

Wages for Housework
P. O. Box 26325
Los Angeles, California 90026
(213) 680-1767

FC, contella 3, 24



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MATTER

AIR MAIL

Wages for Housework
c/o MARIA ROSA DALLA COSTA
VIA BARTOLOMEO CRISTOFORI, 35
PADOVA, 35100, ITALY

AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL



WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

This was sent to
everyone on
our mailing list

May 5, 1977

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We're sorry you haven't heard from Los Angeles Wages for Housework sooner. This National Edition of our newsletter is a composite one and includes some articles which you may have seen in earlier issues. Many of the articles are new, and you may be particularly interested in the back page which discusses some of the organizing we have done in California around the abolition of all laws against prostitution. We apologize to you that the newsletter is in English only. We haven't had the time or money to have it translated and reprinted in Spanish. We hope to have that available soon. Contact us if you need the Spanish newsletter.

We would like to explain why this issue of the newsletter has been so long in arriving. We have been very busy deepening and extending the Campaign for Wages for Housework. With all the cutbacks and propaganda about shortages, it is essential now to organize our power to protect the money that women have already won for our work and to fight for more. We really felt the power of the Campaign to make that fight when about 100 of us gathered in Chicago for a North American WFH organizational conference in April. Black Women for WFH spoke about the power that the struggle of welfare mothers has brought to all women, and about how we are organizing to defend that money. Beth Ingber from Los Angeles discussed the stepped-up harassment of prostitute women as an attack on our access to money of our own. She described the mobilization we have undertaken in support of prostitute women.

Here in Los Angeles, we will be putting the government and business on trial for pimping (see enclosed leaflet). We are holding similar trials in San Francisco and Boston; other street events demanding the abolition of all laws against prostitution will be held in New York and London. We are charging government and business with "Pimping off of Prostitution and Pimping off of All the Work Women Do." We hope you will come and testify about the ways government and business profit from the work you do! The "trial" will be held in MacArthur Park on Sunday afternoon, May 15th. We intend to enjoy ourselves while we make our point, and hope you will join us. If you can use more leaflets to post or to give your friends, please call us at 680-1767.

We are also planning an open house on Thursday, May 26th. It will be an informal occasion -- a chance to discuss the trial, ask questions about the Campaign, and relax together. All women are invited.

We look forward to seeing you at the street trial on May 15 and at our party on May 26th.

Power to Women,

Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee

May 5, 1977



Queridas hermanas y amigos,

Sentimos que no hayan tenido noticias de SPQH de Los Angeles con más prontitud. La edición nacional de nuestra carta de noticias comprende artículos de diferentes cartas de noticias e incluye artículos que Uds. ya han leído. Algunos de los artículos son nuevos, y Ud. puede interesarse particularmente por la última página la cual incluye algo del trabajo de organización que hemos hecho en California con el fin de abolir todas las leyes contra la prostitución. Le pedimos disculpas porque la carta de noticias está escrita solamente en inglés. No hemos tenido ni el tiempo ni el dinero para traducirla o imprimirla en español. Aunque deseamos hacerlo pronto. Póngase en contacto con nosotras si la necesita en español.

Deseamos explicar porque la carta de noticias llevó tanto tiempo en llegar a Uds. Hemos estado muy ocupadas extendiendo y ahondando la campaña de SPQH. Con todos los recortes y propaganda acerca de las carestías, es esencial el organizar nuestro poder para proteger el dinero que las mujeres hemos ganado por nuestro trabajo y luchar por mas. Hemos comprendido el poder de esta campaña por esa lucha cuando cien (100) de nosotras se juntaron en Chicago en una conferencia organizacional norteamericana de SPQH en abril. La Mujer Negra por SPQH hablaron del poder que la lucha de madres que reciben ayuda "welfare". La traído a toda las mujeres y como nos estamos organizando para defender ese dinero. Beth Ingber discutió la escalación de hostilidades hacia las prostitutas como un ataque en contra del acceso al dinero que nos pertenece. Ella describió la movilización que estamos llevando acabo en respaldo a las mujeres prostitutas.

Aquí en Los Angeles, vamos a enjuiciar al gobierno y al comercio por aprovecharse de la mujer (ver el folleto incluido). Vamos a tener juicios similares en San Francisco y Boston; otros eventos públicos exigiendo la abolición de todas las leyes contra la prostitución se llevaron acabo en Nueva York y Londres. Los cargos contra el gobierno y el comercio son "el aprovecharse de la prostitucion y todo el trabajo que la mujer desempeña." Esperamos que Ud. venga a dar testimonio sobre la manera como el gobierno y el comercio se aprovechan del trabajo que Ud. hace. El juico se llevara acabo en MacArthur Park el domingo, 15 de mayo al medio día. Deseamos divertirnos al mismo tiempo que ponemos en claro nuestro punto de vista y esperamos que se una a nosotras. Si necesita mas folletos para pegar o distribuir a sus amistades, llámenos al (213) 680-1767.

También estamos planeando una "casa abierta" el jueves 26 de mayo. Será una ocasión informal -- una oportunidad para discutir el juicio, hacer preguntas sobre la campaña y charlar. Todas las mujeres están invitadas.

Esperamos verla en el juicio público el 15 de mayo y en nuestra fiesta el 26 de mayo.

Poder a la mujer,

El Comité de Sueldo Por Quehaceres del
Hogar de Los Angeles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information call:
Wages for Housework Prosecuting Attorney,
Beth Ingber at 680-1767

To contact star witness Margaret Prescod-Roberts
of Black Women for Wages for Housework, New York,
call (212) 834-0992

"GUILTY!"

You, _____,

in the case of Women vs. Police Chief Ed Davis, Judge Wilbur Dettmar,
City Attorney Burt Pines, Mayor Tom Bradley,
Governor Jerry Brown, President Jimmy Carter,
General Motors, California Supreme Court,
Mastercharge, and John Does 1 - 50,

were tried and convicted by a court of women on May 15, 1977, in MacArthur Park.

The charges were not contested, and you were found guilty on all counts of
pimping:

pimping off of prostitution

pimping off of all the work women do

The remedies women have been granted are:

AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF PROSTITUTES .

