



THE

SEPTEMBER 1971

BROADSIDE

HOUSTON CHAPTER

VOL. 2

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

NO. 7

READY OR NOT— THE WOMEN ARE COMING!



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²BROADSIDE -- ...simultaneous discharge of all the guns on one side of a warship...any strong or comprehensive attack, as by criticism...a song, chiefly in 16th- and 17th-century England, written on a topical subject, printed on broadsides, and sung in public,...., by a professional balladeer...

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged Edition

TO THE

WHITE HOUSE

Five years ago a group of concerned women began a vital movement with a statement calling for an end to abstract discussion and announcing a beginning of forceful action. Today, 180 chapters of NOW are actively working to assure women their full human rights.

From its beginning, NOW has been committed to forceful, positive action. In the past months, with the formation of the National Women's Political Caucus and the establishment of the Women's Lobby (See related stories this issue.), the emphasis in the women's rights struggle has turned to determined political action.

This year the theme of the NOW National Conference will be "Revolution: From the Doll's House to the White House," and workshops will emphasize means to effective political action.

Although 53% of the population is female and more women vote than men, there is only one female U.S. Senator, 12 House members, no governors, and no Supreme Court judges. Women have not yet reached tokenism. The situation is outrageous.

For too long women have tried to find themselves a role in an unfree society. Now it is time for them to determine not only their roles in society, but to write the future of that society.

If we are to determine the future of society we must have access to the centers of power. Power can be gained only through unified, determined, and sustained action. We intend to win, and we must win.

As Wilma Scott Heide, Chairone of National NOW told the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1970:

"As Victor Hugo has said: 'More powerful than a thousand armies is an idea whose time has come.' While not quite--yet--desirous or ready to overthrow our Government, the idea and imminence of women's liberation is pregnant and overdue. We intend to deliver."

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

The Houston NOW chapter has a new address. It has been changed from P.O. Box 384, Bellaire, Texas 77401 to P.O. Box 469, Pasadena, Texas 77501. Will Houston NOW ever have a Houston address?

Helen Cassidy
Laura Douglas

Calendar of Events

- September 3-6.....NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE--Los Angeles--Revolution:
From the Doll's House to the White House.
- September 10.....REPORT ON NATIONAL CONFERENCE--Houston members
attending the National Conference will share their
informal impressions with you. Come have fun.
8:00 p.m. at 4368 Graduate Circle. Helen Cassidy.
- September 15.....FEMALE SEXUALITY (Rap Session)--8:00 p.m. at 1107
South Witter Apt. 111, Pasadena. Betty Barnes. Come
and share your ideas.
- September 21.....NOW BOARD MEETING--8:00 p.m. at 4368 Graduate Circle,
Houston. If you are interested in serving as a task
force chairone or are just eager to work and plan for
the next year, come to this meeting.
- September 25.....STATE ABORTION MEETING--University of Houston Student
Center. Sponsored by University of Houston Women's
Liberation and Houston Women's Liberation. No men
allowed. Call Judy Rossi, 522-2180, for details.
- October 6.....NOW MEETS--7:30 p.m. at guesthouse of Clayton Library,
5300 Caroline. NOTE: This is our new meeting location.
The library closes at 9:00 p.m. so please be on time.
We will meet the first Wednesday of every month at this
location.

Human Relations Ordinance Presented to City Council

Houston Area NOW proposed a Human Relations Ordinance to the Houston City Council on the eve of the 51st anniversary of women's suffrage.

The ordinance, which would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national ancestry, or place of birth, was presented to City Council by Helen Cassidy, Houston NOW President.

The proposed ordinance would establish a 15-member Commission on Human Relations in the Office of the Mayor. Among other powers, the Commission could issue cease and desist orders; initiate, investigate, and receive complaints of discrimination; hold public hearings; institute and conduct educational programs; and recommend legislation.

The ordinance has received the endorsement of the Houston American Civil Liberties Union, the Women's Equity Action League of Houston, and the National Sportsman's Fraternal Order. State Senator Chet Brooks of Pasadena has written that the ordinance would "greatly benefit many of my Houston constituents. I wish you every success." The Rev. Mr. William A. Lawson, pastor of the Wheeler Street Baptist Church, has given his endorsement as has Jerry McGee, candidate for Houston City Council. A number of Houston citizens have signed petitions supporting the proposed law.

