

Stop Press

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH OCTOBER 9, 1977

State pay plan for housewives

By Our Correspondent
in Rome

An Italian Parliamentary committee has begun consideration of a draft law which would give the country's 12 million housewives a salary of at least £50 a month.

The housewife's salary would be geared to the cost-of-living index. She would receive it throughout her life, provided she did not go out to work.

The Bill's sponsors believe that if it became law many of Italy's five million working wives would leave their jobs and stay at home. This, they say, would create new job possibilities for Italy's two million unemployed men.

The above news, conveyed to us by the Wages for Housework Campaign in Italy, has now appeared in the press here. Women everywhere will be excited to know that 12 million women in Italy are on the brink of getting a wage for at least some of the housework all women do.

For the first time in a period of unemployment, women are refusing to be chased out of jobs in order to make way for men, refusing to be without a wage again.

At the same time, those of us who work full-time at home are refusing to sacrifice our lives by trying to scrape through when there is little or no money coming from the men. GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE TO PAY US FOR WORK WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DOING, AND NOT ONLY IN ITALY.

Such a wage will give us the choice, again for the first time, of whether or not to go out to a second job. Women in Britain and Northern Ireland ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME CHOICE, AND TO ALL THE CHOICES THAT OUR OWN WAGES MAKE POSSIBLE. IF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD IT, SO CAN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

For further information, contact:

Wages for Housework Committee, London - 459-1150

Wages for Housework Committee, Bristol - (0272) 422116

Black Women in the Wages for Housework Campaign, Bristol - (0272) 426386

Wages for Housework Group, Cambridge - (0223) 57142

THE GUARDIAN

Wednesday October 19 1977

Wages for motherhood campaign given boost

By Hugh Hebert,
Social Services
Correspondent.

Britain should carry out extensive studies on the comparative advantages of paying mothers salaries for bringing up their children, compared with those of encouraging them to take full time jobs and providing facilities to look after the children while they are at work.

The studies were urged yesterday by Dr Mia Kellmer Pringle, director of the National Children's Bureau, who added that the results "might well confirm the Russian and Hungarian view that 'upgrading' the status of mothering is the most cost-effective alternative in more senses than one."

Dr Pringle told the bureau's annual conference in London

that at present the financial help given to families "is far too limited in relation to actual expenditure. It fails to accept that child rearing is both a vital and demanding job that deserves adequate remuneration." Until there was adequate financial support for child rearing, the true preferences of mothers — whether they wanted to look after their children themselves or go out to work—could not be known, she said.

Dr Pringle said the demand for more facilities for looking after pre-school children while their mothers were at work was "a facet of the denigration of the value of mothering." Although the proportion of working mothers with dependent children had increased, the proportion of the total working

who did so full time had fallen from a half in 1961 to only a quarter in 1971. Only just over 5 per cent of mothers with children under five worked full time.

Dr Pringle also called for a Royal Commission on the needs of children and the pattern of services required to fulfil them. This is part of the bureau's comment on the Court Report, covering health services for children, which have already been sent to the DHSS.

Mr David Ennals, the Social Services Secretary, referred in passing to the bureau's views in his speech to the conference, but went no further than saying that he would be issuing a statement on the Court Report before the end of the year, and that he was increasing the bureau's grant.

In a paper on children in care, Professor Roy Carter told the conference that more than one in three of these children were actually, last year, living with parents, relatives or friends. But the main change over the past decade among the children in care is the decline in the number of those under five in comparison with those over school leaving age.

Professor Carter called for reconsideration of whether 18 was the right upper age limit for keeping children in care, and of whether a monolithic system was suitable for dealing with children.

The bureau's working party on substitute care, chaired by Professor Carter is to propose more varied forms of care, and more participation by the children and parents.

THE GUARDIAN

Tuesday October 25 1977

Why mothers and housewives deserve to be paid for staying at home

Sir,—Mia Kellmer Pringle is one more voice in the growing movement to recognise the value of mothering and of all housework, with State wages ("Wages for motherhood campaign given boost", October 19). As you quote her saying, "... Child rearing is both a vital and demanding job that deserves adequate remuneration."

Mothers always knew we were working. We've also noticed that we don't get paid for it. Worse, with the crisis, we've seen the work double with every social service cut, and what little choice we had of whether or not to take a

second, paid job has vanished with inflation. Yet we hear about the great Sex Discrimination Act which doesn't even mention unpaid housework. And since about twice as many black mothers as white are forced into two jobs, so much for the Race Relations Act too.

Dr. Pringle seems unclear on one point. If the Government is asked only for either child care facilities or cash payment, then we must choose to be with our children always or never. We need both. Aren't mothers entitled to free time as well as money of their own? Some

mothers already get wages—single mothers on Supplementary Benefit. But until SB for single parents is called a wage, it will be considered a charity and not payment for work—and it will stay low.

US economists now estimate housework to be worth \$21,000 a year (about £13,000). An Italian parliamentary commission is drafting a law to give 12 million full-time housewives a wage of at least £30 a month. Not a lot for a 24-hour day and a seven-day week (double work at Christmas, etc), but it's a start. The response from women who've heard the

news is; if Italy can afford it, so can Britain. Our phones haven't stopped.

This is as crucial to those of us who are not mothers as those who are. We'd like to have children without financial dependence on a man. We'd like our time as women valued so that our pay outside the home rises to more than half men's—pay which, like charity and every worker in the economy, begins at home.—Yours faithfully,

Selma James.

Wages for Housework
Committee,
138 Drummond Street,
London NW1.

Nov 7, 1977

Get with it

7-11-77
Sir,—I am surprised that anyone who claims to be a feminist (Ann Christopher, Letters, November 3) should prefer a woman with children to remain dependent on a man for subsistence and pocket-money, instead of having a guaranteed independent income.

This income need not add any more to taxes—it could be gained by redistributing family income more fairly, through increasing child benefits and decreasing tax relief in the form of child allowances. And can she (or anyone) explain why the onerous and important job of raising children should not be remunerated at a comparable level and under similar conditions as other trades, occupations and professions? Get with it, sister!—Yours faithfully,

Fay Marshall;

56 Cissbury Gardens,
Worthing,
Sussex.

Nov 10, 1977

Wives' pay

Sir,—I am writing in response to Ann Christopher (Letters, November 3). As a single woman I've had up to now the exciting choice either to be dependent on a man or to support myself by doing all the boring, low-paid jobs that are offered to women. I've been doing many of them—shop assistant, teaching, etc.—and know that not only do we get half the wage of men but we also do double work—housework at home and at the second job as well. Who is expected to make the tea, to do emotional and often sexual housework for the boss?

"Stay-at-home" women are not the only ones who do housework. I have to take care of myself, to take care of my boyfriend, to make sure that we will both be able to carry on working the following day. And I want a wage for it too.

Ms Christopher's attitude makes it possible for the Government either to deduct what we are entitled to from men's wages or to say No to us getting it at all. Doesn't she know that disabled

women living with an unemployed or disabled man will have their £10.50 deducted from the man's unemployment or other state benefit? I suppose that if it is not right to get money when we must work, it is even more right not to get money when we can't work. Is she also suggesting that the Government shouldn't provide free day care services for our children because that money as well will come from "taxpayer's pockets"?

Government and industry are making big profits from all our work. We have made all the workers of the world and I think it's about time we get our money back from them—government and industry are the taxpayers who must pay state wages.—Yours,

Carolina Begué,
189 Highbury Quadrant,
London N 5.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST. CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL.

From April 1st immigrant parents will not be entitled either to Child Benefit or to Child Tax Allowances for their children abroad. We will be charged £70 million by the British Government for being deprived of our children. The ones who will suffer most are the children and the mothers or the grandmothers who look after them abroad. Single mothers on Social Security will not get Child Benefit either as the entire amount is deducted from their Social Security.

Since women are continually told that we must have only the children we can afford, by denying the Child Benefit to immigrant mothers and to single mothers - many of whom are also immigrant - the Government is preventing us from having children. To have children is our basic right. And we are all entitled to the money to support them.

This Finance Act which is discriminating against women and particularly immigrant women must be amended.

PUBLIC MEETING on Thursday 19th January, 7 pm, at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 (Highbury & Islington Tube). Representatives from a number of immigrant and women's organisations have been invited to speak. We hope you will be able to attend.

Immigrant Women in the Wages For Housework Campaign
Union of Turkish Women in Great Britain

for further information ring 01-4591150/6246364/359 2023

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST. CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL.

On the 19th January at Islington Town Hall, there will be the first mass meeting to protest the Child Benefit discrimination against immigrant parents built into the Finance Act No. 25 1977.

According to this Act, from 5th April, 1978, Child Tax Allowance will be withdrawn from all parents. But immigrant parents whose children are not in this country will also be deprived of Child Benefit. Immigrants will pay £ 70 millions to the government for being deprived of their children. Immigrants affected are all of us from Asia, Africa and West Indies, plus those of us from Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal and Turkey.

While Judge McKinnon's racist remarks are widely condemned, the government acts on his words, and lifts £70 millions from the people he called "niggers, wogs, and coons". Money talks - louder even than judges.

Why are our children left behind in the first place? Because those of us who came here to improve our standard of living and have had to work at the lowest paying jobs to do so, want to build a home and financial stability before we bring them to another climate, another way of life and a society where they will have to face racial antagonism.

Second, even when we have done all this work of getting together the money, the housing, the language, etc., when our families apply for entry visas to Britain, especially in the Sub-Continent, British officials refuse those visas.

So who will suffer? Those of us here who will lose the money. But also the mothers and grandmothers whose job it is to take care of these children left behind, children kept from us by oppressive officials and lack of money.

Again it is mothers and children who have to foot the bill. Again it is mothers and children who are put last. And again it is immigrant parents and children who pay the most.

The denial of Child Benefit to immigrant parents is clearly against what the Race Relations and Sex Discrimination Acts are supposed to do. But the anger against this blatant discrimination against immigrant parents is growing. We are gathering support from members of both Houses of Parliament in demanding Child Benefit for every mother regardless of race, wherever their children live.

7 pm. Islington Town Hall, Thursday 19th January. Speakers from immigrant and women's organisations.

Meeting sponsored by Commonwealth Taxpayers Association, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Pay Day, Union of Turkish Women, Wages For Housework Campaign.

For further information contact: (01) 263 0015, 459 1150, 359 2023

COME TO TAKE PART AND VOTE IN THE DEBATE THAT AFFECTS EVERY WOMAN'S POCKET DEBATE ON BBC RADIO 4. "You're the Jury"

MOTION =

"The Government should pay wages for housework"

GUEST SPEAKERS =

FOR: Selma James

Founder of the international Wages for Housework Campaign.

AGAINST: Angela Phillips

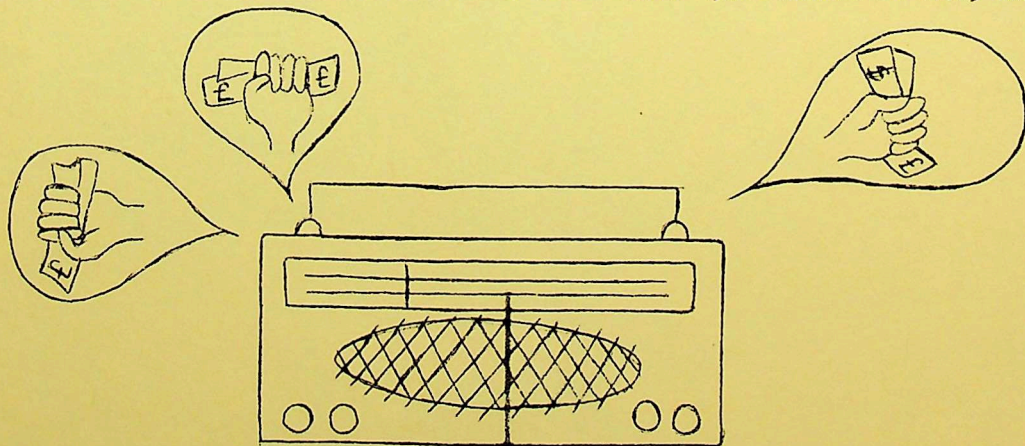
Writer and photographer for Spare Rib Women's Liberation magazine.