THE ABOLITION OF ALL LAWS AGAINST PROSTITUTION

AMNESTY FOR ALL PROSTITUTES & THE REMOVAL OF ALL
CRIMINAL RECORDS RELATING TO PROSTITUTION

During the trial, women reclaimed your ill-gotten gains -- money you got
by pimping off of our work-- and sentenced you to an eternity of housework--
unpaid. There will be no appeal and no parole.

For further information, call:
Beth Ingber (habla Español) at
680-1767, or
Jane Molson: 223- 8203, or
Sidney Ross, 661-0095 (in a. m.)

LOS ANGELES WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 26325
Los Angeles CA 90026
May 6, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACK WOMEN'S GROUP FOUNDER
WILL SPEAK IN LOS ANGELES

A series of events featuring Margaret Prescod-Roberts, founding member of Black Women for Wages for Housework and of the Queen's College, N. Y., Women's Action Group, has been planned for her 7-day visit to Los Angeles.

Arriving here from San Francisco on Tuesday morning, May 10, she will address a special 12 noon meeting of the UCLA organization, Women Against Cutbacks, in the conference room of the North Campus Facility. "All women, as well as student, staff and faculty women, are invited to hear her," said Beth Ingber, spokeswoman for the International Wages for Housework Campaign.

On Sunday, May 15, Ms. Prescod-Roberts will be a star witness in a street trial charging government officials and business with pimping off of prostitution and of all the work that women do. The trial, organized by the Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee and Wages for Housework--San Francisco, will take place in MacArthur Park between 3 and 5 p. m.

She will participate on May 16 in a WFH meeting in the Mayor's office at 1:30 p. m. and in a press conference called by the West Coast WFH groups, to take place immediately afterward.

Climaxing her visit will be An Evening with Margaret Prescod-Roberts, at 7:30 p. m., May 16, at 2046 Garth Ave. in Los Angeles, where her hostesses will be the Los Angeles WFH Committee. "All women are invited to meet with her at that time," Ms. Ingber said. "Women needing rides may call 680-1767 or 204-1495. Child care will be provided."

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sent to: Police Chief Ed Davis
City Attorney Burk Pines
Judge Wilbur Dellman

Mayor Tom Bradley
Governor Jerry Brown

President Carter

President of General Motors (Elliott M. Estes)

May 1, 1977

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR AT A
STREET TRIAL ON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1977 TO FACE CHARGES
OF PIMPING OFF OF PROSTITUTION AND PIMPING OFF OF ALL
THE WORK WOMEN DO.

TIME, PLACE, AND FELLOW DEFENDANTS ARE
INDICATED IN THE ENCLOSED, ALONG WITH DETAILS OF THE
CHARGES AGAINST YOU. THE PROSECUTOR, REPRESENTING
THE PLAINTIFF, WOMEN, WILL BE BETH INGBER, FROM WAGES
FOR HOUSEWORK. MANY WOMEN WILL BE CALLED TO TESTIFY.
THE PRESS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

IF YOU CANNOT APPEAR, OR IF YOU WISH TO
CONTACT THE PROSECUTOR, PLEASE CALL (213) 680-1767.
YOU MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE AT ANY TIME.

LA OPINION

DOMINGO 15 DE MAYO DE 1977



Foto de LA OPINION por JACINTO MATTOS

PIDEN JUSTICIA PARA LA MUJER — Margaret Prescod Roberts, presidenta de la Asociación de Mujeres de Raza Negra pro Salario para las amas de casa (derecha) y otra activista trabajan por la justicia para todas las mujeres en cooperación con la agrupación COYOTE y los comités de salarios para la mujer de casa de Los Angeles y San Francisco.

Junta feminista hoy en el parque general MacArthur

Auspiciada por los comités de sueldos por quehaceres del hogar de Los Angeles y San Francisco, se efectuará una reunión de activistas feministas en pro de las mujeres livianas y de mejores condiciones y pago para todas las mujeres, inclusive por trabajos con sus familiares que, tradicionalmente efectúan sin paga.

Las organizadoras informan que se tratará en esa reunión, de las injusticias que la policía (según ella) comete a diario, de las diversas formas de explotación a que están sujetas, y de su importancia para el comercio y otras fuentes de bienestar para la comunidad.

Esa asamblea se efectuará en el parque Arthur MacArthur, entre la calle 7 y el Wilshire Boulevard, de las 3 a las 5 de la tarde de hoy domingo.

University Speakers Committee presents:



Margaret
Prescod-Roberts

**WOMEN,
WELFARE,
& UNWAGED WORK**

May 16th 12:30-1:30 pm funded thru CAAB
Student Activities Center, Room 201

Support welfare:

Black women demand wages for housework

By GAIL F. BAKER
For years welfare recipients have been labeled as lazy, dependent, indifferent child-breeders, with little ambition or self-respect. But now, there has emerged an organization that views these same women as pioneers in the struggle against oppression of all families.

Black Women for Wages for Housework, (BWWH), a New York-based group with an international membership, feels that the struggle by welfare mothers in the 1960's, has given power to all women by opening a way for women to demand pay for their daily chores.

The coalition was in Chicago this week to attend the 4th International Wages for Housework Conference. About 100 women, some from as far away as Africa and the West Indies, gathered at the Loop YWCA, 37 S. Wabash, to push for government funding for housework.

"Welfare is the first money women have won directly from the government for the work we do in our homes," said Wilmette Brown, a member of the

made to feel guilty about taking this money when it is rightfully ours," she added.

The organization was formed in April, 1976, as an autonomous group within the International Wages for Housework campaign. Although the group agrees with and supports the philosophies of the white movement, it's conception was based on the idea that black women have a particular situation requiring special attention.

"We could not simply adopt the ideas of white women because our circumstances are so different. Black women have always been paid less money for more work, we have always had to seek second and third jobs to see our families through. Now, we are asking money for our first job, housework," Ms. Brown continued.

Ms. Brown, whose "second job" is a curriculum developer for Brooklyn College, believes that wages for housework would also be beneficial to black men.

"As black women move toward economic independence, black men would obtain the power to refuse menial low-paying jobs because the pressures

of maintaining an entire family would not fall completely on them," she added.