Petitions are being circulated to urge the adoption of the ordinance. Anyone interested in working for the passage of this far-reaching ordinance should contact Barbara Farley, 664-3133 or Helen Cassidy, 748-5369.

4 Making it... POPPY NORTHCUTT,

HOUSTON'S FIRST

LADY

"Recently much to-do has been made of 'first women—the first woman to sail the Atlantic, the first woman commercial pilot, the first woman rabbi. Personally I'm worried about the second woman, the third, the eighty-fifth. All too often the first woman is also the last."

Poppy Northcutt, public relations officer for Houston NOW, was speaking of her position as a "first lady." She is the first woman to work in Mission Control at the Manned Spacecraft Center. As a space engineer she has worked in Mission Control for five Apollo missions on the spacecraft's return trajectory. Or as a national ad with her picture said, "She keeps bringing astronauts home."

"Being the only woman in Mission Control is not only lonely," Poppy said, "it is also a dubious honor. I would much prefer the opportunity to be considered an average engineer or hopefully a talented one. Instead I have only the chance to be considered a 'dumb broad' or, if I'm lucky, 'bright for a woman.'"

Poppy began her professional career six years ago but claims, "I've always been a feminist. I just didn't know it consciously until a few years ago."

She officially became a women's rights advocate on Women's Strike Day, August 26, 1970, when she demonstrated with Houston NOW and joined. Since then she has been an active member serving as head of public relations and the speakers' bureau. She coordinated plans for the National Board meeting in Houston in January and also handled arrangements for Houston members attending the National Conference in Los Angeles.

She has recently been nominated to the NOW National Board.

"Being a feminist has become a way of life for me. My typing speed has improved. I can lick stamps and envelopes, staple, and fold at record speeds. My phone bill is astronomical. I talk women's rights constantly. I've even bought a new typewriter. I feel I'm a full-fledged feminist now," Poppy explained.

Poppy has received numerous awards as a result of her professional career, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom (as part of the Apollo 13 team), the Mademoiselle Award for 1970, and the NASA Snoopy Safety Award.

"Being elected to the NOW National Board—that would be one of my greatest honors. The women who run NOW nationally are intelligent, charming, witty, dynamic, and knowledgeable—everything a person should aspire to be. I'd like for my name to be associated with theirs."

Revolution? Si!

Bicentennial? No!

Throughout the country, preparations are being made to celebrate the American Revolution Bicentennial in 1976 with commemorative postage stamps already on sale. Since women have failed to persuade Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, why should we take part in celebrating the Bicentennial? Let's boycott the whole thing--stamps, bumper stickers, contributions--and save our money to celebrate passage of the ERA, that is, if we're not too old.

(ALL NOW CHAPTERS PLEASE PICK UP)

Nationwide Fundraising for Women's Lobby

Across the nation NOW chapters and other groups celebrated August 26, anniversary of the passage of the only constitutionally guaranteed right for women--the right to vote.

Dozens of the 180 NOW chapters across the nation held fund-raising activities to meet a \$100,000 goal to finance a legislative office for women's rights in Washington, D.C.

The office will be the focus of a nationwide Women's Lobby to work for passage of such legislation as universal child care, the Equal Rights Amendment, the Women's Equality Act, and for bills to strengthen federal protection for women's job and educational opportunities.

NOW chapters sponsored a variety of activities to fund the office. Des Moines, Baton Rouge, and Cincinnati held cocktail parties. St. Louis raised money with a Woman's Fair, featuring a New Feminist Dart Game with favorite enemies as bullseyes.

Houston Officers Elected

The Houston Area Chapter of NOW elected new officers at the July 7 meeting. Officers named by acclamation are: Helen Cassidy-President, Brenda Badgley-Vice President, Betty Barnes-Secretary, Ann Smith-Treasurer.

Winston-Salem had an art auction followed by a beer garden party. Chicago sold \$10 tickets to hear Caroline Bird, author of Born Female, and Aileen Hernandez, NOW national president. Portland sold feminist items at a rally. The total amount of money raised for the Women's Lobby has not yet been determined.



