

The WREE-VIEW



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SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUE

Also in this issue: RACISM & SEXISM IN THE STEEL
INDUSTRY • SURVIVAL IN RURAL MISSISSIPPI •
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DECADE • THE SUBTLE
REVOLUTION: WOMEN/WORK/UNIONS • and more



World Conference in the IYC

MOSCOW
7-11 SEPTEMBER 1979

WREE-VIEW is proud to print excerpts of Walteen Grady's speech at the International IYC Conference in Moscow.



"Children must know the truth of their power..."
by Walteen Grady

We, as members of WREE, recognize a special role and responsibility in this International Year of the Child. This role is of a dual character since we must struggle for the democratic rights of people, particularly children, in our own country, while at the same time we struggle to end U.S. imperialism and its effects on children around the world. We see both struggles as being irrevocably linked. For what is the source of a large part of the billions of dollars spent each year by the military and multinational corporations but the wealth created through the exploitation of the labor of racial minorities, women and children — allowed to exist through the fostering of racism, male supremacy and national chauvinism in the U.S. and abroad?

While many of your countries must stand before the open mouth of the rampaging lion of U.S. imperialism and neocolonialism, we live in its very jaws.

And no group in the U.S. feels the fiery, stinking breath of that beast more than our children. I want to deal with the insidious and powerful role of the media in the lives of children in the U.S. Due to the sophistication of the technology and social conditions which make the media a stronger influence than family or school, children are convinced that their anger and lack of hope are individual problems. No wonder then that this anger and frustration is turned in on themselves with the result that there is a startling rise in the number of child suicides, drug dependence and murder.

As a guest from the U.S. in this country, one cannot help but be struck by the vastly different role played by the mass media in recognizing the International Year of the Child. In the U.S., children are *not* made aware of their rights through a concerted effort to disseminate this information and plan activities celebrating childhood.

Selective Use of Media

Our children were treated instead to the showing and reshowing of a program called "Scared Straight," a film of a project where children, the majority of whom are members of national minorities... are taken to prisons and subjected to several hours of humiliating curses, threats of homosexual rape, and otherwise "encouraged" not to break the law. [See "Ban 'Scared Straight' — WREE-VIEW, April - June, 1979 - ed.]

That the repression of children and youth through the selective use of the media is being done at the present time is not accident. Nor that romanticized images of life for children in the 1950s are pushed in the media replete with the restoration of invisibility or inferiority of national minorities and the conspicuous absence of any information about the lives of children in other parts of the world, particularly those affected by U.S. imperialism.

The use of media was a dynamic influence on children and youth in the 1960s. Even the limited coverage of activity reinforced their consciousness of their key role in affecting U.S. domestic and foreign policy. The attention of the media on such present activity is conspicuous by its absence.

Who, living in the U.S. during the late '50s and '60s, can erase from memory the image of a young Black female child, dressed up for her first day at a newly desegregated school, walking bravely, resolutely, between two lines of National Guardsmen, while behind the lines the screaming ugly faces of racists hurled curses at her?

But there are no cameras now when one by one, by the thousands, Blacks and other national minority children are suspended indefinitely from attending these so-called desegregated schools. Or when children are harassed for asking questions to the point that they lose faith in the education system's ability to educate and so many drop out...

Where are the cameras to document the growing level of hypertension and heart disease among children who survive on high-salt, high-fat, fast foods which are made more attractive than healthy foods by the most sophisticated media techniques known? Who can forget the photograph of the young female student kneeling beside the body of her friend, mouth opened in horror and outrage as she realizes that in demonstrating for peace he has been shot by the same forces that massacred youth half-way around the world in Soweto.

Rarely are there cameras on young people being harassed and beaten on the streets and the juvenile halls and jail cells of Chicago, Philadelphia, Upper Marlboro and Johannesburg by brutal racist police and rarely are these broadcast.

Proposals for Action

As it is not in the interest of the forces of monopoly capital, imperialism and neocolonialism to present the common oppression and the common struggles of our children, they will not do so. Recognizing this fact, I wish to make the following proposals for action:

1. Whenever possible we must provide for the circulation of information about the conditions of working-class children around the world *at the level where it will reach them* — in the public schools in particular as well as in local libraries and recreation centers, to specific rank-and-file teachers, librarians, and student organizations.

2. We must monitor and protest against the use of the media for purposes of racist and class distortion.

3. Every effort must be made to make the children of the highly industrialized western nations aware of the role their governments play in the conditions of children worldwide through international working-class children's exchange visits, literature, and investigative tours and the establishment of more international children's camps.

Children must know the truth of their power and the joy of their promise. We and those we represent must rededicate our work and indeed our lives to securing for them a secure and peaceful future.



by Gertrude Asher

From 130 countries more than 700 representatives of 47 international, regional and 385 national organizations gathered in the International Year of the Child for the World Conference "For a Peaceful and Secure Future for All Children" in Moscow, September 7-11, 1979.

Among the delegates from the United States were Walteen Grady of Wash. D.C. and myself representing WREE.

Each of us attended one "commission" of over 150 representatives from many countries.

At the commission on education the main theme was that there must be a release of funds now spent for armaments—an end to the arms race—so that the funds may be used for the welfare and education of the children and families of the world. Education must be free and compulsory for all children. Education: for peace and international solidarity; continuous, creative education for all the peoples of the world so that they may fulfill their roles as citizens, parents, and workers and thereby contribute to the development of humankind.

The conference provided shocking pictures of the condition of the children of the world:

Today 600 million of all children in the world live in poverty; 200 million go hungry every day. Where there is war, children are the first casualties.

One billion of the world's population do not have normal housing, one third live in slums.

Health services reach one out of 20

children in developed countries. Of the 100 million babies born every year, seven out of ten, or 70 million are born with no trained help.

Eighty-five percent of rural children do not have access to adequate supplies of safe water. One in five will die before its 5th birthday.

One hundred million children are educationally deprived, not learning to read or work with numbers. Man has walked on the moon but millions of children have never held a book in their hands. Only 1% of preschool children have access to day care.

Millions of children in developing countries are doomed to disease, hunger and poverty as a result of the unjust economic order.

In developed western countries hundreds of thousands of children are the victims of social and ethnic inequality and racial discrimination. Poor housing, malnutrition, disease, and insecurity are facts of life for many children; economic crises, inflation, and unemployment breed crime, prostitution, and vagrancy among children in many countries.

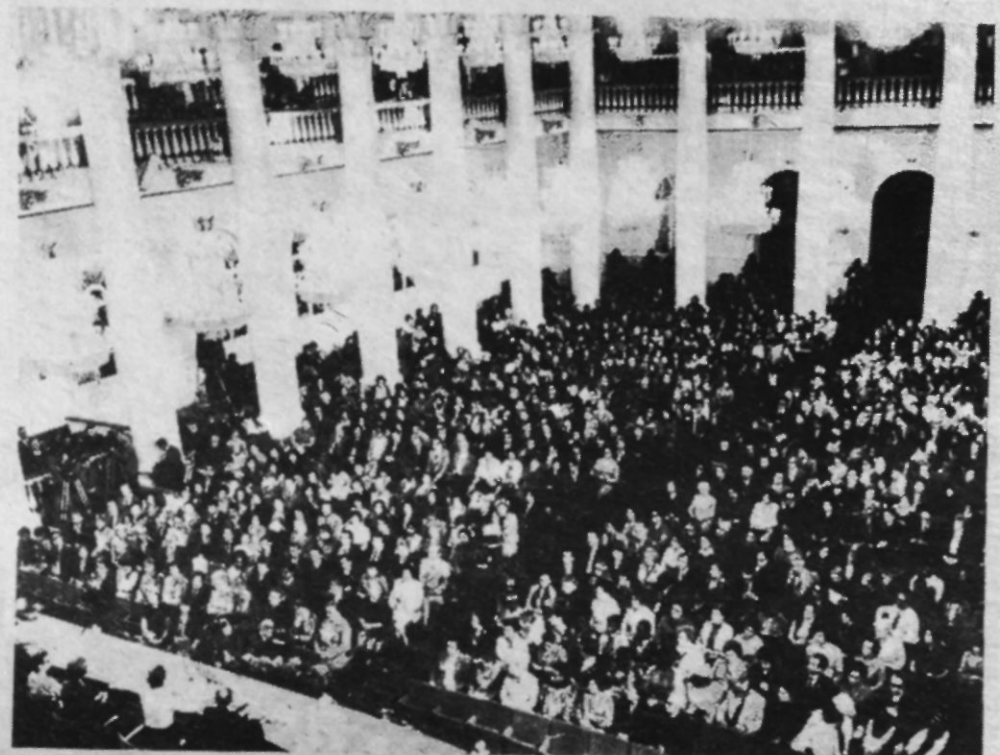
The keynote speakers of the conference reiterated that the Right to Live (Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) is surely, for the child, the most fundamental right of all.



Ending the arms race and ensuring disarmament emerges clearly as the most pressing issue of our time.

\$400,000,000,000 annually, a billion dollars a day, are stolen from humanity. The building of one Trident nuclear-powered submarine consumes as much money as is needed to teach 16 million children for a year.

Burn into our minds — \$400 billion a year squandered on arms while 10 million children die every year from starvation!





Peace or a Cinder Heap?

On November 9 you almost died! During a nuclear war "game," a tape in the giant army computer at the North American Air Defense command (NORAD) in Colorado was mistakenly read as a "live" attack on the U.S.

Before it was discovered, this false signal had triggered 10 jet interceptors and alerted the command centers of every nuclear missile base in the country. How fine is the line between safety and destruction in the nuclear era! It "proves without a doubt," British MP Robert Cryer said, "that if we don't start to reduce the number of nuclear weapons, some will sooner or later be used and then we shall all be losers as part of a radioactive cinder heap."

The shudder that ran through the world at this near-Armageddon did not stir the men of the Pentagon, who expressed only their "satisfaction" with the "response to the imagined threat!" Their cold-blooded attitude exposes the policy of nuclear brinkmanship being pursued by the present administration. As Dr. John Sommerville of City University of New York wrote in the *Churchman* of August-September 1979, "It is already objectively clear that the present American political leaders have given notice to the world that they will be the first to use nuclear weapons."

Today, the balance between a future of nuclear devastation and a creative life of peace clearly hinges on the outcome of two momentous agreements. The first is the SALT II treaty ratification. The other is whether the NATO nations will agree to have a new generation of strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Europe. These weapons are to include hundreds of first-strike Pershing II and land- and sea-based cruise missiles which, for the first time, have the capacity to hit targets deep inside the Soviet Union.

To provide greater profits to the U.S. war corporations and to consolidate the Atlantic Alliance in an anti-Soviet stance, the Carter administration is working a two-pronged strategy. On one hand, the White House supports the passage of SALT II. On the other, it plumps for greater militarization of this country and all its "allies," in a vain search after illusory military supremacy. As a part of its war strategy, U.S. officials are trying to withhold from the American people the substance of recent Soviet peace proposals; to reduce or eliminate any nuclear weapon whatever; and, relative to Western Europe, to decrease the number of medium-range nuclear missiles in the western part of the Soviet Union (the USSR has no missiles or bases outside its own borders); and to withdraw up to 20,000

Soviet servicemen, 1,000 tanks, and other weaponry.

It is important to note that there are already 8,000 U.S. nuclear warheads in Europe, not counting those of the NATO countries. These are stockpiled at some 100 points and all are aimed at Soviet territory.

WHY WE MUST SPEAK OUT

The proposed NATO plan is not simply a modernization of its tactical nuclear weapons. It is the introduction of qualitatively new weapons systems that would turn West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Italy, and Holland into launching pads of nuclear weaponry and radically alter the entire world strategic situation.

Men like Defense Sec. Harold Brown are openly stating that they favor ratification of SALT so that they can obtain NATO support for such deployment of longer-range and more destructive ballistic and cruise missiles on the continent!

As the critical December 11-12 meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels and the Senate floor debate on SALT II approach, the Pentagon and the NATO war minds are trying to draw a perverse connection between two opposites — a treaty to curb nuclear arms, SALT II, and an agreement for nuclear escalation — the NATO missile plan.

Will the administration succeed in establishing a new Cold War hysteria in this country that could make nuclear war imminent? It is important to keep in mind that there is no threat to Western Europe. The USSR, as both its history and its statements show, needs peace in Europe. The greatest threat to western Europe and the world is the plan to deploy first-strike missiles, aimed at the Soviet Union's people and cities, in one of the most densely populated regions of the world, a region where two world wars broke out.

That plan is a fundamental contradiction to the path of peaceful coexistence inherent in the SALT II and eventually in the SALT III negotiations.

At this writing, Senate passage of the SALT treaty is in doubt, and the NATO missile plan has received the tacit approval of 10 European defense ministers. Only Holland, where anti-nuclear sentiment runs high, stands opposed. The small country of Holland led the successful opposition to the neutron bomb.

The U.S. peace forces and in particular the women's movement must speak out against the ominous war clouds hovering on the horizon.

WREE Casts Vote for SALT II

The SALT II treaty is of crucial importance to the American people because it will (1) reduce the dangerous Cold War tensions and antagonisms — potential for war — and lay the groundwork for continued negotiations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. rather than unthinkable nuclear confrontation; (2) immediately reduce war expenditures by at least \$10 billion a year, or \$30 billion over the next three years; (3) open up the possibility for other kinds of peaceful exchanges, such as trade, which will make more jobs available to the ailing U.S. economy; and (4) it will stand as proof to other peoples of how earnest are the U.S. leaders when they say they are for peace.

The SALT treaty is now in grave danger of defeat in the U.S. Senate! It was reported out of committee in mid-November, by only a 9-6 vote, with at least one of the yes votes pledged to vote against the treaty on the Senate floor! Although the national sentiment is overwhelmingly for peace and friendly relations as represented by SALT II, a small gang of hawkish senators is having an undue influence on our national policies. They plan to scuttle the treaty by attaching any number of "killer" amendments.

Mail in the Senate is now running 10-1 against SALT! Why? Because peace-minded people are not writing in. WREE urges its members and friends to do so immediately. Use or adapt the

text of WREE's Mailgram (below) to send your own letter or mailgram. Express the people's side—our great need for an end to the barbarity of war and plans for war. Our great desire for the start of a creative, just, free and peaceful society!

Now's the time to write to your Senators.

To: Members of the U.S. Senate: Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C.

SALT II is important guarantee of continued peaceful relations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and only hope of millions of working people in U.S. to reduce huge arms budgets and to save and expand countless social services now brutally slashed in name of "national security." Real national security lies in confidence of American people that government represents their interests and earnestly seeks the road to peace. SALT II is necessary first step along that road! We urge you cast your vote FOR the treaty WITH no crippling amendments.

Our Sisters say...

WREE,

Carry on the good work! We enjoy your newspaper. Enclosed is a check to renew my membership. I'm proud to be a member.

