



It has been said

It has been said
that women have no gift
for numbers.

It has been said
we have only
feeling
to count among our assets,
intuition that comes from our
blood connection to the animal,
sensitivity that comes from
fingertips across a child's
flushed forehead,
emotional over-ripeness
that comes from
exclusive homage to
love.

It has even been said
that these our commodities,
our eloquently pronounced
feelings,
limit us,
make us anachronisms
in a world of more self-possessed
adults,
make us an embarrassment where
sticking to the
point
is the definitive mark
of the higher species
whose registered trade mark reads:
"The shortest distance between two points
is a straight line."

Those who would anatomize us in
such common denominators
should conduct a new appraisal.

We have an intimate familiarity
with numbers.

Every 10 seconds a rape is reported in the U.S.
Unemployment reaches 1,000,000
women urged to return to their homes.

2/3 of single parent families
headed by women
live below the poverty line.

Canada's first woman bank manager appointed
after working 40 years in the bank.

Well over 3/4 of a million women have taken
DES in the last 20 years.

90% of the daughters born to these women
have a precancerous vaginal condition
scientists have named
adenosis.

In 1977, 45.9% of Canada's 8,767,000 women
aged 15 and over
worked for their living.

In 1976 women earned 54.9% of the
average male wage.

Housework is worth at least \$26 billion
a year
to the Canadian economy.

Penthouse Magazine is the
second largest circulation magazine
in the country.

Women constitute 52% of the population.

We know these numbers.
We store them in our psyches
as indelibly as the computer
holds its programs.
We brood over these statistics
as the analyst broods over the
stock market report
as the mother hen broods over
her unhatched chicks.

An accounting is being made.

It's not so much that
we have a head for figures
That is to underestimate our
genius.

No, it is not our head
for figures
which is to be measured
in the assessment of
equal signs.

We have a heart for figures,

And further embezzlement of our
inestimable resources
further deficit financing
to obscure
the balance of payments owing
further devaluing of our
currency

Will increase our numbers
by geometric ratio.

Those who would attempt to
hedge
on the market consequences
of our audit
might do well
to calculate on
Balance sheets headed
'supply' and 'demand'

For when we form our cartel
to fix the prices
on all our services
And when we suspend delivery on
all our collective commodities
pending payment
anyone with a head for figures
will see it is
to
the
point
for the figure heads
in the banks and in the boardrooms
in the labs and in the
expense account
dining lounges
to declare
bankruptcy.

They cannot say they weren't
warned.
They cannot plea they
miscalculated.

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Patricia Carey