Mary Adelaide McIntyre, NOW member from Lafayette, has joined the staff of Associated Travel Agency, 711 Pinhook Road, Lafayette, La. 70501. If you are planning a plane trip, let Ms. McIntyre help you make reservations. (It costs no more than buying at the airport, and it's more convenient.) Ask for her at the agency, Area Code 318, telephone number 233-5521. Help a sister! Help yourself!

"My grandmother was born in slavery, the progeny of rape by a white master of his octoroon. For nearly 60 years I have carried the burden of proof as to my competence and proficiency in a society which has both explicitly and implicitly been dominated by the ideas that blacks were inherently inferior to whites and women were inherently inferior to men... Men of inferior performance will necessarily have to yield their positions of power and privilege to women of superior performance. This fact alone, I submit, is at the very core of much male opposition to the adoption of this amendment."

Dr. Pauli Murray, a NOW founder, in a statement to be given before the Senate Judiciary Committee, 1970, in favor of the ERA. Dr. Murray was unable to give her statement after Senator Sam Ervin abbreviated the hearings.

THE CIRCLE GAME:

WOMEN AND EDUCATION

by Laura Douglas

"Education for women is a poor investment. No matter how intelligent they are, they will drop out to become wives and mothers." This trite rationale forms the core of educational sexism. It is a fundamental part of our cultural heritage which prevents women from attaining their full human potential and acquiring full equality in our society.

Study Dispels Myth

According to Stanford University's Newman Task Force on Higher Education, the rationale is not true. The report reveals that about 15% more women than men complete their B.A. in four years and that of women who have B.A.'s, 54% are in the work force. Of those who have five years or more of education, 71% are working, and of women with doctorates, more than 90% are employed.

The Newman Task force charged that educational discrimination against women is "overt, acceptable, and increasing." As evidence of discrimination in education is the fact that women earn better grades and higher test scores than men in high school, but fewer of them enter college; women have better undergraduate records than men, but fewer go on to graduate school; women who go on to achieve advanced degrees face the prospect of discrimination in employment, especially in the university where women faculty members earn less than their male peers and must wait longer for promotion.

Examples of sexist discrimination, detailed by the report, include quota systems; rigid admissions and residence requirements; discrimination in obtaining fellowships and research grants; and lack of child care facilities.

Breaking the Circle

In the past, all the overt and subtle forms of discrimination, the lack of role models for women students, and the cultural attitudes that told women they did not need an education or a career but needed to be wives and mothers, kept women trapped in a vicious circle of educational discrimination. Today, thanks to the efforts of NOW, WEAL, and other feminist groups, women are trying to break the circle with actions aimed at gaining equality.

A Ph. D.?
That's nice indeed.
What we need to know
Is your typing speed.

Realizing that "equality" is not simply applying the same rule in all situations, but rather recognizing that the rules themselves may favor one group over another, universities must adopt affirmative action policies to end discrimination against women. An affirmative action program must encompass goals, an implementing body with the funds necessary to carry out the program, and a clearly defined time schedule. The program should be in conformance with the guidelines of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance under Executive Orders 11246 and 11375.

Goals for Women

Goals for women students should include: intensive recruiting programs, especially into traditionally "male" professions (medicine, law, engineering), no denial of equal scholarship or financial aid opportunities on grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy; and part-time enrollment policies, including part-time scholarships. Goals for women faculty should include: significant appointments (up to one-half of minority hiring lines) of women to faculty and top administrative positions; correction of inequities in tenure, salaries, teaching loads, benefits; removal of the nepotism rule and the "no-inbred-hiring" policies; and the provision for part-time teaching opportunities (for men, too) with full professional recognition.

Other goals should include: child care facilities; maternity leave, with no loss of salary, seniority, or scholarship benefits; the establishment of a Women's Studies Program; and the revision or abolition of all courses which present a subservient or degraded image of women.

How to Prod

Since women cannot count on the good will or fairness of universities in adopting far-reaching affirmative action programs, they will probably have to

prod them. Filing a sex discrimination complaint with HEW is a good prod; filing a suit in federal court or a class action suit is an even better prod. Women faculty members have filed complaints against Harvard, Brown, Yale, Stanford, Wisconsin, and 30 other institutions charging discrimination in hiring, promotions, salaries, and exclusion from decision-making bodies. Women faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh have filed suit in federal court charging the same grievances.

