

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to 1984. Despite the Orwellian overtones, let's not begin the year by assuming the worst. Instead, let's resolve to continue the good fight for at least one more year.

Our next chance to re-enter the fray will occur on Monday, January 25, 8:00 pm at Hart House, Debates Room, Univ of Toronto campus. Lobbying strategy and techniques is our topic for the session which is meant to bring us together on how to go about approaching government and opposition politicians on the issues that affect us all so deeply.

If you have never met with political leaders to present your views on an issue, don't worry. This session will dispel your misgivings. However, seasoned lobbyists should attend, too. We need your opinions and advice. Come and share your stories, please.

For more information or directions to Hart House, call Carol Sutton, (O) 961-3333 or (H) 690-3213.

NEW OCSW SUB-COMMITTEE

OCSW has formed a new working group, the property rights amendment sub-committee. The group is working to make public women's concerns about this amendment as well as the working on the statue audit (a government initiative to review existing legislation in light of the provisions of the new Charter of Rights and Freedoms.)

As reviewed in the last OCSW Newsletter, there is an amendment proposed to the Charter which will entrench property rights (in Section 7.)

This proposal, if successful, would have serious consequences for women, impairing the rights we have won and our opportunity to achieve equality.

This amendment is not designed simply to protect the corner grocer and family home. Rather it's introduction has been proposed by corporations, landowners, banks, real estate boards, pit and quarry owners and others who wish to protect those rights against what they perceive to be interference of governments in enacting legislation which would interfere with their right to property. This means more than just 'real' property; it refers to any right a party may have under a contract, debenture, mortgage, etc. Thus the amendment will have a significant impact on the type of legislation governments may or will be willing to pass, including family law, occupational health and safety, pension and insurance regulations, human rights and environmental law, to cite only a partial list.

Further, two provincial legislatures -- B.C. and New Brunswick -- have already passed the amendment. Although it was defeated in the House of Commons once, it will undoubtedly be reintroduced and there has been dangerously little public debate about this complex issue.

The OCSW property rights amendment sub-committee is considering several courses of action. To date they have written to appropriate politicians asking their stands and are preparing a resolution for the NAC (National Action Committee on the Status of Women) annual meeting. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact Beth Atcheson, (O) 869-5382.

In addition, Linda Ryan-Nye and Pat Hacker are putting together a regional conference a regional conference on a cross-section of Charter issues affecting women. To participate contact them at 694-1072.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re - OCSW Newsletter, "Equality of Women"

I have just read your October statement on "Equality of Women" and recalling my visit to my near-by bank, the Bank of America, and seeing there again and again how busy the women are, I can only say that there can be no equality for women in Canada until there are trade unions in every place where women work...

Only when we have built many more trade unions, butilt many schools for little children -- like that beautiful nursery school in Havana, "The School of Many-coloured Butterfiles", so mothers, too may go on to work and study while they are young, can there be "equality for women." ...

That is the only way to equality, where the people onw the banks, the land, where education and health services are free and there is work for all.

Nora Rodd

JOURNAL CHANGES AND GROWS

Last January Women's Studies International Quarterly became Women's Studies International Forum and began to be issued bimonthly. Publication policy has not changed, however. It still includes international coverage of the issues; a multidisciplinary focus, challenges to traditional academic organization, and a journal within a journal -- the new publication devoted to feminist philosophy, Hypatia, is free with a Forum subscription.

Rates are \$30 for individuals, six issues including six newsletters and \$95 for institutions. Write to Pergamon Press Inc., Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, New York 10523, USA.

FEMINIST LAW REFORM GROUP SEEKS MEMBERS

The National Association of Women and the Law brings together individuals interested in promoting the rights and freedoms of Canadian women through law reforms

They have invited OCSW members to join NAWL, \$40 regular fee or \$15 limited income fee (annual income of \$15,000 or less, no dependents).

NAWL also is seeking donations for its trust for research and education.

NAWL advocates (among others)

- o removing abortion from the Criminal Code
- o equal pay for work of equal value
- o reform of legislation regarding sexual assault

Contact them at: National Association of Women and the Law, 305 - 124 O'Conner Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5M9.

WORKING SKILLS FOR WOMEN

is the name of a new educational uprrading program for women, designed to rprepare them for entry into skill training in new technological and changing office occupations.

Women who require math and science upgrading, as well as an introduction to computers and career counselling, in order to work in an increasingly technological environment, may apply for entry into the full-time day or part-time evening program. The program is sponsored by Canada Employment and applicants who qualify for this training will receive the course fee, with a training allowance for day-time attendance. The program begins March 5. For complete information, contact 961-8100 during regular office hours.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

All OCSW members are invited to attend a fundraising dinner, "Women in Politics" at \$25 per person with guests of honour: The Hon. Iona Campagnolo, PC, President of the Liberal Party of Canada; Aideen Nicholson, M.P., and The Hon. John Roberts, P.C., M.P., Minister of Employment and Immigration.

They will discuss the role of the 'back-rooms', the House of Commons and the supportive network crucial to the advancement of women.

The date is Sunday, February 19, 5:30 pm for 6:00 pm, Hungarian Cultural Centre, Arpad Room, 840 St. Clair Avenue West, free parking one block west at the Dominion. The evening includes fine wine and a five course authentic Hungarian meal. For reservations and information, call Magda Berkovits, President, St. Paul's Women's Liberal Club, 633-2251.

CASGRAIN FOUNDATION SEEKS DONATIONS

"There is still so much to do."

Those words were true when spoken by the late Therese-F. Casgrain and they remain true now. To help realize more of the goals to which the Senator devoted her life -- such as the promotion of women and the cause of social justice -- many Canadians have come together to form a foundation in her honour, bearing her name.

The Foundation has begun a fund-raising campaign to set up a trust of \$250,000 the interest from which will serve as a research scholarship on the status of women available to candidates from any Canadian university. Donations of more than \$10 will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Make cheques payable to: the Therese-F. Casgrain Foundation, 800 Dorchester Blvd. West, Suite 1036, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 1X9 or call (514) 283-3048.

(This issue of the Newsletter was prepared by Beth Atcheson, Carol Sutton, Brigid O'Reilly and Audrey Orr. If you would like to contribute material or suggest ideas for articles, call Carol Sutton at (O) 961-3333 or (H) 690-3213.)

