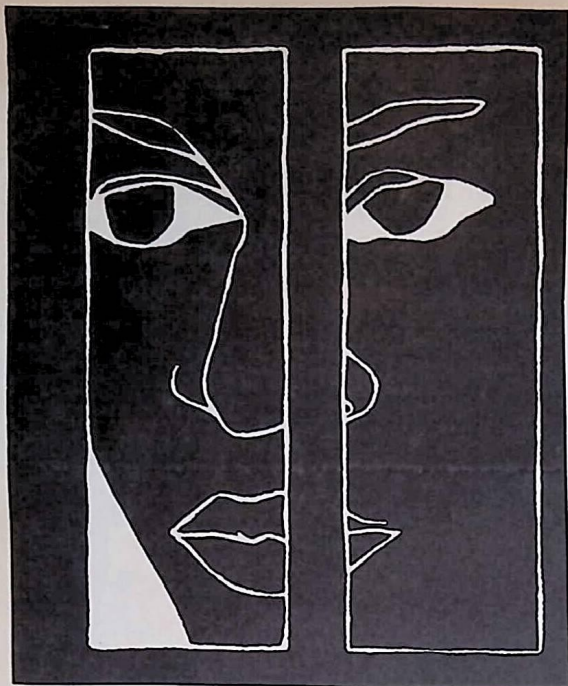


FC, cont'd 3, 30



# VIOLENCE BEGINS IN THE HOME

This conference is an expression of the struggles all women are making against violence; and coming together increases our power. We refuse to be raped by strangers or by our husbands, or fathers. We refuse to be beaten in the streets or in our living rooms. We refuse to be murdered in back alleys or in the doctor's office. And we refuse to be silent.

Most of the violence against us happens in our own homes, behind closed doors. But whenever it happens, the aim is the same--to keep us in our place, that is, to keep us working.

Business needs a clean, fed, and disciplined workforce. And we women clean, feed, and discipline ourselves, our children, our friends, our lovers, and everybody else. When we do this work at home for nothing its called housework. When we do it outside the home for next to nothing, its called work. But its all housework. And its all work.

When we refuse to do our work or demand money for it, the State apparatus is there to discipline us. Prostitutes are thrown in jail for demanding payment for the work other women do for free. Those of us who refuse to service men and choose to love other women lose our paid jobs and the state takes away our children. Those of us who walk out on the work of marriage are starved and humiliated by the welfare department.



(OVER)

The state uses men to discipline us to work and mens violence against us is the violence against us is the violence of the state. The work we do for men is the work the state needs us to do in order to keep the men working, making profits for business. When we refuse to do that physical, emotional, or sexual work, the men beat us, but they beat us for the state. When we refuse to be raped in our homes, we are raped on the streets, but we are raped for the state. When we bring a rapist to court, the State prosecutes us for not being "good housewives", for not staying home at night, working, taking care of some man or our children. And when we can't be disciplined in any other way we are imprisoned or sent to a mental hospital.

The State is able to use violence against us, either directly or through men because we haven't got the power to stop them. Our refusal of our work, our refusal to accept as normal the violence against us, our refusal to be silent is the beginning of that power.

Money is power. As long as we work at home for free, men will have the power to discipline us for the State. As long as we work at home for free, the Welfare Dept. will have the power to abuse us and our children. As long as we work at home for free, we won't have the power to refuse the second job--a job which means more work and little money.

As long as we continue to work in the home for nothing and outside the home for next to nothing, we will be powerless, they can job us, rape us, sterilize us and imprison us.

We are demanding WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK for every woman from the federal government, the money to come from the corporate profits our work helps create. We are organizing for power, to have time for ourselves, for our pleasure and for building our strength as women.

The WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK campaign is an international movement with groups organizing across Canada, Europe and the U.S.

If you want more information, or want to talk with us, come to our booth, or write:

WFH  
P.O. Box 5207  
S.F., CA 94101

OR CALL

Lori 626-8960  
Beth 821-4905

Los Angeles WFH Committee  
P.O. Box 26325  
L.A., CA 90026  
area code 213-680-1767