"No Cuts Just Bucks," is the slogan of Black Women for Wages for Housework and the meaningfulness of the phrase cannot be overlooked, said Margaret Roberts, another member.

"It is important that we defend the money we already have. The government is trying to take away our social services, such as welfare, unemployment insurance and educational stipends," Mrs. Roberts commented. "Without education, we are denied access to better wages."

The 15 to 20 core members of the New York branch, meet once a week to discuss ways of educating women to the fact that their housework is indeed a full-time job.

Studies have computed the cost of housework from as low as \$4000 to as high as \$21,000 a year. These figures include wages for dishwashing, tutoring, child care, chauffeuring, cleaning and cooking.

"Our campaign recognizes the power of women," said Mrs. Roberts. "When women stop, everything stops," she added, referring to the Oct. 24, 1975 general

strike of women in Iceland. It is estimated that 90 percent of the Icelandic industry was halted by the walkout.

The group has found other women responsive to the idea of wages for housework, but realize they will face no easy battle with the government, primarily composed of men.

"They realize our strength and have realized it for years," Mrs. Roberts continued, citing a quote from "The Politics of a Guaranteed Income", written by New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "If American society recognized home making and child rearing as productive work to be included in the national economic accounts... the receipt of welfare might not imply dependency."

In several large countries, such as Great Britain, Canada and France, allowances have been provided for housewives for several decades. In this country, there has been a move to provide temporary allowances and jobs for "displaced homemakers" (women with grown children and little skills). The BWWH sees this as a small but

important move in the right direction.

Mrs. Roberts said the organization also wants to abolish laws against prostitution because, "...black women are generally the most effected by the sweep arrests of prostitutes."

"It is a direct attack on the survival of black women because we are the most vulnerable, we are the most likely to be on the streets trying to support our families," she added.

Black Women for Wages for Housework take a strong stand against the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). They believe the states will use the

amendment to remove the protection and benefits women already have.

"The ERA is disguised as legislation for our benefit, but it has no purpose for black women," said Ms. Brown.

Both women believe the chances for winning wages for housework are good because so many women support the cause. However, neither would estimate how long it will be before some kind of concrete action, such as legislation, might begin.

There is no Chicago Chapter of the Black Women for Wages for Housework. Further information may be obtained by calling (212) 834-0992 or (212) 522-3815.



Margaret Roberts and Wilmette Brown

Chicago Daily News

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

WS, Friday, April 15, 1977

Margo St. James: Housewives deserve pay

By Sandra Pesmen

Margo St. James, the San Francisco hooker who led the fight to organize prostitutes and lend dignity to their work, is in Chicago to help housewives do the same thing.

The lean 39-year-old, who formed a group called Coyote, (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics) to legalize prostitution, will speak at the first public meeting of the Chicago Wages for Housewives Collective at 7:30 p.m. Friday, in the Loop YWCA, 37 S. Wabash.

And one of the first things on the agenda is a reading from the Women's Declaration of Independence, which demands wages for housework for all women from the federal government.

The declaration begins, "We, the women of the United States, are fed up. After 200 years of American Independence, we are still overworked and underpaid. We are still not independent."

"BUT THAT DOESN'T mean that every wife has to charge her husband a fee every time she runs the vacuum cleaner or gives a sexual favor," Ms. St. James stated, running a hand through the dark straight hair cut in bangs across her forehead and chopped bluntly at her shoulders. "The point of this meeting is to have all women, including housewives and prostitutes, work together for independence and power, which come from earning—and keeping—money. Until now, men have isolated and exploited both groups of women. Wives did whatever their husbands told them to, because they were afraid that if they didn't their men would go to prostitutes. Now they are beginning to realize that by uniting, all women can demand that their time be valued, including the time given to sex."

She grinned, tossed her head defiantly and added, "After all, wives perform the same jobs prostitutes do—although most wives don't do them as well because of lack of practice and training."

Ms. St. James also stressed that, "An attack on welfare women, or on prostitutes, is an attack on all women—keeping us in line; to keep us all working for nothing. We women are pitted against each other as if our problems and our work were not the same."

THOUGHTFULLY, she added, "The average housewife who works 30 years in her home is certainly entitled to social scurity for her work. Some economists

'Wives perform the same jobs prostitutes do—although most wives don't do them as well because of lack of practice and training.'

estimate that work as being worth \$4,000 to \$21,000 per year, assuming that the women work 90 hours a week at many different jobs, such as nursing, child care, chauffeuring, cleaning, psychiatry, laundering, cooking."

Narrowing her intense dark eyes, Ms. St. James insisted, "Business makes money off our sexuality. Destroyed by the work they have to do, men come to us for the sexual and emotional gratification they need to keep working. . . More and more women are refusing to be exploited—to work at home free, and to work outside the home for low pay. Wherever we are demanding our wages, from the welfare department, in the street, or at a job outside the home, we're fighting for money for all our work."

She sighed, "Prostitution is one way of getting our wages, and in a way, all work is prostitution and all women are prostitutes, forced to sell their bodies for room and board or for cash, in marriage, on the street, in typing pools or in factories."

AND THAT'S WHEN Ms. St. James confessed that she hasn't "turned a trick" in 12 years. "Since I've been enlightened, it would be a humiliation. If a man wants to buy me, he has to buy my philosophy. I don't sell my body anymore."

The Friday night meeting will also include a talk by Wilmette Brown, a member of the Black Women for Wages for Housework, of New York, and a film clip by the British Broadcasting Company, which shows how a strike by all the women in Iceland in October, 1975, crippled the entire country.



San Francisco Chronicle

The Largest Daily Circulation in Northern California

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1977

Women Protest an Arrest

By Jerry Carroll

More than 50 chanting women picketed the Hilton Hotel yesterday to protest the beatings allegedly given a young woman and a taxi driver by plainclothes vice squad officers.

During the 75-minute demonstration sponsored by a dozen women's organizations, demands were made for the immediate suspension of a policeman and an official commendation for the cabie.

The focus of the affair was the arrest for prostitution of Janet Phillips, 23, by Officer Craig Piro at Geary and Jones streets on March 25.

She suffered several facial fractures during a beating she said she received in a holding cell in the Hilton basement. David Taboe, 48, said he was punched and kicked unconscious in the cell after rushing to Phillips' defense on the street in the belief she was being attacked by a mugger.

