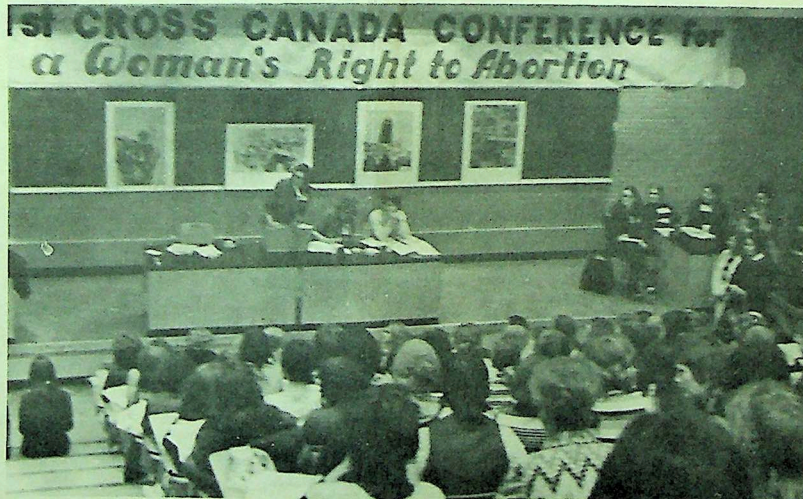
national organizations which have taken stands on the issue) met in Winnipeg. Out of the weekend meeting, attended by 223 women from across Canada, the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws was formed."

All in all, the book is a valuable tool for those of us trying to convince others of the necessity of repeal. All the main facts and arguments are there to make the case.

In an interview with Pat Grinstead of the Canadian Women's Coalition, Eleanor Pelrine describes herself proudly as "an activist for the cause". She says "My book is an instrument to be passed on from woman to woman. If we are to win we must reach all women."

The introduction to the new edition ends on a prophetic note in light of the U.S. Supreme Court victory last month which rules laws restricting women's right to abortion before 24 weeks illegal because they compromised the constitutional guarantee of women's right to privacy. Pelrine says:

"Women are people -- and citizens. As such they are entitled to equal rights and freedom under the Canadian Bill of Rights. And as Margaret Sanger said in 1920, 'No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her own body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.'"



223 women from across Canada attended founding conference of Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws--Winnipeg, March 1972.

a fourth. Further it limits the grounds on which a doctor can recommend an abortion. The doctor must sign a certificate that states that continuation of the patient's pregnancy "would or would be likely to endanger her life or health." The therapeutic abortion committee must then act as judges and rule on the applications -- whether or not there is good enough proof of the danger to the woman's health and life.

But many of the applications never even get to the committee for a hearing, Pelrine points out, because of long-waiting lists. Since no hospital is required by law to set up such a committee, hundreds do not have them and thus do no abortions

needed, backed up by public meetings and demonstrations."

In the last chapter of the book she deals with what political action is taking place as well as with the activities of the Alliance for Life and other anti-abortion groups: "In view of the increasing activity of the anti-abortion forces, the formation of more militant, activist repeal groups comes as no surprise. In the fall of 1971 The Ontario Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Law was launched, as were similar groups in most other provinces.

"Last March, representatives from each of those groups and interested individuals (many sponsored by

spokeswoman Vol. 11
for abortion law repeal No. 1

EDITOR: Lis Angus 10¢
BUSINESS MANAGER: Sandy Fox

EDITORIAL BOARD: Lorna Grant, Ilona Laney, Karen Hicks, Esther Greenglass, Pat Grinstead, Judith Aber, Gail Matthias.

Published by the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws, Box 5673, Station A, Toronto. Subscriptions: 7 issues for \$1.00. Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Canadian Women's Coalition.

Cross Canada Abortion Conference

The Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws is hosting a cross-country conference in Toronto, March 16-18. This conference will bring together women from across Canada to protest Canada's restrictive abortion laws and to plan further activities to press for repeal of these laws. All women who support the struggle to make abortion a woman's right to choose are urgently invited to participate in this conference.

