

*Khaus*

SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT

The Speakers Bureau has been running fairly well and close to the policy. The average number of speaking engagements has been 23 a month. The breakdown of the types of speeches from September to February goes like this:

- 37 high schools
- 37 women's groups
- 34 mixed groups
- 27 colleges
- 3 all men's groups
- 2 rallies



Some of the problems of the Speakers Bureau are these:

- (1) We compiled a resource file in September of people who are qualified to speak on specific topics. This is so speakers in the rotating file could use them as resources or prepare the speech together with them if the group wanted a specific area of knowledge or experience. This resource file has been used very little. This is probably because people have forgotten about it, and because we are inclined to do our own separate research.
- (2) It is unclear to me once the speeches are given to chapters in rotation, whether the speeches are given to different members of the chapter in turn, or if the responsibility usually falls on a few women repeatedly.
- (3) We get very little feedback on the speeches-- how they turned out, suggestions for future speeches, etc. We've gotten a couple requests for follow-up with some groups of women, but if this has been done at all, it's been only in the form of another speech (especially in high schools).
- (4) We have done no soliciting of places where a speaker would be important.
- (5) After a chapter will definitely take a speech, or sometimes will say it's tentative whether they can fill it, but either way we get calls a few days before the speech date telling us they can no longer fill it. Sometimes it takes an entire afternoon or two days of calling to get this filled at the last minute. When transportation has been a problem too, we've cancelled out once or twice.
- (6) Sometimes we get speeches at the last minute, which are equally as difficult to fill as in the above situation.

*Chairman Mao says: "Dogma is shittier than Cowdung"*  
(translation and lettering by M)

*\* The correct line reads "move useless than" in place of "shittier".*

SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT continued

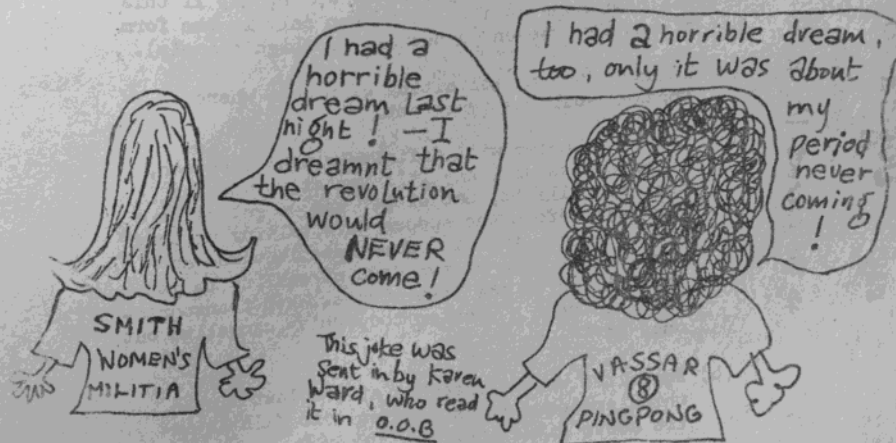
(7) We often get speeches 2-3 months in advance. Technically these should be filled right away, but because of the amount of time and calls it takes to fill speeches and because of the shortage of staff to do this they get filled only 2-3 weeks ahead of the date.

(8)

The following are some questions and suggestions that came up at the SC meeting March 11, 1971:

- (1) It was suggested that if 2 chapters were contacted about a speech and both thought it was exploitative, it should be dropped.
- (2) Should rotation be flexible depending on when a chapter is particularly able to speak? Or depending on where the speech is--so chapters could get speeches in their neighborhood?
- (3) Or should rotation be firmly maintained, and hold cards if chapters are really busy?
- (4) Specific topics and special interest groups:
  - when a speech comes in about a specific topic (ie child care or women in labor) should a group of the union working on that topic be contacted automatically as a resource person to accompany the speaker?
  - if a specific group (ie ACDC or labor organizing committee) gets a speech, should they have the responsibility to contact the office and get someone from the bureau to accompany them?

*Jenny Pinner*



SPEAKERS BUREAU POLICY

- 1) Every member of the CWLU should speak publicly about women's liberation. In order to see that everyone is asked to speak, when a speaking request comes to the Union, it will be referred to a chapter which is responsible for filling it. Each chapter is put at the end of the list, once it has spoken, and is asked again when its turn comes up. The chapter should see that everyone in it takes a turn speaking. We are still in the process of working out a way to contact women who are not part of a chapter.
- 2) When you speak, take a sister with you to:  
provide support for you  
evaluate the speech with you  
give inexperienced women a chance to develop skills
- 3) All fees and contributions which you get for speaking should go to the Union, except for transportation and babysitter costs.
- 4) Try to take literature and buttons with you to sell when you speak. (Available at office or north and southside centers)
- 5) Explain what CWLU is and give our address, etc. If women want to be on the mailing list, get their addresses; if they want to start a group, etc., bring that information to the office.
- 6) If you had an unusual experience or one you want to share with your sisters, write a piece about it for the newsletter.
- 7) Refer any media requests that you get to the media committee; and refer future speaking requests you get to the speakers bureau.
- 8) Please be responsible!!!! Always contact the person who has requested the speaker to confirm time, date, place, subject, etc. And be sure to show up when you say you will. Also ask if they want you to bring something special along, like the Miss Amerika film which is available at the office.