"There hasn't been a real bad incident like this in about three years," said Margo St. James of Coyote, the organization of hookers and other "loose women."

She said the beatings were an outgrowth of a get-tough approach toward prostitution inaugurated when Police Chief Charles Gain returned the hard-bitten Captain



Women marched and chanted outside the Hilton Hotel

Gerald Shaughnessey to the head of the vice squad.

Shaughnessey, St. James said, has restored a number of "sadists" to the squad who had been transferred out because of civilian complaints about their behavior. "They think that if they make an example of one woman, the others on the

street won't get too uppity," she said.

Del Martin, the co-chairperson of the city's Commission on the Status of Women, said she has little faith in an investigation into the incident now under way by the police department's internal affairs bureau.

"They usually whitewash the officer," she said.

The women demanded the "immediate suspension" of Officer Piro.

Martin said the incident emphasizes the need for an office of citizen complaint staffed by civilians to investigate cases involving alleged police brutality. She said the Police Commission is "renegeing" on an earlier promise to create such an office.

Diana Russell, a sociology professor at Mills College who wrote the book "Crimes Against Women," said, "I came down here to protest what I see as the escalation of violence against women."

Like many interviewed, Maureen Rafferty of a group called Wages for Housework said she believed the beating of Phillips was meant to carry a message to womankind.

"Money is power and we don't have any power," she said. When women try prostitution as a means of earning money, they are subject to beatings and other pressures to return home, she contended.

"We're not going to be poor and respectable anymore," she said. "We're going to go out on the streets if we want to."

Mock Trial of Business and Government**Sentence: Lifetime of Housework**

SAN FRANCISCO — A radical women's group staged a mock trial on the steps of city hall here yesterday, trying and convicting government and big business "for the crime of pimping off of prostitution and off of all the work women do."

Neither government nor big business showed up for the trial, however, or sent wit-

nesses to testify for the defense or in any way to put up a fight.

It didn't matter. The women who staged the trial had already made up their minds and they voted the trial already made up their minds, and they voted the defendants guilty and sentenced them to a lifetime of unpaid housework.

"The plea is no contest because there is no defense to the charges," said Betty Ingber of Los Angeles, a member of a group called the Wages For Housework Committee, whose San Francisco Chapter organized the demonstration.

"Are they guilty or not guilty? Is there any question in anybody's mind?"

Acting as prosecutor, Ingber said that government and big business have "robbed us, raped us, and beaten us to force us off the street and back into the home to work for free—with the force of law behind (them)."

Prostitution benefits San Francisco by attracting tourists, she said. Prostitutes also bring business to bars and the liquor business, to the clothing and cosmetics industry, and to dozens of other businesses.

Government "takes its cut" by collecting fines from women convicted of prostitution, she added—and police and politicians benefit either by taking payoffs or by exploit-

ing society's dislike of prostitution.

But it is not just prostitutes who suffer, she said. All women suffer, among them women who work at low-paid jobs.

"You suffocate us with paper, typing and filing, you defend us with dictaphones, and you bury us with bedpans and backaches," she said.

"But no matter how hard you try, you cannot kill our struggles. You cannot escape

our accusations. We know who you are. You are the state and you are international.

"You are General Motors, the phone company, the hospitals, the banks, the oil companies, the agribusinesses, the advertising industry. You are the corporations whose profits and power depend on pimping off of the work of our minds and bodies."

Government and business must stop harassing prosti-

tutes, repeal all laws against prostitution, and purge all records of information about prostitutes, she said.

Margaret Roberts, a member of a New York black women's committee for Wages For Housework, said the San Francisco demonstration would be followed this Sunday by similar mock trials in Los Angeles and Boston, and by yet another in London later.

**An S.F. 'Trial'
By the Women**

The NOW Times

Vol. II, No. 5

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

May, 1977

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK PLANS MOTHER'S DAY TRIAL



The International Wages for Housework campaign plans a simulated trial followed by a demonstration, in coalition with prostitute groups, in Hollywood on May 15th in honor of Mother's Day.

The recent increase in the harassment of prostitute women in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and internationally is part of an attack against all women. The trial will be Women vs. Police Chief Ed Davis, City Attorney Burt Pines, Judge Wilbur Dettmer, Mayor Tom Bradley, Governor Brown, President Carter, General Motors, and John Does 1-50.

The demonstration is planned to show how government and business "pimp" off the work which all women do, whether they are housewives, prostitutes, women on welfare, or women in the "caring" professions—nurses, teachers, waitresses, and domestic workers.

According to Beth Ingber, spokesperson for the Wages for Housework group, the government considers the prostitutes easy targets because they

feel the prostitutes are an isolated group without support from other groups in society. If women could get decent wages for work, prostitution would automatically be reduced. As long as men have the money and we don't there will be prostitution.

What society calls femininity is simply women who serve other people. Because housewives work for nothing, women who work outside the homes are devalued and forced to accept lower wages than men.

Women's work in the home benefits business and government. They maintain the households and take care of families in order to free men from the time and energy required to do these things. Government and business benefit from this, and our labor is exploited without pay or recognition. They prefer us to stay home and work for nothing, remain consumers for this society, and not to compete on the job market.

The International Wages for Housework has groups in England, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, and Australia. For further information call (213) 680-1767 or 939-1764.

or further information, call:
Beth Ingber (habla Español) at
680-1767, or
Jane Molson, 223-8203, or
Margo St. James, (415) 957-1610

LOS ANGELES WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 26325
Los Angeles CA 90026

May 12, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN WILL REPORT MAYOR'S RESPONSE
TO PROSTITUTION DECRIMINALIZATION
DEMANDS MADE AT STREET TRIAL HERE

Mayor Tom Bradley's response to their demands around the decriminalization of prostitution will be reported to the media Monday at 2 p. m. by spokeswomen for West Coast Wages for Housework and Black Women for Wages for Housework.

The press conference will be held on the steps of City Hall after WFH women hand-deliver to the Mayor's office the verdict of Sunday afternoon's street trial, at which the demands were made, and at which government officials and business were charged with pimping off of prostitution and of all the work women do.

