

Notes from

WOMEN: THE NEGLECTED RESOURCE

HABITAT FORUM - JUNE 3, 1976

Co-Sponsored by:

The Dean of Women's Office - UBC

Program:

Rosemary Brown

Lisa Hobbs

Fran Hoskin

Nancy Morrison

WOMEN'S RESOURCES CENTRE
Centre for Continuing Education
University of British Columbia

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June 3, 1976 - 7:30-9:30 p.m.

IRONSTIDE: Welcome to tonight's program WOMEN - THE NEGLECTED RESOURCE. I'm Anne Ironside, the Co-ordinator of the Women Resources Centre, co-sponsoring tonight's program with the dean of women's office at UBC. Nancy Morrison is going to be our moderator tonight and for those of you who are new to Canada, Nancy is our irrepressible Judge Morrison.

Y MORRISON: Thank you. Welcome to this evening. Something rather special happens, I think, when a lot of women get together along with men and when we share ideas and communicate with one another and particularly when those of us who get together are feminists, I think something electric happens and I think you're going to hear three of the most outstanding feminist speakers, tonight, Lisa Hobbs, Rosemary Brown and Fran Hoskin. We only have two hours, so it will be a fairly brief program.

What we propose to do is spend the first hour, almost, hearing from the three speakers and the second hour, we would hope that your response and your discussions will take place. It may be in response to something that the speakers have said or it may be something that you said or it may be something that you yourself feel should be brought out in this open public forum.

We would particularly invite response from those people who are visiting from outside Canada, standing perhaps to one side for the last hour as hosts. We've just been informed by the way, that the really magnificent carved wood chairs that are on the platform are the work of native prisoners who are presently inmates at Mountain Prison in B.C., I think it's near Chilliwack. Originally, someone told us just before we began, these chairs were to have been sold but perhaps these things are difficult to organize and something is large and sometimes unstructured to this habitat, so the chairs will be returned to the native prisoners at Mountain Prison, but I think it may be well to keep in mind if you're interested in acquiring some of the kind of furniture that it is for sale, the prisoners who worked long and hard are extremely proud of their work and the chairs sell for the price of \$75.00. You don't mind us giving a commercial at this time of the evening for something that worthwhile.

I think the work of the prisoners is obviously beautiful and I can tell you it's very comfortable as well. So, if you're interested in those chairs, it's at Mountain Prison, you can get in touch with them very easily, they'll be there for a while some of them - \$75.00. It's nice and warm in here now, the sun may go down, it will go down, it may cool off. If it does, I suppose a little arm swinging will do, getting up - I'm going to invite you to stand up in about half-hour, an hour's time, cause I've sat on some of these benches this morning and they're rough for a long period of time. I was going to suggest if it gets really cold, a little neighbourly back rubbing but I don't think I should suggest that kind of thing, should I, on this forum?

Our topic is women the neglected resource and I have an image that comes to mind whenever I think of women as a neglected resource. I don't think any of us quarrel with the topic. But, supposing we have a community in a small Prairie Centre where it's very hot in summer and there are two swimming pools, one on either side of the town, hot weather and the other swimming pool remains unused, that community is making very bad use of its two swimming pools. It's overusing one swimming pool and it's neglecting the other. I think that's what we're doing with women as a resource. We're also going to be somewhat restricting the topic to the participation of women. We'd also like you to keep in mind one thing, that this is the first major and the first international conference since the conference in Mexico City last year, in International Women's year and this decade has been declared the decade for the advancement of women through the United Nations.

Among our three speakers, I'm going to introduce Lisa Hobbs first, but may I say a general comment about all three of them before I begin. I once described Rosemary Brown in street language colloquialism as a heavy-duty lady. Well, you're going to hear from three heavy-duty ladies tonight, I hope they understand and appreciate the colloquialism - it's a high form of praise. Lisa Hobbs is an outstanding journalist and an author. She's a best selling author which many of us in Canada perhaps are not aware of. At the present time, Lisa is the only woman on the editorial board, she is an assistant editor of the third largest daily newspaper in Canada, the Vancouver Sun. The only woman to reach that height certainly in British Columbia. There are very few women in Canada who have achieved that dizzying height in journalism, a lot more perhaps deserve to be there, Lisa certainly does. She is a really truly international representative to speak to you tonight.

