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THE B.C.

VOICE

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THE B.C. VOW NEWSLETTER, published every 2 months by B.C. Voice of Women
President, Editor & Treasurer: Box 235, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5K9
Membership Chairman: 938 West 16th Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 1R3

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Dear Voice of Women Members and Friends:

I have just returned from our Annual Conference at Squamish.

I wish that all of you had been able to be there. I think it would have been a source of inspiration to you; that is what it was for me.

Spending two days in the company of people who are able, dedicated, and compassionate, has renewed my spirit. It has made me feel that I want to work harder than ever at the task ahead of us.

During the next few months the emphasis for most of us will be on trying to persuade people to actively support disarmament.

During the coming year we shall continue our fight against the nuclear industry and all the other activities which contribute to the degradation of our environment.

Also, in the coming year we will address ourselves to the International Year of the Child (IYC). The Canadian Committee for 1979, IYC, has endorsed and adopted as its theme the United Nations' "Declaration of the Rights of the Child": "Mankind owes to the child the best that it has to give."

If we and others who have similar aims could achieve our goal, we could give the child a world free from war and the threat of war and a planet still capable of sustaining life.

sincerely,

Jean Craig.

\$\$\$ ANNOUNCEMENT \$\$\$

B.C. VOW regrets the fact that due to rising costs it has been found necessary to raise the fee for subscriptions to the VOICE to \$4.00.
Subscriptions will still be included with membership fees.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONSTHE LIFE AND DEATH OF ANNA MAE AQUASH

"Anna Mae Aquash was a Canadian victim in the secret war between the FBI, the RCMP and the American Indian Movement. Two years have passed since her body was discovered in South Dakota and still the ominous shadow of an execution and murder cover-up haunts those who are seeking to explain Anna Mae's death . . .

"Who killed Anna Mae Aquash and why? The events of her life and death make this a fascinating and disturbing book. Author Johanna Brand spent a year learning about Anna Mae Aquash and researching the circumstances surrounding her death. A native of the Netherlands, she grew up in Sarnia, Ontario, and worked as a reporter for the Sarnia Observer and the Winnipeg Tribune. She now lives in Winnipeg.

Published by James Lorimer & Co - \$12.95 cloth \$6.95 paper.

- ** CANADA AND THE U.N. SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT - by Wm. Epstein.
A 41 page study, or brief; a most comprehensive, readable, intelligent history of the problems of disarmament. It includes a 5 page overview of Canada's relationship - and obligations - to the development of a reasonable program of disarmament. *****
- ** A packet from the American Friends Service Committee includes the following:
- The Doomsday Strategy - Sidney Lens
 - Swords into Ploughshares - a program for conversion - Derek Shearer
 - Meeting facilitation: The no magic method - Berit Lakey
 - Agents of Nonviolent Change - Marjorie Hope/James Young
- ** BROCHURE ON SOLAR CONFERENCE: "RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES"- to be held by the Solar Energy Society of Canada, Inc., August 20-24, 1978, at the U. of Western Ontario. Address information requests to P.O. Box 2220, Station 'A', London, Ontario. N6A 4E3
- ** SUGAR AND SUGARWORKERS: a popular report of the international sugar-workers conference - a GATT-Fly study done in Feb. 1978. Available on loan from Lit. Comm. or by purchase (\$2.00) from GATT-fly, 11 Madison Ave., Toronto. M5R 2S2
- TWO EXCELLENT LOCAL JOURNALS:
- Energy file [devoted to energy crises in B.C.]
105-2511 East Hastings St., Vancouver. - 5 issues - \$5.00
 - Sea Otter [a Vancouver Island conservation magazine, with correspondents in Duncan, Parksville, Port Alberni, Campbell River]. P.O. Box 1749, Victoria. - - 12 issues - \$5.00 (in Can.)
- ** INSIGHT - If you've known this magazine in the past, or are acquainted with the excellent, informative and devoted work of John Moelart, the announcement of his hope to revive the publication of INSIGHT (which some time ago had to be given up for economic reasons) will be welcome news. Brochures are available from Lit. Comm.
- ** ** Vow Literature Committee - for above items available on loan -
C/o Mary Cox, R.R. 1, Fanny Bay, B.C. VOR LWO

Many thanks to those who helped with the VOICE by sending in letters and articles.