Time is allowed for some people to speak up from the audience. What you have to say will swing the vote for our money - on the programme and in the world outside.

MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY. AT CONCERT HALL, BROADCASTING HOUSE, PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W.1.

Doors open 7.15pm. Show starts 7.40pm. The first hundred people admitted form the jury and can vote, so join the queue early. There are also plenty of seats for the non voting audience. Ring us as soon as possible if you want a ticket reserved.

The programme will be transmitted on Radio 4 on WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY at 11.05 am.



... COST OF LEAVING What a husband ought to know about housework

Standard Reporter

THE work a young wife does in the home could be saving her husband as much as £115 a week. But the unromantic truth of the matter is that most husbands attach no financial value to their wives' work at all.

These are some of the findings of a survey carried out for Liberty Life Assurance, and published today, the eve of St Valentine's Day.

If a husband had to pay outsiders to do the household jobs a wife with young children normally does it could cost him anything between £114-80 in the South East and £77 in Ulster—with a national average of £87-90.

In the South East, for example, a housekeeper would cost £55 a week.

A daily woman to do rough cleaning and home laundry would cost a further £16-80, a full-time nannie another £35, and odd jobs and gardening a further £8—a total of £114-80.

"At first sight, this might appear an extravagant household, but we have not attempted to put a price on all the other valuable jobs a typical mother does for her family before she can relax at the end of the day," said Dr Leonard Polonsky, chairman of Liberty Life.

Nurse

"At any time she can be called upon to act as unpaid nurse, seamstress, driver, plumber, electrician and decorator."

If there are no young children in the home and housekeeping and daily costs can be cut in half, the average national value of the wife's work comes down to £32-33 a week, according to the survey.

In London and the South-East the figure is £43-90.

Distress

Although the findings will probably boost morale amongst wives and women's libbers, the insurance company makes the serious point that most husbands are totally unprepared for the possibility of their wife's death.

They have launched a special policy to meet this problem.

The survey, conducted in nearly 20 provincial cities showed only one husband in



CAROL LOGAN ... "sensible husband."



MAUREEN WOOD ... "I'd be made."



MARCIA BRACKETT ... "I prefer working."

Money doesn't matter say wives

By John Munch

IN A significant move away from the goal of Women's Unrestrained Lib, London ladies today modestly declared that their worth could not be calculated in vulgar monetary terms—and if it could, £115 a week was pushing it a bit.

Perhaps it was the Male Chauvinist Pig tie I was wearing (a pre-Valentine's Day gift) that cowed the ladies. ...

But in a lightning survey only one woman—a 50-year-old

housewife from Upchurch, Kent—came down strongly behind the valuation.

At the first mention of shared chores, or the ticklish subject of a wife's own life insurance policy there came a chorus of dotting approval of the consideration shown by husbands in the home. Nothing could be further from the ladies' minds than that they should insist on payment for the self-imposed duties of domesticity.

Assistant fashion editor Mrs

Marcia Brackett, 28, from Manor House, married for almost six years, believes most housewives suffer boredom in any case once their children are at school-leaving age. "I don't think that kind of amount is realistic," she said.

Housewife Mrs Carole Logan, 33, from Brentwood, Essex, with two children aged eight and four, didn't think she could put a valuation on her domestic duties.

"When this figure is mentioned you are paying for

someone to do the work for you and to make a profit for herself. I suppose if you totted it up it would come to something like that but it doesn't mean I think I would be worth that much if my

Secretary Maureen Wood, 33, from Bermondsey, who is unmarried, had no liberated illusions. "I don't get £115 for the job I'm doing. It's far too much. Mind you, if Mr Right came along and I got that kind of pay at home as well I'd be made."

18 had any insurance on his wife's life.

"Most husbands appear to attach no financial value to their wives' work and do not face up to the possibility of having to run their homes

without them," said Dr Polonsky.

"No amount of insurance can compensate for the death of a wife and mother, but it can help to cope with the practical consequences."

A spokesman for Cruse, the national widows' organisation, said it was concerned about the survey's findings on the lack of preparedness for a husband or wife's death.

"The death of a husband or

wife is a devastating blow affecting every aspect of life.

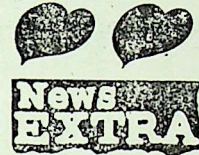
"While financial help will not remove the basic problem, making provision at the practical level, including adequate and up-to-date

insurance cover, will alleviate some of the distress."

Mortgage protection policies were particularly important. "We would urge all married couples to look very closely at their insurance cover."



£115 SMACKERS



What your missus is worth a week

GIVE the wife a big Valentine's Day smacker today, fellas—she's saving you thousands of them each year.

For Britain's 15 million wives have finally had a price put on their heads. And it's anything up to £115 a week.

That's how much some husbands would have to fork

out if they employed a housekeeper and daily help.

Even that doesn't include the value of all the odd jobs mum is called on to do, like mending clothes, decorating, and home nursing.

Nationally, according to a survey carried out by Liberty Life Assurance, a woman's worth is priced at £88 a week.

But it rises to more than

By JOHN HUSBAND

£100 in the South East, where wages are higher.

Thoughtless husbands, however, obviously fail to appreciate the real value of the missus. Only one in eighteen had insured his wife.

A company spokesman said:

"Most husbands appear to attach no financial value to their wives' work, and do not face up to the possibility of having to run their homes without them."

According to Wages for Housework campaigner Selma James, however, the survey ignored one essential service provided by housewives . . . SEX.

She said: "Among her

many duties, a housewife has to satisfy her man's sexual desires—and that can be hard work.

"If housewives imposed a sex ban, men would have to pay a fortune to prostitutes.

"We've always said housewives should be paid. They've been unpaid slaves for too long."

Sweet refrain
SENTIMENTAL Victor Collin, of Lubenham, Leics, will say Forever Yours to his wife Miriam today . . . with the same Valentine card he has given her for the past 18 years.

● DID YOU KNOW?

THE invention of the modern Valentine, Esther Howland



BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DAILY SALE

7p

Tuesday, February 14, 1978

BEWARE

For the attention of African, Asian, Chinese, Cypriot, Greek, Latin American, Portuguese, Turkish, West Indian and other immigrant parents:

ARE YOU BEING ROBBED OF YOUR CHILD BENEFIT?

CHILD BENEFIT IS EVERY MOTHER'S RIGHT

From April 1st you will not be entitled either to Child Benefit or to Child Tax Allowances for your children abroad. We will be charged £70 millions by the British Government for being deprived of our children.



CONTACT:

Commonwealth Taxpayers Association

c/o Asian Centre, 229 Seven Sisters Road, London N.4.

Tel: (01) 263 0015

c/o Islington Committee for Community Relations

314 Upper Street, London N.1.

Tel: (01) 226 7261-62

Black Women for Wages for Housework (Britain)

c/o Norma Steele,

94 Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6

Tel: (0272) 426386

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

44 Theobalds Road, London W.C.1.

Tel: (01) 405 5527

Pay Day

79 Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6

Tel: (0272) 422116 (01) 221 5754

Union of Turkish Women in G.B.

129 Newington Green Road, London N.1.

Tel: (01) 359 2023

Wages for Housework Campaign

c/o Women's Centre, 138 Drummond St., London NW1

Tel: (01) 459 1150 (01) 624 6364

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Wages Due Lesbians gladly sponsors the meeting called for March 6th, and welcomes the initiative taken by the Association of Bangladesh Women, Black Women for Wages for Housework (Britain) and the Union of Turkish Women in G.B. to fight for the £70m. that Black and immigrant mothers will be losing in the form of Child Benefits when their husbands' Child Tax Allowance is phased out in April, 1978.

As is stated in the accompanying letter, "We are being charged £50million for being deprived of our children", and this is one of the main intentions of this proposed legislation. Lesbian women too are constantly being deprived of our children when we lose custody. Just as Black and immigrant women are penalized for not having the money to be with their children, we are also usually too poor to "qualify" to be fit mothers and to be able to defend ourselves adequately in the courts. Our right to have children is being continually questioned and denied us. Black and immigrant women are forcibly sterilized in hospitals. All of us are economically sterilized. There is no right to choose to have children if we haven't the money to feed them. Even abortion is no choice to control our lives if economic necessity forces this decision on us or leaves us defenceless in the hands of the medical authorities.

The withdrawal of this money is also linked to the issue of women living with their children outside this country being refused entry. Economic sanctions will make them ineligible - and many of these women may be lesbian who saw an opportunity to be lesbian by coming to this country. Lesbian women suffer this same restriction of movement, so if we have to stay in an intolerable relationship with a man for the sake of his financial support, or because laws prohibit lesbians from crossing national boundaries.

'Mothers' Day' is a sick joke when the government is limiting further our possibility to be mothers and bring up our children how and where we want. Besides focussing on the £70m. being taken away, we want to point out that our housework and other part of that is being up children, has just been estimated at £115 a week. When this evaluation was made no one asked if the woman doing it was lesbian or Black or immigrant. This prioritizing shows our work has the same worth and unites us wherever we live and work. That's why we're fighting together for this money - to be with our children, to live where we want.

Until our struggle to have children through a B.B. gave us national prominence in our own name, lesbian women have always had to fight against being invisible. In earlier discussions about homosexual rights there would be not one word about lesbian work. It is the same in the question of laws. The Black community was always seen but never heard. While attention has been paid to the needs of the Black community, the needs of lesbian women have been completely ignored. We are now beginning to see the need for a lesbian community. We are now beginning to see the need for a lesbian community. We are now beginning to see the need for a lesbian community.

(Handwritten signature)

RESOLUTION ON CHILD BENEFIT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Whereas every taxpayer is entitled to Child Benefit and immigrant parents with children abroad will not be eligible for Child Benefit and lose Child tax allowances as well; and

Whereas every woman should have the right to have the children she wants, and the removal of Child Benefit undermines the right of Third World women to have the children they want because it removes the money to feed and care for those children; and

Whereas the British government, while it claims to be aiding the Third World, is taking away £70m. which is the most effective aid since it goes directly into the hands of mothers; and

Whereas in refusing Child Benefit to Third World mothers, the British government is violating the spirit of both the Sex Discrimination and the Race Relations Acts;

WE THEREFORE DEMAND Child Benefit for all, regardless of race or country of origin, and regardless of the presence of the children concerned in this country.

Please endorse this resolution and send it to the coordinating address of the Child Benefit for all campaign at UTWB, 129 NEWINGTON GREEN ROAD, LONDON N.1. (01-459 1150).

Come to a Mother's Day meeting at the House of Commons
demanding **CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL**

From April 5th, the child tax allowance will be phased out; and most mothers will get a rise in Child Benefit. But immigrants from Africa, Asia, Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal, Turkey and the West Indies whose children are not in this country will not be eligible for any Child Benefit. WE WILL BE CHARGED £70m. FOR BEING DEPRIVED OF OUR CHILDREN.

The 5th of March is Mother's day. Mothers are given a card and some daffodils for all the unpaid housework (recently valued at £115 a week) we do every day of the year. We women are working for Britain not only in Britain and not only when we go out to paid jobs here. We have ALWAYS worked for Britain in the Third World where we produced, first, wealth and workers for the British Empire, and now wealth and workers for Britain. We are tired of seeing that once again it is mothers and children who have to foot the bill, who are put last, that again it is parents and children from the Third World who pay the most.

