

# VOICE

THE B.C. VOW NEWSLETTER, published every 2 months by B.C. VOICE OF WOMEN  
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## P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Dear VOW Members:

As 1976 winds down, we in VOW are being confronted with evermore things in which we must participate. These include hearings - one recently was sponsored by the Department of Education on the subject of Community Adult Education; Lille d'Easum and Soono Engineer each presented splendid papers.

Very recently there was a lecture-discussion Symposium\* on "The Conserver Society": this is to be followed in the Spring by two more sessions which, of course, tie right in with our own plans for a Spring Annual Meeting with the theme "Moving Towards A New Society". (SEE BELOW)

Many of our members in and around Vancouver were fortunate to meet the Japanese Peace Delegation when they stopped here en route home from a meeting with the United Nations Association in New York on the matter of achieving World Peace.

→ Your letters and representations to members of governments and other organizations are most important - let's all try to keep them flowing.

It is my sincere hope that 1977 will bring us closer to a peaceful and rewarding era.

The very best to all, FLORENCE M. STANTON.

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→ ARROWS are for Action! Watch for our ARROWS through these pages. →

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### \*THE CONSERVER SOCIETY

The event Florence mentions - "Work As Play" (in November) - was the first of a series of three workshops exploring the implications of Moving Towards A Conserver Society in a Canadian context. The second, "Doing More With Less", will take place in Feb. 1977; and the last, "Less Is Possible", in March 1977.

This exciting and highly relevant program is sponsored by the Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research and the Centre for Continuing Education (UBC), in co-operation with the Community Planning Association of Canada. Their descriptive booklet, Moving Towards A Conserver Society, is not only a joy to read, but it might have been written especially for B.C. VOW members in preparation for their own "New Society" meeting next Spring. The bibliographies are particularly relevant to our purpose. All members and concerned non-members - would do well to obtain a copy as soon as possible.

Write or phone:

Centre for Continuing Education, University of B.C., Vancouver. 228-2181

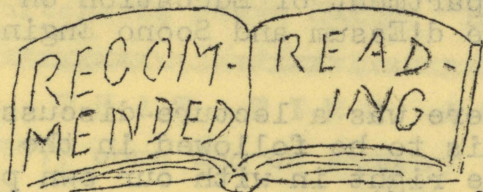
R I G H T F O R I N F O R M A T I O N

FREDA HANDFORD'S letter on this subject to newspaper editors should inspire us to write ourselves. Excerpts follow:-

"A private bill, C225 - Right For Information Act, had its first reading on Oct. 15, 1976, but is not yet the law of the land. It is an act respecting the right of the public to information concerning the public business. One would think such a right would be obvious in a democracy and wonder why Gerald Baldwin, MP, thought it necessary to sponsor such a bill.

"Many decisions made by politicians and civil servants are based, or supposed to be based, on facts. Our tax money is spent on ascertaining these facts. We, the public, think we should have access to such facts so that we either oppose or agree with decisions affecting our environment or our future prosperity.

"... Concerned citizens should write to their Members of Parliament in Ottawa in support of this Bill. Yours truly, FREDA HANDFORD."



B.C. VOW Literature Committee . . . . . Mary Cox, R.R. 1, Fanny Bay, B.C.

Our list this time consists of notices of 2 more books on nuclear energy, followed by 3 reviews. The reviews are of 3 books which we consider sufficiently important to deserve three whole pages of the Voice. We suggest you peruse pages 3-5, and order the books at your local library.

NUCLEAR ENERGY: The Unforgiving Technology - by Dr. Fred Knelman  
Hurtig Publishers, 10560 - 105 St., Edmonton, Alta. T5H 2W7

"In a chilling and incisive analysis of the real risks inherent in messing about with the unforgiving atom, F.H. Knelman conclusively demonstrates that a future geared to nuclear power may well prove fatal - not to man alone, but to all of animate creation. He shows that we do not need to run such risks; and he unmask and identifies the Dr. Strangeloves of Canadian politics, industry and science who are insisting that we must learn to love the nuclear power plant ... even if it kills us. If you value your own - and your children's - future, read this book, and act upon the knowledge it contains." - Farley Mowat.

In Nuclear Energy, Dr. F.H. Knelman ...exposes bias, conflict of interest, and deliberate misinformation on the part of those who have been making our decisions for us. He shows that nuclear energy is costlier, more dangerous, less efficient, and less dependable than any of several alternative energy systems - and that it is ultimately unnecessary.