THE CANDU SAFETY MYTH

Since November, 1975 CCNR have been asking the Federal Government for an independent inquiry into the whole nuclear industry in Canada, and on May 27, 1977 representatives from across Canada met with Minister of Energy Alastair Gillespie in Ottawa and presented him with thousands of names (25,000 from B.C.) requesting the inquiry. The reply was that since the Royal Commission on Electric Planning in Ontario (the Porter Commission) was covering the subject, a further inquiry was unnecessary.

However, the AECL spent \$996,644 in one year on PR men and glossy booklets to sell the nuclear industry to the people of Canada, and the Canadian Nuclear Association allocated \$500,000 to explain nuclear power to the public and produced an 8-page supplement which was distributed in the 10 June issue of the Financial Post.

In April of this year the Federal Cabinet announced that they were granting \$200,000 to the Science Council and the Royal Society of Canada to form a Committee on Nuclear Issues in the Community to act as an information centre on nuclear issues and allay the fears of the public about nuclear power. CCNR and Energy Probe charged that unless both sides of the nuclear debate were presented, the \$200,000 program could become nothing more than propaganda to promote the nuclear industry, and asked for equal funding to prepare educational materials and present them in co-operation with the Committee when it visits the communities involved. This request was refused.

On May 6 the Globe and Mail announced the resignation of Dr. Pierre Dansereau, co-chairman of the Committee. Dansereau said the Committee "looked like a whitewash". He said that the only real meeting the Committee had held left him with many misgivings. When he had suggested a representative of CCNR, the other co-chairman, James Harrison (one of the three members of the Hare Report on the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes, and formerly of AECL) replied that "We are interested in information, not emotions."

Jeff Carruthers wrote (Globe and Mail, May 29): "The Committee stops short of the national inquiry into Canada's nuclear development, that has been demanded by anti-nuclear groups in recent months - which will likely be regarded as good news by the nuclear industry."

As a concession the Committee added journalist Keith Spicer, Pat Moore of Greenpeace, resource economist David Brooks and a nuclear engineer Daniel Rozon to the Committee. Further, they have invited as consultants Dr. A.M. Aiken, former AECL official, Dr. Gordon Edwards of CCNR and Dr. Roger Macqueen, president of the Geological Assn. of Canada. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. Dymie Hunka c/o the Science Council, 150 Kent Street, Ottawa (615-995-8718).

Meanwhile Gordon Edwards has been submitting reports to the Porter Commission and cross-questioning witnesses, and on June 7, write in a letter to Commissioner Dr. Arthur Porter: "It is apparent from the enclosed documents [five in number] that profound changes are now taking place in the field of CANDU safety analysis, CANDU Safety Philosophy, AECB Licensing Criteria and Radiation Standards for Public Exposure in Emergency Situations. These changes are obviously of the first importance

(Cont'd)

in evaluating the status of CANDU safety, since reassurances given in official reports (including the Safety Reports for the operating reactors and official submissions to the Royal Commission) are now admitted to be untrue and margins of safety which are referred to in these reports are now known to be non-existent.

"By not calling these matters to the attention of the Commission, even under extensive cross-examination on closely related matters dealing with accident circumstances, I feel that the bodies involved have acted in contempt of the Commission. These bodies are AECB, and especially Ontario Hydro. I find it inexcusable that these bodies would countenance the possibility of a Royal Commission publishing a Report on nuclear Power without being informed of these matters.... Withholding information from the public is bad enough - but withholding it from decision makers is, to me, appalling."

Edwards points out also, in the letter, that AECL is proceeding right on schedule with plans for a reprocessing plant, again disregarding the Commission as well as the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, which has scarcely begun its detailed investigation of the Hare Report on waste disposal.