In Struggle
Ina L. Harris
Eureka California

Letter to the Editor:

I regret that in the April-June 1979 issue of the WREE-VIEW, a draft of one of Bernadine Oliver's poems was printed by mistake. Following is the final version of that poem.

My apologies to Bernadine.

Sally Chaffee
New York City

it begins softly

it begins inside first
when finally
we've learned to question and grow
and grow to love
and learn to give giving
a great deal more than hope;
it begins when we've understood
that tomorrow needs
every atom of strength now;
it starts
when we've committed ourselves
selfishly
and selflessly
to the forces of life.
it's the fetus inside we have
no choice
except
to feel it grow
to aid its coming

and the revolution begins
just this softly

Bernadine

Dear Sisters:

The enclosed contribution is in the name of Elwood Griest, whom so many of us in New York knew as Woody. For more than half a century he was a staunch supporter of all those issues WREE is concerned with: racial equality, economic justice, and peace. Woody supported not only our causes, but our organization as well, and it seems fitting to pay tribute to him by sending this gift in his name.

Lil Köhn
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sisters and Friends:


The response to our offer for the portfolio, *Black and Beautiful* has been gratifying. WREE still desperately needs funds. Remember the portfolio makes a beautiful Christmas gift, or give the 10 prints to 10 different friends. Get your orders in now. WREE and both of us, Elton Fax and I, thank those who have responded.

In Sisterhood,
Betty Murrell

(Send orders to: Elton Fax P.O. Box 2188, Astoria STA. L.I.C., N.Y. 11102)

WREE's Child Care poster in blue/green or brown/gold \$2.50 each.

child care
AN ECONOMIC NECESSITY



International Year of the Child 1979

OUR PROGRAM DEMANDS

1. An end to unemployment and inflation.
2. The right to a decent job.
3. Equal pay for equal work.
4. An end to discrimination in hiring and promotion.
5. Special legislation to protect and safeguard the health, safety and comfort of women on the job.
6. Organization of the unorganized.

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WOMEN CANNOT BE GUARANTEED WITHOUT:

7. Universal, federally funded child care.
8. Comprehensive, federally funded health coverage.
9. Maternity leave with pay.
10. An end to forced sterilization and experimentation.
11. The right to abortion.
12. A guaranteed annual income.
13. Quality education for our children.
14. Decent housing.

Our ultimate aim is the passage of a WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS, a program of legislative demands, which guarantees economic independence and social equality.

WREE VIEW STAFF

Sally Chaffee
Joan Cohen
Dina Epstein Heisler
Margo Nikitas
Marjorie Pivar
Carmen Teixidor
America Trinidad

SURVIVAL IN RURAL MISSISSIPPI

by Kathy Partridge

Hard work is the way of life for the low-income Black women of rural Noxubee County, Mississippi. Vegetables and chickens must be raised and prepared, clothing washed by hand (often with water "toted" by hand from up to a mile away), and large families to care for. Many women must also commute to factory jobs in the city fifty miles away. Sexual harassment on these jobs is common-

place and, women working at one furniture factory complain, "they have these rules, like only going to the bathroom a certain number of times, and docking pay if you're five minutes late." Unions are weak or not-at-all, and pay is low.

Other women are forced to take local domestic jobs paying as low as \$20 per week. Single mothers at home with children must support their families on ADC payments of as little as \$40 per child monthly. With few training or job opportunities for many mothers, as Emma Wells a mother of six says, "there's nothing around here. My oldest son supports me and the rest get welfare."

What do the women here need? Good jobs with good pay. Decent houses. Health care. And, above all, respect.

The people of this rural community have united on one important issue — the struggle for a day care center.

Only 30 five-year-olds are served by the small Headstart program, and there are no other centers for the many more preschoolers in need of care. Their mothers must either care for them at home, losing desperately needed income or the chance to go to school, or park them with babysitters, often elderly relatives or handicapped women unable to respond to the children's needs.

Organize For Day Care Center

Six years ago, an organization, Prairie Community Center (PCC), was formed by local women and men to develop a day care center. They approached agencies and funding organizations for assistance, and quickly learned that "no one was going to help us, so we had to do it ourselves." Neighbors and churches were asked for donations, raffle tickets were sold, and finally there was enough to buy some land and a small building now being renovated to comply with health regulations.

Pleasing the local health inspector is not easy, however. Activist Annette Connor tried to operate a summer feeding program for schoolchildren, but found, "First we needed a refrigerator and freezer, then a three-compartment sink. Finally he said we had to

have a bathroom, even though the kids could use the one at the house, twenty feet away, so we never got the program." The day care center requirements are even more stringent and compliance is costly.

Outside funding for these facilities is nearly impossible to get. Private foundations are not interested in day care, and federal agencies offer few programs for building renovation. One Community Action Agency promised a small grant, but after a nine-month runaround, local people concluded, "Those government people just don't care to help us."

The community organization has had to organize fish fries and choir sings to buy materials. They are doing the construction themselves. The Center may open in 1980, seven years after their efforts began, but community leaders are proud.

"This may not be a hundred-thousand dollar building, but it's ours. As a people we've never owned anything before except our churches," said PCC president Earl Glenn.

The completion of the building won't end the struggle for good day care, however. Government program regulations are a formidable obstacle since most rural Blacks have received only a minimal education. The USDA Food Program and Title XX of HEW both demand reams of forms, records, and applications.

A Community Action Agency will administer the Food Program, but going through a third party "sponsor" causes delays in payments. "Our center hasn't been reimbursed for six months now," complains Sara Miller, director of a day care in a nearby community. "We are poor people. I don't see how they expect us to survive."

Regulations Designed to Hinder

Title XX is a complex program with a regulation book nearly two inches thick. Some say Nixon, the designer of the program, made it purposely hard to comprehend. If that was indeed his intention he did a good job. Sara Miller's center struggled with the paperwork for nearly five years! Now, she must spend all her time completing

the necessary forms, thick files on the children and workers, and budgets.

Consolidated day care agencies were created to resolve this situation by administering the programs centrally. In Mississippi though, "they won't fund consolidations any more," according to Helen Taylor of Combined Day Care Services. "They're afraid we'll get too much political clout!"

Sara Miller warns that consolidation isn't always the answer. "We almost went with the agency, but we learned that the central office makes the decisions about who to hire, what to teach, and even what to put on the menu. We want our center to be controlled by the community it belongs to."

In order to receive Title XX funds, a center must provide 25% of the money needed. In this racially divided county the whites who dominate the government and welfare office are clearly not committed to services for Black children.

"They say they don't have the money," says Annette Connor. "But they don't spend the money right. It ends up at the [private, all-white] academy." Bowing to community pressure, the Noxubee Board of Supervisors finally did receive some funds for day care — a paltry \$2,500 for the entire county!

Private funds are scarce for day care centers (Sara Miller wrote "maybe hundreds" of letters before receiving a one-year grant.) Government sources, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, have dried up under Nixon, Ford, and now Carter. The Prairie Community Center might have to get by on limited community resources without Title XX.

Forty Children — One Teacher

The James Creek Day Care Center in Macon, Ms. operates without federal funding beyond the Food Program. Though forty children attend, the staff is just one teacher and a cook, each receiving only \$190 a month. There are no funds for adequate toys, so the children spend most of the time sitting while the teacher, overwhelmed by forty bored and unruly children, keeps them in line with a switch. Money is simply not available for more staff, more pay, and more supplies.

The Prairie Community Center is confident they can have a better day care program. Community support is high, and recently an Appalachian church consortium promised funds for staff in 1980. A Catholic charity will send some toys and supplies. This help is appreciated, but day care is not a gift, it is a right and an economic necessity.

What can be done to make day care more available and more responsive to poor, rural, Third World women? Perhaps it just won't happen until the economic system is restructured, redistributing resources for the benefit of all people. Until such a day comes, there are some short-term changes that



could be made, and should be included in any comprehensive day care package:

- Unify all programs serving day care centers under one agency, so only one application need be made. At present several must be filed with different agencies.
- Eliminate all unnecessary paperwork.
- Include funding for construction of day care buildings and all necessary supplies and equipment.
- Fund Title XX (or its substitute program) according to need, not arbitrary and inadequate spending ceilings. Day care should be readily available to all who need it.
- Institute an application procedure comprehensible to those with only minimal education and/or command of English. Simplified forms or oral application interviews, bilingual if necessary, should be substituted. The present program guidelines, especially for Title XX are written in obscure "bureaucratic" language. Inability to complete them successfully doesn't indicate that a staff is not "fit" to meet the needs of children and the community — only that they haven't mastered the jargon.
- Reinforce community control over the program, including staff selection, teaching materials, enrollment policies, and even menus. Cultural differences in childbearing practices and values should be respected.

Sexual Privacy of Women on Welfare

The ACLU Mountain States Regional Office came across a welfare application used in Colorado for women with illegitimate children. Among the questions:

- When and where did you first meet the defendant (the child's father).
- When and where did intercourse first occur.
- Frequency and period of time during which intercourse occurred.
- Was anyone else ever present. If yes, give dates, names, and addresses.
- Were preventive measures always used.
- Have you ever had intercourse with anyone other than the defendant. If yes, give dates, names and addresses.

THE PRIVACY REPORT, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Vol. IV, No. 3, Oct., 1976.

- When and where did you first confront loneliness?
- When and where did you resist the urge to die?
- Did you pull a blind around your sorrow?
- Was anyone present? If yes, give names and dates and addresses.
- Did you survive?
- Were preventive measures always used?
- Who listened to the rage of your silent screams? Give the frequency and period of time, dates and names and addresses...
- Will you promise never to breathe ice?
- To follow the outline of a city street whose perspective darkens with the morning light?

Document.

—Pinkie Gordon Lane
Baton Rouge, LA.

The WREE-VIEW page three

Picketing J.P. Stevens



WREE photos/Margo Nikitas

WREE women demonstrated their solidarity with J.P. Stevens workers during a mass picketing action on October 11 in midtown Manhattan. The picketing, organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), was aimed at unseating E. Virgil Conway, President of the Seamen's Savings Bank, from his spot as a J.P. Stevens director and thus severing the capital life-line between the \$1.6-billion-in-assets bank and the nation's second largest textile monopoly and no. 1 labor violator.

Conway fits into his niche as a director of the J.P. Stevens Company because he is himself so virulently anti-labor. As a member of an elite group of businessmen in New York City called the "Citizen's Budget Commission," he also advocates cutting public funds to the city's hospital system, its university and public transit; phasing out rent control; and laying off more thousands of public workers. His so-called "solution" to the city's fiscal problems is to destroy the public employee unions and do away with needed social services, the absence of which would mean needless suffering and even certain death to countless elderly, unemployed, and low-paid working people. Conway's response to the demand that he resign from his director's post was, "I will not be influenced by a group of placard-waving radicals trying to tear up the fabric of our society."

Seamen's Bank makes funds available to a company that jeopardizes the health, safety and economic security of some 43,000 workers in 81 plants mainly in the South. A large number of these workers are Black women. Stevens has been found guilty of more NLRB violations than any other company in U.S. history. A corporate tax evader, wiretapper, and price-fixer, the company also pursues racist labor practices in its hiring and promoting of minorities. Cotton dust levels which cause disabling Brown Lung disease (workers who get it literally suffocate to death) are almost 3 times higher in Stevens plants than the federal permissible level. The pay for the entirely non-unionized work force is 31% less than the national manufacturing average wage.



WIDF Works for IWD World Plan of Action



Freda Brown (second left), President of WIDF, at women's center run by General Union of Palestinian Women in Lebanon.

1975 was a momentous year. Declared International Women's Year (IWY) by the United Nations, that year saw a UN-World Conference in Mexico City. The Plan of Action that came out of the Mexico meeting became a guide for action for women around the world. IWY became the UN Decade for Women (IWD). The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) of which WREE is the US affiliate, has what is probably the best record of work to implement and carry out the Plan of Action.

As we approach the midpoint of the IWD, we briefly review the major activities of WIDF around the world:

The work for IWD began with the 7th Congress of the WIDF, and then the World Congress of Women in October 1975 in Berlin, attended by about 2000 representatives of organizations in 141 countries and 80 international organizations.

The International Committee for the UN Decade for Women was set up on the basis of the Steering Committee of the World Congress in Berlin. It comprised representatives of international, regional, and national organizations in cooperation with the UN and its specialized agencies. It was this committee that called and prepared the World IYC Conference in Moscow (see stories elsewhere in this issue).

Among the various international and regional seminars held by WIDF are:

- the problems of rural women (Sofia, 1976);
- the contribution of women and their organizations to the Latin American development process, the transnationals and their interference in development (Panama, 1977);
- the role of women and their organizations in the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid, for national independence, democracy and peace (Conakry, 1977)
- the tasks of women's organizations and other public forces in preparing for the International Year of the Child (Prague, 1977);
- the situation of the child in Asia today (New Delhi, 1978);
- intensification of solidarity with the children, the women and the peoples of Southern Africa in their struggle for national liberation, independence, democracy, development and peace (Luanda, 1978)
- "Women and World Disarmament" (Vienna, 1978); prepared and held in cooperation with other NGOs;
- the situation of working women in Europe (Budapest, 1978);
- the struggle of women and their organizations for peace, detente and disarmament (Copenhagen, 1979);
- the situation of Palestinian and Lebanese children (Helsinki, 1979).

These and other events organized by the WIDF have contributed to the objective analyses of the situation of women in different walks of life in many countries and helped map out future lines of action to implement the World Plan of Action.

To promote the struggle for literacy, the WIDF, with the support of UNESCO, has established literacy centers in Portugal, India and Angola and is preparing to open literacy centers in Mozambique and Afghanistan.

The WREE-VIEW page four

With the funds collected by the WIDF and its national organizations, a Mother-and-Child Center has been built in Hanoi.

The WIDF and its national organizations are carrying out solidarity campaigns to help Palestinian women and children, especially the center for orphans of Tel al-Zataar; the women and children in southern Africa under apartheid; the women and children in Vietnam and Cambodia; the women and children in Chile where democratic rights are trampled underfoot.

As a UN nongovernmental body, WIDF will, of course, participate in the Mid-Decade 1980 Conference in Copenhagen. A number of WIDF regional seminars in preparation for 1980 will contribute to the work of the Copenhagen meeting. These include a seminar in Mexico on Women and the Media, and, of special interest to WREE-VIEW readers, may be the WREE-hosted seminar at the UN in March 1980. This will be for Latin, Central and North America on "Racial Discrimination and its Effect on the Economic Rights of Women." WREE is inviting interested individuals and organizations in many countries to submit papers for study.

U N : WREE Calls for Convention on Women

by Vinie Burrows

(Speech given at Conference of Non-Governmental Organization meeting, Commission on Human Rights, July 4, 1979, Geneva, Switzerland)

Mr. Chairman, although the Womens International Democratic Federation, which I represent, has been in the vanguard since its founding in 1945 with a program defending the rights of women and children, peace and universal disarmament, national independence and democratic freedoms in addition to a struggle for the elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination, I am myself a newcomer to the United Nations family and celebrate this month the end of my first year as an NGO Representative.