UNACCEPTABLE RISK: The Nuclear Power Controversy - by McKinley C. Olson  
Bantam Books, Inc., Aug. 1976; 309pp; ONLY \$1.35 from Mary Cox  
(address above)

"The first book to portray the extraordinary human drama behind the controversy - the gripping story of nuclear power pioneers and advocates and of men and women who have risked their jobs - and even their lives - to oppose nuclear energy." (publisher's blurb). Of great value to campaign planners, in the recounting of the successes and failures of various strategies used by nuclear energy antagonists in the past.

# REVIEWS

MOVING TOWARD A NEW SOCIETY - by Susanne Gowan, George Lakey, William Moyer and Richard Taylor.

New Society Press, Philadelphia; 1976; 296pp; \$3.00 from Mary Cox.

A review by SHELLEY DOUGLASS in F.O.R.'s Fellowship Magazine.

"Moving Toward a New Society", the new book out of the Philadelphia Life Center, is one of the most important books I've read this year.

My prevailing reaction is one of pure excitement that such thoughtful and creative thinking is going on in the movement, full of careful research and documentation. The section on what's wrong with American society is impressive in its thoroughness. The analysis is coherent and pointed, making plain the many global interconnections which keep the USA and Canada at the top of the heap, supported by a large part of the rest of the world. The presentation is necessarily abbreviated, but I found that it held together very well. The exhaustive footnotes (up to 128 for one chapter) are essential because those of us who share the basic analysis used by the writing collective must go to sources beyond their book for further information and understanding. Indeed, the book gives us a chance to test, prove and criticise the work of the collective. But, as someone involved with the movement for social change outside of the USA, I wish there had been more world emphasis - analysis of power relationships between the USA, USSR and China; suggestions for inclusion of international movement strategies, etc. Such emphasis was largely beyond the task of the present book, but it is the task of the movement. Perhaps the authors' careful work will inspire others to similar efforts. (Our own group\* in Canada has been moved to begin such an analysis of the Canadian scene.)

/\*Pacific Life Community. - Ed. 7

Throughout the book the authors take what seems to me to be a very optimistic view of human nature. Their "prescription for change" amounts to putting people in charge of decision-making, while their analysis of evil blames "the system" for the world as it is and looks to an enlightened people to change it, even though this means "de-development" (giving up luxury). I agree, but if we are to be realistic in planning for social change, we need to recognize the shadow side of our humanity, the greed and selfishness in all of us. "The people" and "the system" aren't separate entities. They are inextricably entwined. We are both the problem and the solution, and the mystery of evil is hidden within ourselves. Because of this I think we must go more deeply than this book suggests into nonviolence as a spiritual force of transformation. The mystical aspect of change needs to be clarified - the relationship, for example, of simple living to voluntary poverty or asceticism, and the connection between struggle and death with celebration.

It is refreshing to read a description of a more radical, humanly-oriented society and a scenario of how it might be brought about. There is an enormous difference between that worldview and the apocalyptic scenes I see around me, scenes full of despair and impending destruction. The author's visions are invaluable, necessary and indispensable. But we need also to keep in touch with the tension of reality: most of the world is involved in a life-or-death struggle, and we may not have time to win. Every person who starves is one too many; any radioactive leak or atomic explosion is one too many. Not many of us have the time and resources to plot scenarios and plan strategies. Those of us who do must not forget the urgency of those who don't. The apocalyptic mood has its drawbacks, one of them being the tendency to posture self-righteously while doing nothing practical to prevent destruction, but it is real: every day is the last day for a large part of our race. Every day is too late. Somehow we must deal with that urgency.

One other unclear aspect of the prescription for social justice was the attitude toward big government. I was unable to define what sort of government was envisioned, how big, how organized - and how, if it was to have the functions I understood, it could be prevented from becoming a bureaucratic morass.

→ Gowan, Lakey, Moyer and Taylor should receive from all of us immense appreciation for all the work, thought, and love that went into this book. It, and the questions it raises, will be extremely good medicine for a movement often guilty of lazy, fuzzy thinking.

NUCLEAR POWER - by Walter C. Patterson. Penguin, 1976; 304pp; \$3.95

A review by LILLE D'EASUM in Vancouver Sun Leisure Magazine, Sep. 9, '76

This book is being used as a text for a UBC Applied Science course on nuclear energy.