Speaking on CBC Radio News (6:00 p.m., June 14) Edwards said that the permissible dose levels set by AECB cannot be met, that the safety devices cannot control the emission of radioactive gases, and that the levels would have to be raised by a factor of four. All this when new studies on the effects of low-level radiation reveal disturbing new findings, of which the public and nuclear workers may be the victims.

Edwards insists that Dr. Porter is an honourable man, but that he has been deceived. This fact has been borne out by Porter's letter (June 9) to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Globe and Mail, June 13) in which he refers to "serious concerns with respect to the safety of existing nuclear power stations in Ontario." Dr. Porter says that "responsible organizations" which may have known of inadequate safety measures failed to tell the Commission, and Dr. Porter will now delay the interim report due in July, until September.

These disclosures about CANDU certainly won't help their sagging sales. They need to sell four reactors a year to make the nuclear industry viable. The present average is just over one a year (whether they sell them or give them away). They are currently trying to sell four CANDUs to Japan, and John Schriever writing from Tokyo for the Financial Post (May 27) suggests that Canada may guarantee a uranium supply 'carrot' to boost Canada's sales. If they are counting on B.C. uranium to help supply the uranium, they may lose out on two counts: the disclosures on CANDU's shortcomings, and public opposition to uranium mining in British Columbia.

Lille D'Easum
104-2127 West 40th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.
V6M 1W4

REPORT ON B.C. V.O.W. CONFERENCE:

The B.C. Voice of Women held their fifteenth annual conference, May 12-14, at the Easter Seal Camp, Squamish. The meeting began Friday evening with games illustrating the difficulty of exchanging goods and services if money becomes valueless. The main program started early Saturday with a message from the retiring president, Florence Stanton, followed by Lille d'Easum with an account of the dangers of uranium mining, both to mine workers and the public. "Are Our Freedoms Eroding", a talk by John Stanton showed how badly the Bill of Rights protects the average Canadian citizen against injustices now the police are armed with sophisticated methods of spying on us and the keeping of secret files - Jack Barrett told us about the fight of a tiny group of citizens against the provincially owned corporation, B.C. Hydro and Power Authority. Lasqueti Islanders object most heartily to a proposed high voltage power line being built across their beautiful unspoilt island, without any benefit to them. They do not believe any increased demand for electric power will occur in the near future to justify this attack on their environment. Is this power line a first step towards a nuclear power station on Vancouver Island?

The afternoon session began with a panel discussion, "Is B.C. Hydro following the Right Path?" Open to the public, Cathy Walker, Executive Secretary, CAIMAN, representing labour, Tim Newton - B.C. Hydro, and Allan Cox, U.B.C. student - Economics. Tim Newton explained in some considerable detail why residents paid a higher rate for power than big industrial users. He said the present policy of B.C. Hydro was to encourage people to build solar houses. Mayor Pat Brennan, of Squamish, asked some searching questions about chemical spraying under power lines which has justifiably aroused much resentment against B.C. Hydro. On this topic he got no answers. The consensus of opinion among VOW members is that a Royal Commission should investigate the present policies of B.C. Hydro, to establish greater control over this monopoly.

Mary Thomson, our VOW delegate on the Ad Hoc Committee for Disarmament, gave a report on the efforts of this group in arousing public opinion about the United Nations Official Session on Disarmament commencing May 27. Displays and information are already in many local libraries.

Saturday evening a new slate of officers for the B.C. VOW Executive was elected, the president, Jean Craig is a North Vancouver resident.

Sunday morning was spent in making plans for activities against nuclear energy use, for disarmament, against Trident submarines, present expansion policies of B.C. Hydro, and the conversion of the war industry to peaceful manufactures.