Listening to the proceedings of this triennial assembly has been most instructive and I have listened carefully to the thoughtful debates on the consultative relationships between the NGOs and the United Nations. The written report of the substantive work done by the Geneva Subcommittee on Human rights, particularly as regards racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, and decolonization speaks most cogently to the concerns of my national organization, Women for Racial and Economic Equality, which is the U.S. affiliate of the WIDF.

Mr. Chairman, I am still learning the language and the procedures of this body, but may I suggest that as we approach the Mid-Decade World Conference for Women, how appropriate it would be for this body to initiate support for the elaboration of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women. The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the General Assembly in 1967 upon the

draft and recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women which is a functioning commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) It is my understanding that the 33rd General Assembly had been expected to move in the direction of an elaboration of a convention, but evidently various forces converged to create an atmosphere that made adoption not feasible. This sitting Commission on Human Rights is not dealing with substantive matters and it is therefore not within this setting to bring up the genocidal practices which sterilize almost fifty percent of Native American women of child-bearing age,



nor is it the forum to discuss the racism that places the minority woman at the bottom of the U.S. economic scale. Third World women are the mules of the world, in triple jeopardy, discriminated against again and again because of their race, their sex, and their class. It is my intimate and firsthand knowledge of the burdens that Third World women face because of racial discrimination that emboldens me to say what a victory for all the women of the world if our sustained and combined efforts could be the catalyst enabling the 34th General Assembly to move ahead on the adoption of a Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Women Stage Long March

The sun beat down on the Anatolian plain. Close to 500 women, with red scarves on their heads, marched down the highway, waving banners with the inscriptions, "The Women's Movement cannot be stopped," "We want day care, not phantoms," "Fascism shall not pass."

The women were part of the longest women's march in Turkish history, staged



to protest the closing down of the Progressive Women's Organization by the Marital Law Command of Istanbul.

Since its founding in 1975, the Progressive Women's Organization has grown in four years to a membership of 15,000, with 33 branches all over Turkey. It became a member of the WIDFA in 1978. The PWO has been successful in rallying women to the democratic struggle in Turkey, in the face of escalating fascist terror and threat of a fascist takeover.

In the June 1977 elections, democrats, progressives, and socialists, actively supported the Republican People's Party which promised a more

liberal democracy, economic reforms favoring the working class, and a decisive campaign against fascism.

Since January 1978 the RPP has retracted almost all of the progressive programs it promised and has capitulated to the demands of monopoly capital, the International Monetary Fund, and NATO, on all major economic, military and foreign policy issues. Prices and profits have continued to soar at accelerated rates, while wage freezes and lay-offs deal heavy blows to the living conditions of the working class.

In the wake of mass murders instigated and organized by the neo-fascist

National Movement Party (NMP), the REP was forced to declare Martial Law in 11 provinces (later raised to 17). As a result of that action, the progressive press, democratic mass organizations and trade unions have come under increasing antidemocratic pressures. The Progressive Women's Organization was banned from activity on the 28th of April 1979 under the pretext of "having engaged in political activity and disrupted public order."

The long march was staged to protest this unjustifiable measure, and demand that the NMP and its affiliated organizations be closed down. Starting from Izmir on the Aegean coast and Izmit near Istanbul, the demonstrators marched to Ankara, covering nearly 1000 miles, a lot of it on foot. All along the way, the march became the focal point of anti-fascist solidarity.

After the buses carrying the marchers were stopped at a gas station violating their constitutional right to travel, the Minister of Internal Affairs held an interview with a delegation representing the demonstrators. In this interview, the Minister conceded that the closing down of the PWO should be reversed. (No such action has yet been taken). The other demonstrators, still being held at gunpoint at a deserted gas station, were determined not to go back before hearing the outcome of the interview. The steadfastness, militancy, and courage shown by these women, faced for 12 hours with spot lights, fixed bayonets, hurled insults and threats, made this gas station 22 kilometers from Ankara a milestone in the women's movement and the struggle against fascism.

In the words of one of them: "The police even tried to prevent us from singing popular folk songs, thinking they contained some kind of secret code. Well, yes, gentlemen, they did, and here it is: Our hope for a world without exploitation or wars and our determination that fascism shall not pass, cannot, and will not be crushed!"
Ed. Note: The complete report from the PWO is available from WREE. Send a stamped envelope with your request.)

Minority Women in the U.S. Economy

The United Nations Committee on the Decade of Women prepared a Report of the Working Group on Employment to be presented at the Mid-Decade Conference on Women in Copenhagen next year. Vinie Burrows, Permanent Representative to the UN for WIDF, and vice president of WREE, added a supplement that was incorporated into the report, "to serve as an addendum...and focus on the particular situation of minority women in the United States economy."

Women have always worked. No economy sustains itself on the work of men alone and the U.S. is no exception. The inequities and imbalances created by a patriarchal and exploitative society are experienced by all women; however, they fall with even greater force on minority women who remain in triple jeopardy by virtue of their race, sex, and economic class.... Minority women are almost twice as likely as white women to be unemployed and to suffer more job loss when the economy is depressed.

Unemployment rates in 1977 averaged 14% for Black women aged 16 and over, compared with 8.2% for all women in this age range, according to a Department of Labor report. Another report cites the 1977 unemployment rate for Hispanic women aged 20 and over as averaging 10.1%, also considerably higher than the 7% for all women in this age range.

Minority women work mainly in the lower paid occupations because they have not had access to the training that would give them needed skills for higher paying white collar and professional jobs. The March 1977 figures for Hispanic women indicate that only 8.2% of Hispanic women were in professional and technical occupations compared with 15.5% of all women. More than one fourth of all Hispanic women were factory and transport workers compared with 15.4% of all women in March 1977. Occupational segregation has worsened, concentrating minority women in low-paying, no-exit, low-skill, dead-end jobs.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicate that in 1975 the average minority female worker earned 26% less than the average minority male; and 43% less than the average white male. These figures corroborate the claims of triple jeopardy and become even more meaningful when it is realized that minority women account for 28% of the 7.5 million families headed by women.

Black unemployment continues at its highest level since the Second World War. While the average jobless rate for whites fell from 7% in 1976 to 6.2% in 1977, the rate for Blacks increased and was more than twice as great as that for whites. For workers of Hispanic origin, the average jobless rate declined 1½% but was still higher than that among whites.

Minority teen-age unemployment rose from 39.3% in 1976 to 41.1% in 1977 and Labor Department statistics put the present figure at near 50%. The persistently high unemployment rate among Hispanic and Black youth is roughly two to three times greater than that among white youth.

Unemployment figures alone do not portray the full extent of joblessness. The number of discouraged workers, those who want jobs but have stopped looking, averaged 968,000 in the fourth quarter of 1977. More than two thirds of these discouraged workers were women; more than one fourth were Black men and women. In addition, the number of part-time workers who would have preferred full-time work was slightly over 3 million, among

whom women and minorities were disproportionately represented (2.2 million). Taking these discouraged and involuntary part-time workers into consideration, total joblessness was nearly twice as great as that recognized in official unemployment statistics. Unemployment figures for all minority women workers are even greater.

The most recent data show that the poverty rate among Blacks is 3 times that for whites; Hispanics are 2½ times more likely to live below the poverty level than whites. Although the disadvantaged economic status of minority women can be blamed partly on high unemployment, it is also associated with discrimination resulting in their under-representation in better paying jobs. While ½ of all white men are in professional, managerial, or skilled craft occupations (those paying relatively high wages) less than ¼ of white women and about 30% of minority men and only 15% of minority women are so employed.

Another major employment problem for minority women has been the discriminatory effect of seniority-based layoff policies. Seniority systems operate at cross purposes with equal employment opportunity efforts. Minority women are often the last hired and the first fired when seniority is the basis for layoffs... Also low minority female representation in certain trades and industries are due in large part to discriminatory union practices relating to union admission, apprenticeship and referral for employment... Racism joins sexism in creating effective barriers to the full participation of women in the labor force.

Since figures become the basis for formulating social policy, the difficulty in obtaining accurate data about minority women's lives and needs emphasizes the multiple discrimination they face in a white male dominated society. Minority women suffer from the scarcity of statistical data that would help make their needs and conditions accurately understood.

My international organization (WIDF) intends to have a regional seminar in March 1980 to investigate in concrete terms the effects of racial discrimination on the exercise by women of their economic rights.

WREE Visits Czech Women's Union

by Margie Akin
(Riverside, Calif.)

Last May, Mattie Stone of Pittsburgh and I represented WREE at the Congress of the Czechoslovak Women's Union, held in Prague. The congresses are held every five years, and bring together women from every part of Czechoslovakia as well as guests for WIDF affiliates all over the world. At this year's congress there were 2000 Czech and Slovak women and guests from 33 foreign countries.

The congress outlined the work of the past five years and organized the Union's work for the future, and all of it was interesting; but what I found most fascinating were the reports of the regional representatives. From them we were able to learn what problems women face in a socialist society. The problems of unequal pay and job opportunities have been practically eliminated, but they are still working on the problem of child care.

There is a truly beautiful system of nurseries throughout the country (I visited some), but they still do not have enough room to place all children who need care. As a result, many women have to wait longer than they would like, to go back to work. This problem is especially important for a country with a labor shortage. My impression after listening to the proceedings was that these women were very confident that

Women

of the whole world

Journal of the WIDF, No 4/1979
published since 1961



One of the Best Buys in Women's Magazines

One of the most beautiful women's magazines is WOMEN OF THE WHOLE WORLD, a quarterly issued by the WIDF. Not only are the pictures (in full color) and layout interesting and exciting, but the articles present a picture of women's role, lives, problems, and triumphs in every part of the world.

For ten years, the magazine has been available for \$2.50 per year. Of course, that could not go on forever. The price will go up as of 1980. Even at the new rate schedule WOMEN OF THE WHOLE WORLD remains one of the best buys in women's periodicals.

Send your subs to WREE immediately and we will start your subscription with the fourth quarter (cover above) and send you the third quarter issue as a bonus so you can enjoy the most charming centerspread we have seen in any magazine anywhere!

1 year subscription is \$5.
2 year subscription is \$8.
3 year subscription is \$12.

the problem is a temporary one, and the discussion centered on finding the most expedient practical way to solve the problem.

Other reports involved problems that are faced by women in our country too. For example, a delegate from Prague spoke of women feeling isolated and left out of things after the birth of a child. She said that a number of women in one neighborhood had formed a self-help and mutual encouragement group similar to some I have heard of in the U.S. The delegate recommended that the Women's Union set up similar groups and that the government provide financial assistance. (I should mention that all new mothers in Czechoslovakia already get substantial financial assistance from the government.)

I was among the foreign guests invited to talk about conditions in our own countries. I found a great and genuine interest in our problems, and a surprising number of women who knew and respected WREE.

Both before and after the congress sessions, Mattie and I and other guests were invited to visit Women's Union chapters in other parts of the country. The Women's Union's activities are a blend of the political, the cultural, and the social. It has about one million members in a country whose total population is 15 million.

Everywhere we traveled we were welcomed with great affection. We learned many fascinating things about the country, and I remember especially a textile factory that we visited which offers women workers with children their choice of 4-, 6-, or 8-hour shifts. This factory has 23 different scheduled shifts to accommodate the mother's preferences.

The Czechoslovak women are interested in visiting and learning about the USA. If your chapter would like to host a visitor, let the WREE National Office know and perhaps a visit can be arranged.

This sticker for the International Year of the Child is issued by the Czechoslovak Women's Union (CSSZ).



NICARAGUA

WREE REP ON TOUR Reports Role of Women

As a WREE member (Wash. D.C. Area Chapter) I recently toured Nicaragua with an international women's delegation invited by the new Nicaraguan government, Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN). The other delegates were from WIDF affiliates in Costa Rica, Cuba, and the Soviet Union.

In addition to expressing international solidarity, the purpose of the tour was to inform the delegation of the status of reconstruction efforts and identify areas where WIDF and its affiliates could be of assistance.

The delegation was accompanied on its tour by representatives from the two national women's organizations in Nicaragua.

AMPRONAC (Asociación de Mujeres Ante La Problemática Nacional, translates Association of Women Against the National Problem) and Mujeres Democráticas (Democratic Women). It was through the formal meetings and informal daily discussions that the delegation learned of the significant and indispensable role that the women played in the revolutionary process. Civil Defense Committees, the communication structures within and between barrios and cities served as a basis for the communication network during the final years and months of the revolution. They currently serve as the democratic structures for the reconstruction. These were initially established by the women's organizations as a means of communicating with their membership. Women were represented in all sectors of the revolutionary struggle. Many women left behind families and children, joined the military of the FSLN, to train in the mountains, and thereafter join their comrades on the front lines and trenches. Women established clandestine clinics to treat the wounded and, with the assistance of the very young children, set up temporary kitchens that followed the movement of the troops. The majority of the women who accompanied our tour had taken up guns and been involved in direct combat. Many of those who had fought had also been imprisoned and tortured.

Luisa Amanda Espinoza Will Be Remembered

Among the thousands who died in the liberation struggle was a twenty-three year old woman, Luisa Amanda Espinoza, the first woman to join the Sandinistas. From one of the poorest barrios, this heroine never secured the education she wanted, and she worked as a seamstress. In recognition of the strength Luisa Amanda Espinoza symbolizes and because her life reflected the repression which women and working people suffered under Somoza, AMPRONAC has adopted her name. The organization's new name, Asociación de Mujeres Nicaraguenses- Luisa Amanda Espinoza, represents not only the strength of the revolutionary

Nicaraguan woman, but also recognizes that the organization had a new role in the reconstruction of a liberated country. Although women are already represented within the ranks of the new government, the organization is currently in the process of developing and proposing programs such as day care centers and technical training programs in order to maximize the role of women in the reconstruction. In addition, these women's organizations will provide a forum where women can discuss the emotional and personal struggles they will face as they attempt to adjust to the personal losses of brothers, sisters, and spouses, and begin to heal the wounds, physical and emotional, wrought by years in the mountains and months in prisons.

Upon completing the tour, the WIDF delegation outlined and proposed the following plan of assistance:

1. WIDF will provide direct assistance to the hospital in Managua, including medicines and medical instruments. Fund-raising efforts will be focused around a future maternity ward. Developed countries such as the United States will be requested to wage national campaigns for medicines and medical instruments to be sent to Managua.
2. A women's training center will be funded directly through WIDF resources. While Nicaragua will provide a site and decide the areas for training, WIDF will provide all operating expenses.
3. WIDF will fund Nicaraguan women's delegations to United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. While WIDF will pay for transportation to the respective countries, the host WIDF affiliates will be expected to finance the tour within their own borders, including transportation, food, and accommodations.
4. Cuba agreed to design a short-term crash course for Nicaraguan mothers on the administration of day care centers.

