

B.C. VOICE

5X1974
V65
Pres. Sec. & Treas. Box 235, Nanaimo
Membership, Box 3212, Courtenay
Editor: 843 Prospect, North Van.
November 1971, Vol. 8, No. 2

Deeno's Message:

Dear Friends: It was heartening to see such a large contingent from B.C. at the Banff meeting: 21 in all, representing 11 of our groups. Many thanks to all those who helped to cover travelling expenses. We think we've brought you back your money's worth in the form of food for thought, and plenty of WORK!

Here in brief are some of the goodies - the kind you can really get your teeth into:

1) The Canadian Government's White Paper on Defence Policy

Charlotte McEwen's incisive summary revealed such inconsistencies as: Canada's continued CBW research participation, in spite of Government "concern"; a welcome decision to phase out Bomarc bases, marred by complete failure to keep the Government promise "to minimize the economic effects"; the envisioning of a truce-supervisory role for Canada in Vietnam without first disengaging ourselves from support of U.S. policies there; and, likewise, the pious protesting of incidents such as the Cannikin bomb test while pledging support for the policy behind them (NORAD).

You, either within your group or as an unaffiliated member, are urged to get hold of a copy of the White Paper (from public library or Information Canada Bookstore, 657 Granville St., Vancouver, or Queen's Printer, Ottawa, \$1) and study it thoroughly. Then PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS IMMEDIATELY, to Charlotte (18 -3rd Ave., Ottawa), who is preparing a brief to the Government and a statement to the press.

2) The War Measures Act

VOW, both nationally and locally, is invited to present papers to the Citizens Commission of Inquiry on the W.M.A. Please help! (See notice on Page 5)

3) Restructuring of VOW

We must face the fact that times have changed, that the majority of our members are now working, and that we no longer have volunteers with ample time to run a National organization. It is essential to find a new way to operate effectively, with each member taking on part of the responsibility and work load.

Ursula Franklin has a suggestion (explained by Hilary Brown on Page 3) which met with enthusiasm at Banff. Please read it!

Earnest discussions in every part of every province are called for, relating to the most suitable purpose and structure for VOW in the 70's. Please KEEP SENDING your ideas, your discussion results, to Box 235 Nanaimo, for collation before the mid-winter National Council meeting in March.

4) Amchitka

The whole conception and planning of Cannikin is a trampling of a soulless machine upon the rights of human beings. So is every other issue we discussed at Banff. The words of Quebec VOW delegate Solanges Vincent illumine with a common purpose, every action we considered at the Conference: "PEACE is fine for an abstract ideal for the future, yes. But for now, we fight for JUSTICE." Reporter Margaret Tebbutt, of the Calgary Gauntlet, wrote: "Real change comes through the efforts of those whose whole being is so threatened that they will adopt whatever means are necessary and most effective to assert their right to live."

Yours sincerely,

Deeno Birmingham

President, B.C. Voice of Women

STATEMENT ON AMCHITKA BY KAY MACPHERSON, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF VOW

Following so closely on the blatant disregard for the economies of other countries, shown by Pres. Nixon in the recent imposition of the surcharge, his latest decision to go ahead with the nuclear explosion on Amchitka Island is yet another example of his complete disregard for the well-being of the people of Canada and other countries.

Even the virtually unanimous resolution of the Canadian parliament has had no effect on Mr. Nixon; nor the protest of the Canadian parliamentarians outside the White House; nor the representations of External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp.

Nothing short of a declaration of Canada's intention to withdraw from NORAD, the so-called North American Defence Pact, which puts Canadian air space and Canadian armed forces under the control of such a callous and irresponsible leader, will demonstrate our Government's determination to look after the interests of the Canadian people.

Random Highlights of VOW Conference - Banff, October 1-4

WORKSHOP ON QUEBEC

This session was introduced and chaired by two Quebec delegates, Louise Walker and Solange Vincent. Their outspoken presentation of a "socialiste, indépendiste" view and criticism of present political structures and politicians in Quebec was met with sympathy by the other delegates.