Universities that do not act to end discrimination through affirmative action programs can lose federal contracts, a key source of their income, especially for research. Contracts were withheld from the University of Michigan until that school came up with a plan to end sex discrimination.

Though women suffer the most from such educational discrimination, ultimately, it is society that suffers from this waste of human resources. Beyond the economic losses, however, are those losses which can never be assessed nor retrieved--the untold anguish and frustration of one who is not accounted the right to be a complete human being.

"If we are uneasy around our mothers it is because they are the closest example of what the world does to women..."

Karen de Crow, NOW Regional Director—East, in A Young Woman's Guide to Liberation

HERE & NOW

LETTERS TO WRITE

Equal Employment Enforcement Bill

HR 1746, introduced by Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins, would strengthen the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in a number of ways:

1. It would give the EEOC the right to order an employer who is found to be discriminating against women employees to stop such practice immediately. This is referred to as a "cease-and-desist" order and it is an important addition to the powers of the Commission. Practically all other regulatory agencies already have that power.

2. It would broaden EEOC's coverage to include small employers and unions with eight or more workers or members (The present limit is 25).

3. It would empower the EEOC to protect women employees of state and local governments and women employees of schools and other educational institutions who perform work connected with educational activity. It would also empower the EEOC to protect other women professionals and executives who are excluded under current legislation.

4. It would consolidate within the EEOC the authority to move against job discrimination that is now vested in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC) of the Department of Labor, the Civil Service Commission, and the Department of Justice. Such consolidation would make federal enforcement more efficient. For example, the EEOC has already proved many cases based on sex discrimination; OFCC has had only limited involvement in this area.

There is a substitute bill introduced for the Administration by Congressmen Erlenborn and Mazzoli, HR 9247, which would not provide the protections we have described.

It is essential that HR 1746 be passed in the form in which it was reported. The bill is scheduled to be taken up in the House early in September. Urge your Congressones to vote for HR 1746 and against the substitute bill and against all amendments.

Child Care

House Bill HR 7248 is still being marked up. The Senate will take up S 2007 when it reconvenes. This bill should be supported since it provides funding, parental control, includes children of all income levels, and expands prime sponsorship without restrictive population standards. Urge a vote for this bill.

JOIN N.O.W.

...subscribe to The BROADSIDE
(members receive issues free)

_____ I would like to become a member of N.O.W. (\$12.50)
_____ I am not a N.O.W. member but would like to receive
the newsletter (\$3.00)
_____ I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____ to N.O.W.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Mail to: National Organization for Women, Houston Area Chapter,
P.O. Box 469, Pasadena, Texas 77501

LEGISLATION TO WATCH

The National Organization for Women, Inc. (NOW) has established a Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The Fund has been granted tax-exempt and tax-deductible status by the Internal Revenue Service. Now you can help your sisters and help yourself at income tax time.

HERE & NOW

cont'd.

Equal Rights Amendment (HJR 208, SJR 8, 9, & 150)

The House vote is expected September 15. The open rule has been granted with four hours of debate. It has been re-introduced in the Senate by Senator Birch Bayh as SJR 150, with the purpose of having it put directly on the calendar. A filibuster is threatened. Urge striking the crippling Wiggins Amendment and supporting the bill as introduced.

Tell your Congressones to be present and voting. Success of the Equal Rights Amendment in the House in September depends on the votes of representatives who are leaning our way but have not quite decided. Bill Archer of Houston is reportedly leaning our way. Bombard him with letters.

Welfare

Title IV of HR 1, welfare reform, will hopefully be improved in the Senate with Ribicoff Amendments. To date AFL-CIO will support \$2800 floor, \$400 above House passed bill but less than \$3960 supported by the Leadership Conference. Families headed by women comprise 44% of the poverty population. This same AFL-CIO opposed the ERA because it wants women protected.

HR 10012 A bill to grant child care centers status as educational institutions, and to assist such centers in raising capital by permitting donations of surplus Federal property for their use. Peter Peyser (R, N.Y.) Committee on Government Operations.

HR 10121 A bill to prohibit any instrumentality of the U.S. from using as a prefix to the name of any person any title which indicates marital status, Bella Abzug (D, N.Y.) Committee on Judiciary.