Since the United States will be hosting the first tour tentatively scheduled for January, and since the Washington D.C. area WREE chapter will be organizing the tour, any inquiries, suggestions, or assistance should be forwarded directly to WREE in care of Bea Valdez, 4610 15th Street, N.W. D.C. 20011 (202) 882-5017.

(A more detailed report on the Nicaragua tour is on file in the National WREE office and available upon request).



WREE in Caracas Opposed Somoza

by America Trinidad

While the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship was at its critical height, a Conference in Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua took place July 13 to 16 in Caracas, Venezuela.

Meeting in this great Conference were democratic and progressive representatives from more than sixty nations, including 17 WIDF Women's organizations. All were united by a common concern for the success of the Nicaraguan people's fight for human rights and self-determination. At the time of the conference, that struggle was threatened with intervention by the United States, which had supported the dictatorship for almost half a century.

This Conference said loud and clear: the people of the world opposed U.S. intervention.

One of the highlights of the conference was the participation of the U.S. delegates, particularly the women delegates, among whom I was proud to represent WREE. I think we contributed a better awareness that there does exist a spirit of solidarity in the U.S. We were able to dispel much of the all-inclusive anti-U.S. feelings prevalent in Latin America, and to convey the message that progressive people in the U.S. support the Nicaraguan struggle as well as the struggles of oppressed people everywhere.

The Women's Committee meeting of the conference was held at the University of Caracas. The various representatives offered recommendations on how to better support the Nicaraguan people.

As the representative of WREE, my recommendations were based on the principle that there is a link between the women's struggle for equality and the struggle of oppressed people for social justice.

The problems of the Nicaraguan women and children were a major focus at the conference. The International Year of the Child coincided with intense persecution of the Nicaraguan children, who were not only suffering the miseries of the war, but were also being victimized under the presumption that even as children they were potential revolutionaries—Somoza had ordered all children under the age of 14 to be jailed or executed.

illiteracy, a major problem in most underdeveloped countries, is rated as high as 70% in Nicaragua for the general population, and higher than 90% among adult women.

WREE's solidarity was expressed in proposals to oppose U.S. intervention in the affairs of Nicaragua; and in recognition of IYC, for an emergency campaign to fight hunger, disease, and illiteracy among the children of Nicaragua.

The Caracas conference was organized by the World Peace Council and the U.S. National Network in Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua.



Ejemplo de Solidaridad Internacional

Los acontecimientos ocurridos en el mundo en torno a la situación de Nicaragua representan uno de los ejemplos más notables de solidaridad internacional de nuestros tiempos. Es indudable que el papel desempeñado por las fuerzas democráticas y progresistas del mundo fue vital en el desarrollo de los eventos que culminaron con la derrota de la tiránica dictadura somocista.

Apoyado por el gobierno norteamericano y la guardia nacional (entrada y equipada por E.U.) la familia Somoza se mantuvo en el poder durante casi medio siglo descargando a sangre y fuego sobre el pueblo nicaraguense, el peso de la crisis política y económica generada por la insaciable sed de riquezas de los Somoza, los lacayos criollos y el imperialismo norteamericano.

La ruptura de relaciones políticas y económicas con el gobierno del general Anastasio Somoza y su eventual aislamiento por los gobiernos progresistas, The WREE-VIEW page six

conjuntamente con las constantes presiones de los sectores populares sobre los gobiernos antipopulares, para impedir que estos dieran ayuda militar y económica a Somoza durante la etapa de la lucha armada, fueron entes decisivos en el eventual triunfo del Frente Sandinista.

La primera ofensiva sandinista de septiembre de 1978, sacudió las bases del poder militar de Somoza causándole gran debilitamiento e incorporó activamente a todos los sectores progresistas y democráticos de la sociedad nicaraguense a las distintas formas de la lucha organizada y espontánea. El respaldo moral, político y económico aportado por la solidaridad exterior tuvo gran significado en el desarrollo y fortalecimiento del frente.

Conferencias, demostraciones y manifestaciones con carácter amplio y representativo fueron organizadas en distintas partes del mundo, exhibiendo diversos matices políticos e ideológicos, denunciando al somocismo y apoyando al sandinismo.

Se convocó a una Conferencia Mundial de Solidaridad con Nicaragua la cual se celebró del 13 al 15 de julio en Caracas, Venezuela, y que coincidió con el triunfo del Frente Sandinista e instalación de la junta de gobierno de Reconstrucción Nacional.

Esta reunión, la cual fue planificada en conferencias previas en Washington D.C. (24 y 25 de febrero) y ciudad Panamá (29 y 30 de abril), fue organizada por el Consejo Mundial de La Paz y la Red Nacional Estadounidense de Solidaridad con Nicaragua (National Network in Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua).

A esta conferencia, cuyos propósitos básicos fueron 1) el fortalecimiento del apoyo político y solidario de la lucha en Nicaragua y 2) el desarrollo de un plan de acción, asistieron más de 300 delegaciones de 60 países.

Las resoluciones de esta conferencia fueron un gesto ejemplar de solidaridad y apoyo a la justa lucha del pueblo nicaraguense. Se denunció el peligro de inter-

vención imperialista y se hizo un llamado a todos los sectores progresistas a contribuir con la gran tarea de la reconstrucción de Nicaragua y en la defensa de la victoria del heroico pueblo de Sandino. Específicamente se sugirió que 1) se estableciese un boicot a los productos de Somoza 2) que se suspendiese la venta de petróleo a Somoza y a todos los países que continuasen sufriendole armas, 3) la organización de brigadas en el exterior para que trabajasen en la reconstrucción de Nicaragua, 4) establecimiento del fondo monetario internacional y del banco de sangre, 5) establecimiento de una semana de solidaridad con los niños nicaraguenses conjuntamente con el año internacional del niño, y 6) apelar a las naciones unidas por ayuda. Pero, el derrocamiento del somocismo y la celebrada toma del poder del 20 de julio pasado, no representan el fin de la lucha nicaraguense. La lucha de un pueblo por su liberación comprende la solución de los pro-

continued on page 15

Abortion, Sterilization Race and Class Issues

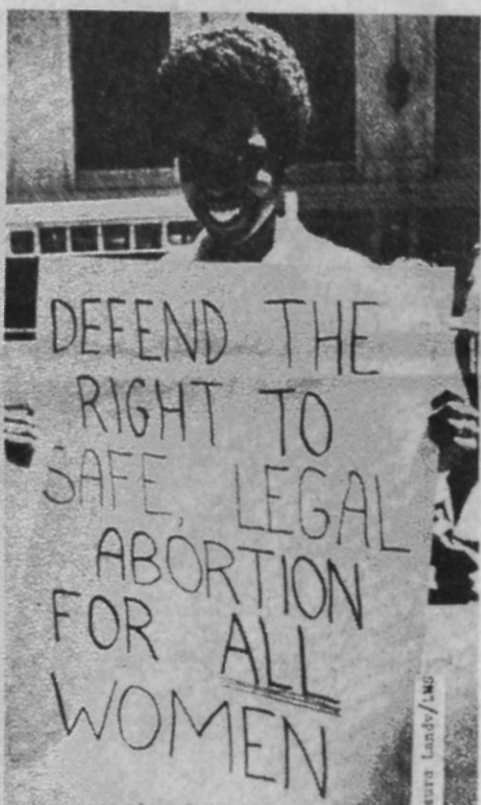
by Sally Chaffee

In recent years, under pressure from a vociferous right-wing minority, both the House and Senate have voted to restrict drastically federal funding of abortion for Medicaid recipients.

As of mid-October 1979 Congress eliminated federal funds for abortion entirely, except in the relatively infrequent cases when the woman's life is endangered or in cases of rape or incest. During Abortion Rights Action Week, October 22-29, attention was drawn by abortion rights groups and women's groups across the nation to the struggle to guarantee access to an abortion for any woman in need, regardless of her ability to pay. Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias, a pediatrician and leader of CESA (Committee to End Sterilization Abuse), led a discussion at the New York office of WREE and said there was a need for organizations such as WREE to focus on the fight for abortion rights and against sterilization abuse as racial and class issues.

Cruel Denial of Rights

The discriminatory and immoral position of the government on the question of abortion is evident when we see that, according to statistics issued by HEW itself, since the 1977 Hyde Amendment was passed, a shocking 99% of federal Medicaid funds for abortions have been eliminated, yet Medicaid will pay 90% of the cost of sterilizing a woman. Such a policy amounts to the cruel denial of the right of poor and working women to abortion. In addition, by controlling economic access to abortions the government can manipulate the entry or withdrawal of



women from the job market, thus denying the right to earn a living as well. The condition of impoverished mothers in this land of "human rights" is a national disgrace. According to Dr. Rodriguez, a study in the *American Public Health Journal* showed that between October 1977 and June 1978, an increasing number of poor and minority women were forced to delay dangerously getting an abortion until they had scraped together enough money to

WE AGREE, PAT!

Justice Holmes once said that the Constitution is made for people of fundamentally differing views. It seems to me that the Supreme Court decisions have resolved the abortion issue in such a way that these fundamentally differing views can be accommodated. Those who believe abortion is morally wrong may refrain from having abortions. Those whose sense of morality does not dictate against abortion may have access to abortions without regard to economic status. Each person is bound by the dictates of personal rather than state-imposed standards.

— Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D.-CO)

cover its cost. As of this year, abortion services and clinics have been forced to close down, some consolidated into hospitals where the cost of an abortion can be twice as much. The abortion-sterilization package deal giving both at a cheaper rate occurs more and more often, particularly among minority women.

In the land of the free, what freedom of "choice" is there for the mother on welfare? Since the cost of an abortion is greater than the monthly welfare check of a family of three, abortion is clearly determined by the mother's ability to pay. She must "choose" between the necessary abortion for herself or feeding her children. She must "choose" between feeding her children or undergoing sterilization. In January 1977, Senator George McGovern, speaking out against the Hyde Amendment, declared that it would "effectively discriminate against minority women who are more heavily dependent on Medicaid for their medical care."

The right to an abortion, ultimately, a question of economic discrimination, since the rich are by no means barred from access to legal abortions under the present laws, is ignored by the so-called Right to Life groups, which prefer to present abortion in a lurid way, manipulating people's emotions to keep them from focusing on the real economic and social issues. Money and political backing are fed into these groups by giant corporations such as the Proctor and Gamble Company, which gave away hundreds of bars of Ivory soap at the Right to Life Convention in Kentucky this past summer. The Abortion Rights Movement has evidence that a Political Action Committee funded by J.P. Stevens, the notorious labor law violator, supported many of



Indians: Victims Of Corporate Greed

The National Indian Youth Council of Albuquerque, N.M., charges that corporate and government abuse is killing Indian people. Here is part of the Council's report:

"Many of our Indian brothers and sisters are dying in a painful death from cancer traced to the irresponsibility of energy corporations that sent them to work in uranium mines. One hundred Indians have already been killed!

"In the late 1940s and 1950s, the U.S. nuclear industry began to flourish, and discovered that Navajo, Pueblo, and other Indian tribes own the land where most of this country's uranium is to be found. The Indian people, unaware of any of the dangers and never advised about them, were persuaded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to lease their land for uranium mining. Despite the fact that the BIA was created to protect the interests of Indian peoples, it once again acted more out of concern for industry interests and profits than for the well-being of Indians. Sickness, deteriorated living conditions, and death have resulted from this brutal exploitation. Much of the land where our people have lived for thousands of years is now poisoned by radioactivity, and will remain poisoned for thousands of years."

Why Indians Are Victimized

Why is it that the Indian people are being victimized?

•Because the Indian lands sit atop more than half this nation's uranium supply, 1/3 of the nation's low-sulfur coal and smaller amounts of oil, natural gas, geothermal power and other energy resources. (In New Mexico alone, fourteen energy companies have holdings on Indian land for uranium exploration and development. The Exxon corporation is exploring for uranium on 400,000 acres of the Navajo Nation in Four Corners. Gulf Oil is



Credit: Kiva Club/LNS

the same right-wing political candidates in 1978 as did the Right-to-Life groups.

Links with Economic, Social Struggles

Abortion rights groups are aware of the links between the abortion question and other economic and social struggles. Frances Kissling, of Abortion Rights Action Week, the coalition group which spearheaded the national actions of October 22-29, stressed in an interview with WREE that abortion is not an isolated issue. Abortion rights groups, said Ms. Kissling, must also support welfare rights, tenants' rights and the on-going struggle for jobs for all, child care, and other social services.

Abortion Rights Action Week helped local abortion rights groups to better organize themselves, and step up their work with various women's organizations.

The voices of the majority calling for economic, social and racial equality will be heard.

sending the world's deepest mine shaft into Mount Taylor, one of the four sacred mountains of the Navajo people.)

•Because it is the Indian people who have been used to work in the dangerous uranium mines (owned by Kerr-McGee of Karen Silkwood fame).

•Because it is the Indian people who live near the abandoned uranium mills where millions of tons of radioactive uranium wastes have been left unshielded.



More than 60,000 Women Sterilized

A two and a half year study made by the United Native Americans is the basis for an estimate that 60,000 to 70,000 Indian women have been sterilized in the last decade.

Lehman L. Brightman, president of the organization, charged that the federal government is conducting a massive sterilization campaign against American Indians. "Most of these operations were performed without the consent of the women...conducted while the women were having children or immediately after...this is nothing more than pure criminal genocide," said Brightman.

The United Native American report estimates 42% of all Indian women in this country have been sterilized.

"The first indication the Government was sterilizing Indians in such mammoth proportions came about in 1976. Senator James Abourezk from South Dakota announced in a federal report the Government has sterilized 3,406 Indian women and 142 men in a 3-year period from 1973 to 1976. During this period they concentrated only on four states, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Arizona, and New Mexico. In 1974, a moratorium by federal court order was placed on all this sterilization. Immediately after this 36 more people were sterilized," states Brightman.

Indian Children Used As Guinea Pigs

Brightman goes on to say, "At the same time as the sterilization was going on, the Government used Indian children as guinea pigs in 56 different projects as experimentations. The parents were not involved, nor did they give their permission for these medical experiments to be performed.

"In 1966, the U.S. Army in affiliation with the University of Minnesota, took 100 children from the headstart program of the Red Lake Chippewa Reservation, and watched a skin disease called Impetigo spread into its later stages called Lymphadenitis, a disease that causes kidney failure. Afterwards 15 cases with small amounts of blood in their urine were taken to the University of Minnesota. They were given a biopsy of the kidney which is extremely painful, after anesthetizing the hip, a long needle was used to remove portions of the kidney. Evidence of kidney damage was found in all 15 children - none of these children were ever treated. This is just ONE of 56 different experiments."

RACIAL AND SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY



by Liz Hrenda

The steel industry Consent Decree, which was upheld in principle by the Supreme Court decision in *Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum*, is the legal basis for affirmative action to eliminate the effects of racial and sexual discrimination. However, while the major steel corporations consented in the courts to implement these affirmative action plans, they have not consented to them on the shop floor. The principle and implementation of affirmative action still requires vigilance and struggle. It is my experience that steel industry management is continually developing more ways to circumvent the intentions of the Consent Decree, to perpetuate the racist and male supremacist system that has gained them millions of dollars in profits. Further, they are using these new tactics as the cutting edge of an attack on the rights and jobs of all steelworkers.