In the discussion, one delegate very sincerely raised the old cliché: "What does Quebec want?" - to be met with predictable scorn for such naiveté. I came to the conclusion that this question arises from a very real contradiction in the separatist position. On the one hand we were told Quebecers want to retain their historic, 350-year old French Canadian Nation and, on the other, we were told that they are not satisfied with their historic, economic and political structures which are exploitive and corrupt. It seems to me that technological progress and political change require a mental and physical adaptability which are contrary to the holding of old established ways. (Report by Alberta VOW)

FOREIGN AID WORKSHOP

Edmonton presented a well-researched, middle-of-the-road paper on foreign aid. Heated discussion revealed a strong difference of opinion on the basic matter of whether foreign aid is justified. Many felt that foreign aid is merely disguised imperialism by the donor and fosters misuse in the recipient, thus doing more harm than good. With some modifications from those who take the position that no "aid", but fair trade is best, the paper's recommendations were adopted as policy.

MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION WORKSHOP (based on paper by Winnipeg VOW)

Canada has allowed the U.S. interests to control her major resources. U.S. companies have subsidiary companies in Canada. Important decisions are made by the officers in the parent companies in the U.S.

Canada's economy is progressively deteriorating under U.S. domination, with vastly increasing deficits in Canadian/U.S. balance of payments. Charts of U.S. industrial controls in Canada show: manufacturing, 60%, petroleum & gas, 74%, mining 59%, aircraft 78%, electronics 77%.

The "Defence Production Sharing Agreement" is one consequence of Canadian compliance at the governmental level with the growing economic and military imperatives of the U.S. One kind of disadvantage to Canada in the manufacture of weapons, was detailed as the requirement that Canadian companies become subsidiaries of U.S. industry in order to obtain needed government contracts.

The myth that foreign control brings money into Canada has also been exploded. Capital inflows from the U.S. to Canada were unchanged in 1960-67, as compared to 1950-59. However, the outflow of profits and interest from Canada increased 94% in that period to an unfavorable 1.7 billion.

The Kraft Food Corp. which got its start by subsidies from the Canadian Gov't, is now putting small cheese factories out of business.

The TEXPACK Company of Brantford was sold to American Hospitals Supply Co. in 1965 and is being systematically phased out in favour of cheap imports from branch plants in any of 120 countries. Workers at the Brantford plant were required to package World War II bandages in containers labelled "Made in Canada".

A Union report sums it up: "Canadians have seen far too many examples in recent months of foreign companies cutting back or closing down their Canadian operations. The instances of Dunlop, Acme Screw & Gear, and Towne & Yale, are cases in point. It is being recognized that in their fight against unemployment, the TEXPACK workers are fighting a battle for the entire Canadian labour movement."

REFERENCES

- "Silent Surrender. The Multinational Corporation in Canada", Kari Levitt (MacMillan)
- "The Canadian Economy & Disarmament", Gideon Rosenbluth (MacMillan)
- "Partner to Behemoth. The Military Policy of a Satellite Canada", J. Warnock (New Press)

Note 1: A full report of the TEXPACK Strike will be sent by Canadian Textile and Chemical Union, 11 George St., Brantford, Ont.

Note 2: Mel Hertig's Minority Poverty Report is recommended supplementary reading.

Note 3: Further information on the TEXPACK situation will be found in the article, "Strike Busting in a Branch Plant", Last Post, Sept./71, which calls it, "A typical case of what frequently happens to a Canadian industry when it is bought out by an American conglomerate - how it affects unemployment, production, and the further subordination of Canadian industry into the multi-nationals' world-wide 'rationalization' plans."

BANFF (cont'd)NEW EARTH VILLAGE

Six secondary school students gave us an account of their experiment to try to understand international trade. They had spent two weeks last summer as part of a group of fifty, in a wilderness location. They divided themselves into three groups - one group had the food; another tools, and the third had access to water. In order to live they had to exchange necessities, involving negotiation. The great thing they learned was the need for co-operation, the realization of interdependence.

Many of the problems the young people faced during the experiment were similar to those we discussed in our Foreign Aid Workshop.

SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKERS

The Conference delegates expressed solidarity with the struggle to end economic exploitation of women in the work force and gave tangible help by taking a collection for the striking workers of TEXPACK, Brantford, Ontario, and of the Sandringham Hospital, Victoria.

* * * * *

(If you wish any of the well-researched position papers used as bases for discussions at Banff, write to: National VOW Office, 1554 - Yonge St., Toronto. Subjects include: Foreign Aid, Multi-National Corporations, Quebec, James Bay Power Development Plan. Also write National for lists of Foreign Ownership of Firms receiving prime defence contracts of \$10,000 or more in 1970.

Lists of products to BOYCOTT, also available from National.)

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP!