Canada's so-called liberalized laws have succeeded only in continuing the suffering, humiliation, injury and even death of Canadian women. Thousands of women each year still risk their lives at the hands of back-street abortionists; suffer humiliation and critical delays at the hands of therapeutic abortion committees; or travel to foreign countries where the laws make abortion more accessible.

The recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court -- which overturned almost all laws restricting women's right to abortion in the United States -- marks a significant victory for women's struggles around the world. In the tradition of the suffrage movement, a movement of women has grown powerful enough to force action from the highest body in the U.S.: a body that only a year ago refused to even hear a similar case challenging restrictive abortion laws.

We must use this valuable precedent to force the Canadian government to act now to repeal Canada's anti-abortion laws. The cross-country conference provides an invaluable opportunity for women from all parts of the country to plan strategy and project ways of building a movement powerful enough to win repeal in Canada.

The record of the Canadian government on this issue has been one of indifference and cynical disregard

for the needs of women. When M. P. Grace McInnis challenged the government to act in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision, Justice Minister Otto Lang's reply was clear and to the point: "We (the government) see no need for a debate on this matter."

This is the government's considered opinion after thousands upon thousands of Canadians have expressed support for women's right to decide, for themselves, whether or not to complete a particular pregnancy.

Over 80,000 Canadians have already signed their names to a petition calling for repeal of the abortion laws. Students on seventeen campuses voted overwhelmingly last spring for a woman's right to choose abortion. Hundreds of Canadians have marched in the street and attended rallies for the right to abortion. Thousands have bought and circulated the campaign newspaper, Spokeswoman. Many have participated in polls and surveys on abortion. Large organizations such as the Canadian Medical Association, the Federation of Women Teachers Association, the New Democratic Party and the United Church have expressed opposition to the present abortion laws.

Still the Canadian government refuses to act. Its refusal to take action places them solidly on the side of all those who seek to deny women the right to control their reproductive lives. It places it beside the anti-abortion groups and the Catholic Church with their sensationalism and emotional appeals on behalf of the fetus.

It places them in support of the Ontario Supreme Court action which in January, 1972, forced a woman in Ottawa to complete a pregnancy despite the fact that she was already scheduled for a legal abortion.

It places them on the side of Manitoba MLA Joe Borowski who is launching a legal suit against the women of Manitoba to deny them coverage for abortion under the Manitoba Health plan.

The Canadian Women's Coalition has been in the forefront of the struggle against the Canadian abortion laws and all those who support and uphold them. We have responded to the attacks on women's right to abortion by building a cross-country campaign. We have demonstrated and petitioned; sponsored tours, meetings, and projects; spoken in high schools and churches, in cities and towns across Canada. And we have seen a big upsurge in public sentiment in favor of legalizing abortion. A January Gallup Poll showed that 61 per cent of Canadians support abortion as a private decision to be made solely between a woman and her physician.

With this growing sentiment and the recent victory in the United States we must move immediately to step up the campaign -- to investigate new possibilities for action and to involve thousands more women. This is the only way we will win this struggle.

We call on women and organizations across Canada to support and participate in the cross-Canada conference for abortion law repeal, March 16-18 in Toronto.

The Canadian government can equivocate no longer. We must work together to win this important victory for ourselves and for women around the world -- who, like ourselves, are victims of restrictive, archaic abortion laws. Together we will win.

**REPEAL THE ABORTION LAWS NOW!
ABORTION: A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE!**

The upcoming conference will be an important event in the abortion law repeal campaign in this country.

To help make this conference a big success we need your full support--your time and energy, your money, your endorsement.

The conference is already endorsed by:
Adrienne Clarkson
Peter C. Newman
Dr. Harriet Christie (United Church)
Grace Hartman (CUPE)
Iona Samis (Ont. Fed. of Labor)
National Action Committee on the Status of Women
Ontario Federation of Students women's conference

If you want to help build the conference, please send this coupon to:

Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws
Box 5673, Station A, Toronto

I/we want to endorse the conference

I/we enclose \$ _____ to build the conference

I/we request further information on the conference

I/we would like to subscribe to SPOKESWOMAN:
\$1.00 for 7 issues
\$2.00 for 15 issues

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CALLUP POLL OF CANADA

Majority approval given for liberalized abortion



'Of course abortions are wrong, and as an unmarried man I should know'

Canadian attitudes on the question of liberalized abortions almost parallel those in the U.S., as found when the same question was asked there.