She was born in Australia, worked for many years in the United States, has lectured and written extensively throughout North America. In 1965, she was the first western correspondent to be admitted to the People's Republic of China and from that visit, she wrote a best-seller book that has been translated into 12 languages (called) I Saw Red China. Since then, she has written another book on her extensive travels throughout Asia, particularly India, a book called Hindi in India and she is an unabashed feminist, who has written what I consider one of the outstanding feminist books of the last decade called "Love and Liberation". It's a book that's full of warmth and humour and great feminism and it reflects Lisa. I'm sure you're going to enjoy hearing from Lisa Hobbs.

LISA HOBBS:

Thank you, Nancy. We're going to talk of course about human habitation. We all know what the problem is. Millions of our fellow humans are spending their lives in misery, not through a lack of proper housing but through a lack of any housing and we know that the problem is rapidly worsening, that before this century is over, there's going to be another world of people and the majority of them are going to be living in shanty towns of indescribable filth and misery, for the simple reason that urbanization and population increase are both progressing at a disproportionately high rate in the underdeveloped nations. We know these things, in fact, the United Nations in its various committees have been talking about them since the UN came into existence over 30 years ago. That body, in fact, is now into its second generation of speech making and the problem is worse than ever.

Why? Is it a lack of sincerity? No. Is it a lack of intelligence? No. Is the world really short of resources or money or spirit? No. I believe there's a very simple reason for it. I believe that much of the talk that is going on and around at the Food Conference in Stockholm at the Environment Conference at Budapest, where the Population Conference is entirely irrelevant. 98% hot air. I don't have to struggle to prove this. It is a self-evident truth and that the world is getting shorter of food, the resources are depleting, the population is booming, the environment is still being polluted and the housing practically everywhere is worse. I suggest these facts result from the fact that these conferences have been band-aids which rhetoric by and large that do not change but on the contrary, shore up the existing political, social and economic structures in the nation concerned, the plugs that block all progress remain intact and these are the insane armament race and the systematic exclusion of women from almost all levels of power, both facts of which are entirely inter-locking. The world's expenditure on armaments, annually about \$300 billion, is now reported to be at a new record level.

Yet, Dostoevsky said that man was made for happiness, but we in the 20th century appear to live either in a paralysis of fear, if we are a wealthy nation or an abyss of misery, if we are poor. Peace, which should be a natural legacy from one generation to the next is now intrinsically tied up in the armament shipments. \$300 billion worth of armaments a year shipped by the United States, by the Soviet Union and by China from one end of the earth to the other, to the multi-nationals, it's a very profitable game, to the governments in power, it's a garnish on the feast of power.

In fact, one can't have a birthday in certain countries without a fly past of Mirage Fighters, that is if you want to count on the International scene, the poverty of the country buying the arms, countries that could not last a day if any great foreign power moves against them anyway, appears to be entirely irrelevant in this race, the people might be illiterate, filled with intestinal worms, blind with glaucoma, living in the mud. There's not enough money to cure these ills, but there's always enough for the latest weaponry, weaponry that inevitably is turned against these people, if they aspire to fulfill their human potential. What good is it to shoot down people to let them go unhoused and hungry and uneducated simply because they want a chance and then to go to International conferences piously, pontificating about housing? Men are violent and if any real changes are to occur, they'll have to come about by women facing and mitigating this violence.

They have been doing privately, in the privacy of their homes for centuries and now the time has come to do it on the larger scene. Yet, where are women? With the exception of the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City, there are few women found at any international conferences. Out of the 500 or so male delegates, there are only about 35 women delegates. When we look at the External Affairs department, the Foreign Affairs department, the political departments, the banking system, the International Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary funds, we can see precisely to what extent the fate of women lies in the hands of men and we can see why, generation after generation, we have war. It does not lie in a few women getting jobs at the top and it does not lie in refusing to serve your boss coffee or in opening your own car door.