WE HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 6th MARCH, THE FIRST MONDAY AFTER MOTHER'S DAY AND TWO DAYS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. WOMEN - IMMIGRANT AND NATIVE, OF ALL RACES - WILL SPEAK ABOUT OUR LIVES AND HOW THIS NEW DISCRIMINATION WILL AFFECT ALL IMMIGRANTS AND ALL WOMEN.

It is not enough to condemn racism and sexism. We must all refuse this proposal which is aimed at keeping us poor, divided, dependent and on the defensive.

House of Commons, Room 10, 6th MARCH at 7 p.m.

If you need creche facilities, please call us at 624-6364 and we will try to help. The House of Commons has refused many requests from women MPs to have any facilities for mothers in the House or in the home.

BANGLADESH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN G.B.
38 Umfreville Road, London N.4., 01-348 7116

BLACK WOMEN FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK (BRITAIN)
94 Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6, (0272) 426386 &
(01) 4591150

UNION OF TURKISH WOMEN IN BRITAIN,
129 Newington Green Rd, N.1. 01-359 2023

Bangladesh Women's Association in Great Britain

BLACK WOMEN for WAGES for HOUSEWORK (BRITAIN)

Union of Turkish Women in Britain UTWB

CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL - MOTHER'S DAY MEETING..HOUSE OF COMMONS..6TH MARCH

From April 5th, the child tax allowance will be phased out; and most mothers will get a rise in Child Benefit. But immigrants from Africa, Asia, Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal, Turkey and the West Indies whose children are not in this country will not be eligible for any Child Benefit. Unlike every other taxpayer, we will lose the child tax allowance and Child Benefit as well. WE WILL BE CHARGED £70m. FOR BEING DEPRIVED OF OUR CHILDREN.

The 5th of March is Mother's Day. Mothers are given a card and some daffodils for all the unpaid housework (recently valued at £115 a week) we do every day of the year. We women are working for Britain not only in Britain and not only when we go out to paid jobs here. We have always worked for Britain in the Third World where we produced first, wealth and workers for the British Empire, and now wealth and workers for Britain. We are tired of making sacrifices while as Black and Third World women we are robbed of the benefits we've paid for many times over. We are tired of seeing that once again it is mothers and children who have to foot the bill, who are put last, that again it is parents and children from the Third World who pay the most.

WE HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 6TH MARCH, THE FIRST MONDAY AFTER MOTHER'S DAY AND TWO DAYS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, at 7 p.m. IN ROOM 10. Women - immigrant and native, of all races - will speak about our lives and how this new discrimination will affect all immigrants and all women.

In the debate on race and sex discrimination, Black and immigrant women are almost never mentioned. All immigrants are not men, and all women are not native and white. Yet this is the impression that is given when Black and immigrant women remain invisible. We refuse to be invisible any longer. That is why immigrant women are taking the lead in demanding what is ours - the benefits that all other taxpayers receive, the money to have and to raise the children we want, wherever they happen to live.

We are asking your organisation to attend and/or sponsor this event demanding CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL, and that it endorse the enclosed resolution which will be given to the Prime Minister. Knowing that Black and immigrant women are the poorest, you will appreciate also that we need your financial contribution for this campaign.

It is not enough to condemn racism and sexism. We must all refuse this proposal which is aimed at keeping us poor, divided, dependent and on the defensive.

Yours very sincerely,

Bangladesh Women's Assn. in G.B. - Mrs. Z Buksh, 38 Umfreville Rd. N. 4 01-348-7116

Black Women for Wages for Housework (Britain) Mrs. N. Steele, 94 Richmond Rd.,
Montpelier, Bristol 6 (0272) 426386 & ?1-459-1150

Union of Turkish Women in Britain Mrs. E. Yaylali, 129 Newington Green Rd., N. 1
01-359-2023

The coordinating address of the Child Benefit for all campaign
is UTWB, 129 NEWINGTON GREEN ROAD, LONDON N.1. (01-459 1150)

MOTHER'S DAY AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS demanding
CHILD BENEFIT FOR ALL

The 5th of March is Mother's Day. Mothers are given a card and some daffodils for all the unpaid housework we do every day (work recently valued at £115 a week by Liberty Life Insurance Co.).

Yet from the 5th April, when the child tax allowance is phased out and most mothers will get a rise in Child Benefits, immigrants from Africa, Asia, Cyprus, Greece, Latin America, Portugal, Turkey and the West Indies whose children are not in this country will not be eligible for any Child Benefit. Unlike every other taxpayer, we will lose the child tax allowance and Child Benefit as well. WE WILL BE CHARGED £70m. FOR BEING DEPRIVED OF OUR CHILDREN.

In neither the debate on race or sex discrimination are Black and immigrant women mentioned. We refuse to be invisible any longer. That is why we are meeting at the House of Commons on 6th March, the first Monday after Mother's Day and two days before International Women's Day. Women - immigrant and native, of all races - will speak about our lives and how this new discrimination will affect ALL IMMIGRANTS AND ALL WOMEN.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, another meeting will be held in Bristol, at St. Barnabas school where 50 per cent of the parents withdrew their children last November to protest the National Front meeting at another school. The St. Barnabas parents and children were part of a Bristol-wide boycott called by Black Women for Wages for Housework.

*We women are working for Britain not only in Britain and not only when we go out to paid jobs here. We have always worked for Britain in the Third World too, where we produced, first, wealth and workers for the British Empire, and now wealth and workers for Britain.

*The aid which the British government promises is denied by taking away Child Benefit - the money that goes directly into the hands of mothers, not governments; money that buys food, not tanks.

*The plan of the U.S. government to sterilise 100 million Third World women is in line with removal of Child Benefits for us - you don't have children you can't feed. By denying us subsistence, we are denied the right to have or not to have children.

*Mrs. Thatcher's proposal for a further waiting list (the wait now is as much as two years) for children and their mothers to join fathers in this country makes it even more crucial that we get Child Benefit. WE ARE DENIED OUR CHILDREN AND THE UNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME DENIED SURVIVAL BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNITED.

So far our sacrifices as mothers have been glorified and praised. But praise does not pay the bills. We want Child Benefit, not discrimination by race and sex - with daffodils!

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 6th MARCH, 1978, ROOM 10 7 p.m. MS. MAUREEN COLQUHOUN MP
IN THE CHAIR

MEETING CALLED BY: Bangladesh Women's Assn. in Great Britain, Black Women for Wages for Housework (Britain), and Union of Turkish Women in Britain
CO-ORDINATING ADDRESS: UTWB, 129 Newington Green Rd. London, N.1 - Tel: 459-1150

WE HAVE ASKED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR CRECHE FACILITIES AND WERE REFUSED AS MANY WOMEN M.P.s HAVE BEEN REFUSED IN THE PAST. IT SEEMS FOR PARLIAMENT A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME, NOT IN THE HOUSE!

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN

Women's Centre 71, Tonbridge St, London W.C.1
Telephone 01-837-7509/459-1150
P.O. Box 287, London N.W.6 5QU



The Law Commission's Working Party's Report on illegitimacy comes at the end of a decade during which increasing numbers of women have decided to have children on their own, or with men they are not married to. (In 1977 one in ten births was illegitimate, a rise of 3%*) No one can believe that the life of single parents, the overwhelming majority of whom are women, is easy, and it is intolerable that instead of relieving the problems they face, these proposals would make their lives more difficult in a number of ways.

It is self-evident that mothers are the parent most concerned with children's well-being, and that the welfare of children cannot be divorced from the welfare of their mothers. While the stated aim of the Working Party is commendable, ie to remove the social and financial disadvantages faced by the "illegitimate" child in the eyes of the law, we feel that the disadvantages to the mother and therefore to the child of those proposals far outweigh any advantages.

Whether the Working Party is aware, or not (and we suspect it is), the effect of its proposals would be to bring the single mother under a man's thumb, by making her almost as legally and financially bound to the father of her child as if she were married to him, and may make her vulnerable to all sorts of unreasonable demands, and violence. At the same time she would not have any of the advantages of being married, such as property and maintenance rights in the case of the breakup of the relationship.

The number of children born out of wedlock (see above) has in fact already removed much of the stigma of "illegitimacy", and there are no signs that this trend will reverse, or even slow down. A major disadvantage of these proposals is that the law cannot abolish all categories of "fatherless" children, so that another category of "illegitimacy" would be created. This would consist of those children whose mothers choose to sleep with more than one man, known or unknown, children conceived as the result of rape, and unmarried women who have artificial insemination by donor. (AID). Following the British Medical Association's decision that to give AID to Lesbian women is "not unethical" we can safely assume that the numbers of women, lesbian and non-lesbian, having children this way will increase. Why should their children have to carry the special stigma of being "fatherless"? Because of this serious drawback, and other difficulties with these proposals, we suggest that the question of "illegitimacy" could be resolved by granting all children full legal rights through their mothers.

Footnote* The biggest rise, of 11%, was in the number of "illegitimate" babies born to mothers aged 30-34. Daily Mail 8/II/79.

The two main areas of the proposals that we are concerned about are financial and custodial.

Financial:

In the present circumstances, all single mothers are entitled to Supplementary Benefit. (assuming that they are not doing paid work). If these proposals became law many of these mothers would be forced to claim maintenance from the father of their child. Far from making single mothers and their children better off, many would be financially worse off, and considerably less secure. It is an established fact that maintenance orders are extremely difficult to enforce and that if payments are made, they are liable to be irregular and of inconsistent amounts. It is intolerable that a woman who has decided to have a child on her own should be forced to be financially dependent on a man she has chosen not to live with or to marry. Everyone knows that money men give to women rarely comes without strings - and the father could use the maintenance as a lever to coerce the mother into following his wishes. For example, he could refuse to pay maintenance unless she slept with him, or submitted to other physical or emotional demands; or he could threaten a custody case if she pressed him for maintenance.

It is by no means certain that fathers will view these proposals favorably, if they are not interested in contact with the child, and have had no part in deciding whether the child should have been conceived in the first place. They will not take kindly to being forced to pay for that child's upbringing. This is particularly true if the father marries, or is already married, and the major support of a family. The resentment of a second wife who goes out to work to pay for the upbringing of children in a first marriage is a serious problem which cannot be ignored.

It is being increasingly recognised that the work mothers do of bringing up children should be recognised and paid for, not by fathers (who often don't have much money themselves), but by the government. When financial independence is every woman's right, how can the Law Commission (in collusion with the Supplementary Benefits Commission) make proposals that would take money away from single mothers and make them financially dependent on men? The Cohabitation Ruling is one way in which the government condones rape and prostitution, by expecting a woman to get money for herself and her children from any man she chooses to sleep with. The Working Party's proposals push a woman into the same dangerous situation, not with any man but with a particular man, her child's father, until the child is able to support himself.

Custodial:

More and more women are choosing to live apart from men - lesbian women in particular. Under these proposals, a woman who has taken the responsibility of having a child, and has put years of love and care into the child, on the understanding that she has the sole parental rights, may find that the father of the child has rights of access to her child, and therefore, access to her home and her life. He would have a say in deciding on the child's education and religion, and even on what nationality the child is (so the child may be regarded as an immigrant even though he has always lived here). These are all matters that have an immediate effect on the mother's life. The situation could easily arise of the father being hostile to the mother or to her lifestyle, and expressing hostility to the way she is trying to bring up her children - especially if the mother were living on the one hand with another man, or on the other hand with a woman. Then the child would be placed in an impossible situation of tension and confusion - torn between two poles. How is a child to relate to a father who turns up after years of absence, demanding his parental rights and insisting on a relationship with the child -

who is hardly in a position to refuse? These proposals would put women in an impossible position of being forced to choose between not naming the father on the birth certificate, and thus depriving the child of equal status; and naming the father and having her own and her child's life linked to a man against her wishes.