[Report by Freda Handford]

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BANGOR

At the May demonstrations in Wash., 4000 members of 22 affinity groups participated in two mass actions that saw 300 of them go over the fence at the Trident submarine base. On both occasions they were taken to Seattle and Tacoma and charged with trespass. Five persons who had had previous convictions will appear at a later date but all others were later released. The action was successful in forcing a weight on the courts to raise the issue of Trident's threat to world peace. Of the 22 affinity groups that participated 10 were Canadian. The Canadian groups are now in the process of planning for future strategy.

WAR ON WASTE

"Some experts estimate that enough food is thrown away in the U.S.A. each day to feed China's 650 million for several days."

This was the beginning of an interesting letter from Helen Borrell of Vancouver, which pointed out that chronic world hunger, in spite of all the warnings, has now become famine slightly ahead of the predicted time.

It is suggested that women can fight a war on waste in their own homes by avoiding over-large servings; not over-buying perishables; and using left-overs in casserole dishes etc. Visiting privileges in restaurant kitchens and "open-house" days at universities, hospitals, and other public institutions would give an individual or a group or club the opportunity "to demand the facts and figures to show how much food goes from our dining-places to the garbage dump."

"Certainly - and lamentably - our food-filled garbage cans are only one part of our continent-wide waste. But this is an evil which you and I can correct - if we hurry up. The demands of the hunger-plagued world, and our own abuse of our farmland and pollution of our waters, are driving us to a food-scarce time. Should even moderate food-rationing be necessary, we'll be unable to adjust to it, unless we conserve our present bounty."

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Following are interesting excerpts from LA WISP, May/78, - newsletter for Women Strike for Peace, 5539 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90019:

An excellent article PARENTS AND CHILDREN by Richard M. Powell, deals with the tragedy of the widespread and steadily increasing use of drugs by children in their early teens (and even younger). Mr. Powell asks the question "How have the lives of our children suddenly become so barren, so hopeless that they seek to draw a chemical veil over these very precious teen-age years? After listing the many usual answers it is suggested that we imagine looking through our children's eyes at what they see.

It is pointed out that if the U.S.A. has a national goal, it is to remain the strongest military power in the world, and also the richest. Not the most peaceful, not the most literate and thoughtful, not the most helpful to other nations. - Just the strongest and the richest.

"And children are perceptive. They know that adults tell lies; they know that we even lie to ourselves. We profess to believe in a future, yet we dig up, cut down, burn, and pollute on a scale that betrays us - our actions are not those of a trustee generation but of the final generation.

"There will have to be far-reaching changes in our society - we adults will have to clean up our own act - before we can expect our kids to become willing recruits to the American way of life."

[Since our Canadian way of life is similarly involved, this advice would apply also to Canadian parents (and politicians)]

Illustrating how deadly spent nuclear fuel is, Dr. Helen Caldicott says if a single 12-foot irradiated rod were laid on the ground, a motorcyclist speeding by at 90 miles an hour would die from the exposure. (Nuclear Opponents, Mar.23/78)

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Britain's Friends of the Earth have their own shirts which warn, "The only safe fast breeder is a rabbit!"

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RE: NEUTRON BOMB:

The following item, from the Manchester Guardian weekly edition, March 21/77, illustrates the research that went on in connection with the NEUTRON BOMB, or - the "Reduced Blast-Enhanced Radiation Warhead" as the Pentagon would prefer to call it:

"The experiments were disclosed at an international conference on radiobiology in Puerto Rico... The experiments are intended to provide detailed information about how long human beings can function after massive radiation exposure from new types of US tactical radiological weapons. . . .

The animal "research" accompanying their development is said to have sickened even hardened delegates at the conference.

Scientists watched the dying monkeys to see for how long military personnel could continue to drive tanks and fire weapons after irradiation at various distances from a low air burst....

Within the highest radiation areas all would eventually die, and in a much larger zone many would eventually die. But the tactical question is for how long those doomed could function? The only existing information about human performance after high radiation doses comes from Nagasaki and Hiroshima and, until the US experiments, only broad categories of damage and death times were available.