HR 10130 A bill to amend title 28 of the U.S. Code to provide equality of treatment for married female veterans, Margaret Heckler (R, Mass.) Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HR 10240 A bill to amend title 10 of the U.S. Code to provide that abortions, sterilizations, and family planning services be performed in the facilities of the uniformed services, Bella Abzug (D, N.Y.) Committee on Ways and Means.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE
HOUSTON AREA NOW CHAPTER OR
ANY ASPECT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS,
CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
NUMBERS:

A. M.

748-5369

729-7592

P. M.

748-5369

472-3316

¹⁰ NOW Nat'l. Conference to Convene Sept. 3-6

Six Houston NOW members will attend the NOW National Conference in Los Angeles, September 3-6.

Several of the members will be actively participating in the conference proceedings. Poppy Northcutt, head of Public Relations and the Speakers' Bureau for the Houston chapter, has been nominated for the National Board. Helen Cassidy and Laura Douglas, co-editors of The BROADSIDE, will help conduct the workshop on chapter newsletters. Susan Caudill, past president of the Houston chapter, will serve on the Resolutions Committee. Other members attending will be Betty Barnes and Parrish Hirasaki.

Five hundred to 1000 feminists are expected to attend the conference. Among those expected at the conference are Lorena Weeks, winner of the first federal sex discrimination in employment case; Weeks v. Southern Bell, Congresswoman Bella Abzug, and several of the founders of NOW, Kathryn Clarenbach, Pauli Murray, Caroline Ware, and Betty Friedan.

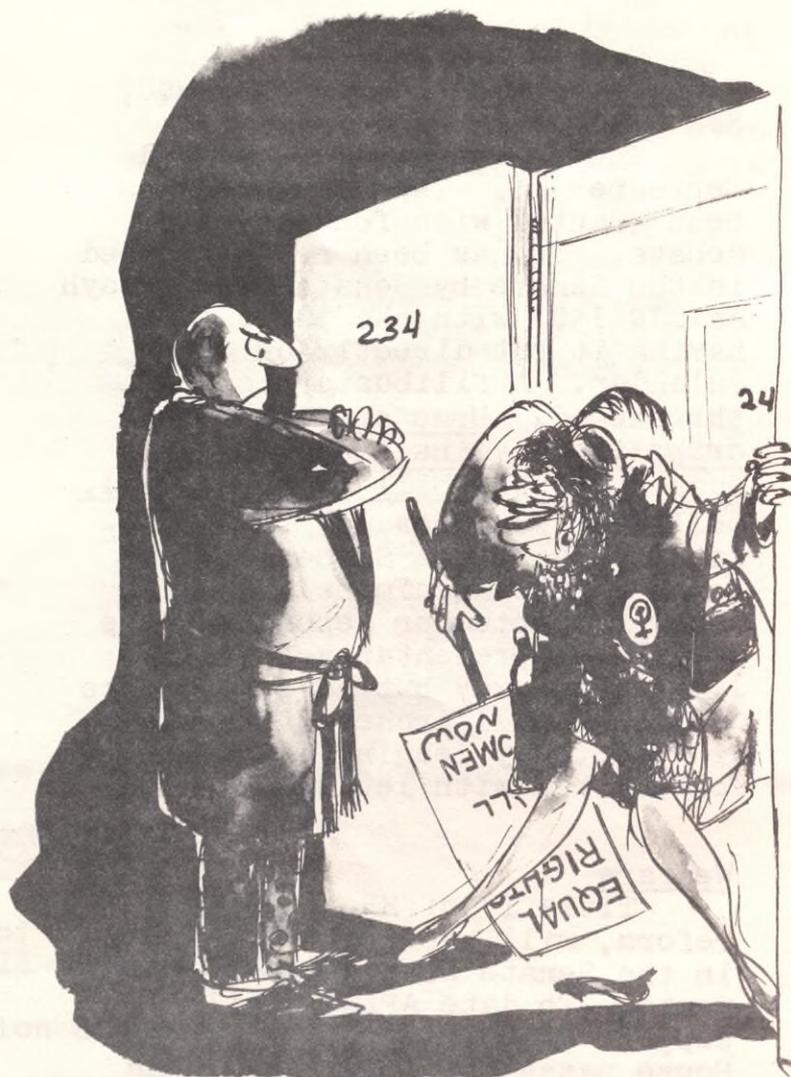
The conference, whose theme is "Revolution: From the Doll's House to the White House!", will provide feminists with a series of workshops to help the revolution along. Workshops on lobbying, legislation, legal and political action, educational and job discrimination, and others, will give NOW members information necessary for use in their struggle to attain full equality for women in the mainstream of society.