The study in Canada was conducted with a random sample of 741 adults in mid-September, with personal interviews in homes across the nation. A sample of this size produces results accurate within 4 percentage points 19 out of 20 times. The question:

"Do you agree, or disagree with the following statement: The decision to have an abortion should be made solely by a woman and her physician?"

The table below shows current national attitudes in the U.S. and Canada and compares viewpoints among the main Canadian age segments.

	Agree	Disagree	Can't Say
CANADA	61%	31%	8%
U.S.	64	31	5
18-29 years	71	23	6
30-39 years	61	34	5
40-49 years	61	32	7
50 and over	51	35	14

Cross country tour

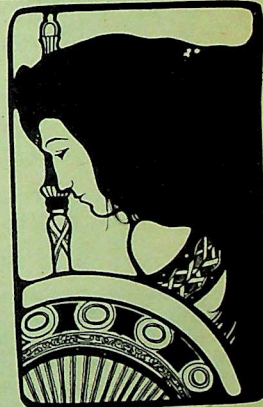
The Canadian Women's Coalition is conducting a cross-country tour this February with coalition Financia Director, Joan Campana speaking on "Why Canada's Abortion Laws Must Be Repealed". Meetings have been arranged in cities across the country.

Campana, former Ombudswoman, University of British Columbia, will be speaking on the facts of the abortion situation in Canada - who is able to get abortions and who isn't, the significance of the U.S. Supreme Court victory for the abortion rights struggle in Canada, and how Canadian women can win repeal. The tour will be an important building action for the March 16-18 cross-country conference.



Joan Campana

Across the country - chapters of Canadian Women's Coalition



CANADIAN WOMEN'S COALITION TO REPEAL THE ABORTION LAWS: Box 5673, Station A, Toronto, 863-9773

KITCHENER-WATERLOO: c/o Laurel Fischer, Box 664, Waterloo.

THUNDER BAY: c/o B.C. Information and Referral Center, Room 1012, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ont.

TORONTO: Box 5673, Station A, Toronto. 863-9773

OTTAWA: c/o Diane Palm, 33 Rosemount, Apt. 18, Ottawa, 728-4965

PETERBORO: c/o Linda Peeters, 30 James St., #2, Peterboro, Ont. 743-7005

HAMILTON: c/o Kathy Beaman, 38 Strathcona, Hamilton.

ST. CATHARINES: c/o Judy Brooke, 2 Eastchester Ave. #3, St. Catharines. 685-5773

MONTREAL: 1355 Dorchester West, Montreal 842-8001

FRONT COMMUN POUR L'ABROGATION DES LOIS SUR L'AVORTEMENT, 3616 Ste-Famille, Montreal 130.

HALIFAX: c/o Jean Hardwick, 6291 Payzant Ave., Halifax.

Following is a list of provincial and local chapters which are affiliated to the Canadian Women's Coalition. To get involved in your area contact:

BRITISH COLUMBIA: #512-207 West Hastings St., Vancouver, 688-7333

EDMONTON: c/o Heidi Fischer #408 10711 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton, 439-0696

REGINA: Elaine Nystrom c/o Women's Centre University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus.

SASKATOON: c/o Sheila Jones-Steele, SUB P.O. 4, Saskatoon, 382-7311

MANITOBA: 305B-416 Main Street, Winnipeg, 943-2793

BELLEVILLE: c/o Judy Patterson, 70 Front St., Belleville, 968-9604

GUELPH: c/o Linda Ham, 11 Douglas Cres., Apt. 13, Fergus, Ont.

Second

Cross Canada Conference for Abortion Law Repeal



March 16-18 Toronto

Unite to win a woman's right to choose!

Sponsored by the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

For further information contact:
Canadian Women's Coalition,
Box 5673, Station A, Toronto. 863-9773.

or:

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