NUCLEAR POWER is the first handbook of information about nuclear energy by a writer who has a thorough knowledge of the technology and who does not have a vested interest in the industry.

Walt Patterson, a Canadian now living in England, is a trained nuclear physicist and successful journalist. He came from London to take part in the nuclear forum the NDP government staged in Vancouver in 1973, and again for Habitat Forum.

Patterson explains, in clear and accurate terms, what a reactor, fission and radiation are; the intricacies and dangers of the fuel cycle from the mining of uranium to the "managing" and transportation of the wastes. He explains, with diagrams, the different reactors used in Britain, France, the US and Canada, and their possibilities for the future.

He narrates the history of the development of the splitting of the atom with some of the deaths along the way: Marie Curie, the women who worked on luminous watch dials, Harry Daghlian, Louis Slotin and others. He stresses, more than 30 years later, that the first to recognize the dilemma of nuclear fission, the conflict between its constructive and destructive potentials, were the physicists themselves.

Even before the dropping of the Hiroshima bomb a group of those who had helped to create it signed a memorandum, subsequently known as the Franck Report, submitted to the US secretary of war on June 11, 1945, "forecasting with dismaying accuracy the nuclear arms race, in the event of the use of the bomb against a military target," Patterson writes.

Franck and his colleagues proposed instead that the bomb be demonstrated in a remote site, before Japan and the United Nations, and that the U.S. then renounce its use forthwith, provided other nations would do likewise. But the Franck proposals, as the world knows, fell on stony ground - unlike the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.

Patterson recounts some of the later efforts, led by Einstein, to halt the deadly advance of the atom, the bomb tests, the fallout. In 1955 the UN established a scientific committee (UNSCEAR) to study the effects of radiation. Bertrand Russell drafted an appeal, co-signed by Einstein, two days before his death, calling on all scientists to unite to seek a way out of the nuclear impasse.

In 1956 Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson called for an agreement to stop nuclear testing; his vice-presidential opponent Richard Nixon denounced the proposal as "catastrophic nonsense" and, although 11,021 scientists from 48 countries signed a petition to ban the bomb, the

ests went on, contaminating the inhabitants of Rongelaap, Rongerik and Ute-rik: in the Marshall Islands and 23 Japanese crew members on the fishing ves- sel, the Fukuryu Maru - the Lucky Dragon.

Patterson chronicles the progress of "atoms for peace," the Plow- share experiments with nuclear bombs to excavate canals or harbors, or to re- lease underground gas, but more important, nuclear reactors to boil water to produce electricity. He discloses many of the secrets of the trade which only now are coming to light, such as the accident at NRX, Chalk River. He warns that if we continue to create radioactivity in ever-increasing quanti- ties, we must improve our vigilance manifold or "risk irreparable damage to the fabric of life on earth."

Though this book may be said to be written with a bias, it is an informed bias - valid, reasoned, lucid. We cannot choose options we do not know about. To anyone interested in the future of our planet, this book is obligatory.

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FOOD FOR NOUGHT: The Decline In Nutrition - by Ross Hume Hall.

Vintage Books, Random House, New York, 1974; \$9.65

From A Review by Dr. Stuart B. Hill in Canadian Consumer, Oct. 1976

Food probably has the greatest influence on our health and content- ment. Its effects are partly determined by its quality, which is reduced by the loss of required nutrients and by the addition of toxins. In Food For Nought, Dr. Hall indicates how the chemical and mechanical technologies that now dominate our food system are, among other things, removing nutrients and adding toxins; consequently they are a threat to our health. The changes in food quality are largely invisible so that most people are unaware of them; and their effects manifest themselves many years later in the form of degenerative diseases. Hall's expose of these effects is perhaps the most important piece of detective work of the century. He notes that agricult- ure, instead of producing food, has been relegated to the position of sup- plying the raw materials from which "food" is manufactured. The product of the food system is profit, not health; nutrition is only considered if it can increase sales, and even then the quality is usually not significantly improved. For example, some breads may be labelled "enriched with iron" when ground-up iron filings have been added, and yet it is not known whether our digestive system can absorb it in this form.