At the Banff Meeting the future of VOW's National Office was discussed. Do our members realize that VOW functions with only one part-time paid secretary, and that all the rest of the work is volunteer? During past years we have been extremely fortunate in having Muriel Duckworth in Halifax and Kay Macpherson in Toronto, both able and willing to contribute a large amount of their time and ability to VOW.

This year, no one was willing to take on the President's job which has become more and more demanding. Eventually, Kay Macpherson agreed to become President again, on the understanding that during the next six months, some solution to the problem be worked out. There is a time limit to this arrangement, for Kay will be leaving Canada for an indefinite stay abroad next May. By then, we must fill the gap.

Ursula Franklin, in one of her direct and practical messages, suggested a solution. It was that VOW start looking around for what she called a "liberated voice" (an active member or supporter) who would be available to take on a full-time paid job as Executive Secretary, with funds to enable her to travel and keep contact with VOW groups throughout Canada. This, Ursula felt, would need a 'guaranteed annual income' for VOW of at least \$12,000 a year. She suggested that if 100 members each pledged \$10 a month for two years, this would enable the project to be started. Ursula pledged her own \$10 a month to start the list.

Who, in B.C., will become a sponsor (or co-sponsor) of a "Liberated Voice"? Would anyone who can pledge a monthly (or annual) contribution, large or small, let me know? I will co-ordinate the B.C. list and let National and the B.C. Executive know what B.C. members feel they can do. Apart from individuals, perhaps some of our local groups feel they could pledge an annual contribution. Let's look into this now, so that we can ensure the future of the national VOW.

I await your letters. Please write to:

Hilary, Brown, Heron Rocks, Hornby Island, B.C.

(North Shore VOW has already pledged \$20 per month. - Ed.)

B.C. VOW GROUP ACTIVITIES: Powell River collected 3,091 names on Amchitka petitions in one week! (Some storekeepers even printed more petition forms on their own). Courtenay showed the films: "A UN Conference on Human Survival, 1970" (World Federalist film), and "You Don't Have to Buy War Mrs. Smith" (VOW film) at a public meeting. Hilary Brown led the discussion. Vancouver mailed letters to head offices of all the newspaper chains in the U.S., enclosing Amchitka information. North Shore sent \$25 to help the ship 'Greenpeace Too'.

QUEBEC RESOLUTION (Brief excerpts from opinions of two Nanaimo VOW members)

Edmonton's Resolution, passed unanimously at Banff:

"Voice of Women/La Voix des Femmes, while not in any way telling the province of Quebec what to do or what not to do, unequivocally supports the right of the people of Quebec to self-determination."

Mildred MacLeod:

....If the resolution does not mean that we are encouraging separatism, but merely that we are in sympathy with their struggles, it was unnecessary. We are not silent or apathetic about their problems, though we should no doubt be doing more. If it does encourage separatism, and this is the impression the wording gave me and others, then it was unwise. I think it is a partisan political position, and VOW is supposed to be non-partisan.

....Break-away and independence does not often solve problems which are usually economic. One set of exploiters is exchanged for another....

....If we cannot work out federalism here in Canada....what chance is there for it on a world basis?

There is the whole question of Canada's "self-determination" vis-a-vis the U.S. to consider....Quebec break-away would certainly be to the advantage of American capitalism and it is not inconceivable that the rumor of C.I.A. infiltration into the F.L.Q. has some truth....

Marjorie Stewart:

....If regions want to control their own destiny, how do we stop them?....As to how they (Quebec) would survive without us....I wonder if the average Quebecker would notice much difference in his standard of living, since he only scrapes by on a slightly higher average income than native Indians....Even if he is foolish enough to simply exchange his present exploiters for an indigenous gang, he hasn't much to lose.

To the complaint: "It sounds as if we're encouraging separatism", I can only reply that it doesn't sound that way to me. Self-determination means right of choice. When a child reaches maturity he or she exercises the right of self-determination by taking control of his own affairs. I believe a group of adults of voting age also deserves this right.

Because the Trudeau Government took the undemocratic step of unleashing extraordinary powers against all dissenters instead of coping with legitimate dissatisfaction within Quebec; because the Parti Quebecois polled 24% of the provincial vote (in spite of widespread intimidation) and gained only 6% of seats in the legislature; because Quebeckers are subjected to all-pervasive discrimination in their homeland and see no hope of its end, English Canadians must now face the reality that Quebec may not be able to stomach confederation much longer. If we keep silent, we imply nothing but consent with the status quo in Quebec.

