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Another commissioner objected to the recommendation that women be given special consideration in education and job entry and promotion, on the grounds that this would relegate them to the position of second-class citizens.

Women's Liberation feels that women are already treated like second class citizens: if there is a solution to this, it must be sought and rectified. The recommendation of special consideration was advanced as a solution to the self-defeating prophecy which traps women attempting to enter the job market. A woman is told during the process of her education that she need not attempt to train for various positions, as few women are permitted to enter them. Because of this, she changes her training orientation, and when employers of these male-dominated positions are asked why they hire few women, they reply that few women apply. Special consideration would break this cycle.

Other occupations do not hire women, because they consider women poor employment risks. If these employment risks. If these employers were forced to ap-

ply fair promotion and maternity leave practice to their women employees, the high turn-over of their female staff would decline. Young women, like young men, need adult models on which to pattern their behaviour. Preferential entry (this actually means Fair entry) of women into professional training and positions would provide models for young women planning their careers.

For example, trucking is a highly paid occupation, well suited for those who enjoy mobility in their job. Women can and do drive trucks-but the absence of all but a very few women in this occupation makes it a male-dominated one. Young women who would enjoy the mobility and high pay of this job automatically do not consider it for this reason.

Perhaps the greatest bar to a young woman planning her future life is the unspoken assumption that if she seriously plans a career, she must automatically give up plans for a marriage with children. This is a cruel choice which most young women hesitate to make. It must be made clear that this choice is not necessary, that both facets of a full adult life are not available to women. The presence on the Commission of married women with children-and the continued presence of such valuable women in public life-is necessary.

# No Group Should be Victimized

Brigid Grant, Secretary  
Fredericton Voice of Women

The Report takes as its first general principle that all are entitled to the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Support for this Declaration is a part of the constitution of the V.O.W. It seems obvious that V.O.W. members would approve the general aims of the Report as well as the recommendations which suggest changes in our laws and social institutions so that Canadian women may have the required rights and freedoms.

The Fredericton VOW has not stated position on the issues of abortion and birth control, but I and some other members do support the recommendation on abortion, with the qualification expressed by Elsie Gregory MacGill in her minority report, as well as the recommendations on birth control information and sterilization.

While recognizing the good intentions of the Report, I have some misgivings about it. My first concern is the picture of present and future society it presents. In describing the rapid changes which have come with modern technology, the Report, although noting some violence in youth, strongly emphasises the beneficent aspects such as long life, family planning, freedom from drudgery, and universal communication bringing peoples closer together.

Looking forward from this glowing present they cite two authorities who predict greater individual freedom and better sexual relationships for both sexes in the world of the immediate future. While a report on the status of women cannot also be a report on the state of the world, women, as well as men, are threatened by nuclear war, over population, and a sick environment, and any description of the present or future which does not mention these, the backside, if you like, of technology, is not realistic. This omission, I feel, not only affects the introductory chapters of the report, but distorts some of the later recommendations. The most obvious example is the \$500 per year per child cash grant.

Some of the other recommendations designed to free wives and mothers from their traditional subservient role also seem to be based on a presumed tech-

nological valhalla. I agree that it would be good if day-care centres and nursery schools were available to all who wished to make use of them, but these services are expensive. The Report suggests that the money need not be found by changing our priorities and redistributing what we already have, but would be generated by releasing the work potential of married women.

The evidence suggests that technology cannot create a world in which all people will have their heart's desire. On the one hand we have more workers, more industries, and more money, on the other we have the more rapid use of our natural resources, the creation of wealth at the expense of people in other countries who do not have these resources, and more pollution.

No one group, whether distinguished by sex, race or other means, should be victimized, but our reform should take into account that we live in a world of limited resources where the expectations of all people must change if all are to live in equal dignity. A change in the status of women implies a change in the status of men. I would like to have seen suggestions such as one made in a minority report, that married men and women both work part time outside the home during the early years of their children, given more consideration.

Most of the observations in the Report have been made, as they admit, by thoughtful people for decades. Many of their recommendations are unfinished business from the past and should be acted upon without delay. A Royal Commission, however, is an expensive and rare event, and I am disappointed that the Report did not add to its restatements of an old case some more profound analysis of the difficulties and dangers which lie ahead for women as for all mankind.

The Fredericton Voice of Women has been asked by the Brunswickan to comment on the Report on the Status of Women in Canada. We have not yet had an opportunity to study the Report as a group and the following are initial impressions of an individual member. The group hopes to make a more detailed study in the immediate future.