Dr. Hall makes it clear that we cannot rely on the various regula- tory agencies to protect us from the harmful effects of technological inno- vations in the food system. In order to avoid these harmful effects, "grow- ing-your-own" has taken on a new significance and it has become essential to be knowledgeable about the products that you buy. Food For Nought is a great help in this respect as it clarifies such cloudy issues as whole wheat versus white bread, artificial colouring, nitrites, antibiotics, hormones, saccarine, cyclamates, sugar, fibre, pesticides, heavy metals, saturated fats, and cholesterol. Hall's book shows that most of the foods in the central aisles of the supermarkets are products of a "live-now (profit for the producer, convenience for the consumer), pay-later (degeneration of body and mind)" philosophy. The most horrifying examples of this relate to foods for infants and children.

... Food For Nought is highly informative, particularly because of its extensive bibliography, glossary and appendix. It should be read by all who buy or consume food, particularly students and professionals in the fields of agriculture, nutrition and health. If these latter fail to read it I, for one, am not too confident about the future.

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PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY versus "THE SUPREME CRIME"

On Tuesday, Nov. 23rd, two New Westminster and two Seattle members of Pacific Life Community were sentenced in a Seattle courtroom for cutting holes in the fence at the Trident submarine base last August and marching the "Trident Monster" onto the base. They are: Shelley and James Douglass, New Westminster; Jo Maynes and Laurie Raymond, Seattle.

They were found guilty by Magistrate John Weinberg at their Nov. 4 trial in Seattle on charges of trespass and destruction of government property.

Shelley and James Douglass are the first two PLC members from Canada to have been sentenced for a civilian disobedience action at the Trident base. The statements they made to Magistrate Weinberg at their sentencing are beautiful in their clarity and simplicity. We deeply regret that we are unable to include more than brief quotations:-

First, from Jim's statement:

"To cite the most important of the international law principles at stake, the Nuremberg Judgment stands, first of all, for the proposition that 'the supreme crime' is to wage an aggressive war against another country. At Nuremberg it was held to be an international crime against peace to plan, prepare, initiate, and wage aggressive war, or conspire to do so. As a former U.S. prosecuting attorney at Nuremberg, Mary Kaufman, said in Seattle and Vancouver last year: 'That is what the Trident system is all about: a first-strike weapon. The United States' development of Trident is a crime against peace under Nuremberg.'

"Our cutting of the fence at the Trident base now being constructed at Bangor, Washington, upheld the Nuremberg judgment against preparations for aggressive war - in this case, preparations for the ultimate war of aggression, a nuclear first strike. Our cutting of the Trident base fence also upheld the Nuremberg principle that it is not only government officials but individual citizens within states who have the responsibility to resist crimes against international law.

"But this United States court has denied us the right even to argue such a legal defense, based on the U.S. Constitution and international law. This court has treated as trivial the issue of resisting aggressive nuclear war. This court has become the local enforcer of a corporate-military system which threatens all life on earth. When a legal system is used in so illegal a fashion, I believe it should be resisted with all our power."

And the conclusion of Shelley's statement:

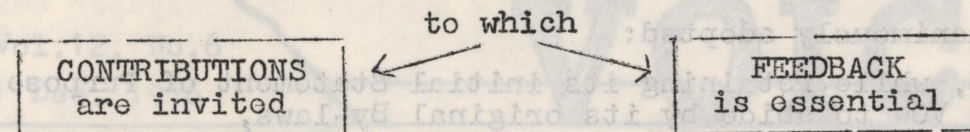
"Until justice is based on the decisions of the human community that mass human destruction is wrong, people like us will continue to resist. We will further resist the system of injustice that defends Tridents. It is good to know that we are guilty of resisting, in however small a way. I welcome the sentence about to be imposed upon us because some day in the future it may be a small token to show that I resisted a war crime. This conviction may some day become evidence for acquittal."

FOR FULL TEXTS OF THESE STATEMENTS, for further information, and - above all - for your offers of help and support of any kind, so much needed and richly deserved by these dedicated people, contact:

'phone (604) 526-4329

Pacific Life Community,  
335 - 8th Street,  
New Westminster, B.C.

# NEW SOCIETY IDEAS DEPARTMENT



## Jim Bohlen on Tribal Inter-dependency Relationships

JIM BOHLEN has for some months been hard at work sharing his ideas with the younger generation (surely a high priority in our move towards a new society?) through his column in New Age Dawn (formerly the Last Frontier), Box 3331, Courtenay, B.C. This ecologically-oriented monthly, sold mainly in health food stores on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, is directed at "hip" youngsters. The following excerpts are from No.10 (Nov. 1976).

... (Our) modernday remoteness from the source of life-giving water (among other necessities) and ignorance of its origins makes us intuitively insecure because our genes are yet programmed to find our own means for survival - water being one of the basic elements.