* * * * *

(Editor's thought: Most of us support the East Pakistanis' right to self-determination, after their many years of exploitation by the more powerful West Pakistanis.)

ECOLOGY

Eve Smith, Ecology Chairman, recently attended the founding meeting of the Canadian Assoc. for Human Environment (CAHE), whose purpose is to unite the efforts of the many anti-pollution and conservation groups across Canada. First global conference on human environment will be in Stockholm next year.

For fast way to learn history of destruction of world's environment, read "Wilderness & Plenty" by Frank Darling (a Friends of the Earth, Ballantine Book, 95¢).

Information on recycling can be obtained from the following:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Recycle
4026 Borden St.
<u>Victoria</u> (phone 479-1015) | Joshua Society
115 E. 2nd Ave.
<u>Vancouver</u> (phone 782-8674) | Eve Smith
RR 1, Port Washington
<u>South Pender Island</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|

SUN. NOV. 7 Crew of 'Greenpeace' will speak at Unitarian Church service in West Van. Community Centre, 10:30 a.m. Bill Terry of SPEC is chairman.

VOW FEES: \$5 (Vancouver \$6); \$12 sustaining; \$1 for those under 21 and over 65

The Women's Movement today is saying some very important things, messages we might miss if we hear only the shouts of 'Abortion on Demand' and 'Equal pay for equal work'. Just as historians have constructed their neat accounts of wars and revolutions and economic turmoil without reference to male-female relationships, so too might we talk about women's rights without understanding the dreadful consequences that befall not only women but all society when those rights are withheld and ridiculed.

Theodore Roszak is one of the new social scientists who is looking at history -- and especially its wars -- as crises in sexual stereotyping. In pointing up the accounts of the origins of the First World War, he suggests that perhaps the historians have seen only the forest, and he quotes a passage from one of the early suffragettes to focus our attention on the trees.

"A civilization made by men only is a civilization which defies the law of nature, which defies the law of right government.

"This great war...is Nature's vengeance upon the people who held women in subjection, and by doing that have destroyed the perfect, human balance...

When the law of right government is defied -- the law that men and women shall cooperate in managing their affairs -- we have a civilization imperfect, unjust, savage at its best and foredoomed to destruction....That which has made men for generations past sacrifice woman and the race to their lusts, is now making them fly at each other's throats, and bring ruin upon the world."

(Christabel Pankhurst, The Suffragette, August 7, 1914)

The pre-World War II masculine "virtues" of toughness, ruthlessness and contempt for women have been programmed into our war lords of today who talk of 'megadeath' as just another reality of life. If, in their struggle for equal voice in a male-dominated society, women take upon themselves these so-called "masculine virtues", then their revolution will prove to be only a reinforcement of brutality and warfare. What the world needs is not more brute force and subjugation of minority groups, but rather a world-wide epidemic of those virtues which society traditionally has labelled "feminine": compassion, understanding, gentleness.

Women's liberation means the liberation of men too, liberation from the stereotyped role of warrior, hard-headed business man, cut-throat competitor. "The heart of the matter," to quote Roszak, is this: "There are no masculine and feminine virtues. There are only human virtues." (T. Roszak, "The Hard and the Soft")

- Carolyn Kline

CAVC fall rummage sale raised \$643 for the children of Vietnam. Sheila Young extends her sincere thanks for all the contributions of goods and help.

WAR MEASURES ACT - YOUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

The Citizens Committee of Enquiry will hold hearings in Vancouver November 26 & 27. B.C. Voice of Women will be presenting a brief. Mail your submissions immediately so that they can be included, to:

Miss Freda Handford, 2925 Mathers Ave., West Vancouver
or to Mrs. Albert E. Stewart, RR 3, Nanaimo

What is being looked for:

- 1) Why was the W.M.A. invoked in peace time?
- 2) How did the W.M.A. and subsequent legislation affect civil liberties?
- 3) Are we aware of any abuses of civil liberties beyond the scope of the W.M.A.?
- 4) What do we consider to be the roots of the crisis in Quebec and Canada?
- 5) What is the state of civil liberties in Canada subsequent to invocation of the Act?
- 6) Should the W.M.A. be repealed, amended or replaced by alternative legislation?
- 7) Consider the W.M.A. and Canadian federalism.

