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N.B.--copy to each person on
mailing list

5303 South Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615
September 19, 1975

Dear Sisters:

Here are some personal questions about mounting the campaign for the wage, questions that have occurred to me that helped organize my thinking about what we need to accomplish at the fall conference. Our group has had some discussion of an earlier draft of the questions, and we decided I should write them out as a possible "public service."

They reflect, naturally, my current level of understanding of the perspective and how to move on it. Briefly, I see the network and its campaign as a phenomenon somewhere between a tight little "leftist" party speaking only to socialist "initiates" and an amorphous, politically heterogeneous bourgeois reform movement (U.S. readers might think of these poles as the Revolutionary Union and the Equal Rights Amendment ratification drive). That is, we with our radical standpoint of the wage campaign as an assault on capital will be triggering a broadscale popular campaign in which many non-revolutionary women will participate, and to which much non-revolutionary motivation and organizing energy will be brought. We want to win on our terms--or with as little compromise as possible--so that what we are as a network and what we do or assist in doing in the population as a whole in each country are closely related issues. My questions thus relate both to the internal organization and the how to build the campaign sections of Toronto's agenda.

1. What are the lessons of attempted joint work with established political groups, either autonomous feminist-socialist ones or caucuses of mixed groups? Do we reject attempted coalitions altogether?
2. At the other end of the spectrum, what are the lessons of wholesale approaches to the population (i.e., TV, radio)? Are we content, for the present, with "broadcasting" to people to spread the idea, or are we at the same time trying to catalyze groups forming all over the place (i.e., in neighborhoods, church-based, union-based, or whatever) which in their own ways would start working for the wage? What is our follow-up?
3. People who get turned on to an idea generally want to know "what can I do?" Do we as a network agree on specific immediate objectives and tasks to suggest? Specifically, are we going to campaign directly to the parliaments in each country, as if we were a simple reform movement? Or...?
4. How do we deal with the gap between our mass work emphasizing the cash demand and our total analysis incorporating the goal of socialist revolution? Does this vary a lot from country to country, depending upon the credibility of overt "socialism talk" in each? We presently very much want our network to be in clear accord about what we want. I have trouble envisioning that a truly mass campaign could have that accord. Consequently,
5. as the campaign grows, the network may grow a certain amount but other forms of pro-wage organization will spring up--yes? What is the relation of the network to these, what political direction does it exert, and how? Similarly, established reform women's groups may take up the wage demand; how do we relate to them (e.g., in U.S., groups like the League of Women Voters)?
6. Also, since we do need and want the network to grow too, how do we integrate new women? New York catalyzed a study group, some of whose members may commit themselves to the collective. Is this "the answer" and do other cities have working answers?

Yours in love, power, and the struggle against confusion,

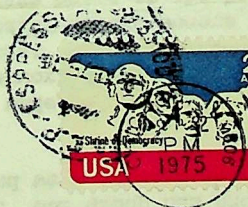
Sara
Sara Heslep



The University of Chicago

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