At present many parents of illegitimate children are in a stable union, and agree on the upbringing of the child. If they are not living together, the father may see the child with the mother's consent. Obviously this is the most desirable situation - but the mother's consent should be freely given, and not be extracted under pressure from the father to "make trouble" - by taking the case to court for instance. While encouraging fathers to take more responsibility for, and interest in, their children, is a praiseworthy ideal, if it takes place against the mother's wishes, it can only be disruptive to the child and his life. The other person who is immediately affected by disturbances in the child's life is the mother, for she will have to face behaviour problems at home and at school.

It seems inevitable that under these proposals, many more cases concerning parental rights would come up in court. It is surely unnecessary to subject women and children who are already poor to the added economic attack which a court case would bring. And why should the onus be on the mother to bring court proceedings against a man she considers "unfit" to have parental rights? Court cases can be very expensive (and legal aid is not always available) and lengthy, and it can only be upsetting for a child to be at the centre of such a wrangle. It is recognised that often parents who are divorced use the threat of custody not for the sake of the child, but out of spite. In which case a father who was not married to the mother might try to get the mother deemed "unfit" if she tried to disallow his parental rights, even if he was unable to look after the child himself. If he were successful, the child could end up in care - which can hardly be said to be "in the best interest of the children".

It does not seem justifiable to bring in a law which might encourage more cases being resolved in court. It is doubtful how qualified the courts are to judge whether a particular situation is best for the child, and as overloaded as they are, the courts cannot always find out the full reasons and implications of a case in the limited time available. In custody cases all women are at a financial disadvantage when comparisons are made between the kind of material life the father can provide against what the mother can provide. (Women's wages are still only 58% of men's.) In addition, the courts have already shown bias against lesbian women, prostitute women, indeed any woman who does not conform to their view of who is an "ideal" wife and mother. Yet who is qualified to say what effect a mother's sexual choices has on the quality of her mothering? Should the father be awarded custody, it is nearly always another woman - his mother, sister, new wife - who looks after the child; and who is to say that the quality of her mothering is so much better than the child's mother's?

Who is qualified to say whether a father is "fit" or not? The Working Party assumes that the case of a rapist father is unusual, and indicates that there would be no problem because obviously he would be considered "unfit", and anyway is unlikely to claim his "rights". But this is obviously only true in the case of a convicted rapist. In 1977, in only 35% of rape cases reported, was the man proved to be guilty. The courts may decide that the man was not guilty, but the woman may know that he was. Ofcourse there are thousands of women who are raped and who do not report it. Many of these cases happen in the woman's own home, with men she is related to, or knows. As if the rape itself were not enough, must the woman be made to suffer all her life because the man is the biological "father" of her child?

Conclusion:

We feel most strongly that although the ideals behind these proposals may be admirable, the effect of them on the single mother and her child would be disastrous. The effect would be to tie women firmly to men often against their express wishes, with intolerable results. While the Law Commission is trying to update the laws to keep up with the tide of ever-increasing "illegitimate" births, it must update its thinking to keep up with the movement of women - a movement for social and financial independence. Women have fought very hard to establish our right to be single mothers, to be able to have children and remain independent from men. We are not about to have that victory taken from us. The single mother is here to stay. We hope the Law Commission will reappraise its proposals in the light of our comments, and will come up with a way to give "illegitimate" children equal status with legitimate ones - without going against the wishes of mothers, and children, and fathers.

Anne Neale
Dorothy Plaskett
Wages Due Lesbians on
behalf of the wages for
Housework Campaign.

Bill offers housewives a salary

From Iain Guest
in Geneva

IN WHAT appears to be a major concession to Swiss feminists, Swiss wives will be entitled to a salary from their husbands by changes proposed in the Swiss matrimonial law yesterday by the Federal Administration in Berne.

The proposals, which have still to be passed by the two chambers of Parliament, are not expected to become law until the beginning of 1982.

The main provision is that married women will have the right to what a spokesman for the Justice Ministry described as "something between a full salary and pocket money" from their husbands. "Exactly the same that the husband spends on his pubs and golf," said Ulrich Habacher, the spokesman.

Then, he said, are "no longer the head of the household." Under the law of 1912, women had to ask their husbands' permission to buy household items.

BREAKTHROUGH

NEWS that Swiss husbands may be obliged by law to pay wives for housework has got little enthusiasm from two British organisations for women.

Proposals, yet to be passed by the Swiss parliament, would entitle wives to something between salary and pocket money.

"We're glad the Swiss are proposing to recompense housewives," said Anne Neale, Wages for Housework Campaign. "But some of us don't have husbands and most men don't earn enough to give women wages. Governments should pay."

Judit Kertesz, for Women Against Rape, said: "One Government has realised women need their own money. This law will do nothing for women's independence."

Wages for the wife?

"It's rape when wives have to sleep with husbands to get money for the kids' food."

Dr. Mia Pringle of the National Children's Bureau agrees with husbands paying wives for bringing up kids.

"Whoever stays home caring for children should get, as of right, wages from the working partner's earnings. Only when that partner is unable to work should the Government pay that money."

LOUISE MONTGOMERY

Monday October 29 1979

No to brothels

TWO ORGANISATIONS fighting for the rights of prostitutes, PLAN (Prostitution Laws are Nonsense) and the English Collective of Prostitutes, have condemned Southampton Council's proposal for legalised brothels. Helen Buckingham of PLAN maintains that what is needed is decriminalisation of soliciting. State brothels make the women working there second-class citizens with little power over wages and working conditions. A background paper on the campaign, which was launched on the prostitutes' behalf by Baroness Vickers, is available free. Send SAE to PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU.

FEMINISTS who are Christians too are probably feeling confused and even angry about the Synod's decisions of last November and this July on the subject of women priests. Susan Dowell and Linda Hurcombe are preparing a publication on women and the Church of England and would like to hear from women within and outside the Church. Write to them at St Luke's House, Stratford Street, Isle of Dogs, London E14.

Dates 3/9/79

WOMEN and Financial Independence — an eight-week course co-sponsored by Workers Education Association and Housewives in Dialogue — will be held at the Women's Centre, 71 Tonbridge Street, London WC1, on Wednesday evenings, 7.30 pm, from September 26. Details from 01-337 7509.

"Space" to explore the experiences of being in a family is offered in a two weekend Family Learning Project (September 21 to 23 and October 5 to 7) with events, adventure play and discussions. Inquiries to Rita Friend, conference administrator, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 (01-435 7111, Ext. 385).

Birth and the quality of life is the theme of the National Childbirth Trust Conference on October 13, 10 am to 3.45 pm, at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1. Details from the NCT, 9 Queensborough Terrace, London W2 (01-229 9319).

A conference on Racism in the Eighties — strategy for the Asian Community will be held at Nottingham University from September 21 to 23. Details from the National Association for Asian Youth, 46 High Street, Southall, Middlesex (01-574 1325).

A training course for toy library organisers and helpers will be held at the University of Warwick, Coventry from September 14 to 16. Applications to Toy Libraries Association, Seabrook House, Wyllyotts Manor, Dorkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts. (0707 44571).

Ann Hills

DAILY 1st NOVEMBER, 1979
LONDON, U.K.

MILTON

Signs need to protect

children

WE have sent a letter to the council drawing attention to the road safety problem in the area of New George Street and Robert Street which is nearly always full of children, parked cars and heavier passing-through vehicles. The imminent closure of near-by Ashworth Street for industrial purposes can only add to the difficulties.

Naturally some residents would like to see the children off the streets altogether. But while imaginative play facilities are lacking in the local park, and while local dangers continue to exist in the presence of local water spots and in the fears of molestation, children playing on the streets mean that mothers know where they are and the least the local authorities can do is make these streets safe.

After a visit from an engineering department assistant, the information given was that the signs needed, warning drivers that children are playing and to 'go slow' were no longer in supply and had in fact been discontinued in 1974. But these signs are needed to relieve the anxieties of mothers who work outside the home and to relieve the anxieties of mothers who work unpaid in the home and who are expected to act as street signs to save the authorities money.

It was alleged that such signs had been unsuccessful, in that drivers only took note when the signs were new and thereafter ignored or forgot about them. If this is the case then why on earth wasn't another alternative found?

With the assurance that the department would go into this further and look at possible alternatives, a letter was received stating the position would be reassessed when the near-by

industrial extension is complete. No mention of the already existing problem.

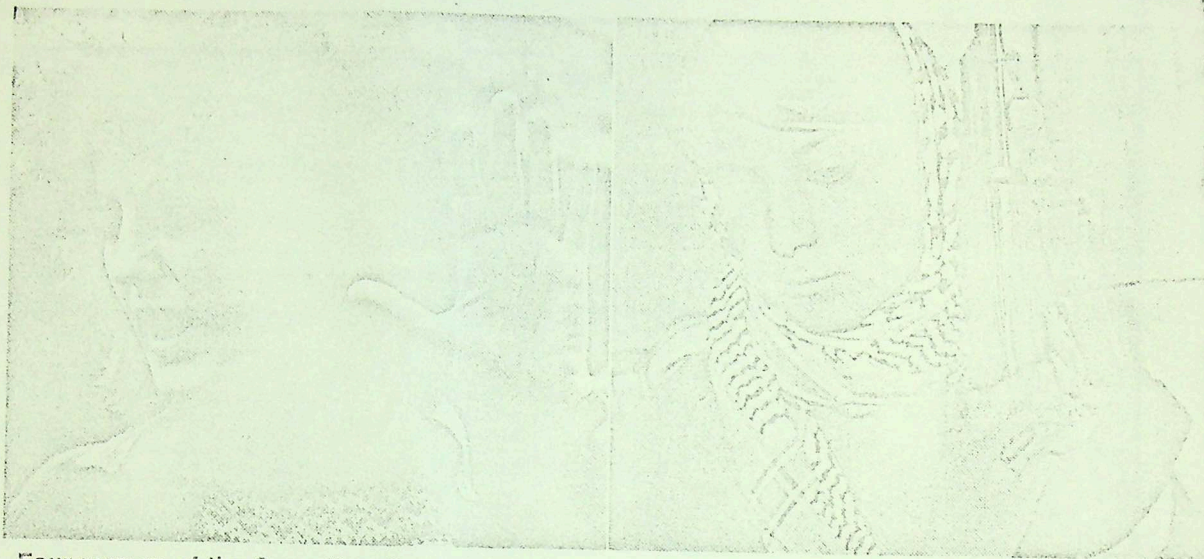
It is outrageous that feelings are treated in this manner. When something happens to a child the mother is always held responsible, yet are we supposed to keep our children locked up? Many mothers are forced to go out to paid work and live with the anxieties of not knowing where their children are or what is happening to them. Others at home are expected to do the

work of raising the next generation without pay. On top of this we save local authorities money by filling in with our work, for facilities that they should provide.

No government, local or national, should think that because our work is unpaid and unrecognised more and more of it can be heaped on our shoulders. The children we struggle to bring up are too important to be sacrificed to save a few pennies.

We hope the local authority will act quickly to remedy this situation in Bury.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
CAMPAIGN
c/o 21 New George Street,
Bury.



Four women of the Seventies (l. to r.): Germaine Greer—Alerting others; Leila Khaled—Committee

AT THE END of the Sixties Joan Didion, who had lived in the full glare of the California cultural revolution, wrote that a 'demented and seductive rhetorical tension was building in the community. The jitters were setting in.'

Then, on 9 August 1969, came the murders of Sharon Tate and her friends on Cielo Drive and, for many, a decade of 'freedom' and flower-power ground to a macabre halt. 'The tension broke that day,' Didion wrote later, 'the paranoia was fulfilled.' She also recalls one thing about that moment and wishes she didn't: 'I remember that no one was surprised.'

So, the first female images that floated to the surface in the Seventies were those of Charles Manson's half-crazed girl disciples — sullen and robotic, their bank hair later shaved in protest as they kept vigil outside their master's prison. What did they portend? A time when increasingly horrific things would happen and people, even outside California, would not be surprised?