The Consent Decree, signed in 1974, was never implemented in its truest sense. The steel industry has never made any effort to re-educate their foremen to insure fair treatment of Black, Spanish-surnamed, and women (as specified in the Consent Decree) workers who now have to be hired and promoted. Nor have they initiated training programs in which these workers could acquire the skills that they have previously been prevented from learning. Instead, new tactics of racism and male supremacy have been added to their arsenals. Management participates in and encourages acts of sexual harassment. I know of no instance in which management intervened in a case of sexual harassment, although they were aware of its oc-

currence, except when the victim demanded some action. In such cases, they often suggest that she enticed the harassment, or at least that she's a "poor sport."

Racist provocation is also common. In my plant a racist cartoon depicting the KKK was displayed in a glass-enclosed bulletin board to which only management had keys. In another instance, a white male worker was harassing a Black female worker by calling out racial insults as she walked past. She told him to stop it, and told the grievance committeeman about it. He informed the worker that he could be reported to management and disciplined. When he continued, the woman reported him to the foreman, who issued a disciplinary write-up. As his defense, the male worker did not deny that he had used racial slurs, but claimed that the woman had also insulted him, that she had called him a "white m.f." The woman denied this, and no witnesses would corroborate the man's story. Still, management also gave the woman a disciplinary write-up, claiming that they were being even-handed. Such actions are clearly aimed at stopping complaints about racist harassment and not the harassment itself.



Because of their small number in steel plants, it is easy for women workers to be isolated from other women. A woman in an otherwise all-male shop, unaware of the experiences of other women workers, may feel that her problems are all her own fault. This isolation also prevents women from organizing to change unfair conditions, even such basic things as inadequate washroom facilities. As we know from the responses to WREE's Clearing House Survey, the racial discrimination and harassment of women in steel is also evident in auto, in mines, in all blue-collar industries. The forms and prevalence of the harassment must be documented and attested to by women workers to provide the bases for laws that will protect us from these efforts to prevent women from becoming fully accepted equal workers in any field of work we choose. All blue collar women should send for, fill out, and return the Clearing House Questionnaire. [See "Clearinghouse Update," in this issue].

On occasion sympathetic male co-workers do inform women of their rights and help them fight harassment. Management tries to prevent this by various underhanded tactics. Rumors of sexual relationships are often spread around. In some cases, a

A Labor Department publication, "Labor Firsts in America," reports that the first anti-discrimination law against women in Illinois in 1872, and that in 1879 the first state legislation to prohibit the employment of women in coal mines was in Illinois.

worker will be labeled a "trouble-maker" and others will be told that they will be watched if they speak to him or her. To make sure everyone gets the message, a foreman might follow the worker around. (There are a whole lot of bosses of mills who have nothing important to do!) The application of this tactic against women workers is new, but has been used for a long time against Black workers. It is common for groups of Black workers to be told to disperse and get back to work, while white workers are allowed to gather without interruption.

Because of the prevalence of racism in our country, it is easy for the bosses to spread disparaging comments about the character and work habits of Black workers. Our Unions have to be more vigilant in attacking these slanders. Often the union is too willing to accept management's claim that a worker is incompetent or unwilling to work. Such claims have been on the increase since the Consent Decree has opened up the apprenticeships.

Due to the arbitration decision of a grievance recently settled, a new testing procedure is now being introduced into the apprenticeship programs at many plants. These tests are supposed to be more fair, requiring everyone to take the same tests, and providing that no one shall be tested on anything in which he or she has not been trained. But the same management which has been practicing racial and sexual discrimination for decades is in charge of training and testing. In the past, favored employees have been given easy tests, or not tested at all; the boss would "certify them competent." Several white male workers have told me that they were assured that their tests were just formalities and that they would get their rates. Inequality of training and testing will no doubt continue (and probably increase) with the entrance of Blacks, Hispanics, and women into the skilled trades.

The benefits of the Consent Decree and the new testing program will be nullified unless the union and government can force the companies to institute training programs that allow all apprentices to learn the skills of their trades. Currently, a worker who is found deficient is given "additional training" and continued at a lower rate of pay. This penalizes the worker who was not given the correct training originally. (I should note that almost all "training" is actual work, which earns profits for the company. In fact, apprentices are even disciplined for errors and expected to work as fast as craftsmen). A fairer solution is to award the skilled craft rate to the worker, while any needed training is being provided. This would give the companies an incentive to end discrimination, since it would remove the economic benefit.

One attack on affirmative action says that the drop in productivity which is shown in Bureau of Labor Standards statistics is due to opening up skilled jobs to "unqualified" min-

ority and women workers. I should note that these statistics are suspect; but even apart from that, this allegation is without basis. Most workers who get into affirmative action programs are super-qualified, due to meeting the rigorous requirements that are designed to exclude them. Further, they are super-motivated, since they must face harassment and meet very high standards everyday on the job. Many workers previously qualified to learn a craft because they had fathers, brothers, or uncles in that trade. Now apprentices must pass tests which include algebra, trigonometry and English literacy, so they could hardly be considered less qualified.

The steel industry is currently conducting a campaign against absenteeism, which they claim is hurting their "productivity" (though it doesn't seem to effect their ever-increasing profits). Favoritism is a big factor when it comes to deciding what absences are excusable. A woman with an ill child may be unexcused, while the boss's fishing buddy's hangover is excusable. For Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and other minority workers who face constant discrimination and harassment, coming to work can be a real chore. For women, who often have the other full-time job of caring for a family, attendance can often be a problem. Both of these situations affect Black and other nationally oppressed minority women. But these workers are the ones who will be most severely penalized for absenteeism. Once super-human standards of attendance are established for these workers, management uses them selectively against any workers they want to get rid of. In fighting against these unjust penalties, unions are not only fighting against discrimination, but also fighting for the rights of all workers.

Some important areas of the fight for affirmative action are outside the shop. One of these is the fight for a shorter



CLEARING HOUSE UPDATE

by Dina Heisler

The WREE Clearinghouse campaign, designed to document all forms of harassment of women in blue collar jobs, is still going strong.

One response to our survey was from a trimmer in the meatpacking industry from Ellistown, Va. She reports that as part of her job on the kill floor, she is required to move barrels of guts weighing 300 pounds each, under terrible working conditions. "I work right next to the saw; the pig squeals are also loud but no ear plugs are provided... the floors are wet and greasy but I had to wait four months to get the proper boots to fit me." Added to these problems are also the 5 to 15 mandatory overtime hours each week, only two working toilets and no shower—"it is needed: I get full of blood,"—coupled with the constant racial slurs and verbal sexual abuse.

Blue Collar Workers

Another respondent from the rolling department of a steel mill in Ock, Pa., reported difficulty in meeting the requirement to carry out "various jobs which require lifting in spaces where the equipment is unable to reach and arm strength, equal to a man's, is needed." There are two restrooms in the entire mill and many departments have no locker rooms or lunch rooms. The heavy loads include 22-pound hammers, 75 to 100-pound impact wrenches, and room temperatures vary from extreme heat to extreme cold.

Another story reached us of a single parent who switched from teaching to work in the Lorain, Ohio, steel mill for the \$22,000 in wages. She now not only collects superior pay but also lives with chronic acne from the stress of the constant abuse on the job. The bathroom is one mile away and, so, the women are

SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAUSE: BEST SO FAR

To our knowledge, this is the best clause on sexual harassment to appear so far in any union contract. It is in the new contract signed by District 65, UAW, with Boston University. Still lacking is the necessary job protection that would result from a clause on punishment that will be meted out to perpetrators of such harassment!

"The University recognizes that no employee shall be subject to sexual harassment. In this spirit it agrees to post in all work areas a statement of its commitment to this principle. Reference to sexual harassment includes any sexual attention that is unwanted. In the case of such harassment, an employee may pursue the grievance procedure for redress. Grievances under this article will be processed in an expedited manner. If after the grievance is settled, the employee feels unable to return to his/her job, the employee shall be entitled to transfer to an equivalent position at the same salary and grade if a vacancy then exists for which he/she is qualified."

CRIMINATION STRY

WOMEN'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER
(WOHRC) EXPRESSES OUR FEELINGS EXACTLY:



due to childbirth. Childcare centers are needed, where quality care could be provided while parents work. The location and hours of these centers should be convenient for workers, and they should be subsidized by employers so workers could afford them. Neither men nor women should have to give up the right to have healthy children in order to have a job. Many people were shocked to learn that five women had been "voluntarily" sterilized in order to keep jobs in which they worked with a chemical that causes birth defects. The company that required the sterilizations showed no such concern for the potential children of males in its employ. Dangerous working conditions cannot be remedied by "fixing" the workers, or by eliminating "susceptible" workers. Such solutions are harmful to all workers and a cover for continued discrimination against women workers.

work week. Affirmative action in hiring is undercut by unemployment, while those who are hired under affirmative action become scapegoats for high unemployment. A shorter work week, without a cut in pay, as proposed by House Bill 1784, which includes a ban on forced overtime, will substantially increase employment opportunities for all people. Quality, anti-racist education, without sex bias, must be available to all children. Schools should provide all children with opportunities to learn about and be trained for whatever skills in which they have interest and aptitude. Increased support for an integrated public school system is the only way to achieve this goal.

Finally, working people must be guaranteed the right to have and to raise children. Women workers should be given full maternity benefits, and should not lose benefits or seniority

Our efforts to win and implement affirmative action have to be broadened, both in the sense of winning all workers to see the benefits of affirmative action and the elimination of discrimination, and in the sense of increasing the scope of affirmative action programs. Unions that have affirmative action plans in their contracts should review them to see if they are working and to assess their benefits. They should make efforts to convince all workers of the need for these plans. Many unions take very good public positions on these plans, as shown by the large number of friend-of-the-court briefs filed in support of affirmative action in the Weber case. But these same unions do little to educate their own members to support anti-discrimination plans. Too often, this task is left to the victims of discrimination, while it should be the responsibility of the entire union. Also, we must seek to establish programs which will truly implement affirmative action. We should not see affirmative action as merely employment goals or advancement quotas. WREE's Clearing House for Blue-Collar Women is based on the demand that affirmative action be expanded to include those things that enable women to keep as well as get jobs. This means that without full employment, maternity benefits, child care, equal educational opportunity, and school desegregation, affirmative action will remain a false front on a structure built on racial and sexual discrimination. Affirmative action is more than a numbers game. It can be a way to correct the injustices that are destroying the futures of so many of our people, and better the future for all of us.

(Hrenda, a machinist apprentice in a steel mill, is also secretary of her local union Civil Rights Committee, president of the South Central Pennsylvania CLUW chapter, and a member of the Pennsylvania Governor's Commission for women).



Barbara Plog/LNS

CLUW CONVENTION SETS GOALS

In 1974, a small band of union members issued a general invitation to union women to form a new organization which would deal primarily with issues concerning working women. Some 3,000 women responded enthusiastically, and so the Coalition of Labor Union-Women (CLUW) was born.

The enthusiasm is still growing strong five years later. Membership is now 6,000 and growing, and at the recent CLUW convention, delegates reaffirmed their firm commitment to organizing, equal opportunity, political action, and more participation of women with the union movement.

For two days preceding the convention, the delegates attended workshops covering 24 subjects, such as child care, equal pay for work of comparable value, organizing, and right-to-work.

At the convention itself, there was a star-studded roster of speakers, including Tom Donahue, executive assistant to the AFL-CIO president; Eleanor Holmes Norton, director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Elizabeth Koontz, chairperson of the National Commission on Working Women; and Bella Abzug, former congresswoman from New York.

The delegates put great emphasis on the need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Realizing that only three more states are needed for ratification, they urged a full-scale effort in the 15 states which have not yet ratified. These states are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia.



Women Speak Out

forced to either wet themselves daily or get docked for the time it would take to reach the toilet. Once at the bathroom, they find the lock is not only broken but there were several attempts by one man to enter the room while it was in use. After repeated attempts to petition the plant management to repair the lock proved hopeless, this woman took an axe and destroyed the room. Finally, the room and lock were fixed.

The District 31 Women's Caucus Bulletin, USWA, is deeply concerned with the plight of its women steelworkers. They have pledged to support Mary Engle when her hearing comes up for having been fired for "not being strong enough." Mary worked on the blast furnaces at U.S. Steel Gary Works. During her first two weeks on the job, she was told that if "she had a good attitude and did as much work as

she could," her supervisor saw "no problem." Two weeks later she was fired and told to gain 100 pounds in order to do the job. The men who worked with Mary had no complaints and are planning to testify to the fact that she can "handle" a job at U.S. Steel.

The WREE Clearinghouse Survey form has been distributed in various locales throughout the country. We know there are many more stories to tell and we are anxious to read each one. We appeal to everyone who is planning to respond to do so right away so that we can add yours to our growing file of grievances which will one day be redressed. If you have not yet seen our survey, please write for your free copy to: Women's Clearinghouse Survey, WREE-VIEW, 130 E. 16th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

15. Indicate type of harassment or discrimination and describe each, if you wish:

- () Racial _____
- () Sexual _____
- () Physical violence _____
- () Violent language _____
- () Threats of firing or transfer _____
- () Insults/Innuendos _____
- () Dirty tricks _____
- () False reports on your work _____
- () Unfair ratings _____
- () Unusual assignments or extra work _____
- () Mandatory overtime _____ hours per week _____
- () Other, please describe _____

16. Have you experienced harassment or discrimination on the job by:

- () Foreman or boss? () yes () no.
- () Male co-workers? () yes () no.
- () Clerical staff? () yes () no.
- () Personnel office? () yes () no.
- () Others on job? (Be specific, please) _____

Part of WREE's Clearinghouse Survey Form. Have you filled one out yet?

WREE appeal for the women of South Africa

The South African women expressed admiration for WREE's logo button. Contributions from our members enabled WREE to order 1000 of our button imprinted with the words "August 9 - South African Women's Day". We were pleased to be able to send them to our sisters in time for the August 9th celebrations.