We can claim the achievement of power only when we are in an equal position to stop international wars to put a stop to this insane expenditure of the world's goods on explosives and weapons of destruction, until we are in a position to divert some of this \$300 billion annual expenditure in arms into such things as housing. But, even if this money is available, it will be absolutely to no avail unless all our societies are restructured to include women at every level of decision-making. Certainly, some money is necessary to solve the habitation problems of the world. But it isn't everything. Indeed, it's ironic to see how often it has been spoken of at this conference, as if it were everything. All history, since the Second World war is evidence of how little it actually buys.

China, without a nickle from the western countries, from the developed nations and with only a penurious loan from the Soviet Union regained its soul and strength and today is a great power. Billions were poured into "winning the minds and the hearts of the Vietnamese people" and the western powers involved still lost that war. Millions today are going into South American and Central American countries to repress the insurgency movements among the poor and dispossessed and in the end, the poor and dispossessed will win. Look at North America. The great American Dream has been a house for every family, a woman in the house and children in the home and dad running off out in the world everyday, to make enough money to keep the dream going. But, the dream has turned into a nightmare, it's all breaking down. It's breaking down because neither in the planning of the home, the building of the suburbs, the laying of the roads, the positioning of the facilities, the building of the city, it's breaking down because nothing, either in the entire environment nor in the institutions that are part of that environment have been created by women. Nowhere in this great American Dream was the potential of woman taken into account. No where was her strength and her existence as a full-fledge member of the society accounted for. To the rest of the world, she looks rich, maybe an object to be envied. In reality, her despair as she tries to live out a life as male institutions, male clergy, male professors, male doctors, male relatives tell her, to her despair, is often limitless. It seems almost an impertinence to mention the physically well-off western woman when one compares the lot of our sisters in the underdeveloped countries, without water, electricity, degradation, harassment from city authorities, the constant bulldozing even of the shanty towns, the refusal of municipal authorities to even connect light or any form of sewage or water to these shanty towns.

For it's a woman who has to get the water, keep the clothing clean, get enough fuel to light the fire, make the food go round, and make whatever the money there is to go around. It's the woman who has to keep the peace and fight for the life of her children against odds that make our so-called heroes of the last World War look like amateurs. The world is a very beautiful place, it is indeed almost like a vision. It is human beings who have turned it into a nightmare and it's human beings who can turn it back to what nature intended. It is not, not too late. But, this dream will never come about until both power and wealth are redistributed. It won't come about while all the power rests in the hands of men while all institutions are controlled by men and while every problem is approached within the perimeters of stale and misogynistic structures.

How useless it is, how hypocritical to hold a conference pretending or even hoping to solve the problems of human habitation when the very persons who spend their lives within the basic structures of a home are, for whatever the reason, virtually excluded at every level of decision-making. How hypocritical to agonize over the lot of the poor, when those who groan loudest can't hear the groans within their own cities when they can't find the courage to destroy the elitist institutions that sure up their own elegant lives. I'd like to say to the United Nations delegates, you are the ones who can end the arms race and if you can't, you should be out of business. You are the ones who can rid your society of male elitism and privilege and rid your heads of shoddy and outworn stereotypes about women and your ability to protect them because you can no longer protect them. If these structural changes are not made within your institutions, if half the population of the world cannot participate, then there are going to be no solutions to the world problems such as human habitation and nothing will stop the holocaust that will result from this denial of half of humanity for we have pulled the plow long enough and now we are going to start planting the seeds. Thank you.

NANCY MORRISON: Thank you very much Lisa. Our next speaker is Rosemary Brown who certainly needs no introduction to Canadians. Rosemary by the way, is experiencing some frustration at the present time, because she is not a delegate to this Habitat Conference. By the way, is the mike working properly at the back, or is there too much sound, OK. As I say, there is a frustration, I have been led to believe, by Rosemary in her breast that she is not a delegate to the Habitat Conference. She's someone who is and always has been passionately concerned with the problems of human settlement. It's my understanding that she saw it to be a delegate through the Provincial Government, I believe. However, she was told that she wouldn't be but she was advised that she would be able to watch the proceedings on television. I must say, you know, if Rosemary were in opposition to me, I just as soon she was on the other side of the television screen too, so I don't blame them for telling you that, Rosemary.