"If the Los Angeles women's jury reacts to the evidence the way the San Francisco jury did last Monday, the verdict will be 'guilty'," Beth Ingber, West Coast WFH spokeswoman, said.

Available for comment and questioning at the Monday press conference will be Ms. Ingber; Margaret prescod-Roberts, co-founder of Black Women for Wages for Housework, and a representative of CAT, a national institute for working women.

The trial, held in Mac Arthur Park, was supported by COYOTE, national organization of "prostitutes and loose women,"; CAT; Beach Cities NOW; Feminist Communications; Feminist Women's Health Center; Los Angeles Feminist Theater; Los Angeles NOW; Orange County Feminist Women's Health Center; Page 1; and the Westside Women's Clinic.

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COMMITTEE
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Los Angeles CA 90026

May 12, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUILTY VERDICT EXPECTED
AT TRIAL FOR PIMPING

Another "guilty" verdict is expected here Sunday afternoon in MacArthur Park, when women try government officials and big business on charges of pimping off of prostitution and off of all the work women do.

The street trial will be the second to be carried out this week by West Coast Wages for Housework groups, with the support of more than a dozen other state and national organizations.

In San Francisco all defendants were found guilty and were sentenced to spend eternity doing unwaged housework, according to Beth Ingber, spokeswoman for West Coast WFH and the International WFH Campaign.

Star witnesses in Los Angeles will be Margo St. James, founder of COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics), and Margaret Prescod-Roberts, co-founder of Black Women for Wages for Housework.

Ms. St. James will name as pimps specific businesses and will detail how government takes its cut. Ms. Prescod-Roberts will single out President Carter and the head of the department of Health, Education and Welfare as pimping off the work of Black Women, particularly welfare mothers.

"All women are invited to attend the Sunday event and to testify how government and business pimp off their work," Ms. Ingber, who will act as prosecuting attorney, said.

The trial will take place in the section of MacArthur Park near Park View St., between 7th St. and Wilshire Blvd.

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WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

May 5, 1977

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We're sorry you haven't heard from Los Angeles Wages for Housework sooner. This National Edition of our newsletter is a composite one and includes some articles which you may have seen in earlier issues. Many of the articles are new, and you may be particularly interested in the back page which discusses some of the organizing we have done in California around the abolition of all laws against prostitution. We apologize to you that the newsletter is in English only. We haven't had the time or money to have it translated and reprinted in Spanish. We hope to have that available soon. Contact us if you need the Spanish newsletter.

We would like to explain why this issue of the newsletter has been so long in arriving. We have been very busy deepening and extending the Campaign for Wages for Housework. With all the cutbacks and propaganda about shortages, it is essential now to organize our power to protect the money that women have already won for our work and to fight for more. We really felt the power of the Campaign to make that fight when about 100 of us gathered in Chicago for a North American WFH organizational conference in April. Black Women for WFH spoke about the power that the struggle of welfare mothers has brought to all women, and about how we are organizing to defend that money. Beth Ingber from Los Angeles discussed the stepped-up harassment of prostitute women as an attack on our access to money of our own. She described the mobilization we have undertaken in support of prostitute women.

Here in Los Angeles, we will be putting the government and business on trial for pimping (see enclosed leaflet). We are holding similar trials in San Francisco and Boston; other street events demanding the abolition of all laws against prostitution will be held in New York and London. We are charging government and business with "Pimping off of Prostitution and Pimping off of All the Work Women Do." We hope you will come and testify about the ways government and business profit from the work you do! The "trial" will be held in MacArthur Park on Sunday afternoon, May 15th. We intend to enjoy ourselves while we make our point, and hope you will join us. If you can use more leaflets to post or to give your friends, please call us at 680-1767.

We are also planning an open house on Thursday, May 26th. It will be an informal occasion -- a chance to discuss the trial, ask questions about the Campaign, and relax together. All women are invited.

We look forward to seeing you at the street trial on May 15 and at our party on May 26th.

Power to Women,

Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee

May 5, 1977



Queridas hermanas y amigos,

Sentimos que no hayan tenido noticias de SPQH de Los Angeles con más prontitud. La edición nacional de nuestra carta de noticias comprende artículos de diferentes cartas de noticias e incluye artículos que Uds. ya han leído. Algunos de los artículos son nuevos, y Ud. puede interesarse particularmente por la última página la cual incluye algo del trabajo de organización que hemos hecho en California con el fin de abolir todas las leyes contra la prostitución. Le pedimos disculpas porque la carta de noticias está escrita solamente en inglés. No hemos tenido ni el tiempo ni el dinero para traducirla o imprimirla en español. Aunque deseamos hacerlo pronto. Póngase en contacto con nosotras si la necesita en español.

Deseamos explicar porque la carta de noticias llevó tanto tiempo en llegar a Uds. Hemos estado muy ocupadas extendiendo y ahondando la campaña de SPQH. Con todos los recortes y propaganda acerca de las carestías, es esencial el organizar nuestro poder para proteger el dinero que las mujeres hemos ganado por nuestro trabajo y luchar por mas. Hemos comprendido el poder de esta campaña por esa lucha cuando cien (100) de nosotras se juntaron en Chicago en una conferencia organizacional norteamericana de SPQH en abril. La Mujer Negra por SPQH hablaron del poder que la lucha de madres que reciben ayuda "welfare". La traído a toda las mujeres y como nos estamos organizando para defender ese dinero. Beth Ingber discutió la escalación de hostilidades hacia las prostitutas como un ataque en contra del acceso al dinero que nos pertenece. Ella describió la movilización que estamos llevando acabo en respaldo a las mujeres prostitutas.

Aquí en Los Angeles, vamos a enjuiciar al gobierno y al comercio por aprovecharse de la mujer (ver el folleto incluido). Vamos a tener juicios similares en San Francisco y Boston; otros eventos públicos exigiendo la abolición de todas las leyes contra la prostitución se llevaron acabo en Nueva York y Londres. Los cargos contra el gobierno y el comercio son "el aprovecharse de la prostitucion y todo el trabajo que la mujer desempeña." Esperamos que Ud. venga a dar testimonio sobre la manera como el gobierno y el comercio se aprovechan del trabajo que Ud. hace. El juico se llevara acabo en MacArthur Park el domingo, 15 de mayo al medio dia. Deseamos divertirnos al mismo tiempo que ponemos en claro nuestro punto de vista y esperamos que se una a nosotras. Si necesita mas folletos para pegar o distribuir a sus amistades, llámenos al (213) 680-1767.