At the end of this decade we are haunted by another group of chanting women, perhaps even more portentous — the black-swathed women followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini, calling down death and destruction on the heads and habits of the West and, apparently, denouncing every kind of freedom the Western feminists have fought for.

It may sound too much like

The portentous req

neat journalistic convenience to attribute sexuality to a span of time. But, if it is possible, then the Sixties in the West was a 'female' decade and the Seventies 'male.' By the female Sixties I mean a time when the allegedly female values—love, peace, justice—seemed to be taking root in the imagination if not in reality. But the Seventies has been a time of retrenchment, a return to traditional authoritarianism and talk of law and order, discipline and holy wars.

To use women as a crude illustration of this, in 1969 women and young girls alike were still trailling around in free flowing ethnic robes and long unstyled hair; even blue jeans had wide trouser legs. In 1979 we are back in pinstripes, corsies and straight skirts — even roll-ons, for heaven's sake. The Western world's version of purdah?

The Sixties was a time of consciousness-raising, the heady heyday of the new feminism in America: Women's Lib. At the knee of such as Betty Friedan, who published 'The Feminine Mystique' in 1963, women were learning to be free, to be friends, to stop living through men. Or so we believed. Women followed Joan Baez and Jane Fonda in a crusade against the Vietnam War, and supported the fight for civil rights.

Ten years later Baez lives

in semi-seclusion, but Fonda is still on the barricades, this time fighting against the proliferation of nuclear energy.

In Britain Germaine Greer, an Australian academic, published 'The Female Eunuch' in 1970 and gave our emergent women's movement a working document. Here too there were heady marches and demos. Women of England who never had spoken were now yelling. May Hobbs led an insurrection of night cleaners in Whitehall. Erin Pizzev tapped a frightening vein of hidden violence when she started her first battered wives refuge in Chiswick. We have had Wages For Housework, War Against Rape and Wages Due Lesbians. But the biggest argument has been over the abortion law. David Steel's 'liberal' Act was passed in 1967; on the eve of the 1980s it seems certain that John Corrie's more restrictive Bill will become law very soon.

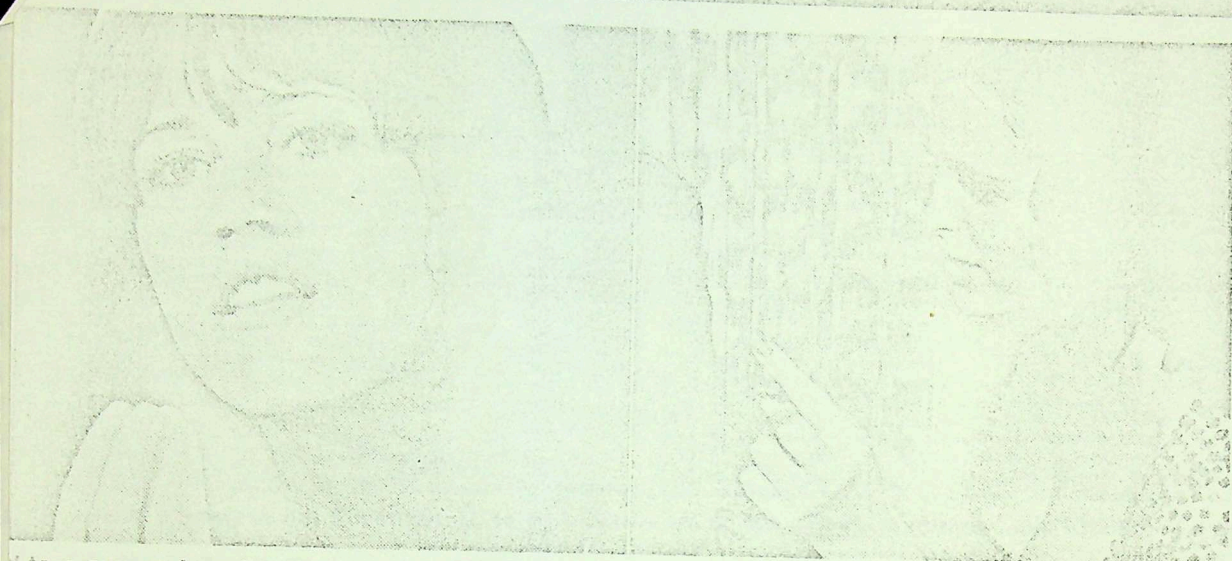
The Seventies has not turned out to be the age of Aquarius, rather a decade of terror. Women have been part of that too. Leila Khaled, beautiful, committed—with a grenade in her hand—to the cause of a free Palestine. Ulrike Meinhof, plain, doomed and committed to desperate anarchic revolution in the decadence of post-Hitler Germany. There were the mysterious and terrifying Red Brigades in Italy, knee-

SUZANNE LOWRY
women in 10 year
while various kind
enveloped many v

capping included in the price. And Patricia Hearst, heiress, victim and temporary member of the Symbionese Liberation Army in California. Was all this just an inevitable element in the world's apparent decline towards chaos? Or was it the unacceptable face of feminism?

Certainly in America a more acceptable face was flourishing. Ten years after Friedan exposed the cushy slavery of the American housewife, Erica Jong was exploring the upper reaches of wifely and unwifely sexuality. It was the decade of what Leah Sharef, the American sexologist, called the super-duper-chic-multiple-orgasm, and a multiplicity of orgasmic novels and novelettes poured from the grandest publishing houses to prove it.

The work of Jong ('Fear of Flying' and 'How to Save Your Own Life'), Lisa Abber ('Kinflicks'), Renae Adler ('Speedboat'), and others grew out of, and savagely mocked the Freudian psycho-logy which had until then a



to a cause; Jane Fonda—Opposed to nukes; Soraya Khashoggi—Having good clean fun.

Experiments of women

recalls the role of
of liberation
of purdah
to would be free

stranglehold on the American
id.

Ms magazine was founded and flourished. In America, unlike Britain, the commercial potential of the new feminism was instantly recognised. Ad men had no shame about selling to the new, high-earning women such as those depicted by Erica Jong. They really were there. Here they weren't. Although half the female population works outside the home, and Katie of Oxo has been replaced by a more does-she-or-doesn't-she (work that is) kind of telly woman, there is still a fear that if women aren't at home all day, or most of it, they won't have enough time to do the shopping required to keep the consumer industries rolling.

Nineteen-seventy-four was International Women's Year and there was a massive conference in Mexico City. Perhaps it was the altitude, but it was not a great success.

In the battle for hearts and minds in Ireland 'female' blues briefly raised their

heads in the persons of Mairead Corrigan, Betty Williams and the Peace People. They won the Nobel Prize but not the war. Earlier in the decade, Bernadette Devlin, the 'girl MP' who took her seat in 1969, had emerged as a doubtful St Joan of the Civil Rights movement. A prison sentence, a baby and marriage, plus the discovery that money she was raising in America was going to buy guns and not to build houses, seemed to dim her ardour and her influence.

In Britain, the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act made it illegal to discriminate against anyone on grounds of their sex at work, or pay them less for the same job (though a few loopholes remain). 'Person' jokes flourished for a while and too many people (mostly male) sat back and said well, there you are, you've got what you wanted let's get on with it and stop all this lib nonsense. The Queen celebrated her jubilee and all seemed right, briefly, with the world.

Meanwhile, the number of women MPs in the House of Commons fell to 19 (from 27 in 1974). Shirley Williams lost her seat—although she now has another one in the television studio. In spite of this we face a new decade with a woman Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who started the Seventies as the

milk snatcher, has ended it as the 'Iron Lady' and self-confessed apostle of St Francis of Assisi. She may, ironically, go down in history as the leader who, by dismantling the Welfare State, robbed women of their main prop for independence.

Another woman Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, overreached herself and, some say, followed her maternal instincts too closely. She lost her place but has not yet given up hope of a come-back. In China, Chiang Ching (Madame Mao), architect of the Cultural Revolution, was trounced, and her Gang of Four vanished from the podium and the posters.

Scandals of the Seventies have been a male dominated business. Watergate was the longest running power game ever—a cross between chess and the Perry Mason show. The women, like their counterparts in the Trojan War tended to run up and down the battlements tearing their hair and trying to tell all (Martha Mitchell) or stand stoically by, not a hair or a muscle out of place. Maureen Dean changed her clothes for the cameras every day. Pat Nixon kept her face and her mouth shut until long after it was all over. Then she admitted that her husband had even bugged their marriage bed and that his paranoia drove her mad.

At home, Norma Levy brought down a lord and

whispered about more bought sex in high places. In the past few weeks Soraya Khashoggi has named a Churchill as her former lover, but it has seemed more like good clean fun after the stories Thorpe and Blunt had to offer.

Sex has been much talked of in the Seventies, mainly by Mary Whitehouse who is against it, or at least takes a missionary position on the matter. Her greatest coup was to successfully prosecute Gay News, the homosexual newspaper, for blasphemy.

Joyce McKinney was after a different kind of missionary and gave us the best man-bites-dog story (or should it be woman rapes man?) of the decade.

Those women who were not campaigning for equal rights contented themselves with campaigning for alimony. Bianca Jagger lost her plea to have her divorce heard in America where she would have been awarded a larger multi-million slice of Mick. The unmarried Britt Ekland tried to get her share of Rod Stewart's fortune anyway: Michele Marvin succeeded in asset stripping her former lover. Will the Eighties be the age of wages for mistresses?

On television it was the decade of Charlie's Angels, Esther Rantzen, and the newscasters. Angela Rippon and Anna Ford recount the horrors of world news amid a nonsensical barrage of publicity about their knees and their earrings and their love lives. But then wasn't it the fate of Cassandra to tell the truth, but fail to persuade anyone to listen?

Celebrate with us on the Thursday before Mother's Day the publication of

Black Women: BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

In which West Indian women spell out for the first time in print what it cost to emigrate, why they came and what they expect for the future.

MAIN SPEAKER

Margaret Prescod-Roberts

*We mother our fathers
We mother our brothers
We mother our children
We mother our mothers!
And husbands and boyfriends
And even each other.
Every woman's a housewife,
And all of us mothers.
When we have to move countries
It's no end of trouble
The housework and worry and
Tension all double.
Wherever we go we're
Expected to grovel
But mothers are claiming
our due.*

(BLACK WOMEN FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK, USA)

AUTHOR OF THE BOOK'S MAIN SECTION

MUSIC

OTHER SPEAKERS



Thursday 13th March 8 00pm
The Church Hall
The Church Of The Holy Cross
Cromer Street WCI



Come and speak out about your experiences: moving to England from overseas, from Ireland and Europe; from England to abroad and back; from north to south; from country to city...

Organised by Housewives In Dialogue and the Wages for Housework Campaign

Further information from: 837 7509/221 5754 Bristol (0272) 422116 Cambridge (02233) 57142



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

PO(PS-SS) 2080/9

Frank White Esq MP

9 January 1980

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November to Patrick Jenkin asking for our comments on the proposal by the bodies named in the enclosure to your letter that child benefit should be payable for children living abroad.

Child benefit - like family allowances - is basically for children resident in this country. This residence principle is a fundamental feature of our social security benefits structure, as it is in other countries. We know of no other country that makes general provision for paying child benefit abroad. The present arrangement works both ways: benefit can be paid for a child resident here even though the parents are abroad; but benefit cannot be paid for a child resident in another country whose parents may be living here. To alter these arrangements would have a major impact on benefit costs and administrative costs.

There would also be serious practical difficulties. The Inland Revenue have been much troubled by false claims for child tax allowances for children abroad, and my Department would not only inherit these problems. Payment of child benefit to a parent for a child abroad would have to be subject to the requirement laid down in the Child Benefit Act that the beneficiary must be contributing at least the amount of the child benefit towards the support of a child not living with him. The problems of checking on this requirement and of validating claims generally would be formidable, and the administrative processes could scarcely be other than burdensome and controversial, even possibly damaging to race relations.