Dearest Sisters:
 We kindly and most gratefully acknowledge receipt of the most beautiful buttons we have ever had for our historic day, August 9th. The buttons were timely received by air mail, intact and with no problems.
 We say they arrived very timely because it was long before the day and we proudly divided them to our different centres, scattered as we are all over the world. We are indeed inspired by the genuine friends in the struggle of your calibre.
 We also thank you very much for the encouraging message of solidarity on the occasion of our day. You can rest assured that our oppressed but militant women will receive the message with great enthusiasm as we broadcasted your message to us in all the channels of our radio going inside the country and in the neighboring countries. They will receive it today and this will encourage our women to realize that they have friends and supporters in your country, whose government is an ally of long standing of the oppressive regime in our country, helping to consolidate our enemy.
 On this important day for us in the struggle against colonial apartheid and national oppression, we take the opportunity to thank you on the firm stand you have taken not to rest until the systems that keep people in bondage have been wiped off completely. It is in pursuance of the same objectives that we also have dedicated our all to the course of freedom. Together we shall struggle to the end.
 Once more, dear Sisters, keep the high commitment to our just struggle until victory is achieved.
 Yours in the struggle,

Florence Mophosho,
 Head, Women's Secretariat.
 AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (SOUTH AFRICA)

We remind our readers that the need for diapers for the South African children in the refugee camps in Zambia is still most urgent. We again appeal to you to support WREE's DIAPER FUND by sending your contribution directly to the women in Zambia - then you, too, will have the pleasure of a letter sent to you directly from our sisters in South Africa. Use the coupons herewith.

ANC (SA) Women's Section
 P.O. Box 1791
 Lusaka, Zambia

Dear Sisters:
 Enclosed is \$ _____ (check or money order) to help buy diapers for the babies of the South African refugees.

In Solidarity,

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

WREE
 266 West 23 Street
 New York, New York 10011

On _____ (date) a check
 money order _____ was sent in the amount of
 \$ _____ to our sisters in the ANC (SA) Women's
 Section.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Popping Pills in Bangladesh

by Sherman Austin

In Third World countries, what can the poorest people obtain much more easily than food? The answer is birth control pills, the West's immediate response to poverty.

An investigative team, Barbara Ehrenreich, Mark Dowie, and Stephen Minkin, have written a series of articles in a number of publications exposing the US policy of dumping in other countries pharmaceuticals that are banned as unsafe or dangerous in this country. Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), this country carries out a program of "contraceptive inundation" in the poorest countries.

In Bangladesh, women who are largely uneducated and malnourished can obtain their monthly birth control pills from the local cigarette vendor. In spite of the fact that in the U.S. women are constantly warned about the dangerous side effects of the pill, the same pills are dispensed freely in Third World countries with no warning or monitoring of the possible dangers or side effects. As a result, increased incidence of heart disease, circulatory and clotting problems are already in evidence.

Also, 16% of the women who are on the pill are already pregnant, thus increasing the danger of children being born with serious birth defects. Ninety percent of the women on the pill are breast-feeding their babies—risking malnutrition for the children as the pill causes a decrease in the milk supply. The additional irony here is that lactation is a natural contraceptive. Not only do the women not need the pill while lactating, but the pill can interfere with the natural contraception. Scientists have reported that irregular use of the pill during lactation may actually stimulate ovulation and cause an early return to fertility. If you consider the pill's side effects, which include dizziness, headaches and depression, it is easy to understand why pill use among the Bangladesh women is often highly irregular.

Barbara Ehrenreich says, "Dr. Henry Mosely, a Johns Hopkins University professor who has studied AID's inundation approach in Bangladesh, believes that the possibility of a pill-induced population explosion is 'a matter of some concern.' But AID's Dr. R.T. Ravenholt, father of the inundation strategy, does not worry about it. "We supply an unlimited amount of free pills. As long as they're taking the pills, they can't get pregnant."

Rather than deal with roots of systematic poverty, which are directly related to US corporate exploitation of the Third World, the American solution seems to be to reduce the numbers. That puts us in a class with the Pol Pot regime that reduced the numbers of Cambodians by more than three million.



Nestle—Target of World Boycott

Nestle has been the target of a world-wide boycott because of its promotion of formula feeding for infants in developing countries, where conditions often make safe use impossible.

Due to the lack of clean water, refrigeration and sanitary preparation equipment, coupled with low income, formula feeding has endangered the lives of many infants and damaged the economic well being of their families throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America.

If you think it's wrong for babies to starve so that corporate profits can be increased, join the boycott of the following Nestle products:

- **CHOCOLATES:** Nestle's CRUNCH; Tollhouse Chips; Nestle's Quik; Hot Cocoa Mix; Choco' lite; Choco-Bake; \$100,000 Candy Bar; Price's Chocolates; Go Ahead Bar.
- **COFFEES AND TEAS:** Taster's Choice; Nescafe; Nestea; Decaf; Sunrise, Pero.
- **WINES:** Beringer Brothers; Los Hermanos; Cross and Blackwell.
- **CHEESES:** Swiss Knight; Wispride; Gerber Cheeses; Old Fort; Provalone Lacatelli; Cherry Hill; Roger's.
- **PACKAGED FRUITS, SOUPS, ETC:** Libby's; Stouffer frozen foods; Souptime; Maggi Soups; Crosse and Blackwell.
- **HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS:** Stouffer; Rusty Scupper.
- **MISCELLANEOUS:** L'Oreal Cosmetics; Nestle Cookie Mixes; Deer Park Mountain Spring Water; Pine Hill Crystal Water; Kavli Crispbread; McVities; Keiller; James Keller and Son, Ltd.; Contique by Alcon; Lonax by Owen Labors; Lancome.

Cuban Women at WREE-FIGHTBACK Forum



Three members of the Cuban Federation of Women (Federacion de Mujeres Cubans) — Marie Isable Acevedo, Cathy Rivas, and Yolanda Ferrer — spoke at a recent forum hosted by WREE and FIGHTBACK, a Harlem organization of construction.

The women, who reflect the multiracial and multiethnic character of Cuban society, addressed themselves to issues of employment and educational opportunity for working mothers; the progress made towards attaining racial equality; and the growing participation of women in the Cuban economy, social life, and all levels of government.

The Cuban representatives also discussed how problems such as prostitution and drugs have been eliminated through the development of non-exploitative society, accompanied by the profound social work, begun before the revolution, that continues to the present day.

Another topic of deep interest was Cuba's assistance to national liberation struggles, particularly of the African peoples. "We can't just stand idly by," explained one of the representatives, asserting that "the fight against imperialism" is the Cuban people's fight as well, and in this common struggle they "are united with millions of people around the world."

National Anti-Klan Network Is Formed

A national Anti-Klan Network has been set up by a broad range of church groups, trade unions, women's groups, civil rights groups, and grassroots organizations to mount a nationwide campaign to counter the current resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

Rev. C.T. Vivian, of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who planned the meeting, said: "We see the Klan as a major threat to this country — not in its present numbers, which are still small, but in its potential. We intend to build a mass movement to stop it." Ann Braden, WREE member and cochair of the Southern Organizing Committee, spoke on Klan ideology and said its current line is like that being put forward by many people who consider the Klan too "Unrespectable" to join. This line, she said, is the myth of "reverse discrimination."

"We've got to show the white people of this country that gains by Black people do not hurt them," she said, "that on the contrary, every step forward by Blacks broadens rights for everybody, especially poor and working white people."

The new Anti-Klan Network adopted a four-pronged program of action. These are some of the highlights:

DIRECT ACTION

Cooperating organizations will confront the Klan wherever it appears with demonstrations and other forms of nonviolent direct action and will respond to calls for nationwide support in particular trouble spots. A long-range goal is a massive national demonstration against the Klan.

POLITICAL ACTION

Network groups will confront individual politicians and governmental bodies at all levels, demanding official positions against the KKK, and will attempt to involve all possible citizen-organizations. They will ask progressive members of Congress, led by the Congressional Black Caucus, to conduct a major investigation to expose Klan brutality and violence, through hearings across the nation.

PROGRAM TO REACH YOUTH

The Network will prepare a packet of material on the Klan and seek to get it used in schools and will confront school boards and ask them to see that correct information about the Klan is taught in the classroom. They will ask professional education organizations and parent and teacher groups to take public stands. They will encourage workshops for teachers and youth.

LEGAL ACTION

There will be efforts to form a network of lawyers willing to help, a "brief bank" to assist local lawyers in cases involving the Klan and a short pamphlet on legal tactics for laypeople.

(The conference asked SCLC to coordinate the new Network. Organizations that want to cooperate should make contact there. The address is 334 Auburn Ave., Atlanta, Ga. 30303. A hotline has been set up, to receive information on Klan activity. The number is 404-522-1420).



Anti-Nuclear Prayer

The NRC* is my shepherd; I shall not live.
It maketh me to lie down in radiant pastures;
it leadeth me beside deathly waters.
It destroyeth my bones;
It leadeth me in the paths of frightfulness, for its name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will hear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy bomb and thy reactor they comfort me.
Thou preparest a fable before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest thy words with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely fallout and war shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Pentagon - but hardly forever.

* Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Tritium: Nuclear Time Bomb in Arizona

by Margo Nikitas

Some of the 200 workers employed by the American Atomics Company in Tucson told the Arizona Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC) in June of 1978 that radioactive tritium was leaking from the plant. Tritium is a key ingredient of hydrogen bombs, used by the company in making watch dials and traffic signs. But the AAEC, which had on its board of directors an American Atomics executive, Harry H. Dooley, Jr., did not act on the employees' complaint. The director of the AAEC at that time, Donald C. Gilbert, later admitted that he did not "take the reports seriously."

In March of this year, Tucson schoolchildren began turning up sick in large numbers. Concerned parents demanded an investigation. Massive community protests forced the AAEC to begin an investigation of American Atomics.

The investigation substantiated the workers' reports. The surrounding community was found to contain unusually high levels of the gaseous substance whose low-level radiation is especially dangerous because it combines readily with body fluids and has the potential of altering cells and causing cancer. The leaking radiation had contaminated an entire year's supply of food at the nearby central kitchen of the Tucson Unified School District, which serves 40,000 Tucson elementary schoolchildren. It had poisoned as well the food at the kitchen of a neighboring center for the elderly and a swimming pool. Tests showed that food prepared at the school system's main kitchen was found to have up to 2½ times the legal radiation limit and plants growing outside the kitchen had up to 36 times the legal limit. Officials said they believed the radioactivity was carried across the street from the plant to the kitchen in particles blown by the wind.

In June the plant was shut down and the company was ordered to surrender its nuclear operating license under which it had been permitted to buy tritium from the federal government. American Atomics officials were given until October 19 to decontaminate the plant and remove the tritium to a safe storage area out of the city.

Governor Orders Break-In

Meanwhile, radiation continued to leak from the factory. The company argued that it needed time to remove the tritium and asked for a 13-month extension on the deadline. Concluding that the company had no intention of complying with the deadline, Gov. Bruce Babbitt ordered a break-in and study of the plant. Security at the plant, including fire protection, "was totally inadequate" and the list of safety violations was "very long and very serious," said the governor.

On September 25, therefore, under the declaration of an emergency, Governor Babbitt issued an order for the National Guard to take over the

American Atomics plant and seize more than 1,000 gallons of radioactive tritium stored in containers, glass vials and in the machines at the plant. Six specially trained Guardsmen, under supervision of officials from the AAEC, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Energy, and the city fire department, sealed 550,000 curies of the radioactive isotope of hydrogen known as tritium into drum containers with walls more than a foot thick and prepared to remove it to a temporary storage facility. The governor had applied to the NRC for permission to store the tritium temporarily at the Navajo Army Depot, a federal facility in a pine forest about 15 miles west of Flagstaff, Arizona. After temporary storage, the governor said he had in mind to either process the tritium into commercial form for sale, to slowly release it into the atmosphere, or take it to a nuclear facility for disposal.

But on September 28, under pressure of a suit brought by several community groups and residents of the area surrounding the depot, Judge Richard Mangum of Coconino County Superior Court in Flagstaff rules that the state could not go ahead with its plan to move the 38 barrels of radioactive tritium from Tucson to the Navajo Army Depot.

According to Judge Mangum's ruling, tritium is a dangerous substance the degree of whose harm is not fully known and, consequently, the burden of proof is on the state to show that no harm will result to the residents of Flagstaff from the nearby storage of this nuclear time bomb.



Some of the hundreds of anti-KKK demonstrators in Vineland, N.J.

Children.

isaac was a child,
the knife's edge
at his throat,
subject to divine will,
his chieftain-father
the agent of sacrifice

A child was He
who was sought by Herod
and children were they
who were slain
by Herod's soldiers

A child was she
Iphigeneia at Aulis,
an offering of life
for the sake of an armed expedition
beyond the sea;

Orestes was a child
who fled to strange lands
to evade the wrath
of the warrior-general
who led the siege of Troy
his father
King Agamemnon

Through children
History was made,
yet history arrived at the child
of the Polish ghetto,
its hands raised
before the barrels
of weapons held
by soldiers
of the Third Reich.

They were children
who lost their human form
at Hiroshima
children whose bones were twisted
at Nagasaki
and, children, too,
whose naked forms
were seared by flaming Napalm
in the village of Viet Nam

These are the children
whom the world must remember
and to whom we owe the debt
of P E A C E.

Ioanna Karatzaferi
(translated by Robert Crist)

Send WREE Your Stamps

Over the last year WREE has raised over \$50 from the sale of stamps donated by members. We can make much more money for national WREE if you will send us envelopes from your own mail, or stamps and envelopes you have stuck away in drawers and cupboards. Do not remove stamps from envelopes or postcards, just send along the whole thing — it's worth much more that way. For example, one envelope donated recently was sold by our stamp expert for \$19.00. The stamp was on a letter sent in 1932 from Germany to Bolivia by Zeppelin! If the envelope had been removed, the postage would have been worth about five cents. (If someone else has already removed the stamps, send them along anyhow. Better little money than none). If you send a sizable batch of stamps and envelopes, we will let you know how much money they brought in for WREE.

We can use: All envelopes with any stamps. Foreign mail, even without stamps. Single stamps, or collections. Fronts of packages with stamps, especially from foreign mail.

The WREE-VIEW page eleven

Book Review

IQ, HERITABILITY AND RACISM

By Jensen Lawler
International Publishers,
New York, 1978, \$3.95

by Ethel Tobach

This book is extremely important and useful in several ways. First, the author examines every aspect of the IQ controversy: its historical roots; its significance in the fight against exploitation and discrimination; its reflection of the struggle within science to develop a valid and reliable set of theories that are not derived from a class, sexist and racist bias; and finally, the presentation of the fallacies of the concept of IQ and IQ test scores. He shows how knowledge about how we think and act can be used.

1) if intelligence is not innate, but a social, historical product, 2) if a truly scientific pedagogy locates the obstacles to learning in the practical environment of the children, both in and out of school, and demonstrates that children are all capable of assimilating the essentials of a scientific culture, 3) if this is not the best of all worlds but one in which the talents of people are systematically wasted and destroyed, and 4) if the potentialities of society today make possible and positively require a broader and deeper cultivation of a scientific culture among the entire population — if these things are true, then what follows is not resignation, passivity, fatalism and despair, but recognition of real possibilities, an active approach to education, outrage at the injustices committed, and determination to fight for the educational rights of the people and the children.

In every chapter Lawler presents complicated technical aspects of the construction of IQ tests, their scoring, their interpretation and their use, in clear language that demystifies the

known," writes Lawler, "that average height has tended to increase, and that children in general tend to be taller than their parents." It is also known that if one tall parent and one short parent have a child, the child's height will probably be somewhere between the two. Jensen says that "children tend to be 'more average' than their parents in height — and in intelligence as well."