## A SAMPLE SPEECH

This is a sample speech which could be delivered in a formal situation to a large group which was unfamiliar with women's liberation. It is reprinted to help give you ideas for preparing speeches of your own.

### I. Introduction

Historically women's liberation struggles have developed in the midst of struggles for general reform. Over 100 years ago American women who were active in the abolitionist movement attended an anti-slavery conference in London. They had been full time workers against slavery; had given speeches, knocked on doors, circulated petitions. Yet in London the women were not allowed to sit with the men, but were forced to sit at the back of the hall behind a drawn curtain.

The women returned to the U. S. resolved to make the liberation of women an important front in their movement for general social change. Similarly, 100 years later, thousands of young women in America have devoted their lives to a movement for needed; radical change in our country. Women have worked in support of the liberation of black and brown people, have militantly demanded an end to American genocide in Vietnam, and have worked to end economic exploitation of all the American people. And again women have found themselves symbolically hidden behind a drawn curtain -- relegated to the back seat of the New Left.

About 4 years ago the current women's liberation movement began. At an SDS convention in Southern Illinois women met together as women for the first time. Unhappy with a movement which did not allow them leadership roles and which practiced the male chauvinism of the larger society, the women began to talk about the general oppression of women in society.

II. One of the largest groups of people in America that has been denied self-respect, pride and human dignity is women. Everywhere women turn they see a denial of their own worth as human beings.

- A. Degrading stereotypes are constantly being presented as "normal" and are reinforced by society
  - 1. e. g. this ad from a popular magazine: "Should a bride-to-be work as a Hertz girl before marriage? Yes, it gets her used to being taken for granted. And if that's not perfect training for marriage, we'd like to know what is."
- B. Women are discriminated in educational experiences
  - 1. Often women are discouraged from pursuing intellectual paths or furthering their education, because they are "just" women and the education would be "wasted."
  - 2. Those women who do go to college find themselves studying psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, etc. that value women very little -- we are told to accept their biased opinions as "objective" scientific facts.
- C. Women are discriminated against in employment; have difficulty finding meaningful work; are generally paid less than men; and have a hard time becoming financially independent.

ge 2 sample speech

D. Women are assigned by a male-dominated society to housework and child-care which carry no pay, no status, and no intellectual challenge.

III. It is very important to realize that the oppression of women in our society is not an accident -- but that it is profitable to American business and that is one reason it is still in existence.

A. Women are used as a reserve labor pool for American business

1. Women get the lowest pay and work the worst jobs -- similar to the economic position that black people as a group are forced into.
  - a. Hired last; fired first
  - b. Hold menial jobs; part time which offer no fringe benefits
2. The situation during World War II is a perfect example
  - a. During war, women were needed to work in the defense industry when the men were overseas. "Rosie the Riveter" became the patriotic model of American women. The ideology current was that it was good for women to work, that bottle feeding had advantages over breast feeding. Day care centers were made available at the plants.
  - b. At the end of WWII the men returned and women's labor no longer was needed. The ideology which was then spread was that working mothers caused juvenile delinquency among their children; that women who tried to compete with men on the job market were sick; and that bottle feeding was really dangerous to the health of babies.

B. Women as consumers

1. Women are made to feel inadequate; must fit certain image of beauty in order to be successful and catch a man
  - a. Therefore women buy useless makeup; constantly buy clothes of the current "in" style, wigs; go on diets; take beauty courses all to be "attractive"
  - b. All of these industries, aimed at making women attractive are multi-million dollar businesses
2. Women are made to feel that their true role is as housewife and they must be the best housewife if they want to be respected
  - a. Advertising creates useless values which make women consume; e. g. "the whitest white," and women buy newest laundry product available, enzymes, clothes softeners, etc.
  - b. Appliances sold to make unwrinkled bacon, "perfect" waffles ~~diswasher~~ dishwasher for "spotless" dishes, floor waxer, etc.
  - c. Advertising overemphasizes the importance of food and cooking which leads to buying expensive foods and cooking utensils.
3. Women must be perfect mothers; only way to prove this is what women buy for their kids.
  - a. Buy numerous toys which aren't needed; constantly new clothes for kids which don't even last.
4. All this consuming is encouraged, demanded by an insane economic system which produces 15 different types of toothpaste.

C. Women are used as sex objects to sell things (as well as to buy)

1. Used to sell cars, men's perfume, clothes, whiskey, cigarettes, etc.

D. Women are used as "lightening rods" of society to neutralize feelings