I regret therefore that I am unable to hold out any prospect of amending the Child Benefit Act to make general provision for payment for children abroad. You are probably aware that the previous administration, in response to very similar representations, was also unable to regard this as a practical proposition.

Yours ever

Lynda

MRS LYNDA CHALKER

MOTHERS DAY EVENT - London March 13th 1990.

Resolution on Child Benefit from the Elton Branch of the Labour Party, Bury Lancs.

"That Child Benefit be paid to All Mothers whether or not their children are in this country and that it be independent of Supplementary Benefits."

"I'm a full-time housewife and mother and I'm from the Wages for Housework/Women Against Rape campaign in a town called Bury in the Greater Manchester Area. Lancs So that in effect I am a sort of temporary immigrant from the North of England to the South. Its a strange feeling to come all this way from Town to City, but it is really tremendous to be able to come together with black women, lesbian women, women on the game and with older and younger women, on womens issues.

I'm going to comment on the Child Benefit resolution and the truth about the women who receive it and those who dont. Immigrants have forfeited 70 million pounds a year in lost Tax Allowances since 1978 for children not in this country, when most mothers received a rise in Child Benefit, thus further dividing women.

Wherever we live we all work for Britain and we are tired of seeing that once again it is parents and children from the Third World who are expected to pay the most when their income is the least.

Not getting Child Benefit has meant that Immigrant parents have less money to send home to their children abroad, and to the relatives who are mainly women, who take care of them and who in effect also work for Britain.

It has meant more and more pressure on Immigrant women to go to extremes to supplement low wages outside the home and no wages inside the home, for the work that all women do.

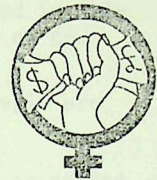
700,000 single parents gain little or nothing from Child Benefit because they lose other Benefits as a result and because it is deducted from Supplementary Benefits. Immigrant parents are deprived of Child Benefit altogether when the children they support are not in this country.

Inflation - low paid womens jobs - and the pittance of Social Security payments mean longer periods of seperation of parents and children.

Women, Immigrant or not are demanding that Child Benefit be paid by the State to ALL women regardless of race or country of origin and whether or not their children are in this country, and that it not be deducted from Supplementary Benefits such as school meals, rent rebates etc. No other Benefits should be lost by receiving Child Benefits.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN

Women's Centre 71, Tonbridge St, London W.C.1
Telephone 01-837-7509/459-1150
P.O. Box 287, London N.W.6 5QU



A "Claim It" campaign was launched on March 13 by women and men at a packed "Mothers Day" meeting in London. The meeting provided a platform for immigrant women - West Indian, Asian and European - to spell out what immigration means specifically for women. It was organized by Housewives in Dialogue and the Wages for Housework Campaign to celebrate the publication of "Black Women: Bringing it all Back Home" by Margaret Prescod-Roberts and Norma Steele, and it was attended by a hundred women from children to pensioners. All were determined to make their claim for the money owed to them and to make clear that the State benefits are not charity but just the beginning of the reparations due. In a charged atmosphere the following resolutions were passed. They have been forwarded to the Home Office, to the DHSS, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in time for the March budget.

We hope interested people and organizations will get in touch and support the "Claim It" campaign!

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas immigrant women have been working for generations in our home countries and in Britain for no pay or low pay, and have been deprived of the wealth which we have created,

whereas freedom of movement is a basic human right and the immigration laws discriminate against women and against Black and Third World people,

this meeting resolves that the new rules which further restrict immigration should be withdrawn immediately. This includes in particular the rule preventing immigrant women from bringing their fiances or husbands into the country. All people, Black and white, should be able to move freely between countries, and to live and work wherever we prefer without any legal controls or restrictions.

Whereas existing State benefits are insultingly low and discriminate against many of those who have come to live and work in Britain,

whereas every generation is entitled to a living wage whatever their country of origin,

this meeting resolves that

1) Child Benefit should be immediately unfrozen, increased and paid on top of Social Security to all Mothers, whether our children are in this country or not.

2) Social Security should be increased to match inflation, and should be paid to all immigrants on the same basis as everyone else. The Cohabitation ruling, which forces women into financial dependence on men, should be abolished.

3) Pensions should be increased ; and should be index linked to the cost of living and to wage increases. They should be paid to all elderly people living in Britain and to all immigrants who have worked in this country, whether or not they are still in Britain at the age of 65.

Whereas the Government has publicly acknowledged that many people are not claiming the State benefits to which they are entitled,

whereas the DHSS has used this as an excuse to crack down on so-called "scroungers",

we believe that this crack down will only have the effect of deterring more people from claiming the money that is rightfully theirs, especially immigrants who are already intimidated by the threat of deportation, and we resolve that instead of this attack the Government should widely publicise the benefits that are available. We call on the Government to launch a "Claim It" campaign, comparable to their "Save It" campaign, using the national press, television and radio. The benefits should be advertised in the immigrant press and in the languages of Britain's immigrant communities.

MOTHER'S DAY 1980 - BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

Immigration is always in the news. It is examined, commented on, legislated about, by countless 'experts', politicians, sociologists, psychologists. The people it most intimately affects are rarely consulted - especially the women.

March 13th marks the publication of an important new book by real experts - West Indian women who've emigrated. The book is 'Black Women: Bringing it all Back Home', by Margaret Prescod-Roberts and Norma Steele. To celebrate this occasion a public meeting will be held, organised by Housewives in Dialogue and the Wages for Housework Campaign. Black and white women will explode the myth of the 'minority' group by speaking out about the many different kinds of immigration, whether it is from the West Indies to London or New York, from Europe or Asia to England, from England to abroad, from home town to big city, from north to south.

MARGARET PRESCOD-ROBERTS of BLACK WOMEN FOR WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK, USA,

and the main author of the book, is one of a new generation of immigrant women who are not afraid to say that they and their children are entitled to a better life. 'Don't tell us that we have to stay in the West Indies, that we have to work three times as hard to create new wealth for the West Indies. Because we have done 300 years or more of labour, labour that I have done, my mother, my grandmother and people before me have done...when I looked around Barbados the wealth wasn't there. It was in London. It was in New York!'

March 13th is the Thursday before MOTHER'S DAY - which, till now, has never seen a mention of immigrant mothers. The cards have never thanked us for all the extra housework and mothering that make immigration possible; the work of preparing ourselves and our families to emigrate, of adjusting the family to a new place and dealing with the uprooting, the tension, the conflicts.

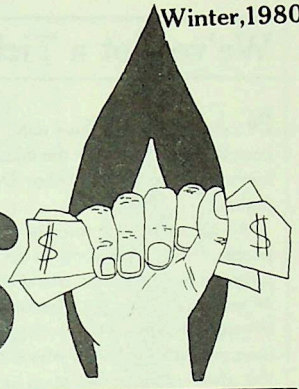
For Mother's Day 1980 grandmothers, mothers and daughters are coming together to say what's been forgotten, and to spell out what immigration means for women. The debate on immigration can never be the same.

MARGARET PRESCOD-ROBERTS WILL BE IN LONDON AND AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW FROM
MARCH 10TH - 18TH.

THE PUBLIC MEETING IS MARCH 13TH 8.00 PM
THE CHURCH HALL
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
CROMER STREET
LONDON WC1

Further details from Housewives in Dialogue or the Wages for Housework Campaign London: 837 7509 624 6364 Bristol: 422116 Cambridge: 357142.

GAS LEAKS



A BULLETIN BY WORKERS AND CUSTOMERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS CO.

Quote of the Year: In reply to a question about the killing of Eulia Love, Mr. Harry P. Letton, President of Southern California Gas Company said at the stock holders meeting, "We deeply regret the incident involving Eulia Love. We never like it when one of our customers gets shot."

Editorial: To Strike or Not to Strike?

That seems to be the question on everyone's mind. And, as of the time of writing, we haven't even started negotiations yet. The Gas Company is crying poverty as usual, and the Union has suggested that the Company would love us to strike so they could take away all of our benefits. And all of us are really feeling the squeeze from inflation. A strike is never a pleasant thing, and it tends to hurt most those who stand to gain least from it, i.e. the lowest paid workers, very often single mothers with children.

Interview with a C.S.R.: Stressing the Stress

Gas Leaks: I understand the Customer Representatives are going for an upgrade to the equivalent of Appliance Service Representative's pay. Has your job changed that much that you feel you deserve an upgrade now?

Customer Service Representative: Definitely. Our responsibilities are much greater than they ever were before. We are now expected to be conservation experts. We must be able to discuss with the customer the same type of conservation, if not more detailed, than the A.S.R.'s in the field. We must discuss high bills. Our rate structure is much more complex than it ever was in the past. The training for a C.S.R. has expanded from a

But sometimes you don't have any choice. We sincerely hope this is not one of those times. We hope that the Gas Company makes us an offer that we can't refuse. But if they don't, and we have to decide whether hitting the bricks is worthwhile, we should be given all the information that can be made available to us so we can make an intelligent decision. The Union should let us know beforehand what kind of benefits we may be entitled to if we go out. Can we get such things as food stamps, welfare or families with kids, or even unemployment insurance benefits?

The vote may go either way, but people should know what resources they have access to and what they may face.

Continued on Page 2

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We've Got a Ticket to Ride

Now on a more positive note, something has finally been done to help right the injustices done to us poor service people by the Police Department, regarding parking.

An occasion arose recently where one of our service people, while responding to an A-1 leak order, was forced to park in a No Parking zone, with flasher lights on and safety cone out. Needless to say, the truck was ticketed. Our heroic service person brought the ticket to his immediate supervisor who at first glance assumed a "so what" attitude. But upon immediate reflection he suggested to our Hero that the ticket be fought. Whereupon our Hero went, during company time, to the office of the supervisor of the parking meter police and explained the situation. He said that all that was necessary was that a copy of the leak order be produced and the ticket would be voided. All this was done with the knowledge and cooperation of the local supervisor.

Don't expect tickets to be voided for any order that you are too lazy to walk to; it has to be a genuine dangerous leak as all A-1's are!

Ga\$ Leak\$ Vol. 2 No. 1, Winter 1980

Put out by workers of Southern California Gas Company, community groups, their friends and families.

Special thanks to those who typed, wrote articles and helped edit.

Edited by Sam Weinstein,
N.W. Division

Send rude comments, letters, articles, praise, donations, and requests for copies to:

Gas Leaks
c/o S. Weinstein
932 Maltman, #10
L.A., California 90026

Stressing the Stress *Continued*

week course into a 15-day course, which is an example of just an added amount of things you must know before you can become a C.S.R.

G.L.: Do you take a lot of verbal abuse on the telephone?

C.S.R.: We take a tremendous amount of abuse. Not only is the stress level enormous for the C.S.R., but she is expected, no matter what she's been called by the party or customer — and you can really be called some horrible things — to answer the next call with a smile and a friendly attitude. You cannot take out on the next customer what just happened on the telephone. And a lot of customers are abusive. They are hostile to the Company, and we are the Company to them. And we are not ever allowed to say anything back to them. The amount of stress is also intensified because of the fact that we are on a much more measured (as far as production) system than any other department in the Company. We are plugged into a machine that tells when we are gone from our desk, when we are at our desk, when we are plugged in waiting for a call, when we are on a call, if we are on an out call. It's just like Big Brother.

The customer service contact type of job is listed as the fifth highest level stress job in the country — traffic controllers are number one. That is the most important thing to stress, the stress.

G.L.: People out in the field often say that C.S.R.'s don't have the responsibilities that A.S.R.'s have, and, of course, you don't have to work in bad weather conditions or with a dangerous substance.

C.S.R.: No, we don't work in bad weather conditions, but a good comparison would be some of the other departments in the Company that don't work in bad weather conditions or with a dangerous substance, for example, the dispatch office. Their pay is the same as A.S.R. pay. They don't even have to deal with the customers.

