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VOICE

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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:

This summer has been short, but a busy one for many of our members, especially those who have prepared such fine reports of the various conferences which have taken place over the last few months.

Others have been doing yeoman work in getting signatures to oppose the Trident Base in Washington just a short distance from British Columbia; and for support in our efforts to have a moratorium declared on the building of nuclear reactors, until such time as all can be made safe (if that is possible?).

I am certain that you will* join with me in wishing our VOW members success during the National Conference which is being held this month (Sept.) near Toronto. No doubt a thorough study of our work will result.

I trust that we in B.C. will also have a good, informal and productive discussion of our work when we gather on October 2nd for a one-day conference and study session in Vancouver.

Florence M. Stanton.

*Abject apologies for my tardiness - Editor.

PROVINCIAL MEETING

Our next Annual General Meeting will not take place until some time in the Spring of 1977.

The theme will be "Moving Towards A New Society"; and the book of that name, from Philadelphia's New Society Press, will be required reading before the conference.

Voice of Women has worked long and hard on examining and diagnosing our sick society: many are now convinced that we should now be moving, without delay, into some prescribing and treating. We need to get together and make this transition happen, and the AGM can provide the right opportunity.

As those of you who have already read "Moving Towards A New Society" will realise, such a meeting can only reach its full potential if it is preceded by months of study and dialogue; and this we hope to further by the presentation, in the next few issues of the Voice, of our goals and some new ideas for their achievement.

The need for more time to read and discuss and develop new ideas has been the most important of several reasons for postponing such a meeting. In the meantime, our one-day Fall Conference at the Planetarium in Vancouver (Oct. 2) will, it is hoped, give us the opportunity to lay the foundations of individual and group study programs leading up to a truly useful AGM.

THE CCNR GOES TO THE SKAGIT HEARING IN SEATTLE - reported by Lille d'Easum

A group of British Columbians attended the August 17 hearing of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the building of two 1250-megawatt reactors on the Skagit River 32 miles from the Canadian border.

I went down the night before with Richard Couseneau of the French language national radio network. Richard got several reports on the French network, which was all the publicity the hearings got in Canada. I got to the hearing before it began at 10:00 a.m., and so was able to present the CCNR and VOW briefs; but I was not allowed to speak, although I was an accredited witness, my name having been sent in in the spring.

The only speakers were the representatives of the four utilities which hope to build the reactors. Their submissions, mostly in reply to questions from two lawyers, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, predicted the energy needs for the next twenty years - which, they concluded, would require the building of four nuclear plants.

Apparently the press were excluded (there was no press table); but during the noon recess, when we went out onto the sunny plaza of the beautiful new Federal Building, I was interviewed by a number of TV, radio and newspaper reporters. The rest of the B.C. contingent had arrived by then, and put on a demonstration. Ann McMillan of SCANP (Skagitonians Against Nuclear Power) 'phoned me later and said that I had been on Channels 4, 5 and 11 and on many radio stations, and reported in the press, and that the Vancouver demonstration was on TV and reported in the press. Ann said our delegation had made a strong impression, and had been a great help.

An item in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer next morning reported the Canadian "invasion" and said that the question would not be decided for a year or so. Since Washington are holding their Nuclear Initiative on November 2, should the opposition win that, there may still be hope of stopping the Skagit reactors after all. (emphasis ours - Ed.)

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THE ELEPHANT THAT PRODUCED A MOUSE

Representatives of sixteen local groups held a meeting and sent telegrams to Trudeau and Bennett, pointing out that the Aug. 30 explosion at Hanford should serve as a warning of the growing danger of radiation contamination close to our border. We asked both governments to protest to US authorities, and requested the B.C. Department of Health to provide a monitoring service to measure radiation levels in B.C.

About 30 news releases went out and, as far as I know, our publicity consisted of 3½ inches on page 28 in the Sun, mostly misquotations, and mentioning only four (not VOW) of the participating groups.

Jim Carter's sons rated 18 inches (newspaper column length) for trying pot, a CNE clown got 9 inches for getting caught upside down on a wire, and a fireman got 12 inches beginning with a headline on page 1, for stepping in an outhouse hole.

Well, now we know what it takes to "make news".

- Lille d'Easum

→ P L E A S E H E L P with the CCNR Petition !! ←
requesting a public inquiry on the hazards and benefits of
nuclear energy development in Canada.

Send for Petition Forms to: CCNR, 104 - 2127 W. 40th, Vancouver.

NUCLEAR POWER READING LIST

- from the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility (CCNR)

NUCLEAR POWER - by Walter C. Patterson (a Canadian author!); 304pp.; 1976

Essential information for grasping the nuclear controversy; also a history of the economics and environmental aspects of the field.

NUCLEAR POWER: THE FIFTH HORSEMAN - Worldwatch Paper 6; 68pp. by Denis Hayes, 1976.