También estamos planeando una "casa abierta" el jueves 26 de mayo. Será una ocasión informal -- una oportunidad para discutir el juicio, hacer preguntas sobre la campaña y charlar. Todas las mujeres están invitadas.

Esperamos verla en el juicio público el 15 de mayo y en nuestra fiesta el 26 de mayo.

Poder a la mujer,

El Comité de Sueldo Por Quehaceres del
Hogar de Los Angeles



WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK

P.O. Box 26325

LOS ANGELES, CA. 90026

(213) 680-1767

April 27, 1977

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We are writing to bring you up to date on plans for our street trial here in L.A. We will be charging business and government with pimping off of prostitution and off of all the work women do, and Margo St. James of COYOTE will be our star witness. The event will take place in MacArthur Park on Sunday, May 15, 3-5 PM. (See enclosed leaflet.)

We have already gained a victory in San Francisco! Supervisor Francois has "spontaneously" decided to call a public hearing on a resolution to the California State Legislature that prostitution be legalized. The proposal for a public hearing came shortly after WPH led a delegation of women to San Francisco City Hall. In our message to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on that day, we expressed women's support for the struggle prostitute women are making to abolish the laws against prostitution. (Details were in our last letter.) We oppose Francois' resolution for the legalization of prostitution which would further institutionalize the government as the biggest pimp. But his resolution makes clear that when we women get together, we can make the government move, and we intend to keep fighting 'til we win what we want.

Our immediate response to the government's proposal for legalizing prostitution is to continue with our street trials charging the government and business with already pimping off of our work! Trials will be held in San Francisco, Boston and L.A. and other street events demanding the abolition of all laws against prostitution will be held in London and New York as well. We have received support for the L.A. trial from the organizations listed on the enclosed leaflet and we are still receiving endorsements.

Your organization can still participate. If a woman from your group wishes to testify, please let us know as soon as possible. If you can post and/or distribute the enclosed leaflet, call or write us immediately to order the number you want. We still need money -- desperately. If you can send a donation, make out the check to Wages for Housework.

We hope you will publicize the trial in any way you can. AND COME ON MAY 15. We're sure it will be fun.

Power to Women,

Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee

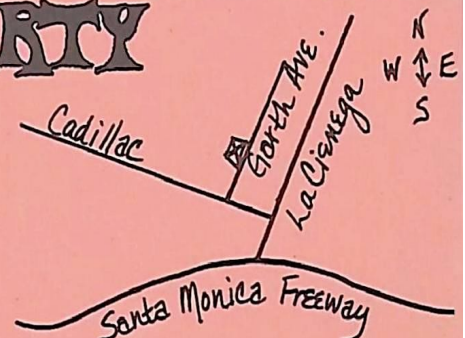
P.S. We are hoping to deliver the verdict and our demands in person to Mayor Bradley as soon as possible after the trial. We'll keep you posted.

OPEN HOUSE - PARTY

When: May 26, 1977 from 7:30 PM on

Where: 2046 Garth Ave. L.A. 90034; 204-1495
680-1767

~ All Women Are Invited ~



PLAINTIFF: WOMEN

DEFENDANTS: Police Chief Ed Davis, Judge Wilbur Dettmar, City Attorney Burt Pines, Mayor Tom Bradley, Governor Brown, President Carter, General Motors, John Does 1-50

CHARGES: PIMPING OFF OF PROSTITUTION
PIMPING OFF OF ALL THE WORK WOMEN DO

PIMPING OFF OF PROSTITUTION!

Business Profits from the Work of Prostitute Women

- "Respectable" hotels run their own pimping services & use us to fill their rooms.
- Other tourist industries depend on us to attract customers to the city.
- Front establishments--massage parlors, hotels and motels--live off our work.
- Bars and the liquor business use us to increase sales.
- The fashion & beauty industries make money off the clothes, jewelry, wigs, & makeup we have to wear on the job.
- Mastercharge and other credit companies enable men to lay now and pay later.

Government Takes Its Cut

- The state collects fines from us.
- Police & government officials take payoffs.
- Government collects taxes from businesses exploiting us.
- Politicians pimp politically, scapegoating us to further their own political careers.

Politicians and Businessmen Use Us to "Grease the Wheels" of Business & Government

PIMPING OFF OF ALL THE WORK WOMEN DO!

Government & Business Profit from ALL Women's Sexual Work

- Our sexual work keeps our partners--men & women--gratified so they can keep working, making profits for business.
- Advertising uses our bodies to sell products; films & magazines use our bodies to sell themselves.
- Offices, stores & showrooms depend on our "sex appeal" to please clients and make sales.

Government & Business Profit from ALL the Work Women Do

- The housework we do at home for no pay--the physical, emotional and sexual care we give men, children & other women--the work that keeps us all working.
- The housework we do outside the home for low pay--typing, nursing, teaching, prostitution, waitressing, garment making, domestic work....

WHEREAS: ALL women do physical, emotional and sexual work for no pay

WHEREAS: By demanding wages for our sexual work, those of us who are prostitutes give all women more power to:

DEMAND TO BE PAID FOR OUR TIME & WORK

REFUSE TO BE DEPENDENT ON MEN FOR MONEY

THEREFORE: Women are mobilizing internationally to support prostitute women

WE DEMAND AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF PROSTITUTES

WE DEMAND THE ABOLITION OF ALL LAWS AGAINST PROSTITUTION

WE DEMAND AMNESTY FOR ALL PROSTITUTES & THE REMOVAL OF ALL CRIMINAL RECORDS RELATING TO PROSTITUTION

On Sunday, May 15, women will try Govt. & Business on Charges of pimping off of prostitution & all the work women do.

Time: SUNDAY, MAY 15, 3 to 5 pm

Place: MacARTHUR PARK, between Wilshire & 7th St. on PARK VIEW

MARGO St. James, former hooker & founder of COYOTE (A Loose Women's Organization) will be the star witness.