ABORTION MARCH

SET NOV. 20

Over 1000 Women from 29 states and four countries convened in New York City July 16-18, the 123rd anniversary of the first women's rights conference in Seneca Falls, to launch a national abortion repeal campaign.

The conference called for a mass march on Washington, D.C., on November 20. A state meeting to plan for the Washington march will be held September 25 at the University of Houston. Call Judy Rossi at 522-2180 for details.



Isn't there a NOW workshop

in this room?

Women's Political Caucus Formed

11

More than 300 women from 26 states met in Washington, D.C. July 10-11 at the first organizing conference of the National Women's Political Caucus.

A steering committee of 21 women was elected to coordinate a nationwide effort to elect more women to public office and to assure greater participation of the "silenced majority" in the affairs of the nation.

The Caucus called for the enlistment of women of all political persuasions, economic levels, age groups, and racial and ethnic backgrounds to recruit and rally behind women candidates who are committed to women's priorities and humanistic goals. "The male elite who run this country should not be replaced with a white, female, middle-class elite," stated Representative Bella Abzug (D, N.Y.)

"The hope of an effective women's political movement lies

in reaching out to include those who have been doubly and triply disenfranchised--reaching out to working women, to women on welfare, to black women, to young women," she said.

The Caucus also approved a 20-point program of guidelines for issues of deep concern to women, with emphasis on sexism, racism, and poverty. The Caucus called for a reordering of national priorities to finance the proposals. "We recognize the economic burden of such sweeping social change but we believe that this country's enormous resources could be more than enough. They need only to be reordered to pay for life instead of death," read a caucus resolution.

Poppy Northcutt of Houston NOW has written the National Women's Political Caucus for information to call a Texas Women's Political Caucus. Future plans will appear in The BROADSIDE.

READING LIST

Man's World, Woman's Place, Elizabeth Janeway, Morrow, 1971, \$8.95.

The Young Woman's Guide to Liberation, Karen de Crow, Pegasus, 1971, \$4.95.
Ms. de Crow, NOW Regional Director--East, has written a sound introduction to women's liberation. Give a copy to a teenage girl or maybe a newborn.

The Silenced Majority: Women and American Democracy, Kirsten Amundsen, Prentice-Hall, 1971, \$5.95.

"Gloria Steinem--The New Woman," Newsweek, August 16, 1971.

"The 'Woman Problem'--Then and Now," Life, 3-part series, August 13, 20, and 27, 1971.

"Right Now," McCall's, September, 1971.

"The Working Woman," by Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Ladies Home Journal, September, 1971.

"Treat Them Equally," The Houston Post, editorial, August 17, 1971.

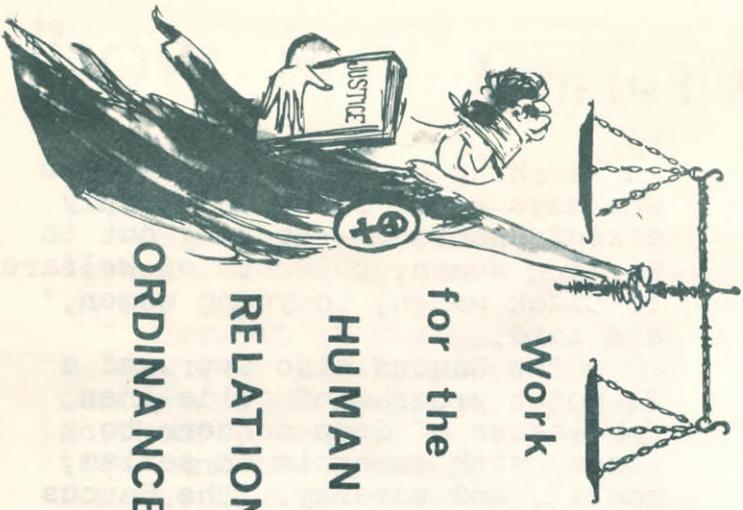
"Abortion--Legal and Illegal," The Houston Post, editorial, August 19, 1971.

"Child Care for the Poor," The Houston Post, editorial, July 23, 1971.

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