

Women's Liberation

FREDERICTON YOUNG SOCIALIST GROUP

The bases of women's liberation is centered on the most oppressed women in our society - the welfare mother. When lib's main demand are met those women stand to gain the most, and yet we've been called naive middle class women fighting our way out of doing dishes! We've been put down for trying to take employment from working class and middle class men with families to support. Women have to eat too!

350,000 women in Canada are the heads of households. These women, without male support provide for 1,100,000 children (Dominion Bureau of Statistics) translated into averages, it seems that there are 3.1 children for each of these women to support—to shelter, feed, clothe, and educate. From such situations arises what is known as the "welfare trap." The children in these families are definitely handicapped. From such circumstances come our biggest drop-out statistics. They can hardly hope to advance themselves for enough to get out of the "trap". The welfare cheque keeps them alive; but generation after generation is kept dependent on the government's welfare. Do you wonder if they are part of some great political game?

If there were some type of free adult educational program in which these women could participate with confidence the possibility of a reasonable job would be open to them.

The majority of employed women are working at minority status occupations. Since there is a surplus of manpower (in these cases, strictly woman power), there is no risk for employers in giving lousey pay. There will always be someone else to take the job. Why aren't sales clerks, waitresses and cleaning women unionized? When employers hear sounds like agitation for unions the source is quickly eliminated. So women are cheap labour. Not only should equal pay for equal work be standard but egalitarian classifications should be implemented. Cleaning women would be ranked with garbage men; waitresses with waiters.

Working women and non-working women alike should have free access to day care centres. These centres would provide the mental stimulation needed to help these children advance and prevent the propagation of the welfare syndrome.

What about the welfare families who do have a man as the head? These women and children are subjected to the same oppression as the fatherless families. Often the woman must work to supplement the welfare cheque. In the case where the husband does have a job, usually his income must be supplemented by the woman working. These families will also benefit greatly by the free access to day care centres. These women will be able to limit their problem with free abortions, if need be, and free birth control devices.

Fredericton Women Liberation caucus were present at the Task Force inquiry on December 2 and presented their views on such matters.

Women's liberation is fighting for all women. Most of the members might be typified as middle class but we aren't naive. We know where the problems are and we're attacking them.

She ain't heavy, she's your sister.



"You will meet a beautiful, dark-haired girl from Women's Liberation who will tell you to go to hell."

Quebec: Police State??

QUEBEC CITY (CUPI) - A seven-point program which might be the second step toward a police state in Quebec was unveiled in the Quebec National Assembly Tuesday by Liberal back-bencher Jean Bienvenue - apparently with government approval.

Liberal prime minister Robert Bourassa and "justice" minister Jerome Choquette enthusiastically applauded Bienvenue when he called for stern measures to control violence.

Bienvenue said the government might have to:

- invoke compulsory military services for all Canadian youth
- censorship of news media
- strict control of public demonstrations
- identity cards to be carried by all citizens
- re-institution of capital punishment
- sterner parole policy for prisoners
- and a beefed up police force paid for by reallocating money now used for cultural

exchanges between France and Quebec.

At least one of the measures has already been called for by the government. Choquette said earlier this month Quebecois might be required to carry identification cards to simplify police identification problems. He said he thought

majority of Quebecois would support the move.

Choquette has also been involved in the unofficial censorship of radio and television stations in Quebec; a censorship that was repudiated last week by some of the province's electronic media.

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