Rosemary is a representative also of not only of our world the western world, but also of what we call the third world. She was born and raised in Jamaica, a country that does not enjoy the vast wealth and privileges of our country. When she was 19 she moved to Canada and has enriched our country since that time. She is also participating at the present time, (sort of been interrupted) in the United Nations fellowship that she received, and this was an extraordinary fellowship, it was an opportunity to study where women's status had changed, one country where status had changed through evolution, through statutory changes and to study another country, where change had come through by way of revolution. She has completed the study on the one country where women's status has changed by evolution, that country being Sweden. She has yet to complete or even begin her study on the other country where women's status has changed by revolution, Cuba. But that's coming and when her studies are completed, I think we'll have yet another document which indicts and incites I hope, our world leaders to better the status of women. We also know that Rosemary sort of electrified our country last year, when she had the audacity to run for the Federal leadership of the New Democratic Party and she had the further audacity to come second - you know, Rosemary always does very well on elections and I once made the mistake of telling her that I bet on her in elections and I usually win.

I always win and I have eaten some very elegant lunches and dinners at the expense of some of my not so astute friends because of their very ill-advised bets against Rosemary. She got a little picky about this, because she said: "Well, if you're winning them at my expense, I'm doing all the work, why aren't I getting some of the lunches?" I'm going to continue to bet on her, I'm just not going to tell her about my wins. Anyway, here's Rosemary Brown. She's a social worker, she's a member of our Legislative Assembly in the Province of B.C., a most potent member of the opposition and she's a feminist who's tough, warm and unrelenting. Rosemary Brown.

ROSEMARY BROWN: Thanks very much, Nancy. As I was sitting at the entrance waiting to come in, I was amazed at how many of my friends are here tonight and I'm wondering whether they deliberately stacked this meeting or not. Can I check whether you can hear me, even in the back rows, cause I think it's very important that we hear each other, because I'm convinced that the world would be well on its way to solving its problems, if only we could really hear what we're saying to each other.

I'd like to continue on the theme which Lisa started and deal specifically with an area which I know a little bit about and that is the whole business of the participation of women in the decision-making process. Now in her report to the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico in 1975, Elizabeth Read, a delegate from Australia, pointed out that what concerns us as women is that in the discussion of the need for a new international economic order and of the charter of economic rights and duties of states, little attention has been given to the role that women are to play in formulating and implementing this demand, nor to the fact that women as well as men must benefit from this revolution. She went on to add that if this is to be done with honesty, it means asking and involving women themselves. Indeed, it makes very little sense for governments to sit down together to discuss human survival and human needs without involving those people whom the Chinese tell us, hold up half the sky. The question has been asked and is still being asked "How can man-dominated and male-value-oriented governments and inter-governmental agencies make decisions on the subject of population for the good of all people, when 50% of the people who are in addition the most involved in the issue are not represented.

Yet, when we look at the make-up of the delegations of the nations represented at this, the most important of all the United Nations conferences, the conference which is to discuss our survival, our needs and the settlement of this planet, we find that women are again woefully underrepresented in these delegations and whether we are discussing the establishing of the new international economic order or the eleven objectives outlined in the agenda for the decade of action or the objectives of the Vancouver Symposium, our references for this Habitat Conference, one thing becomes and remains increasingly clear - women throughout the world must play a more active role in the development of these plans. Women must have the authority to make and in addition, be held responsible for the decisions affecting the development of their nations, and the onus is upon us, the women, the neglected resource, the neglected force in our countries to take this authority and responsibility upon ourselves.

As Germaine Greer in speaking on International Women's Year pointed out, and I quote "Women control neither the United Nations nor its member governments, nor the multi-national corporations, nor the purse strings of nations." That revelation spells out for us the channel of our exploitation in the world's ultimate dilemma, for as Helvi Sipilä has pointed out on more than one occasion, it is high time to acknowledge that the denial of women's rights and opportunities is at the very root of our development problems and socio-economic ills, including illiteracy, malnutrition, mass poverty and unchecked population growth. The question therefore is how do we, the neglected resource, the neglected force in our country become part of the decision-making machinery? How do we, as outlined in section 8 of the resolutions of this conference, ensure the full participation of all decision-making that determines policies for their settlement? At the risk of being accused of being simplistic, I would like to deal with two roots to achieve our goals and I want to say that I do not believe that these are exclusive, there are many many ways of achieving our goals but I'm dealing specifically with only two tonight.