But, Lawler shows the fallacy of this argument — setting aside for the moment the fact that intelligence and height are very different features of a person.

What usually happens is that the height of children tends to be between the average of the parents and the average of the population. In other words, the tendency to be 'more average' is related to the population to which the children belong, not just to the population which includes only the parents. In this way, the tendency for height to increase is seen as a function of many factors — not just the height of the parents, but of nutrition, better health practices, etc. Of course, Jensen uses this idea of heritability to "explain" why poor, Black rural parents can't have "intelligent" children.

Height and intelligence are not the same. Intelligence is a reflection of socialization processes. And as society keeps advancing, and human knowledge grows, our children are also more knowledgeable in succeeding generations. But as long as IQ tests are purposely constructed to divide the population into groups that fall above and below the average, the comparison of children of different ethnic and class backgrounds, as well as sex, will be based on Jensen's and others' faulty understanding of the statistical meaning of a "tendency to be more average" (regression to the mean, in technical terms). Lawler documents with accurate scholarship how the tests are tailor made to reflect the biases of those who benefit from discrimination.

Lawler takes the occasion for a critical review of IQ, genetics, and racism in science and education to offer a constructive alternative scientific method and philosophy, that is, dialectical and historical materialism. His approach to understanding intelligence (thinking, mastery of knowledge and practice) would not only concern itself with "differences in the execution of a certain skill, but would attempt to explain the genesis of that skill itself. By investigating its causes, its historical origins, internal mechanisms and later developments, a scientific study would examine a historical, changing and developing phenomenon."

Lawler is here describing how a dialectical materialist would go about trying to understand the phenomenon of "intelligence." What difference would using this method make? Let us examine the problem of teaching children arithmetic and higher mathematics. Most of our efforts are addressed to the "operation" of teaching arithmetic. Then we try to explain differences in the way children master arithmetic on the basis of sex, age, ethnic differences, socio-economic class, etc. If we made as much effort to understand the process of learning arithmetic (how children come to understand and work with arithmetic), and the internal mechanisms and development of the process of doing arithmetic, we would understand better how to teach it.

The social meaning of Jensen's theories, and those who agree with them, was most clearly seen in the attack on Headstart programs. Lawler exposes the basis for this attack, showing how it starts from the false premises stated by Jensen and then, not surprisingly, it uses data that support him. If Headstart "failed" to "change the IQ" of the children, it was because the concept of some "general intelligence" was being accepted as a fact. Lawler showed that such a concept has no basis in logic, experimental fact, or theory. Instead, he says, "The limited character of both the effort and the results naturally

SCARED STRAIGHT: A Second Look

To the Editor and Staff of WREE-VIEW:

I agree completely with the views expressed by Joan Cohen in a recent issue of our newspaper on the subject of the much-heralded TV film "SCARED STRAIGHT." Cohen came to the conclusion that this kind of approach to the problems of our youth and the reported increase in juvenile crime is counter-productive, violent, racist and certainly no "deterrent" to anti-social behavior.

I have now read a corroborative report by an important group of health workers, sociologists, prison reform experts, elected officials, teachers, et al. This report, in pamphlet form, is titled, "SCARED STRAIGHT: A SECOND LOOK." I recommend it to all WREE members and friends. It is available at no cost from the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, 1337 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20027.

As we know, the TV program was based on the Juvenile Awareness Project Help (JAPH), an experiment in youth are taken into the Rahway Prison in New Jersey, a maximum security facility. The hour-long program followed 17 young people as they face "lifers" in the prison who address them in the most violent and obscene language, intended to frighten, intimidate and "scare them into going straight."

The National Center's report exposes forcefully and factually the false claims made by the producers of the

suggests the need for a more expanded program."

Books like this one will be an important weapon in the struggles against racism and sexism in general, and in educational practices in particular.

(Tobach is Curator of Animal Behavior at the American Museum of Natural History)

program. The dangerous aspect of this whole project is, that with its financial backing and Hollywood hoop-la, it seems to have caught on and is planned for extension into a number of other cities and prisons, affecting countless numbers of young people, mostly poor and from minority groups in our country, especially Black and Hispanic.

As is generally acknowledged by psychiatrists and other mental health professionals, shock treatment is recommended **only** in extreme and acute cases of certain kinds of mental and emotional illness; the shock treatment used in this JAPH program is harmful and destructive to the minds and lives of generally healthy youth.

Just to mention a few research results: "The basic or key hypothesis of this evaluation is the JAPH project has **no effect**, either psychologically or behaviorally, on the juveniles attending... Delinquent behavior arises from a multitude of complex factors; therefore, we believe it is naive, simplistic and unrealistic to assume that a two or three hour visit to Rahway can counteract the long-term effects of all these other variables."

WREE, with its basic program of concern, education and struggle in the direction of fighting against the social and economic problems of racism, discrimination based on sex, deteriorating public education, shrinking public health care for masses of our citizens of all ages, poor housing, high unemployment especially among minority youth, etc. should be commended for its timely and alert response to the dangers inherent in the program "Scared Straight."

I believe WREE should campaign against the spread and continuation, of this type of so-called "documentary public education" and of the project itself.

Eleanor Crain
New York City WREE



"Jensenist scientism." Some educationists, public officials and psychologists try to dismiss any criticism of Jensen on the basis that the argument is a statistical one too complicated for people who are not scientists to understand. For example, the concept of heritability is fairly technical. Jensen argues that intelligence is "heritable" by giving the example of the "inheritance" of height. "It is well

The WREE-VIEW page twelve

Fannie Lou Hamer

A BIOGRAPHY



Fannie Lou Hamer
A BIOGRAPHY
by Susan Kling

The swiftly moving story of a Black Mississippi sharecropper who became a national civil rights leader.

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GEORGIA MOTHER VS. THE STATE

"Zola Mae Humphries, 20, will go to federal prison if she bears another illegitimate baby." Thus began a UPI story that appeared in a Nashville, Tennessee, paper in July. The story started a chain reaction that began when a WREE member in Nashville sent the clipping to WREE's national office for action.

The press story said that Ms. Humphries, young Black mother of 3, is jobless, and had been in trouble with the law in Georgia a number of times. She was in court this time for using a neighbor's \$199.13 government check to pay utility bills. The judge sentenced Humphries to a probated five year prison term and said: "I'll revoke her probation if she becomes pregnant. I told her I mean business."

"If I had the power to compel you to go to a local doctor to have your tubes tied, I would do so," the Nixon-appointed judge told Humphries. "At your age you have no need for three illegitimate children when you have no way to support them."

Even Humphries's own attorney (a white male) says he thinks the judge is "entirely correct. Zola doesn't need any more children. She doesn't need the ones she's got."

ERA in Danger

President Jimmy Carter
White House, Wash. D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Women for Racial and Economic Equality, with members in almost every state, is very disturbed by the fact that Judge Marion J. Callister is to sit on a case involving the Equal Rights Amendment. The Mormon Church of which Judge Callister is a high official, is extremely active in its opposition to the ERA. It has opposed the extension of time for ratification, as voted by Congress last year; and has called for legalizing rescission in states where it has already been ratified.

Judge Callister has refused to disqualify himself in the Idaho lawsuit that may determine this very issue. Ruling the extension illegal and rescission permissible would kill ERA.



While Judge Callister's almost certain unfavorable ruling would be appealed, it would mean an additional wasted year during this most crucial time left to win the three additional states needed to pass ERA. There would be no new ratification until the extension issue was resolved, and more states would attempt to rescind.

Judge Callister has rejected the request of the Department of Justice that he disqualify himself from the case on the grounds of conflict of in-

WREE APPEALS FOR PROTESTS

WREE sent a copy of the clipping to dozens of women's organizations and church groups, urging them to send protests to Judge Wilber Owens, or to add their names to the telegram WREE sent to him. Some responses to WREE's appeal were immediate and strong, including the United Church of Christ, the Abortion Rights Movement (ARM) in D.C., the Workers Defense League; and of course, many WREE women (17 women in Nashville) around the country.

Judge Wilbur Owens
U.S. District Court
Macon, Georgia

OUTRAGED BY INSOLENT AND RACISM EVIDENT IN YOUR SENTENCE AND STATEMENTS IN CASE OF ZOLA MAE HUMPHRIES. DECISION TO BEAR CHILDREN IS NOT CONCERN OF JUDGE, GOVERNMENT, OR SOCIETY, BUT OF INDIVIDUAL WOMAN. LEGITIMACY OF HER CHILDREN IS DECISION OF MOTHER, AND NOT TO BE USED TO DENY, SUBVERT OR THREATEN HER RIGHTS AS A WOMAN, A CITIZEN, OR A HUMAN BEING. YOUR TREATMENT OF MS. HUMPHRIES BELONGS TO AN AGE WHEN RULERS HAD UNCHALLENGED RIGHT OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER THEIR SLAVES. DEMAND YOUR APOLOGY AND RETRACTION.

Women for Racial & Economic Equality.

Urge Support For Housing Bill

A bill now in the U.S. Congress needs the support of all WREE members and friends. It is the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1979 approved August 1 by the subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee. Recent studies have shown that Blacks seeking to rent an apartment face an 85% chance of discrimination and Blacks wanting to buy a home face a 48% risk of discrimination. This legislation will put enforcement teeth in the current fair housing law. It will also outlaw housing discrimination against the handicapped.

WREE urges everyone to press congresspeople for support of the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Don Edwards of California.

terest, and the Justice Department has meekly accepted this refusal. The Department is under the direct supervision of the President of the U.S. It is incumbent upon you, President Carter, in the light of your oft-expressed support for ERA, to use your offices to instruct the Justice Department to demand - not request - the disqualification of Judge Callister in this case.

WREE joins the thousands of organizations and individuals who are convinced that the President of the United States must use the power of his office to assure that women are accorded equal opportunity and rights under the law.

President Carter, we strongly urge you to direct the Justice Department to see that Judge Callister not sit on this case that is so crucial to the fight for women's equality.

Sincerely,
Josetta Lawu,
President



Phnom Pehn, Kampuchea, is stirring with new life.

Is Kampuchea Really Refusing Food?

Responding to the question, "Will your government accept aid from the U.S.?" (New York Times Nov. 7). Ambassador Keo Prasath, representative of the Red Cross of the People's Republic of Kampuchea said: "Yes. We will accept U.S. aid providing there are no strings attached and the aid is not given in such a way as to attempt to restore the genocidal Pol Pot regime."

The U.S. government knows full well that aid may be sent by ship to the harbors of Kompong Som and the Mekong River of Kampuchea and by air to the Phnom Penh Pocheng Tong airfield. However, the U.S. chooses to send "aid" through Thailand into Cambodia in order to supply the forces of the Pol Pot butchers. That, of course, the Kampuchean government refuses to permit. John Pilger, who writes for the *New Statesman* and *London Daily Mirror*, says, "Those who have glimpsed the Khmer Rouge camps confirm that 'dropped' food is not reaching the people, but feeding the Khmer Rouge, guerillas, the most enduring fanatics of Pol Pot's army of Genocide.

Deliveries of over 250,000 tons of food, medicines, and other badly needed supplies have already been received by ship and air from Viet Nam and other countries, as well as from the American Friends Service Committee, OXFAM, and other nonpolitical relief agencies. All without strings.

All aid should go through Phnom Penh to the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean Red Cross, since that guarantees it will reach the vast majority of the

Susan B. Anthony

& Equal Rights

In the early struggles for equal rights in our country the name of Susan B. Anthony stands out.

The right of women to vote was the main goal of the group of women fighting with her during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

She and her colleagues faced arrest, fines and imprisonment, and in 1873 she stood up in court and said, "I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty...." She did not pay the fine, and did continue to persist for 33 more years, speaking, writing and counseling her followers who would continue her work and secure passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. On August 20, 1920 Congress adopted the legislation enabling women to vote. That day became Susan B. Anthony - Women's Suffrage Day. In 1974 Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduced legislation that made that day officially known as Women's Equality Day.

It is interesting to note that while the US Treasury Department has decided in 1979 to issue a small one-dollar coin bearing the likeness of Susan B. Anthony, another branch of the same administration is allowing the Equal Rights Amendment - just 3 states short of nationwide ratification - to be placed in jeopardy (see "ERA in Danger" in this issue).

But compliments, tributes, and honors meant little to Susan B. Anthony. When Pres. Theodore Roosevelt sent a birthday message, Anthony responded, "When will men do something besides extend congratulations. I would rather have President Roosevelt say one word to Congress in favor of amending the Constitution to give women the suffrage than to praise me endlessly!"

In the same spirit we say to welcome recognition of this outstanding fighter for women's rights, but we must add that in no way does it end the great need to continue her fight for a Constitutional Amendment - this time for ERA - that will be a major step in the many-sided struggles of women in our country for true equality on the job, in the schools, and in the home.

Kampuchean people. We oppose the agencies and governments who, with so-called humanitarian aid, are attempting to revive the remnants of the financial Pol Pot clique. The whole world now knows the crimes committed by this group: two to three million Kampuchean people killed, all means of production destroyed, an entire social structure wrecked. This was, indeed, a genocidal dictatorship, which the Kampuchean people, with the aid of the people of Viet Nam, were finally able to overthrow, and whose continued existence threatens the reconstruction of Kampuchea.



Iranian women in the struggle for social progress and democracy demonstrate in Tehran for the return of the Bloody Shah, at whose hands many of their loved ones were killed.

PLIGHT OF MIGRANTS' CHILDREN

that are overcrowded and unsanitary. It is not uncommon to find 8 migrant workers forced to live in one room with four beds, working 3 alternating 8-hour shifts. They are discriminated against in health and other social services. They usually pay the same direct and indirect taxes as local workers and have social security deductions taken from their wages, but they receive very little in return.

Problems of Schooling

One of the most serious problems for the migrant children is schooling. Coming into a new unknown environ-

ment, the child faces many difficulties, a new language, different customs, and strange cultural traditions. Efforts to overcome these difficulties by local authorities have been negligible and ineffective. Very few migrant children are able to get even an elementary education, and even fewer reach high school or get vocational training. In addition, the children run the risk of losing even their own cultural heritage because no provisions are made in schools or elsewhere for development and support of the national cultures of the migrant workers.

Discrimination and neglect result in a hopeless situation that has grave so-

cial, political, and moral consequences. These migrant children are forced into the same future as their parents: an unskilled, poverty-level labor force.

All participants at the conference agreed that it was imperative for the UN to issue a declaration, to be signed by all countries, for the right of migrant workers and their families to decent living and working conditions, with full equality with the native workers.

The fight for the rights of migrant workers and their children is an essential part of the general struggle against every form of discrimination, exploitation, and racism.

Migrant Children in U.S.

Migrant children in the U.S. suffer the same conditions as their peers in Europe. Here are some facts:

According to an AFSC report on child labor, 1/4 of farm workers are under 16 years of age and working under conditions "reminiscent of the sweatshop scene in 1938."