... Similarly, almost every aspect of our physical survival is directed by unseen hands that we call institutions: educational, political, legal, electrical, mechanical, agricultural - you name it. We float as do fish in an aquarium ... our mouths agape as lights and warmth and food amid bubbles of oxygenated vapours filter down nurturing us while we remain in a womblike trance, connected to big momma by an umbilical cord through which trains, trucks, airplanes, pipelines, feed us and remove our waste products. From womb to tomb that umbilical cord is forever attached, its end retrofitted with a Universal Adapter after the initial disconnect from one's natural mother. And the institutions are there, faceless and alienating, and, man, you just can't wait to plug in.

Clearly, the plug-in society must go!! Now we must ask the hard question. Can billions of people sharing this planet ever arrange their lives in a fashion where they no longer need to depend on large institutions? And can those vast numbers who do not even have the barest chance for anything more than just borderline physical existences, in spite of institutionalization of their society, have a chance for a better life? Of course!

All we have to do is shuffle the deck and reorganize ourselves in such fashion that one gets to know who supplies the water (and the other requirements for survival). Better yet, create conditions where you become directly involved in the process of obtaining your sustenance. Sociologists have found that one of the most effective arrangements occur in tribes, and they have learned from studies of them that an ideal size is about 25 persons including all ages from infants to the elderly; mutual relationships and dependencies within the tribe being much like those that occur in large families. This, after all, is the way humans have successfully biologically-functioned for the thousands of years prior to the institutionalization of agriculture beginning about 10,000 years ago. From then to now, but a fraction of a second on the evolutionary clock, we have made huge strides in material terms, but have perverted them in human terms, leading to the present "I'm all right Jack" socially catastrophic dead-ended situation in which we are presently enmeshed.

Brothers and Sisters, unless you pull the plug and begin to satisfy your genetically stimulated need to live in tribal inter-dependency relationships you can continue to treat yourself to meditation, massage, and the manifestations of multitudes of Maharishis, yet the morning after will uncomfortably still remain the same.

NATIONAL VOW CONFERENCE, Sep. 17-19, 1976 - from Freda Handford's Report

Resolution unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, while retaining its initial Statement of Purpose, it is not practical for VOW to abide by its original By-laws,

"BE IT RESOLVED that a National Consultative Committee be set up to include a representative contact person in each active area and chosen by the members in that area; and in addition not less than 5 women, including the National Co-ordinator, who have easy access to the National Office, who will meet monthly as a Steering Committee. ...B.C. is entitled to elect 2 (later corrected to 5 - Ed.) members to the National Consultative Committee."\*

A National Newsletter, possibly quarterly, will be mailed to all members. It will be produced by different groups - to begin with: Oct. '76 Edmonton; April '77, Halifax; June '77, B.C.

\*B.C. Representatives on the National Consultative Committee (elected at B.C. Exec. meeting Nov. 9):- Florence Stanton; Marjorie Stewart; Mary Cox; Mary Thomson with alternate Robyn Smith; Lille d'Easum.

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**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!**  
Voice of Women fees for 1977 come due on January 1st. PLEASE RENEW EARLY!

NB Fees may be paid directly to B.C. VOW Membership Chairman,  
124 E. Kings Rd., N. Vancouver, BC, V7N 1H5  
OR to your local Group Membership Chairman (see below)

Cheques payable to "Voice of Women"

Fees: Regular.....	\$5.00	Youth (under 25)..	\$1.00	Family..	\$7.50
Sustaining.....	\$12.00	Senior (over 65)..	\$1.00		

Some Group Membership Chairmen:-

- BURNABY - Mrs. A.W. Hyde, 5507 Gilpin St., Burnaby, B.C., V5G 2H8
- NORTH SHORE - Mrs. W.I. Craig, 3714 Dollarton Hwy, N.Van., V7G 1A2 (reg.\$6.00)
- VANCOUVER - Mrs. A.P. Hewett, 3548 W. 26th Ave., Van. BC V6S 1N7 (reg.\$6.00)
- VICTORIA - Mrs. Iva Jellicoe, 101 - 1155 Rockland Ave., Victoria, B.C.

A Nice Christmas Gift!!!

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For Non-Members: SUBSCRIPTION to B.C. Voice is \$2.00 per year (6 issues)

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they have learned from studies of them that an ideal size is about 2.5 por-

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