(The monkeys were given)?.. disciplined training in the driving of simulated vehicles, so that their performance after irradiation and burn damage could be accurately measured. Doses of neutrons or gamma rays of more than 500 rems (the rem is a measure of radiation damage) are usually fatal within a few weeks, but those receiving such a dose would be able to function for an hour or two before the onset of radiation sickness.

In the experiment the monkeys were subjected to doses ranging from 2,500 rems to 20,000 rems, a range that is so high that death occurs within one or two days from the destruction of the lungs or nervous system. In the intermediate range, incapacitation is again almost immediate and ability is seriously impaired until death, while in the lower lethal ranges (2,500 to 3,500 rems) incapacity occurs within five minutes but, after about three-quarters of an hour, there is a partial recovery of ability. Function is impaired until death which occurs after about four to six days.

But to simulate the searing effects of high temperature which would also affect those close to ground zero, the monkey experiments also involved radiation in conjunction with burn damage. The experimental programme is reported to be still incomplete and being continued at the US Navy's Research Centre at Bethesda."

[In Dr. Rosalie Burtell's address in Victoria she pointed out that recent hearings were to consider reducing permissible radiation levels from 5 to 0.1 for workers and from .5 to .01 for the general population.]

The above excerpt is reminiscent of Wm. Shirer's "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" Book Five - 'The Medical Experiments'.

STAR WARS:

Dorothy Norvell has an interesting review of this movie in the Halifax VOW Newsletter for April.

"From a delightful fantasy the film switches to a pretty ordinary good-guys..bad-guys, our-side-is-right war movie....The story is set up so that if "our" side doesn't blow up the huge space station from which "Empire" controls the planets, "Empire" will destroy us. There are only seconds left of course. First strike is essential."

Dorothy reminds us that contrary to the film's message we live on one planet; that our so-called enemies are fellow human beings - not robots under the command of the devil; that plutonium is a radioactive poison and its use in nuclear bombs is a threat to all - a saviour of none; and that religious messages do not instruct us on when and where to drop bombs. Dorothy adds that we should keep our ability to think for ourselves on full alert - we are going to need it!

President:	Jean Craig	3714 Dollarton H'way Nth Vancouver, V7G 1A2	929-1377
1st Vice President:	Marion Shipley	2079 Viewlynn Drive, Nth Vancouver, V7S 2W7	
2nd Vice President:	Pat Boulding	R.R.2, Nanaimo, V9R 5K2	754-5819
Corresponding Secretary:	Freda Handford	2925 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver, V7V 2J7	922-3590
Membership Chairman:	Pearl Barrett	938 West 16th St., Nth Vancouver, V7P 1R3	988-4449
Newsletter Editor:	Eileen Kenwood	3210 Aldridge St., Victoria. V8P 4L6	592-9548
Circulation Manager:	Deeno Birmingham	R.R.3, Courtenay. V9N 5M8	
Energy:	Lille d'Easum	104-2127 West 40th Ave., Vancouver. V6M 1W4	263-7831
Environment:	Alice Coppard	3360 East 5th Avenue, Vancouver. V5M 1P4	253-3625
Literature:	Mary Cox	R.R.1, Fanny Bay, VOR 1W0	335-0393
Treasurer:	Joan Jennings	124 East Kings Road, Nth Vancouver. V7N 1H5	987-5571
Members at Large:	Irene Abbey	26963 18th Avenue, R.R.3, Aldergrove VOX 1A0	856-6121
	Muriel Gough Azmier	1821 Fern Street, Victoria V8R 4V4	595-6889
	Martin Rossander	Centennial Drive, R.R.1, Powell River. V8A 4Z2	485-6455
	Peggy Rutherford	P.O. Box 14, Hedley VOX 1K0	292-8311
	Robyn Smith	1010 Braeside, W. Vancouver. V7T 2K8	922-4714
	Mary Thomson	4107 West 13th Avenue, Vancouver. V6R 2T5	224-0468

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\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES? \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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Return Address:

Editor, B.C. Voice,
Box 235, Nanaimo, B.C.
V9R 5K9