But first, the goal; I believe that women must have equal involvement. The first country in the world granted women the vote in 1893. And why is it that in the election of 1972, 92% of the candidates who ran and 93% of the candidates who were elected were men. And what happened in Egypt in 1967? In 76% of the women there failed to vote and why the highest percentage of political participation in national legislatures everywhere is so low, the Soviet Union with 35%, Finland with 21% and especially we must wonder what happened here in Canada, this great nation of ours where women have enjoyed the vote since the mid-1900's.

Why is it that representation in our Federal House is 3% when the 1971 census shows that there are 6,615,610 women of voting age in this country and only 6,457,455 men? Nonetheless, if we accept Shirley Chisholm's statement that politics is the only route to power and that even the most democratic of societies, power is the name of the game and if we accept Kirsten Amundson's statement that it is through politics after all that one gets the rules and regulations, the important legislation that determines wages and working conditions that guarantees access and opportunities, and provides for the necessary services enabling women as well as men to fully develop and utilize their talents and skills. It is also ultimately qualities that will change institutions and social conditioning, structuring both male and female personality in this society and she adds that it is mainly through politics that one can hope to rebuild the values and to change the blatant counterfeit stereotypes of women that now get in the way of understanding an appreciation of our true situation and genuine needs. If we accept those two statements, then we have to be serious about real involvement in our nation's business and we have to address ourselves seriously to having the electoral system work for us. We not only have to run for political office at all levels of government but more importantly, we have to learn how to use the vote effectively in electing to political office those women committed to the evolution of a different way of people relating to each other.

I believe that the agenda for the Decade of Action laid down by the United Nations Assembly calling for a special kind of revolution on our part, that this 11 point agenda or consensus of priorities subscribed to by an unprecedented broad spectrum of 90 national women's organizations with an estimated constituency of 30,000,000 women, I believe that this agenda is significant not only because of the demands it makes but also because it establishes the minimum of objectives for change that we as women can readily support. And I note that its first specific calls for fair representation and participation in the political process. Now having exhorted you and having exhorted all women to enter into the power structure, I would like to add that we have to be sure that once we, as women, have achieved authority, responsibility and power, that we do not abuse them, that we not exercise our new options to play the traditional political machismo game based on a power structure relationship whereby one group of persons controls another, or one group of persons makes decisions for another, or one group of persons oppresses another, but that we dedicate the skills and ability which we bring to the political arena to a compassionate perception of humanity, that having the opportunity to address ourselves to the reality of poverty and despair of most of the world's women and most of the world's people, that having the opportunity to address ourselves to the ruthless exploitation of our environment and resources that we, the neglected resource, come to this arena with a commitment and sensitivity to what Michael Manly of Jamaica refers to as the new dynamic energy for the struggle against illiteracy, poverty and deprivation throughout the world and as we intensify our efforts on behalf of women around the world, let us in the tradition of Dr. Rene Dubois think globally and act locally.

Let us be sensitive for example, to the revelations of Theresa Nahane, an Indian woman who pointed out to us that little or nothing had been accomplished to significantly change the lives and lifestyles of Indian women as a result of International Women's Year, because although action is called for on a global scale, the cause has to be one, country by country, nation by nation. Moreover, it is important that we as women be able to commit our country to global action because as women we recognize that the concept of the new economic order with its commitment to sharing, cooperation and collective decision-making is the only hope for our survival. This is the perception which we as women have to bring to the political and bureaucratic process because I feel and I cannot stress too strongly that our participation in the public and the political sector must force a confrontation with poverty, for if our participation in the public and political sector cannot force a change in thinking on wars, on nuclear arms, on pollution, of the exploitation of our fellow human beings, on respect for each other and our environment, if our participation in the public and political sector does not challenge the concept that might is right and that competition is the only basis for survival, then there is really no point in the struggle and no hope for this planet after all. Thank you.