Well written and very informative; clearly explains the numerous scientific controversies re radiation effects, accident probabilities, Plutonium toxicity, home-made bombs, etc. (Send \$2.50 to CCNR for your copy)

C. C. N. R.

CANADIAN COALITION FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY
2010 MacKay Street, Montreal

EXPLORING ENERGY EFFICIENT FUTURES FOR CANADA - Consorver Society Notes, No. 4; 43pp.; 1976.

Articles by Amory Lovins, Andrew McKillop and others, bearing on the decision between high and low energy futures. Write to:

Consorver Society Notes,
Editor, Bruce McCallum,
150 Kent St., Ottawa.

Recommended by CCNR - to be reviewed later:-

NUCLEAR POWER - THE UNVIABLE OPTION - by John J. Berger

NON-NUCLEAR FUTURES - by Amory Lovins & John Price

WORLD ENERGY STRATEGIES - by Amory Lovins

ENERGY FOR SURVIVAL - by Wilson Clark

**** The mailing from CCNR included an important new article by Gordon Edwards: NUCLEAR POWER: A NEW DIMENSION IN POLITICS, in the foreword to which Dorothy Rosenberg (Quebec VOW) is singled out for grateful comment because of her "constant encouragement and many valuable suggestions". This article undertakes to view Safety, Economics, Energy Requirements, Health and Pollution, and Decision Making; and it pioneers in a new field of concern - Social Impact. "No attempt has ever been made" writes Edwards, "to assess the full social impact of anticipated nuclear power development in Canada."

**** Also included in the CCNR packet: a pamphlet of 11pp. in which are 6 very punchy brief articles by well-known U.S. weapons researchers, scientists etc., under the title THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR. This was presented March 29, 1976 as a programme by Granada Television on the British Independent Television network. Especially important for anyone still unaware of the danger of weaponry developing from N-power.

* * * * *

The Literature Committee has a NEW ADDRESS !!

MARY COX has MOVED from Bowser:

Her new address is:

R.R. 1, Fanny Bay, B.C., VOR 1W0 (Tel. 335-0393)

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← IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

MOVING TOWARD A NEW SOCIETY - by Gowan, Lakoy, Moyer & Taylor: 296pp.
\$3.00 from Mary Cox (see above notice)

THE POVERTY OF POWER - by Barry Commoner (see review on page 5); hardback
price \$8.95; possibly available in paperback in about 6 months' time,
at around \$2.50.

JOBS & THE ENVIRONMENT - ed. by Jeremy Dale & Tony Emerson; 16pp.; 12p
from Socialist Environment & Resources Association (SERA),
Tidy's Cottage, School Lane, West Kingsdown, Kent, England.

Edited transcript of a SERA conference effectively transmitting the
twin messages (1) that the environment affects us all and is threatening the
health and safety of workers and their communities; and (2) that workers
must demand the right to work on socially useful, environmentally non-de-
structive products.

GLORIOUS READING !! The GREENPEACE CHRONICLES, Spring/Summer '76 (Vol 2,
/No 2)
Real gems on The Rights of Whales, the Nuclear Issue, Mercury Pol-
lution, and the Anti-Sealing Expedition.

Send to: Greenpeace Foundation, 2108 W. 4th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

Free (I think) to members of GPF; but contributions much needed.

COMING SOON, WATCH FOR FURTHER NOTICES:

IMPRESSIONS OF HABITAT - by Freda Handford, 11pp.

HABITAT: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - by
Irene McAllister, 6pp.

A new, up-to-date NUCLEAR SHEET - by B.C. VOW is in the making.

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tons.

Write to: Hilda Kellington, Box 56, Crofton, B.C.

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THE POVERTY OF POWER - by Barry Commoner; Alfred Knopf; 1976; \$8.95

A review by PETE SEEGER in WIN magazine, June 24, 1976.

Here is "must" reading for environmentalists.

This book is the complete version of three articles published in the New Yorker magazine in February, and entitled "Energy". Commoner, a leading biologist and ecologist, ties together the crises in the oil industry, the coal industry, nuclear power and solar energy, and relates them all to the present economic crisis, which includes inflation, unemployment, and a shortage of capital.

At the end he comes to some radical conclusions, but he starts slowly, laying out the principles of thermodynamics. As he proceeds to show what is wrong with US energy practices, every step is supported by statistics (he must have a crackerjack research staff there at Washington University). Where there are conflicting statistics he takes the time to explain how they were arrived at. When it is obvious that our nation has chosen a path that is in the long run wasteful or inefficient, (for example, in boosting air transport and allowing railroads to deteriorate), he zeroes in on why this faulty choice was made: profit.