Material is particularly wanted on how the Act affected the climate outside Quebec, arousing suspicions of individuals or groups, limiting freedom of speech and writing, causing censorship (self-imposed, too) in the media, etc. Specific incidents, dates and places should be included if possible. Of particular concern in B.C. is the Order-in-Council passed to gag teachers. A comparison between the crisis as reported and the facts as learned later, might also prove instructive, as might also a poll of your neighborhood opinion. Leads could be sought from local teachers, lawyers and civil liberties associations.

NEW BLUE BROCHURE ** Please fold enclosed brochure, right-side in and mail to a non-member. (No envelope) For more copies: Lin Latham, 8758 Armstrong St., Burnaby 3.

TO HONOUR MURIEL DUCKWORTH, B.C. VOW has donated \$50 to the Children's Committee, CAVC.

1. Have you heard about the questionnaire being circulated by Voice of Women? YES ___ NO ___
2. Have you heard about Voice of Women? (It is a Canadian organization of women who came together 10 years ago at the time that massive nuclear tests were polluting the atmosphere, to take responsibility, individually and in groups, for building a peaceful world.) YES ___ NO ___
3. Did you know that Canada exported over \$500 million in armaments last year, mostly to the U.S., part of which goes to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, etc.? YES ___ NO ___
4. Did you know that NATO agreements require Canadian manufacturers to get approval of the U.S. Gov't before selling arms to any nation? YES ___ NO ___
5. Did you know that it takes about a ton of nickel for every B-52 Jet Bomber? (to line the exhaust tubes) YES ___ NO ___
6. Did you know that over 85% of the nickel used in the U.S. comes from Canada? YES ___ NO ___
7. Did you know that most of the companies selling resources like oil or nickel are not under Canadian control? YES ___ NO ___
8. Would you like to see Canadian resources and Canadian Research and Development devoted to positive human betterment, e.g. housing, medical care, pollution-free transportation, instead of helping to rain destruction on Vietnam? YES ___ NO ___
9. In view of the revelations which came out in the Pentagon Reports, which indicated that Canada might have helped bring the war to an end years ago if she had taken a firm position (Sen. Gruening), should we now refuse to allow export of nickel, oil, etc. until the U.S. pulls out of Indochina? Mr. Trudeau once remarked that we could stop the war in a month by refusing to ship our nickel to the U.S. YES ___ NO ___

Age group: Under 18() 18-30() Over 30() Occupation.....
 (optional) Name..... Address..... Date.....

Send completed questionnaires as soon as possible to VOW, 18 - 3rd Ave., Ottawa

Ben Metcalfe, crew member of 'Greenpeace', will address a luncheon at Capilano Gardens, Wed. Nov. 10, 12:00. Admission \$2.50. Contact Robyn Smith, 1010 Braeside, West Van., phone 922-4714, if you are coming. Sponsored by North Shore VOW.

COMING EVENTS

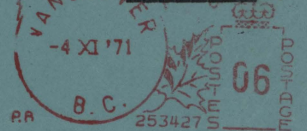
Panels will discuss philosophical & legal aspects of social change
 Nov. 9 "Why should one disobey rules?"
 " 16 "Gastown riot and the proper place for civil disobedience"
 " 23 "What is violence?"
 Place: Simon Fraser University, Room AQ 9200. Time: 12:30-2:30

Public lectures on Energy & Environment at Vancouver Planetarium
 Nov. 11 Prof. Wesley Foell, U. of Wisconsin: "Fast Breeder Reactors"
 " 18 UBC Prof. Michael Goldberg, Co-director, Regional Studies Simulation
 " 25 Peter Larkin, Prof. of Institution Resources Ecology
 Dec. 2 Dick Bocking, CBC TV producer: Film on Energy in Canada
 " 9 Hon. Jack Davis, Min. of Environment

Dr. Bert Pfeiffer, back from latest trip to Indochina in August
 Popular zoologist from U. of Montana will talk and show his newest films of devastation in Indochina, including operations of the big new Rome plows. Wed. Nov. 17, 8 p.m., Unitarian Church, 49th & Oak. Folksinger Vera Johnson as well.

CAVC Party and Raffle Draw
 Fri., Nov. 26th, 8 p.m., Alexandra Neighborhood House, 1726 W. 7th. Raffle winners will be drawn for the \$500 diamond ring, 17 jewel watch and many other prizes. If you want last minute raffle tickets (50¢, 3/\$1), call Sheila Young, RE 3-9018. There will be white elephant and bakery tables. Also music, Ad. Free

Return address:
 843 Prospect Ave.
 North Vancouver



Mrs. J.W. Kenwood,
 3210 Aldridge,
 VICTORIA, B.C.