KCY MORRISON: It's true, isn't it, Brown is beautiful. I think now is the time to stand up because I know now how those seats are like. How would you like to just stand for a few minutes and

Before our two hours are up, I think it may be necessary at least one more time. Our next speaker is Fran Hoskin. Fran Hoskin is an American architect, she is an urban planner and critic, she is a journalist and author. She is also, although I have not heard the words from her but from my meeting with her over the past day, I would say she's another unabashed feminist, another one who shares with her previous two speakers an enormous concern not only for women but for the world condition. She shares that concern also with great humour, great warmth. You know it was easy to introduce the last two speakers, two women that I have known for some time and whom I love and I think we must all agree with our Prime Minister by the way, when he's spoken his opening remarks, he said: "We must talk and think in terms of love of one another and we must do it in a way that is unembarrassed, unlike our usual Anglo-Saxon embarrassed ways, perhaps." But now I come to introduce someone, Fran Hoskin, whom we haven't known for a long time and she is perhaps a new friend of Canada, but she is not new to the international scene and she is not new to the works of United Nations and conferences sponsored by the United Nations. She was born in Austria and has travelled, worked, studied and written virtually all over the world. She's a woman of great charm and great ability and great education and background but mainly it's her concern for the condition of the human settlement that brings her here today and makes her a most outstanding speaker for us to hear, and her ability to raise the level of consciousness of each and everyone of us will soon become apparent to you, as it did to those of us who were privileged to spend the better part of the day with her today. Would you welcome, please, a new friend to Canada and a very special one. Fran Hoskin.

FRAN HOSKIN:

I want to thank the women of Canada for their hospitality and for the delightful lunch I had this afternoon and I certainly share wholeheartedly everything they told me and I admire greatly the network that they have been able to establish here among themselves for which I think many of us could be envious in terms of communication. Now, communication is something I have been concerned with very much, especially in the last two years since International Women's Year started as far as women are concerned, because internationally communication between women is entirely missing. I have been fortunate to go to the Stockholm Conference and then to the Bucharest Conference and then to Mexico and many women came with high hopes to Mexico and were sadly disappointed.

One reason was that they found they are talking quite different languages. They're working on quite different political perceptions and they have politically speaking, they do not share many of the ideas. This is one problem that I tried to address myself to in starting an international network, a communication network by, for and about women. But as an architect planner, I'm here in a dual capacity, I'm trying to find out what is being done in the conference about women, because again as was pointed out by the speakers before, there is an absence of women among all the delegations despite all our efforts.

Last year, to heighten the awareness of the people who were at the conference meaning the delegations to go back as we of course already knew that the Habitat Conference was taking place. I think I would like to read you one of the statements that has gone almost or part of it, unnoticed at the conference that was made by Helvi Sipilä, who has already left the conference. She was the secretary of the International Women's Year Conference and her efforts really on behalf of women have achieved a great

deal, not perhaps in Canada and in the U.S.A. but from the communications that have reached me from women around the world, International Women's Year has done an enormous amount. It has really heightened the awareness of women everywhere and it has given them, for the first time, some kind of a basis of even bringing up that there is such a thing as a problem about the status of women and I think that is one of the most important achievements of International Women's Year that nobody thereafter can ever say again there's no such thing as a problem about the participation of women or about the status of women and this is what they really succeeded to establish everywhere. Here is the one thing about this conference that is really very sad. It is that some of the basic problems that women face are connected intimately with the property rights of women. They are never mentioned anywhere. Women 'make homes out of houses', houses built by men, women make communities out of settlements, settlements built and planned by men. Yet, in many cultures and in many communities, women have no legal rights to their own homes or to the land they till, they can be evicted from their homes, their houses can be sold out from under them and they have absolutely no recourse and I would warn you that this is not just a case in developing countries.

