

les arrestations faites à l'extérieur du théâtre n'étaient d'aucune façon motivées par l'intervention intérieure puisque celle-ci eut lieu beaucoup plus tard.

On apprit par la suite que 57 personnes furent arrêtées et détenues au poste 4, plusieurs jusqu'à 4 heures du matin et ce sans qu'on porte aucune accusation contre elles.

Conclusion

Battered Wives exploite, ridiculise et approuve donc par le fait même les violences et la discrimination que les femmes subissent chaque jour, et ce, pour servir leur intérêts commer-

ciaux. '... L'acte que nous avons posé est une riposte publique à une injure publique... et il n'en est résulté qu'une réponse violente à un piquetage légal et pacifique. Il n'y a donc aucune mesure commune entre l'acte posé et la réaction que nous avons subie.'

Pourquoi tant de repression?

Quel est ce pays qui se dit libre d'expression?

Quelle est cette présumée démocratie?

Qui sont donc ces policiers supposés défenseurs de la paix?

De qui reçoivent-ils leurs ordres?

Qui veut tant réduire les femmes au silence? Pourquoi?

Times Change: A Women's Employment Service

Frances Rooney

Un examen des activités de conseil et de placement de Times Change Women's Employment Service, de ses difficultés actuelles et de son avenir menacé.

During the past ten years women have been asserting our right to work and to *be paid* in all those currencies men of this post-industrial world take for granted: money, respect, status, and security. The unbelievable economic, psychological, and physical resources that have been used to oppose us provide ample indication of what there is to gain, of what others are afraid of losing. Because of these odds and because we have fought with almost no support, those few places that exist to provide information and assistance are vital if we are to continue the fight for the right to work.

Times Change is one of those places. Since it opened in September 1974, its clients have included women of all ages and all backgrounds. Women who had never worked outside the home, and women who had never stayed and worked exclusively in the home. Some of them were torn by the frustration of working for people who had a fraction of their own ability and they wanted to investigate alternative career possibilities. Other clients arrived at Times Change wanting or needing to find work, but fearful that they had no marketable skills, and unsure of their ability to survive in the job market.

Through workshops, individual counselling, and a job placement service, Times Change has provided women with the necessary tools for finding paid employment. It has helped them become aware of alternatives to traditional and often oppressive employment situations and to reach their own potential. Times Change also conducts evening legal clinics, sponsors consciousness-raising groups and has a comprehensive collection of resource material on women and the labour force.

Times Change has helped women through all stages of job preparation and search. Because its services are free it is unique in the Toronto area. Womanpower in London, Ont., provides a service comparable to that offered by Times Change, and it is now suffering cut backs. A similar agency in Vancouver recently closed down. Another in Montreal has just been dropped. Another in Ottawa hasn't been heard from in quite a while. Now Times Change is in trouble.

Times Change is a Canada Manpower Outreach project. The purpose of Outreach is to extend Manpower services to groups in the community which are disadvantaged in terms

of their employability and for whom Manpower feels it is providing inadequate service. When Times Change opened, youth and women were priorities of both Manpower and Outreach. But women and youth are no longer priorities.

The new top three priorities are Native people, remote communities, and the physically and mentally disabled. These can in no way be construed to include women *per se*. Still priorities, but lower on the list again, are the chronically unemployed, people receiving family benefits, and those experiencing great difficulty entering the labour force. It is into these 'less important' categories that many women fall.

Had Times Change been unwilling to alter its target groups, it would have been given three months in which to wind down its operations and in December 1978 would have ceased to exist. Since the group is willing to make changes, it has been given a six-month contract. During that six months, the nine women who work at Times Change must evolve a plan of action and change the services they offer in order to aim more directly at the revised target group. If they manage to satisfy those who control the Outreach contracts, they will, in March 1979, be considered for another contract which will be a maximum of fifty percent of the present contract. That is, *if* all goes well, at the end of those six months, the agency's budget will be cut in half, its staff reduced, and its office space re-negotiated. Then—it *may* be allowed to carry on.

Women are powerless because we refuse to use what power we have. We have *number* power. Help preserve these services for women by writing your MP *now*. If every woman who reads this article writes to Ottawa then these agencies will survive.

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Ottawa K1A 0J9

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