COME TESTIFY: HOW GOVT. & BUSINESS PIMP OFF YOUR WORK

called by: Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee & Wages for Housework -- San Francisco

FOR MORE info, please call Beth (680-1767)

Supported by: COYOTE; CAT (A Nat'l Institute for Working Women); Executive Committee, Beach Cities NOW; Feminist Communications; Feminist Women's Health Center; Los Angeles Feminist Theater; Los Angeles NOW; Orange County Feminist Women's Health Center; Page I; Westside Women's Clinic

DEMANDANTE: LA MUJER

ACUSADOS: EL jefe de policía Ed Davis, el juez Wilbur Dettmar, el abogado de la ciudad Burt Pines, el alcalde Tom Bradley, el gobernador Brown, el presidente Carter, el General Motors, los John Does 1-50

CARGOS: APROVECHARSE DE LA PROSTITUCIÓN
APROVECHARSE DE TODO EL TRABAJO DE LA MUJER

¡APROVECHARSE DE LA PROSTITUCIÓN!

El Comercio Obtiene Provecho del Trabajo de la Mujer Prostituta

- Hoteles "respetables" tienen su propio servicio de prostitución y nos utilizan para llenar sus habitaciones
- Otras industrias turísticas dependen de nosotras para atraer turistas a la ciudad
- Establecimientos de parapeto - casas de masaje, hoteles y moteles - viven de nuestro trabajo
- Los bares y licorerías nos utilizan para incrementar las ventas
- Las industrias de modas y belleza hacen dinero de la ropa, joyería, pelucas y cosméticos que tenemos que utilizar para el trabajo
- El Mastercard y otras compañías de crédito le permiten al hombre hacer el amor ahora y pagar después

El Gobierno Obtiene Su Participación

- El estado colecta multas de nosotras
- La policía y otros oficiales del gobierno se dejan sobornar.
- El gobierno colecta impuestos de los negocios que nos explotan
- Los políticos se aprovechan políticamente, utilizándonos como escape para promover sus carreras políticas

Los Políticos y Hombres de Negocios Nos Utilizan para "Engrasar las Ruedas" del Comercio y Gobierno

¡APROVECHARSE DE TODO EL TRABAJO DE LA MUJER!

El Gobierno y el Comercio Obtienen Provecho del Trabajo Sexual de la Mujer

- Nuestro trabajo sexual mantiene a nuestros compañeros - hombres o mujeres - "satisfechos" para que puedan continuar trabajando, obteniendo ganancias para el comercio
- La industria de promoción de ventas utiliza nuestros cuerpos para vender productos; las películas y revistas utilizan nuestros cuerpos para venderse
- Las oficinas, tiendas y salas de exhibición dependen de nuestro "sex appeal" para satisfacer a los clientes y promover ventas

El Gobierno y el Comercio Obtienen Provecho de Todo el Trabajo de la Mujer

- El que hacer que hacemos en casa sin pago - el cuidado físico, emocional y sexual que damos a los hombres, niños y otras mujeres - el trabajo que mantiene a todos trabajando
- El que hacer que hacemos fuera del hogar por salarios bajos - mecanografía, enfermería, la enseñanza, prostitución, trabajo de mesero, de costura, servicio doméstico

POR CUANTO: Toda mujer hace trabajo físico, emocional y sexual sin pago

POR CUANTO: Exigiendo un sueldo por nuestro trabajo sexual, estas de nosotras que somos prostitutas damos más poder a la mujer para:

EXIGIR SER PAGADAS POR NUESTRO TIEMPO Y TRABAJO

REHUSARNOS A DEPENDER DE LOS HOMBRES POR DINERO

POR ESTO:

La mujer se está movilizando internacionalmente para respaldar a la mujer prostituta

EXIGIMOS UN FIN AL HOSTIGAMIENTO DE PROSTITUTAS

EXIGIMOS LA ABOLICIÓN DE TODAS LAS LEYES CONTRA LA PROSTITUCIÓN

EXIGIMOS AMNESTÍA PARA TODAS LAS PROSTITUTAS Y LA DESTRUCCIÓN DE TODOS LOS ARCHIVOS CRIMINALES RELACIONADOS CON LA PROSTITUCIÓN

El domingo, 15 de mayo, la mujer juzgará al Gobierno y Comercio sobre los cargos de aprovecharse de la prostitución y todo el trabajo de la mujer:

Hora: EL DOMINGO, 15 DE MAYO, 3-5 de la tarde

Lugar: EL PARKE MACARTHUR entre Wilshire y 7th Street
en PARK VIEW

Margó St. James, ex-prostituta y fundadora de COYOTE (una organización de mujeres livianas) será la testigo principal.

VENGA A TESTIFICAR: ¿COMO SE HAN APROVECHADO EL GOBIERNO Y EL COMERCIO DE SU TRABAJO?

Promovido por: El Comité de Sueldo Por Quehaceres del Hogar de Los Angeles y Sueldo Por Quehaceres del Hogar - San Francisco

Para mayor información, llame a Beth (680-1767)

Respaldo por: COYOTE; CAT (Un Instituto Nacional Para la Mujer Trabajadora); Executive Committee, Beach Cities Now; Feminist Communications; Feminist Women's Health Center; Los Angeles Feminist Theater; Los Angeles NOW; Orange County Feminist Women's Health Center; Page 1; Westside Women's Clinic

For further information, call:
Beth Ingber (habla Español) at
680-1767, or
Jane Molson, 223-8203, or
Sidney Ross, 661-0095 (in a. m.)

LOS ANGELES WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 26325
Los Angeles CA 90026

May 6, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS PIMP,
WOMEN CHARGE IN STREET TRIALS

Charging specific government officials and big business with pimping off of prostitution, and all the work women do, the Los Angeles Wages for Housework Committee and Wages for Housework--San Francisco will hold two street trials--the first in San Francisco on Monday, May 9, and the second in Los Angeles on Sunday, May 15.

"Summonses" issued this week by WFH ordered the following to appear at the Los Angeles trial as defendants: Police Chief Ed Davis, Judge Wilbur Dettmar, City Attorney Burt Pines, Mayor Tom Bradley, Governor Jerry Brown, and President Jimmy Carter, according to Beth Ingber, West Coast spokeswoman for the International Wages for Housework Campaign. "John Does 1-50 also have been charged," she said. Ms. Ingber will act as prosecuting attorney at both trials.