I think this case exists throughout the industrialized world and if any of you examine your own home ownership, your leases, you will find in most instances, that you are seriously disadvantaged in terms of the property rights. Out of these rights, flow a whole series of other rights which are especially crucial in developing countries where women and families begin, women and men, usually the men come first, move into cities which is one of the problems this conference is addressing here. What they do not address at all, is that though families are settled by planners in governments, in urbanized situations the women have no right to the plots which they occupy as part of their families. The leases are made out in the name of men alone. The houses are owned by the men and the women can be evicted any time.

I tried to put an amendment in, and there have been several amendments put in. At least talk to someone at the delegation about it. But this is an issue that has been entirely neglected by this conference and it will have dire consequences especially for the women in developing countries who will one day find that they have no right to their homes, they don't own the land which they till, and yet they are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the children and families.

I think I want to read you what I've brought along, the statement of Helvi Sipila. I have made several copies, unfortunately not enough, where she addressed the conference after we had a meeting on Monday. "The present status of women affects the fast population growth and subsequently the shortages of food and shelter. It is reflected and perpetuated in the disadvantage situation of children and young people. It is the reason for world migration and many problems of the shanty towns. Women, children and young people are the largest majority of the world's population; their problems and their potential contribution to the improvement of the situation must therefore be in the forefront of all our efforts, also in the field of human settlements. The present problems of women which limit their share in the benefits and the active participation in the proposed activities, are by no means restricted to the developing countries. In many industrialized societies, the law still considers women as minors who cannot own or inherit property, or gain credit in their own name. Their problems are multiplied in the case of

women in many developing countries who are often fully responsible for food production. Yet, paradoxically they cannot own or cultivate the plots of land in their own name, and are often denied credits for the improvement of the production owing to their inferior legal status".

I think this is one of the things that if you have any influence on your own delegations, there is still a little bit of time left to draw the attention of the delegations to this omission, which I believe will have the most serious consequences for the future of women, everywhere in the world, because as Helvi Sipila states, and I'm sure you know that credit depends on establishing credit but if you have no collateral on which to establish credit, you will be entirely disadvantaged thereafter and at least in the USA, we have had great trouble with establishing bank credit or even charge accounts for women who are single or who are divorced, or who try to take out credit in their own name, who cannot deal with that situation at all and the legislation had to be changed.

But, on a lighter note, I think we should try to think about our homes and our immediate environment, and one of the things that has never been discussed here is the participation of men in the home environment. Now, men make all the decisions about how homes are built. I suggest that in their own terms, experience is the best teacher. I think men should plan on the basis of their experience of home making and only then will they be fit to design the kind of homes that are useful for people to live in.

I wrote last year an article for the Christian Science Monitor where I pointed out these facts; I had an enormous amount of mail as a result and one of the things I suggested is that I mean from your daily chores, for instance, if you think of how bathrooms are arranged, how it is a back-breaking job to wash out a tub, how it is a daily chore to make the beds and all this sort of thing, how badly arranged everything is within the house, you can never reach the higher shelves, there are innumerable things in the kitchen that don't work or else the house is arranged in such a way that if you have friends, you are segregated in the kitchen while the friends in the living-room, and I can go on and on and I'm sure that everybody here knows exactly what I'm talking about.

This, of course, is entirely due to the fact that houses are designed by men and men never run a house, so the same thing is true of course with communities. Suburbia, certainly is one of the most difficult things for women to cope with and most of us live in suburbia, because you are isolated and segregated, way out there, away from the action, it takes you an hour more, or half-hour to drive in or to take public transportation which aggravates all the job situation for women, usually the jobs are not in the suburbs, they're somewhere else. On top of that, there's inadequate child care because communities are not planned properly for women and children and the government of course has the least amount of money for social services, because those are things that are automatically taken care of by women. Now, why is that so? Because housework is unpaid. Housework comes easy because you get it anyway, now as long as housework is not mentioned in GNP, I think we will always be where we are, which is doing the unpaid labour that nobody wants to do.