G.L.: Do you think C.S.R.'s are paid less than A.S.R.'s because the job is traditionally filled by women?

C.S.R.: Definitely. There is no question about it as far as I am concerned. Traditionally, even though that job has been filled by women, every man that we have to come in to do the job, I'm not going to say they are not capable of it, but the job just breaks them. They can't

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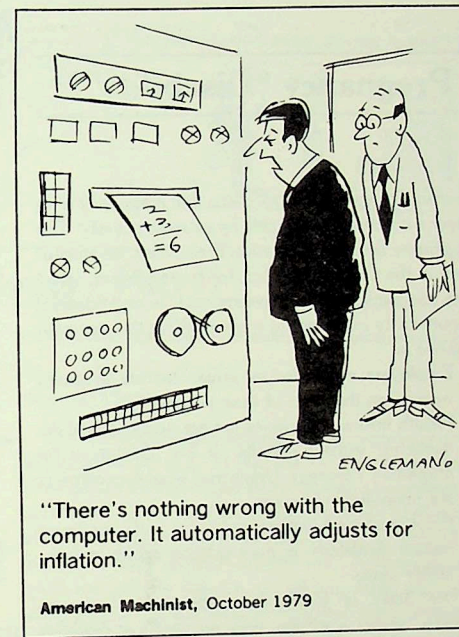
Distribution Survival Kit

Tips on how to make it through your first six months as a crew assistant:

1. Be on time: 10 to 15 minutes before starting time.
2. Show how much you want the job by asking questions.
3. Go to each job as if it is the last — otherwise it just be!
4. Limit personal telephone calls for you at the base.
5. Be willing to work with all and any crew leaders. Do not let hearsay affect your working together.
6. Always speak well about the Company. Never let your personal opinions about controversial issues be known.
7. Always be willing to work late hours to complete a job.
8. Stay healthy. You only have three incidents of absence and a maximum of ten days on any one incident or you're out.
9. Last, but not least, your personal safety is the most important thing to take into consideration. Never do anything that will affect that!

Stressing the Stress *Continued*

wait to get out. If you remember a program where the A.S.R.'s came into the office and did the different jobs in the office, every one of them, unanimously, that sat down with a C.S.R. and took calls, felt that they would never want to do that job. I think men really resent the idea of a woman making the same amount of money that they do. Men fail to realize that mental stress is a totally different kind of thing than physical stress. You can be exhausted from working physically, yet when you go home, it's a different kind of tired. When you are under mental stress, it really wipes you out, you know. It's very difficult then to go home and have the added responsibilities a lot of women have. They have to keep on working. They've got to do the laundry. They've got to do the housework. They've got to take care of the kids. They've got to do the cooking. They have to wash the dishes and then they have to make love with their



husband before they go to sleep. I mean, it's like, the man, he's sitting in front of the T.V. drinking his beer when he gets home from his hard physical job, and the woman just walks in the door and she just keeps right on going.

G.L.: And she doesn't get paid for that.

C.S.R.: Yeah, you don't get paid for that.

G.L.: Do you think it has any health hazards?

C.S.R.: Now, there's another thing. My hearing is so impaired in my left ear — it's really not the same as it used to be from having that earpiece in my ear. I've talked to a lot of the girls and all of them say they cannot hear as good in the ear where they have the earpiece.

G.L.: Do you think the men have anything to gain by the women making more money?

C.S.R.: When we make more money, they'll make more money. In other words, the more anybody gets and the more you stand behind anybody, whoever they are, then the more everybody will get in the long run. That's why they don't want to give it to us.

Pregnancy "Disability"?

Recent changes in the law mean that pregnancy is no longer a condition punishable by extreme poverty. The Pregnancy Sex Discrimination Prohibition, an amendment to the Civil Rights Act, forces employers, insurance companies and the government to accept financial responsibility for pregnant women. What this means in practice is:

1. Employers can't fire or refuse to hire pregnant women on the basis of their pregnancy.
2. Health insurance policies cannot apply special deductibles, waiting periods, or low allowances for pregnancy coverage. Unmarried women can expect full pregnancy coverage.
3. Employers must include pregnancy and pregnancy-related disabilities in their existing health and disability plans.

The State of California, under normal circumstances, allows a woman only six weeks of disability money. In the case of a disabling pregnancy, this money can become unlimited. The Gas Company voluntarily disability plan is, of course, much more liberal both in time and money.

At the Gas Company, a pregnant woman may continue to work up to the day she delivers. With a doctor's note, a woman working in the field may opt for an office job, and will be paid whatever money she was getting in the field. When a woman can no longer work outside the home, she can start collecting Company sick pay or Company disability money, if she runs out of sick time.

After she gives birth, the woman can continue to use up her sick time, vacation time or disability for a period of up to 60 days without being hassled by the company. After that, the woman will probably be required to see a doctor to prove that the pregnancy was a disabling one, if she wants to stay off work.

It may seem strange that a natural function such as having a baby should have to be called either a sickness or a disability so that you don't starve, but if that's what it takes to get the money...



"Sorry buster - fixed income, you know."

Social Security for Housewives

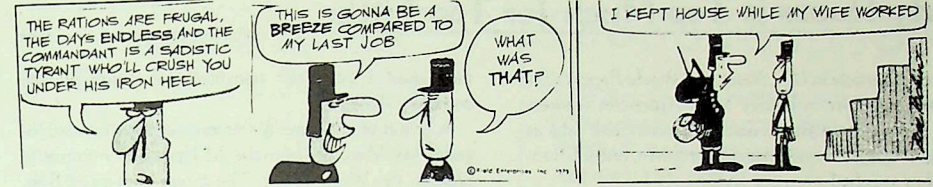
"Homemakers would receive social security earnings based on an imputed dollar value for their unpaid services in the home."

— Social Security Administration, February, 1979

A dollar value should be placed on housework in order to credit every woman with her own social security account - a social security wage for housework.

This is one option, called "Production for Homemakers in Their Own Right," suggested by HEW in its report to Congress on ways to end sex discrimination in the social security system.

It was the most widely discussed proposal at a recent symposium called by the Social Security Administra-



For Love or Money - Part II

Women are definitely prepared to fight to protect their families' rights to hot water, hot meals, and a warm house in wintertime. The following is the actual unfriendly incident report filed shortly after the article on the shooting of Ms. Love appeared in our last issue. In that article we said, "If customers think we're shooting, we may be met with guns instead of shovels." As is said, the proof of the pudding...

(Incident Report courtesy of the Gas Company)

Time of Incident: 2:46 p.m.

Date: 4/23/79

I arrived at the above address for the purpose of collecting a late bill of \$158.00. Ms. ---- then went in the back part of the house and came out with a receipt payment of \$78.00 on a \$166.89 bill which left a balance of \$88.89 which, added to her new bill of \$69.12, brought it back up to \$158.00. Ms. ---- then asked could she call the Gas Co. I said o.k. After Ms. ---- talked to Co. rep. she sent her daughter out to where I was and said for me to close the service. She hollered from the back room that I must be the same son of a bitch that caused the death of Ms. Love. She then told me that I had five minutes to close the service and get off her property. I went outside and closed the meter. Ms. ---- then yelled out of the window, "Have you finished yet?" I informed her that I was leaving. She then pointed a black .38 revolver at me and said that I had three minutes left to clear out and that if I called the police I would be dead before they got here, and if I left and called them she would wait a whole week to kill a Gas man because she wasn't going to end up like Ms. Love did, because the paper would read: "Gas Man Killed While Trying to Collect Gas Bill from Customer." She then used more profane language about me and the Gas Company.

P.S. The Company is giving all collect or close orders to full time collectors who will be promoted from meter reading. Service people will be glad to see the end of them. We also hope the collectors are supplied with bullet-proof vests.

Forty Hours is Too Much for Too Little

A recent article in *U.S. News and World Report* says that never before in history have American workers been so well paid yet so discontented in their jobs as they are today. Absenteeism is a problem, and job turnover has reached a record level.

Some big corporations are already responding to the challenge. General Motors, Xerox, Bank of America and many others are trying to satisfy their workers with programs giving them a voice in company policy, flexible working hours and other privileges. The Communications Workers of America (telephone company union) has launched a campaign to combat job stress for over 500,000 workers employed by the Bell Telephone System.

The American Civil Liberties Union says its biggest case-load now involves worker complaints against employers. "I have no doubt," says ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser, "there is an employee-rights movement underway in this country." David Ewing of Harvard Business School says workers are asking why

Putting the Flag on Ice

I would like to voice my outrage to the Gas Company about their so-called "Freeze" program. For those of you who are not familiar with this program, it is a program the Gas Company implements when management is not able to plan manpower properly. The program freezes the division and the classification of workers that the Company has been unable to fill properly. This freeze virtually strips the worker of bid rights. The worker cannot change divisions in his/her own classification for a period of six months until the division where the freeze was declared reaches 100% of required number of workers. In the area in which I work, they have reached 100% in my classification only once in the last 10 years!

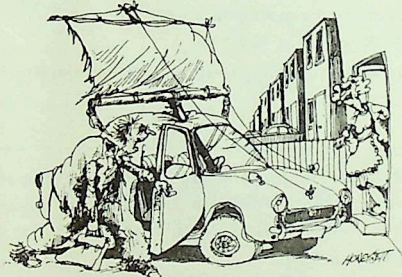
When people bid into the same line of work in another division, it is usually because the move will

they must leave their constitutional rights on the company doorstep.

A group of rank-and-file union members banded together last March to form the All Unions Committee to Shorten the Work Week. The group convinced Rep. John Conyers (D-Michigan) to sponsor a bill to make a 35-hour work week the national standard.

"All over the country these issues are fomenting," says the aforementioned Ewing. "The only companies I feel sorry for are those that haven't begun to address these questions yet."

We at the Gas Company are ready to help out by accepting a 35-hour work week whenever the Company is ready — for 40 hours pay, of course!



"Sorry I'm late. The wind dropped over Laurel Canyon."

bring them closer to home. Not only does this reduce the length of our working day — an hour on the freeway is a lot of work — but it also saves gas and energy. And that saves us money.

In light of President Carter's April '79 address to the nation on the energy crisis, I would like the Gas Company to show the same patriotism that they showed when they wrapped themselves in the American flag and told us they were bound by President Carter's '79 7% wage increase guidelines. They could show this patriotism by becoming involved with the increasing problems of their employees and doing away with the "Freeze" program.

Customer Service: Providing a Service or Producing Numbers?

Lurking in the shadow of every turn-on, meter read, hole dug and customer request for service is this thing we call PRODUCTION.

Pre-determined time values are assigned to each of the different tasks we perform, e.g. 33 minutes for a turn-on. These time values are based on averages and periodically studied to see if they need to be changed.

At the end of each month we receive a production figure. Sounds simple and logical, but is it a valid system?

Unfortunately, production does not measure productivity. By understanding and using the system, you can get a high production figure without doing as much work as you were doing with a lower production figure.

To illustrate the fallacies of the system, let us examine two service orders approached from two different philosophies.

1. Mrs. Samuels called the Gas Company. Her oven pilot had gone out. This is the third time we have been out on this service call. Service person A relit the pilot, checked connections and discussed conservation, but two days later she called us again.
2. Service Person B got the order and realizing this was a recurring problem, stayed an extra 15 minutes to investigate further. He discovered the pilot outage was caused by a faulty gas meter. At last the problem was corrected and Mrs. Samuel's oven pilot is still lit.

Let's follow Service persons A & B on a turn-on order. This was a very large house involving extra work at the meter and repairing of leaks. Both service persons finished the job in one hour and 40 minutes, but service person A spent an extra 20 minutes cleaning up the work area, truck, etc.