Star witnesses will be Margaret Prescod-Roberts, co-founder of Black Women for Wages for Housework and a leader of the Queen's College, N. Y., Women's Action Group; and Margo St. James, former prostitute who founded COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics) in order "to organize prostitutes and lend dignity to their work."

Explaining why she is participating in the trials, Ms. Prescod-Roberts said, "The struggle of prostitutes is the same struggle Black women are making. It is the struggle to have the money--which is the power to be independent."

Other actions in support of prostitute women's efforts to decriminalize prostitution will take place during May in Boston, New York City and London, all under WFH auspices.

"All women are invited to attend the trials and to testify how government and business pimp off of their work," Ms. Ingber said.

The Los Angeles trial will take place from 3-5 p. m. in the section of MacArthur Park near Park View, between 7th St. and Wilshire Blvd. It is being held with the support of a dozen Los Angeles women's organizations.

LOS ANGELES WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE
POST OFFICE BOX 26325
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

May 15, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, call:

(213) 661-0095 (days) or
(213) 680-1767

WOMEN VS. BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT

(OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY)

We women have come together here to charge, try, convict and sentence the Defendants for the crime of pimping off of prostitution and off of all the work women do. Those of us here can only begin to testify as to how, internationally, government and business grow powerful pimping off of our lives, and how the profits from pimping give them the power to force us all to prostitute ourselves again, daily, throughout our lives. But we need not call every woman to testify, because we are already speaking -- not only with our words -- but through the fight we are making to get these pimps off our backs.

It is fitting that we women are the prosecutors, the judge and the jury. How many times have YOU robbed us, raped us, and beaten us to force us off the street and back into the home to work for free -- with the force of law behind you? How many times have you thrown us in prison and taken away our children because we demanded that men pay cash for the sexual servicing YOU need us to do for nothing, because we demanded wages for the work you expect all of us to do at home for free, work that keeps men working so you can pimp off of them too. How many times have you jailed us and our children for hustling for money -- money that's ours, our money that you've got because you've pimped off of our work, because you've forced us to work for free or for pennies, because you've robbed us since we were born -- and you've robbed our mothers and grandmothers too.

And it is fitting that we try you and convict you because you are murderers as well, because pain and death are our working conditions. Daily, silently, invisibly, and legally, you kill us with endless years of work and worry, with endless housework for no pay and no power, with polluted air and polluted food, with industrial accidents -- in kitchen and in the sweatshop. You suffocate us with paper -- typing and filing, you deafen us with dictaphones, and you bury us with bedpans and backaches.

You kill us with endless forms and endless waiting and fighting for welfare and social security -- money that's ours by right, money that doesn't begin to pay for all the housework we do and all the work we've done. And all this waiting and fighting and worry is also work -- and you pimp off of that too.

/MORE/

And when we break down, when we're too sick to work, you doctors patch us up again to move us back on the assembly line. You patch us up -- for a fee, of course. Or you kill us with love -- your love of money, your love of cutting us up and cutting out our breasts and our uteruses. Or you kill us in your hospitals where nurses and aids, housewives like ourselves, are expected to make up with love the services you Defendants refuse to provide, are expected to care for too many of us in too little time, with too few facilities and for too little money.

And if you decide that you can pimp more off our death than off our lives, if we are not productive enough for you, if we are too rebellious, if we are too old and used up, if we live in Ethiopia and there are too many of us for the moment, you starve us. But our death is part of our work; it is a message to our sisters: Don't get out of line. Don't break down. Don't stop working. If we are Black or Chicana or if we live in India, you kill our unborn children. But if you need more workers for your factories and kitchens you try to turn us into baby factories -- bribing us with compliments and morality, and when that doesn't work -- and it doesn't -- bribing us with money. In England, Canada and other countries you call it the family allowance. We know you are pimping off of our uteruses -- but we take the money because it gives us power.

It is fitting that we try you and convict you because you are homebreakers -- legal homebreakers. By starving us at home, you force us to immigrate around the world. We follow the wage -- a low wage at that, because you pay us less because we are immigrants and vulnerable. And when you no longer need us, you call us illegal and push us back across the border, back to the wageless conditions you created and forced us to flee. And you are homebreakers because you kidnap our children if we are on welfare, or lesbian or prostitutes, that is, if we refuse to be dependent on men for money because we refuse the work and the powerlessness which is the price of that dependence.

And in your schools and through your media, you try to kill our minds and the minds of our children -- trying to make us accept that our work and your pimping are natural conditions of life.

But no matter how you try, you cannot kill our struggle. You cannot escape our accusations. We know who you are. You are the state and you are international. You are the welfare department, the schools, the police and the courts. And your job is to keep us working. You are General Motors, the phone company, the hospitals, the banks, the oil companies, the agribusinesses, the advertising industry -- you are the corporations whose profits and power depend on pimping off of the work of our minds and bodies.

/MORE/

May 15, 1977

And you cannot escape the judgement of this court, because internationally we have already condemned you. We have already begun to make you pay and there's nowhere to run to. We are everywhere fighting to take back our money so that we can take back our lives. And we say our lives, because wherever we are and whatever our situation, we spend every minute of our lives working, and we work from the day we are born to the day we die.

And you can't escape our sentence because we know you've got the money -- our money -- the money our work has created, the money you have pimped from us. We intend to prove today that you twins -- business and government -- are the biggest pimps. We intend to call witnesses -- full-time housewives, professional prostitutes, mothers, lesbian women, entertainers, clerical workers, all women -- to testify how we are all forced to prostitute ourselves to survive and how you pimp off of all our work. We will not let you deny us access to money of our own. We intend to demand the end to the harassment of prostitutes, the abolition of all laws against prostitution and amnesty for all prostitutes and the removal of all criminal records relating to prostitution.

And we intend to demonstrate how we are already carrying out the sentence against you, how Black women have led the struggle for welfare -- a wage for our housework, and how all of us are fighting for our wages. We intend to demonstrate how we are defeating you -- taking back our money, taking back our time, building our power to take back our lives.

Women call as our first witness Margo St. James. Will the witness please step forward and identify herself.

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