

in feudal society?

to all women. Some gynecologists refuse to give out birth control information to unmarried women.

Mrs. Nina Harding, Seattle, said some gynecologists do not explain to their patients how their pills work. They neglect to stress how important it is to take the sequential type of pill every day or a woman will become pregnant. She added: "I had a sequential baby!"

If by chance a woman becomes pregnant through accident of birth control or rape or neglect to use birth control, she should be allowed to have an abortion if she so chooses.

She should not have to wait for a hospital board to decide whether she is insane or whether she will die if she doesn't have an abortion.

Under the new "more relaxed" abortion laws it is in fact harder for a woman to have an abortion than it was before the new law was effected.

Women's liberationists stress the physical enslavement of women. That kind of oppression which in the past was biologically inevitable is the root of all the other kinds of women's oppression.

POLITICAL STRATEGY

Now, what does Women's Liberation propose to do about oppression of women?

Most of the women in Women's Lib are socialists. The reason for this is they grew out of SDU groups.

They ask: "Can we liberate ourselves without challenging the whole capitalist society?"

Their answer:

- "If we seriously consider fighting our oppression we will find ourselves fighting the system and fighting capitalism."
- "Women will be the leaders of the socialist revolution."
- "Smash capitalism!"

Other women, although socialists, said: "It is not wise at the moment to organize a national politically-oriented organization—most women are frightened by words like 'smash capitalism'."

Others objected that "smashing capitalism" was a backwards way of fighting women's oppression. They thought individual issues should be fought first and the revolution should come later.

One middle aged woman said: "Let's work now for what we can get now under this system. I don't care about the revolution, right now it's ME."

All that sounds idealistic doesn't it?

You're probably asking, as I did, what are they doing? What concrete plans do they have? What have they done besides talk?

Here's my answer.

They haven't done much. Yet.

They are not yet well-organized. They haven't a concrete long-range plan of action except "smash capitalism".

But here's what they are doing.

ORGANIZING STILL IN FOETAL STAGE

Vancouver Women's Caucus struck me as the most active at the conference. Their program consists of informing women of their oppression through research papers, and publications. They have set up a birth control clinic, are approaching the community through the press, organizing women off campus. Their publication is *The Pedestal* from which is taken the accompanying cartoon, "The Breeding Machine."

Edmonton has two groups, one on campus which grew out of the SDU after last year's famous election rally. The women in SDU harassed the women in campaign kick-lines by taunting them and yelling "Women's liberation". After that the women decided to form a women's liberation group. They write research papers.

The other group consists of some of the women in underprivileged areas who have set up a play school. This year they expect to obtain a building for a day care centre for their children.

The two groups hope to get together as a result of the conference to co-ordinate their activities.

Groups in Regina and Saskatoon are organizing women on campus. Both groups have been instrumental in distributing the McGill University birth control pamphlet to their respective campuses.

American women liberationists are much more militant in their attitudes than Canadian women. However, the most striking women's projects in the USA have not been instituted by women's liberation groups.



Woman a prisoner of society and biology

LIBERATION MOVES UNDERGROUND WITH ILLEGAL ABORTIONS

Abortion is perhaps the most inflammatory issue in women's liberation.

Alona Cooke from Berkeley, California, said at the conference, "We should demand from the medical profession quick and cheap abortions. They should stop acting as judges and theologians."

Miss Cooke is active in referring women to an underground abortion clinic in Los Angeles. The abortion clinic has operated for twelve years and in that time has performed over 5,000 illegal abortions.

Pregnancy tests are done on all girls who come to the clinic. The clinic is operated by a staff of volunteers. The abortions are performed by qualified people, although they are not accredited doctors. Most of the abortionists have had their M.D.'s taken from them for performing illegal abortions.

An abortion at this clinic would cost between \$100 and \$300, depending on the woman's ability to pay.

At the conference, Miss Cooke extended an invitation to Canadian women to use the Los Angeles facilities.

"It would take two days at the most. Ours is probably the only clinic in the world where a girl can pay her bill at the rate of \$10.00 a month out of her babysitting money," said Miss Cooke.

If you want to use their facilities you can contact Alona Cooke at 11914½ Santa Monica, Los Angeles.

That's what women's liberation, as I see it, is all about. You, dear readers, will either be agreeing wholeheartedly with what has been said, or disagreeing violently. Whatever you are doing, think about what has been said by women's liberation through this article.

They could be very powerful. They are intelligent. They are good, though inexperienced organizers. What they say, in most part, makes sense. They could start the ball rolling for a mass women's revolt against their oppression.