Conservative conservationists may be horrified at Commoner's conclusions; their friends will sputter, "I told you these ecologists are bent on destroying the American Way." But any thoughtful person concerned with America's energy crisis can learn from this volume. Commoner shows how students of economy, from the beginning to the present, considered environmental degradation an "externality" - that is, not part of the marketplace transaction, and therefore not part of their formulas. In reality, he points out, a polluting corporation has been handed a free subsidy by the nation.

As it becomes obvious that comprehensive, long-term national planning must be undertaken in the USA, then the polarization of the nation will take place with an intensity not seen since the '30's. On one side will be supporters of planning in the interests of the large corporations - that is, state capitalism ("fascism?"). On the other side will be supporters of planning in the interests of middle class and lower class working people - that is, socialism ("dictatorship?").

What is inescapable, after reading Commoner's book, is the realization that our country cannot continue the "blind, mindless chain of events that transformed the technologies of agricultural and industrial production and reorganized transportation: that increased the output of the production system but increased its appetite for capital, energy, and other resources even more..."

In 1962, the New Yorker turned a generation's head around with its first publication of Silent Spring. THE POVERTY OF POWER may turn out to be just as important a book.

A R R O W S for Action!

In the B.C. Voice, Arrows mean Things You Can DO

From conversations with delegates from some of the countries represented, it was apparent that concern about environmental degradation was quite strong. In the workshops we were told of interesting ideas being introduced. Iran has a youth army: after leaving high school, students are sent into the army for two years, given crash courses in paramedics, agriculture and instructional training, then sent out to work among the people. In England, rewarding experiments in education are being developed. India is working on health education: in several Indian states it is now law that, after the second child is born to a couple, either the man or the woman must be sterilized - and more states are considering passing such legislation. Rhodesia has banned the use of pesticides. Israel reported that mental illness and retardation is not on the increase as in the rest of the world.

Space will not allow the mention of all activities, but there was a determination to work for better communication, all countries resolving to keep each other informed of their activities.

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PARENTS BLAME SPRAY FOR BIRTH DEFECTS

Gabriola Island parents of two small children with birth defects say they were caused by B.C. Hydro's herbicide spraying program. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Renaud's daughters were born with spinal deformities which could require corrective surgery. The Renauds live close to a Hydro right-of-way which was sprayed in 1972 under a continuing soil sterilization program with 2,4,5T - a herbicide that kills broadleaf plants, weeds and brush. Mrs. Renaud claims the spraying four years ago was responsible for her daughters, 3 and 1½, being born with spinal deformity. Doctors who have examined the two girls say the deformity leaves the children vulnerable to infection. The Quebec-born woman believes the chemicals were absorbed by drinking the water and eating berries on bushes in the vicinity of the sprayed area.

- Comox District Free Press, Sep. 24, 1976

LETTER OF THE WEEK (from Weekend Magazine, Sept. 18, 1976)

Editor: May I congratulate you on your integrity in printing Russell Hunt's article on the relationship between pesticides and Reye's syndrome ("Biological Warfare in New Brunswick", August 7).

Last year I, too, lost my five-year-old son to Reye's syndrome - three weeks after our city, Windsor, was sprayed with pesticides.

Why are the legislators so callous? Why will they not take action? I believe that all spraying of pesticides for whatever reason should be discontinued until it has been absolutely determined whether there is a link between pesticides and the incidence of Reye's syndrome in children. Surely the risk to human life is more important than the economics that "justify" spraying programs.

I hate to see other families suffer from the torment of having a healthy child one day and a dying one the next.

- Carol Dumont, Windsor, Ont.

→ WRITE to those legislators TODAY! Write your MP, your MLA, the P.M.

→ Write to VOW member Alice Coppard, 2976 E. 8th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V5M 1X1, for suggestions on background reading on the subject of herbicides and pesticides.

M. A. N. D. A. L. A.

will be in B.C. October 4th to 18 !

HAS: Slides, Film, Info. on Hue, Ho Chi Min City, new life in S. Vietnam...

WILL TRAVEL :

Man Da La will be in Victoria on October 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Her visits to Parksville, Errington, Vancouver, Nanaimo and Courtonay were still "in the air" at press-time: ASK in your area.

Mainland: 'phone Claire Culhane at 299-7178

Island: 'phone Mary Cox at 335-0393

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F E E S Are you a "member in good standing until Dec. 31, 1976" ?? Please check your Membership Card, NOW, to make sure of this.

Fees may be paid directly to:

B.C. VOW Membership Chairman, 124 E. Kings Rd., North Van., V7N 1H5

OR to your local Group Membership Chairman

Regular \$5.00; Sustaining \$12.00; Family \$7.50; Youth (under 25) and Senior (over 65) \$1.00

Cheques payable to "Voice of Women"

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For Non-members: SUBSCRIPTION to B.C. Voice is \$2.00 per year (six issues)
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Return address:

Editor,

B.C. Voice,

Box 235, Nanaimo, B.C.

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