If the order takes 2 hours or longer, you receive full time for the order. Service person B left the job 1 hour and 40 minutes and continued on to the next order. In the end, he/she will be penalized for a productive

Dear GL: Here's something from the Ventura Star Press about a fellow employee that might interest your readers

DOGS ATTACK . . .

Al Muskat, 23, Ventura was reading meters in the 1000 block of Modesto Avenue Friday afternoon when two boxers owned by John Stuart escaped from Stuart's house, ran across the street and attacked Muskat for no reason. Sheriff's Lt. Richard Howard said.

"It was a real nightmare," Muskat said Friday evening after returning home from Pleasant Valley Hospital, where he had to have stitches taken in his left arm and groin area.

"I didn't have a prayer. Both of them attacked me but the male was the one that did all the damage. He chewed on me for a good minute and a half. I can't move the fingers on my left arm because he chewed up all the muscles. In the groin area he took out hunks of meat and I'm not too happy about that," Muskat said by phone.

Muskat, who lives in Ventura with his wife, Vickie, said he hopes the incident will rouse residents into taking action to get vicious dogs banned from residential neighborhoods.

attitude.

The system does not encourage quality work. It does not have room in it for the many variables we encounter in our jobs. Supervisors are not in agreement as to what is good production. This inadequate system is used in making decisions regarding promotions and yearly evaluations, and this system by its nature costs the company money in repeated orders.

The Gas Company spent thousands of dollars on its Customer Service Investigation and discovered that the production system did not measure nor encourage productivity. We've been saying this for years, but I guess that free advice falls on deaf ears.

Company Says Gas Leaks Stinks

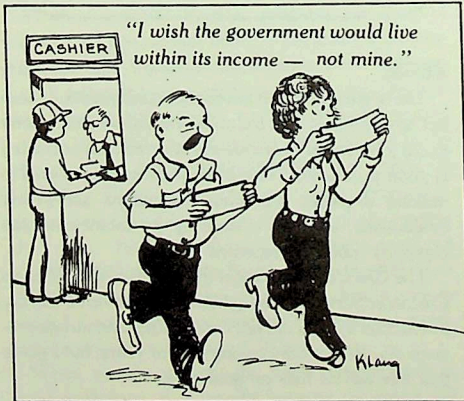
It was Black Friday all over again! Several supervisors went to the tops of tall buildings and jumped. The stock market had crashed and the Gas Company was going broke.

Well, not exactly. What actually happened was that on May 4, 1979, the first issue of *Gas Leaks* came out. With amazing planning, foresight and coordination, distribution took place on the same morning in all three bases in Northwest Division and at Metromedia. People were so delighted that within the first week all printing costs were covered by donations.

The Company attempted to prevent any more people from reading *Gas Leaks* by forbidding anyone from giving it out on Company property. But other means were found, and finally by going to the National Labor Relations Board, the editor managed to persuade the Gas Company to see the error of its ways, and our right of distribution on the property was restored.

Below is a list of guidelines which allow you to give out *Gas Leaks* legally on Gas Company property.

1. *Gas Leaks* should be distributed in "non-working areas" (parking lots, locker rooms, canteens, meeting rooms).
2. *Gas Leaks* should be distributed during "non-working times" (before work, during lunch, and after work).



Live Shooting

By DARRELL WALKER
Herald Examiner Staff Writer

A recent article in an unofficial gas company newsletter complained that "people are not identifying the shooting (of Eula Love) with the police, but with the Gas Co., and unfortunately that means us. If customers think we're shooting, we may be met with guns instead of shovels."

A gas company serviceman, who asked that he not be identified, told a reporter, "There is fear among some servicemen. There's no question about it. Some never wanted to do those collect or stoppage jobs."

Another serviceman quoted in the newsletter said, "I don't know what the company is considering that the people are afraid of."

Herald Examiner

3. *Gas Leaks* should be handed out. Apparently supervisors are instructed to pick up issues left in neat stacks in "non-working areas."

Not only was *Gas Leaks* quoted in the *Herald Examiner*, but the Pacific Lighting bulletin, "For Your Information," reprinted what the *Examiner* had said and made sure that everyone in the company knew about it. Neither the *Examiner* nor the FYI bulletin actually gave our name, and in the future, we wish they would give us that credit.

We note also that the following nice things have happened since the first issue was printed:

- Service people are no longer doing collect or close orders.
- The policy on how to deal with unfriendly incidents has changed, with both the customer's well-being and our own well-being taken more into consideration.
- Supervision seems to be a little more lenient in paying time and one-half when two shifts are worked without an eight hour break — something we complained about in the last issue.
- All in all, since this is the time of year for everyone's annual evaluation, we are pleased to report that the general consensus is that in Northwest Division, at least, supervisory performance seems to have improved. We are now prepared to take them off of the Less-Than-Satisfactory list.

Report of WORKING PARTY ON HOMEMAKERS' ALLOWANCES

The Working Party, in the course of its examination of the problem, realised that the introduction of a homemakers' allowance additional to or in place of existing social security allowances would be likely to arouse deep-seated prejudices in many quarters.

The first question for consideration was to define a "homemakers' allowance". The general view in the Working Party was that the care of children below the age of 16 and especially below the age of 5 was a job of very great social importance and necessitated the recognition of it by the payment of a social wage to whoever had the care of children within these age limits, irrespective of the sex of the homemaker. We must point out however, that the job is not confined to the care of children, and should include the care of adult dependents, e.g. aged relatives and the disabled.

In the case of young people over 16 continuing their education we consider that to secure a just treatment of this group an allowance should be paid to them to assist with their education.

We discussed the question of parents - a considerable number - who wished to work either part time or full time although they had young families. We thought that a homemakers' allowance was applicable in these cases although it would be used by the parents to secure the services of other persons during the periods when the parents were at work. This would give parents, especially women with children the choice either to work at bringing up their children themselves or to work at some other job. It would also remove from families with young children the obligation for both parents to work outside the home because the family income was insufficient. It was recognised that no rigid rules could be applied as many women required as a condition of their psychological health and social fulfillment, an occupation outside the home.

The amount to be paid for a homemakers' allowance should be determined by the average income level of the community.

It should be emphasised that the allowances would be paid for the work and not for the number of children or dependants. For this reason the existing child benefits and dependants' allowances should continue.

The Working Party paid attention to the methods of financing homemakers' allowances. We decided that the phasing out of the married man's income tax allowance would contribute considerably to funding the allowances for homemakers. An additional reason for abolishing the married man's allowance is that it is based upon the economic dependence of women upon men and conditions women to regard this as desirable and conditions men to expect marriage to provide them with unpaid domestic help.

The Family Income Supplement could most likely be abolished with the introduction of homemakers' allowances and this is another source of funds. We decided that the homemakers' allowance should be a universal benefit irrespective of income.

The Working Party recommends:

1. That the Party approves in principle the introduction of homemakers' allowances.
2. Approves the methods of contributing to the financing of the allowances as outlined in the report.

Bury and Radcliffe Constituency Labour Party

ELTON BRANCH MEETING

Blue Bell Hotel, Wednesday, October 17, 1970

AGENDA

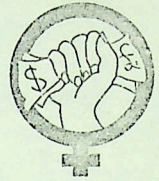
- 1.—Apologies for Absence.
- 2.—Chairman's Remarks.
- 3.—Minutes of Previous Branch Meeting.
- 4.—Matters Arising.
- 5.—Financial Report.
- 6.—Correspondence.
- 7.—Membership Applications.
- 8.—Reports :
 - (a) Constituency Party.
 - (b) District Party.
 - (c) Council.
- 9.—Resolutions.

"This Branch believes that child benefit should be paid to all mothers, whether or not their children are in this country; and that it be independent of supplementary benefits."
- 10.—Any Other Business.

After the business of the meeting has been concluded, our guest speakers will be from the Anti-Nazi League.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN

Women's Centre 71, Tonbridge St, London W.C.1
Telephone 01-837-7509/459-1150
P.O. Box 287, London N.W.6 5QU



AT WOMEN'S EXPENSE

Sir Howe's second Budget is coming out. Further cuts in public spending will be presented as "an unpalatable medicine which will be able to cure the economic crisis". All sorts of experts are being called in. It is time that women's point of view be heard.

Although women are scarcely mentioned in the Budget, we haven't been left out. On the contrary, women are going to pay the most. The increase in prices, rents, rates, school meals, heating mean more housework for us, a harder working day, looking after other people as Social Services are cut, making up the difference with unpaid housework.

But there's no productivity bonus for us. Instead, the Government is proposing that women and children suffer even more.

- * While banks and oil firms are announcing record profits, the Government is haggling over the pennies required to keep up the value of our Child Benefit, already insultingly low.
- * The proposal to cut Social Security for workers on strike will again penalise women. It's wives and children's money that's being cut, yet wives of strikers are not on strike. They're working -- twice as hard as before.
- * As jobs are cut, women are the first to go. We're expected to go home and do for free the same jobs we used to get paid for: nursing, cooking, cleaning, teaching, child minding.
- * We are all for a rise in personal tax allowances -- but these already discriminate against women compared with married men. Ending the 25% tax band would hit part-time workers especially hard - mainly women who are slaving for a few extra pennies, on top of a full-time job at home.
- * The Government is thinking of cutting Social Security for mothers who are receiving maintenance for their children. The effect: a ban on children getting more than the barest minimum.

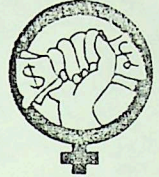
More work and less money for those at the bottom is the Government's "cure" for Britain's ills. Extra unpaid housework is the hidden economic programme. As usual the Budget has come right after Mother's Day. First the flowers, and then the slap in the face.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, women will be visiting Downing St. to tell the Chancellor what they think of his Budget. For further information contact: London 837 7509/ 624 6364
Bristol 422810
Cambridge 357142

PRESS RELEASE

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN

Women's Centre 71, Tonbridge St, London W.C.1
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P.O. Box 287, London N.W.6 5QU



Women face jail for friendship with men.

Under new anti-terrorist legislation in Italy it is possible for a woman to be arrested and held for 12 years in jail without trial just because of her association with a man who has been accused.

On February the 15th a warrant was issued in Trieste for the arrest of Marina Cattaruzza, a member of the International Wages for Housework Campaign: she is accused of being involved in terrorist organizations because she was for some years the friend and colleague of a man under suspicion.

The Police have no other case against her. This is just one of a recent wave of arrests of women "by association".

This kind of "justice" should not be acceptable anywhere in the world.

Women cannot be arrested and held responsible for the alleged activities of their husbands, sons or other men around us.

Yet we already know of several cases of women in Britain being harassed and taken to Police stations because of offences their sons or men they know have allegedly committed.

The State has to recognize that a woman has her own viewpoint, and a right to an independent political and social life, finances and an independent position in the Law.

The W.F.H. Campaign has always fought against all the forms of terrorism and violence which we face as women, beginning with the violence of unpaid work and poverty, the terror of walking the streets in fear of rape, the horror of rape and battering in our own homes, the fear for our and our children's safety.

As Italian women in Britain say: "For women the present wave of terrorism and counter-terrorism means more work and worry.

We are tired of paying the cost of violence on which we are never consulted and which leads nowhere at all.

It is always women who are expected to pick up the pieces; both sides claim they are acting for the good of the people, but they never consider the effect on what we have always fought for - a better life for ourselves and a future for our children.

In Italy we now have to face on one hand the Police and the State, and on the other hand armed left and right wing organizations, run by men, who are setting themselves up as an alternative to the State

They all only add to the fear and violence we have been fighting."³

The accusations against Marina Cattaruzza are completely incompatible with the Campaign to which she is committed , a campaign to improve women's financial position.

The Wages For Housework Campaign in Britain is approaching the Italian ambassador asking that the warrant for her arrest be immediately withdrawn.

It is essential for international pressure to be brought to bear to prevent her and other women being jailed for years, "guilty" only of association with men.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK CAMPAIGN -- BRITAIN