The migrant child is brought to the fields as an infant, with many beginning to do some work by age 4. By age 10 it is common for these children to carry full responsibility for "picking," and they drop out of school completely before they are 12.

Agriculture is the 3rd most dangerous occupation, after mining and construction. The Department of Labor found that "over a 16-year period there have been 151 pesticide deaths; 85% of these were children under 16." A study of 789 people killed in tractor accidents found 12% were children between 5 and 14 years old. The incidence of TB, lead poisoning, hookworm, typhus, and diarrhea is significantly higher than the average. In California, for example, the death rate from diarrhea is 7 times greater for farmworker children than for the general population.

Dr. Coles who wrote *Uprooted Children* states, "A rich and powerful nation like ours...ought (not) tolerate what was an outrage centuries ago...A kind of primitive living that has to be seen to be understood for what it does to men, women and, most especially, children."



Venetta Lambropoulos, WREE's rep at Athens Conference, right foreground.

Raffle Winner Reports: "Seven Great Days"

First, I am Rose Bruns from rural Minnesota (age nearly 79), one of three women who were lucky winners of the WREE raffle, 7-day visit to the Soviet Union as guests of the Soviet Women's Committee. With me were Cheryl Allen Craig (31), Black lawyer from Pittsburgh and a WREE board member, and Suzanne Maffei (34), a labor educator in the Labor Center for Farming in Nashville, Tenn.

Early on, we met our hostesses, the Soviet Women's Committee, who welcomed us to their beautiful new quarters where we discussed women's activities, shared WREE's program with them, talked of the International Year of the Child and WREE's work and theirs for Peace. We were also given hours of time by the dynamic Minister of Education, the only man who briefed us.

At a secondary school we visited we were welcomed and guided by English-speaking children. We also held a long informative session with the Moscow City Trade Union Council, where our main questions were about the trade union activities among women.

In Kiev women welcomed us with flowers and gave us a lengthy tour of this historic and hero city of World War II. A tour of a knitting mill employing mostly women revealed a spotless, well-lighted factory, clear air, no lint, no dust. This mill seemed to be a veritable social center for its workers, their families, and their friends. At a beautiful nursery for children 3 to 6 we saw much love and care.

Back in Moscow, we saw the Mother-and-Child Care Center, where everything-for-the children is the guide. At a meeting with an enlarged group of the Soviet Women's Committee, editors and staff of *Soviet Woman*, we reviewed our trip with them. We were happy to tell them how pleased we were with each part of the program they had arranged for us.

Dear WREE sisters, we all thank you for 7 of the greatest days of our lives.

Next to the cactus
In the midst of a jungle
Surrounding bamboo,
And as high as Macchu Picchu—

The woman screams in pain
screams in joy
screams in anger
screams a rejoice
of birth. . .

A child is born.
A child is born!
Next to a campesino
a reservation
a county jail
the welfare office
a ghetto school
a barrio clinica

Next to
the furthest we've ever been

Away from home.
Away from home!

I thought I dreamt of a civilization
Some society free of abortions,
sterilizations,
mechanizations,
incarcerations,
gang wars,
chains and nightmares,
of beatings.

Free of
Beatings of children
Beatings of souls
Beatings of wives
Beatings of spirits
Beatings of homosexuals

Free of homicides
of pesticides
of rape
of genocide
Free to watch the ever changing tides
to feel the wind
to touch the earth
to sing a song to the sky
to offer a blessing to our ancestors.

Yes. Children next to the cactus
in the midst of a jungle
surrounding bamboo
and as high as Macchu Picchu

For the child is born again and again,
The child is born!

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Upgrading Children's TV

WREE has joined a coalition of organizations under the sponsorship of ACT (Action for Children's Television) to support the establishment of guidelines and standards "designed to ensure that children's television effectively serves its youngest viewers."

Here's why:

Before graduating from high school, the average American child has watched 15,000 hours of television—more time than he or she has spent in the classroom.

Yet most children's programs are mindless and unsuited to children's needs. Many are marked by excessive violence.

And during those 15,000 hours of television, a child is bombarded by 350,000 commercials creating desires for expensive toys and highly sugared foods.

Suggestions for Parents

Act as an example for your children. Children learn a lot from what you do. Turn the set off, go outdoors, take a walk together. Provide interesting alternatives to TV (games, books, conversations).

Choose what to watch with your children; don't leave it up to chance. Watch with them whenever possible. Choose to watch public TV, choose programs that show women and men who are competent in a variety of jobs. Set limits on viewing time that are consistent with your children's needs.

Talk with your children about what they see and hear on TV—about differences between make-believe and reality; about how TV characters could solve problems without violence; about TV foods that can cause cavities; about TV toys that may break.

Notice how much TV your children watch; TV's impact on your children's behavior, what TV tries to sell your children; the need for nutrition and consumer education.

Organize with other concerned parents and professionals.

Write to people who can help make a difference: to your local stations; to the networks; to an advertiser; to the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission; to Action for Children's Television.



Women in Business Face Uphill Fight

by Marnie Sweet

Women constitute more than half of the nation's labor force. Although the greatest percentage of female workers is still concentrated in the traditional fields of teaching, nursing, sales, service, and clerical work, the federal government's role in requiring and monitoring affirmative hiring plans has resulted in the movement of women—albeit at a slow rate—into non-traditional areas. In addition, women are now pursuing business and professional careers, for example, in aeronautical engineering, sportscasting, trade unionism, and business ownership.

The only available statistics on women-owned businesses date from the 1972 *Survey of Women-Owned Businesses* by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. In comparison with all large and small U.S. business firms, women-owned businesses accounted for only 4.6 percent of the total. More striking, however, is the fact that the receipts of women-owned businesses of \$8.1 billion represented only 0.3 percent of all large and small business receipts.

The Census survey revealed that women-owned businesses were concentrated in labor-intensive industries that require low capitalization and tend to show a lower return on investment. The 1972 data also showed that 98 percent of the firms were sole proprietorships, and that sole proprietorships accounted for 89 percent of gross receipts. Only 13 percent of the firms had salaried employees.

In 1975 the typical self-employed woman was more than 40 years of age; her business was likely to be in the retail or service fields, and white collar in nature. Her annual income averaged about one-third that of her male counterpart.

In another survey eighty-one percent of the women business owners were Caucasian. Fifty-eight percent were married with families, while eighteen percent were divorced and had been in the work force for several years prior to becoming self-employed. Their businesses had been recently established and were created through individual initiative rather than through inheritance or partnership.

Only three percent of the survey respondents had undergraduate degrees in business administration; one percent had earned the M.A. in the field. Those women who had completed one to four years of college constituted

approximately 46 percent of the total surveyed, while 22.4 percent had obtained only a high school diploma.

An American Management Association survey provided additional insight into the nature of the successful self-employed woman: she "...comes from a close, supportive family, exhibits a strong entrepreneurial drive, is persistent in her approach to work-related tasks, and has an uncanny ability to redirect negative situations and attitudes to her advantage."

Analysis of responses from these surveys revealed that women business owners are motivated by the same factors that drive men: i.e., the desire for independence and money, and the utilization of a skill or talent.

Results of both studies show that the impediments faced by women business owners are legion: i.e., educational deficiencies, unavailability of financing, lack of management training and technical assistance programs, negative sex stereotyping, and discrimination. Educators continue to exhibit sexist attitudes which perpetuate stereotypes. Non-traditional ambitions and career options are stifled by counselors. Moreover, women are generally encouraged to select courses of study which are deficient with regard to the fundamentals of business operations — mathematics, accounting, finance, and marketing.

Thus women are less well-prepared than men to deal with business techniques and the intricacies of financing. Not to be discounted, either, is the historical predisposition of men in the business and financial communities to disdain, rather than support, the woman entrepreneur. Finally, the self-employed woman encounters the traditional bias of financial institutions which prefer to conduct business with large firms rather than small ones because they tend to be less risky and more profitable.

The growth and success of women-owned businesses will be encouraged only through the active and vocal support of all concerned women.

—Excerpted from

Non-Traditional Careers: Women Business Owners. Sweet has an M.A. in Urban Studies and is on the staff of the Dept. of Planning and Urban Development, Akron, Ohio.

continued from page 6

blemas económicos, políticos y sociales que obstaculizan el progreso social y el establecimiento de instituciones firmes que garanticen la permanencia del nuevo orden.

El pueblo nicaragüense se mantiene aún luchando, esta vez contra los legados de la sangrienta dictadura somocista: hambre, miseria y atraso social así como también contra la destrucción causada por la guerra.

Las bases económicas de la sociedad nicaragüense quedaron carcomidas por el saqueo económico de la familia Somoza y sus generales que por 45 años exprimieron el sudor y la sangre del pueblo para obtener inversiones en el exterior.

Los dos largos meses de la guerra devastaron las ciudades y zonas rurales resultando en un profundo establecimiento de la producción y una crítica desorganización en la economía.

Hoy, el pueblo de Nicaragua se enfrenta a la dura tarea de 1) proveer alimentos y viviendas a las miles de personas que quedaron sin hogar 2) combatir una serie de epidemias y enfermedades con escasa asistencia y recursos médicos 3) reconstruir la industria y la producción agrícola 4) proveer empleo a la población y a más del 70 por ciento de desempleados que buscan desesperadamente donde trabajar.

La etapa presente de la lucha del pueblo nicaragüense requiere que los esfuerzos de la solidaridad exterior se dedi-

quen a la dura tarea de la reconstrucción de Nicaragua.

En E.U. se han formado centros de información y apoyo tales como "Casa Nicaragua" en San Francisco y "Comité Pro-Nicaragua Libre" en Nueva York, con los propósitos de diseminar información pertinente a la situación en Nicaragua, recoger donativos de ropa, medicina, herramientas y otras necesidades y mantener una campaña masiva de apoyo en favor de Nicaragua. Además, brigadas comunitarias están siendo organizadas para procurar apoyo en universidades, sindicatos, iglesias y agencias comunales.

Uno de los esfuerzos más ejemplares de solidaridad es el que ha venido desempeñando la Red Nacional de Solidaridad con Nicaragua. Esta organización, con asiento en Washington D.C., opera a través de seis regiones estableciendo contactos en toda la nación, mantiene informados a los grupos locales de los acontecimientos de Nicaragua y el desarrollo de la política estadounidense hacia este país y a la vez coordina y desarrolla actividades de solidaridad y apoyo.

Una vez más en el discurrir histórico de los eventos humanos, en la constante lucha del hombre por forjar una mejor sociedad, se descata la inquebrantable fuerza de la solidaridad humana en la implantación de la justicia social.

¡CON LA SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL, NICARAGUA TRIUNFARA!



SUBTLE REVOLUTION: WOMEN AT WORK AND IN UNIONS

by Marjorie Pivar

The numbers of women is rapidly increasing and their presence being noticed in the labor force, in colleges, and in unions and employee associations.

According to the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., women are entering the labor force at a rate of **one million** per year, and by 1990 there will be 11 million working women more than at present. Women entering college outnumber men for the first time in American history, many of them older women between the ages of 25 and 35. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports that the percentage of women workers joining unions is not far behind the percentage of men who join. Between 1976 and 1978 455,000 new women joined unions to bring the total to approximately 6.7 million. Women represent 27.4% of all organized workers, and of these the percentage of Black women is 9% higher than white women. Among men organized workers, Black men outnumber white men by 6.4%.

Washington recognizes the significance of the great exodus from housewifery, naming its study project "The Subtle Revolution: Women at Work," and stating, "By 1990 full-time homemakers will be obsolete. By then 55% of all women over 16 years old will be in the work force, and the needs of working women and their families will dominate society."

The Urban Institute is making plans for the reform of existing social policies to accommodate the flooding of the work force by women who will not tolerate unequal pay, racism, and sexist harassment.

The Institute went further to list the areas where it considers reform to be necessary: "Implications of this growth must be carefully weighed by policy makers who face the formidable task of reshaping government policies to provide better day care, more equitable social security, and new tax structures." Under the present system women experience occupational segregation, which confines us to the low-paying, nonpromotional jobs like salesclerks, office clerks, secretaries, "assistants," waitresses, receptionists, nurses, and teachers. Judging from the statistics taken in 1978 about the numbers of women who have obtained a higher education (of the same quality as for men) it is evident that women's occupational oppression is caused by discrimination—racist and sexist.

WOMEN'S ROLE IN UNIONS

There is a direct relationship between the sudden increase of women in trade unions, especially of minority women, and the current crises concerning the widespread hiring by employers around the nation of so-called labor-management specialists who give "legal advice on how to safely violate or skirt the federal labor laws...to stymie union organizing drives or to get rid of existing unions," according to Alan Kistler, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Organization & Field Services.

At a news conference held October 23, 1979, leading AFL-CIO repre-

sentatives exposed this new and prevalent tactic. Kistler reported "Workers are increasingly subjected to management pressures that have no direct bearing on how well or efficiently they do their jobs. Most often, such pressures stem from an employee's union activity or interest, and are aimed at blocking attempts to form a union, or to terminate union representation. This phenomenon is growing so rapidly—and poses such grave dangers to the rights of workers and their unions—that a congressional inquiry into such practices has begun."

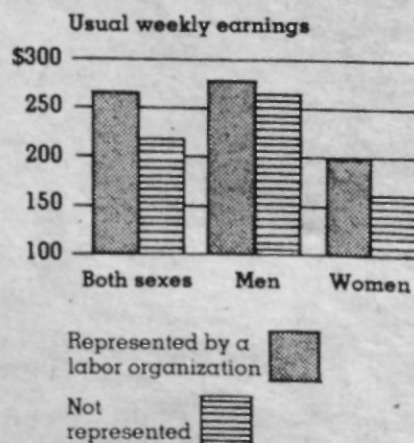
When asked what these "consultants" are advising, Kistler said, "They advise employers to start from scratch, even in the hiring process, to make sure that they do not hire anyone who might be the least bit susceptible to the concept of trade unionism. **One of the things they advise is not to hire Blacks, not to hire other minorities, unless they must do so to comply with EEOC regulations.**"

To the question, "Is this because they believe Blacks and minorities to be more union oriented?" Kistler replied, "A number of consultants are convinced that Black workers will tend to organize for their own protection—that the civil rights movement has indicated to them the value of taking collective actions."

Black and minority women suffer most from this purge since they are particularly politically active and "union oriented." Organized women are a threat to the male-dominated power structure. Surely employers are feeling threatened as more and more people, especially women, are demanding a better life for themselves and their families. Some businesses will pay up to \$270,000 a year to labor management consultant firms.

Women are working together collectively in larger numbers than ever before. We have upset the balance and the system will inevitably change, but now the fight will be harder because the opposition will try anything legal or illegal to protect its selfish interests. In order for women to have any say about how this system needs to be reorganized, we must show the power structure—and the racism and male supremacy it uses—that we are not all that subtle.

Weekly earnings: union vs. non-union





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