

## The head of every woman is a man?

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STU [POL. SCIENCE]

The aggressive masculine-oriented church builder, Paul once declared in Rome, "The head of every man is Christ and the head of every woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God. For the man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman but the woman for the man. Let your women keep silence in the churches, for it is not permitted unto them to speak. And if they would learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home."

These words convey to everybody Paul's notion of absolute superiority of men over women. Christ is the head of every man and God is the head of Christ. True. But is it true that men are superior to women? This article, which is a product of interviews, limited research and personal observation, will try to answer this question and consider some of the allegations of oppression levelled against men by women.

The ancient Hebrews respected loyal and hardworking women and sometimes a good woman would be raised to a superior status. But these were exceptions to the general rule of the supremacy of men. Women were not allowed to stay with men during public worship and men

alone performed the religious rituals.

In ancient Greece, women were socially confined to special rooms where men could not see them and men rarely allowed their wives to take part in activities which could bring them close to other men.

In ancient Rome, women took an insignificant part in law making and law enforcement. They were legally recognized to be imbeciles.

Things have since changed and women living in modern Israel, Greece and Italy are as free as their counterparts in other parts of the world. By saying 'free', however, I do not mean that every woman is responsible for shaping her destiny. The power to do this has long been held by men.

There is widespread belief today that women are being oppressed. During the interviews which I conducted, messrs Ray Lebreton, Louis Zanartu and Peter Macmillan of STU pointed out that women are politically oppressed while Mr. Conrad of UNB merely mentioned some cases of economic and social oppression. One female student even added what she called "psychological oppression", but as I am not psychologist, I leave this for fourth year psychology "experts" to diagnose.

Are women politically oppressed all over the world? No. But there are pockets of political

alienation here and there. Women suffrage which began in England in 1918 following the Representation of the People Act was adopted in the United States in 1920 and by 1936, the Soviet Union under Stalin had given both men and women over 18 years of age the right to vote. Except in some moslem societies where women still cannot vote, I cannot name any countries whose constitutions expressly excludes women from political participation. Even Egypt has given its women the right to vote and these now are perhaps exercising more leadership than the women in any other Arab country.

In the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, China, India, Kenya and Germany, women constitute a reasonable part of the electorate. In the USSR there are 113,557,000 males and 131,255,000 females!

Experience has shown that with

the exception of the women in communist countries and Australia, women in general have so far been apathetic to political issues. Many women do not participate in voting. Even women in universities do not actively participate in voting. Even women in universities do not actively participate in university elections except when they have to elect their "Queen".

Is this not political apathy? People who complain that women are not given the opportunity to hold high political offices must know that in order to have that opportunity, women must maximize the opportunity given them to vote. Barring all miracles, it is impossible for a politically apathetic person to become prime minister or minister of a country overnight.

Both the prime ministers of India and Sri Lanka are women, the present leader of the Conservative Party of Britain is a

women and Golda Mier was for some years the prime minister of Israel. Isabel Peron was for a brief period the president of Argentina. Immediately Mrs. Chiang Ching- Mao saw her husband struggling with death, she started to struggle for the leadership of China. Right now there is a woman in Mr. Trudeau's cabinet.

All these women have been or are politically active in their respective countries. I am sure that as more and more women participate in politics, more women will become political leaders and bureaucrats.

According to my own observation, the Women's Liberation Movement which is now popular in North America, Europe and some other parts of the world is more concerned with the war against

con't on pg 22

## Agreement with Reed Paper criticized

TORONTO (CUP) — The Ontario government signed an agreement, with Reed Paper Ltd. Oct. 26 guaranteeing almost 19,000 square miles of northwestern Ontario forest to the company if forest studies and environmental impact surveys are favorable.

About 10,000 Cree and Ojibway native peoples currently use the land for hunting and fishing. The land is apparently ceded to them under Treaty Nine signed with the federal government in 1905.

The agreement, termed a "memorandum of understanding" by natural resources minister Leo Bernier, was signed in time for tabling on the first day of the provincial legislature fall session. Charging that the agreement smacked of "ill-advised secrecy" New Democratic Party leader Stephen Lewis told the legislature environmental ministry officials believe Bernier's ministry has failed to enforce proper wood-cutting practices.

He produced an internal memo between environmental planning and approvals branches which said natural resources "has failed, by in-house consensus, to control or mitigate bad logging and road-building practices by industry."

The memo said this reflects staff shortages in the ministry and "undue influence by industry... at the political or administrative level."

The memo criticized extensive clear-cutting without adequate re-forestation programs, saying this could lead to a timber shortage by the year 2,000.

Bernier dismissed these memos as "individual opinions."

One group who deplors the signing of the agreement without prior public input is Grand Council Treaty Nine, made up of tribal chiefs from the area.

"Once these things get started they're hard to stop," according to spokesperson Heather Ross, "but it will be stopped."

"People are going to get angry," she said.

The grand council wrote to the government in June asking for a general inquiry into Northern development. This was followed in natives of the White Dog and September with a detailed proposal for the inquiry.

Since their livelihoods have been cut off the natives' welfare thanks for the proposal from the payments have risen to \$270,000 government," which said it would from \$86,000 a year.

look at the suggestions.

Ross said the government's inquiry, set for the Dryden, Ear Falls and Red Lake areas will be "public relations hearings" and are too far from native villages to allow their participation.

The hearings will be conducted by the environment board, set up in April to deal only with government projects. They will study the impact of the pulp mill - which would have to process about 1,000 tons of pulp a day on the region.

Preliminary studies by Reed indicate "limited environmental impact." But those run counter to ongoing Grand Council surveys which say proposed reforestation projects are unfeasible because logging would turn the land into either swamp areas or barren rock.

Although Reed is a large international conglomerate owned in England, recent business reports on the company's Canadian operation have been unfavorable. The proposed expansion into northwestern Ontario would cost about \$400 million and provide 1,200 jobs according to Bernier.

If the project is approved by the environment board and the government, will get a 21-year license to cut timber in the 16,983 square-mile area. The company would have to post a \$500,000 bond and begin construction within two years with a subsequent completion date of no later than 18 months.

Reed Paper first gained notoriety last November when one of its subsidiaries, Dryden Paper Ltd. was ordered to stop pouring mercury into the northwestern Ontario English-Wabigoon river system. Over a 13-year period it dumped 30,000 pounds of mercury into the system, contaminating the fish and bringing the nerve-crippling Minimata disease to development.

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