One of the priorities of this conference is water and Barbara Ward has addressed herself to that and urged the conference the other day, if they do nothing else at all, they should deal with water. Why has water not been taken care of in the communities around the world, particularly in developing countries; the answer is very simple, it is the women who carry the water. It is the women who walk for miles to carry water and also fuel before they can even begin to cook a meal and everywhere in the world, no matter where you look, it is the responsibility of women to prepare the food. Now, I would move that all these delegates who so high-handedly decide our future, as far as human settlements are concerned, should first of all learn from practice. They should be made to run the houses and carry the water and prepare the food and deal with the communities on the daily basis, running a job and taking care of children and trying it out in practice and perhaps then we'll come to some better-planned communities and to some homes that answer the needs of people, men and women.

I don't think until this takes place anything will change the way houses are designed or communities are planned. I'm of course in a very small minority; there are in the U.S.A. 2.7% architects that are women and planners are not much more, which is the lowest participation in any profession except I think possibly engineers, but I think this is a very great problem and until men learn to do housework and women concern themselves with planning and building and also financing of settlements, and everything that makes human the administration and the political end of it much more actively, we will never change anything about human communities and what I propose here is that you should start at home and plug your own husbands, brothers or sons or whomever you have available, into learning how to do housework because only then will we get decent communities and only then will we get decent homes and so this is some homework that everybody can do and that you don't have to travel around the world and you can do it each in your own community, regardless of where you live.

Now, I think one of the sad things is that the achievements of International Women's Year which have been really far-reaching, have been entirely neglected. How many people here have seen or read the World's Plan of Action? Well, I think the Resource Centre will have available some summaries, I can give you some addresses where a summary of the World's Plan of Action is available. Some of us worked on this intensively last year, in Mexico and elsewhere and in my international network I have written about it, in my newsletter extensively, most of the documents are available, free, or cost very little, something like 50¢ or \$1.00 and I must say it is an excellent document despite all expectations. It really covers the waterfront to a much greater degree because there were some very active feminists in the United Nations who prepared this document most ably. If you would like me to, I can give you some addresses where to get these documents or else you can probably get them through the Women's Resource Centre. That may be better. I would urge you all to take care of it and read it but I think you wanted to say something more about the amendment?

Because there have been numerous amendments and I was this afternoon in committee I where the Action Plan, I mean here it's called the Declaration of Principles, is discussed and I'm glad to report I just read before I came here all the amendments that have been proposed and there have been several countries including Canada, and also the U.S.A. and others, who have proposed some quite valid amendments about women to this very short declaration of principles which is the gist of this conference. This is THE conference document. How many people have seen this document? or read it? I would urge you to try and get hold of it and read it because it is the key document of this conference which will give the countries or the states the basis of action in the future.

Now, I think I've overstayed my time, but I have brought along some literature and some copies of the newsletter and I would be very interested, it is an open participatory newsletter called Women's International Network News and I'm urging you to send me information and everybody who sends me information gets a newsletter in return, it's a self-supporting venture. I have no grants at this time and therefore I'm entirely free to say anything that anybody wants to express. However, I depend on subscriptions, particularly to go to developing countries and I think the only reason it was started is because it was quite obvious that international news neglect women altogether, as I'm sure you have seen here at the conference. The international affairs in particular are the area where women are most excluded and where women have least to say, yet there, most of the money is spent. As you can see, also between the difference of this conference and the downtown conference, which is quite an example. Well, I'm very grateful to the Canadian women for letting me speak here tonight, I have had a most enjoyable time here and I'm looking forward to next week. Thank you.

JOY MORRISON: Thank you, Fran. I would tell you that the Women's International Network News which is a publication that Fran edits is most worthwhile reading and if you will allow us to give a plug on behalf a friend. If you wish to subscribe to it, there are several blanks down at the bottom of the stage here, so at the end of the evening, if you wish to subscribe to it, please come forward or if you have to leave early, come forward and take a blank if you like. Fill it in and send it to the publication. We've had some compelling reminders this evening that women do lead the statistics in one area, throughout the world and that's in the area of poverty.

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AUDIENCE
PARTICIPATION: Now that you've heard from our three speakers, we will get back to what Habitat Forum is also all about and it's a public forum and we would now invite those of you in the audience who wish to speak to come forward, there are 3 microphones at the bottom of each of the set of stairs. Several women have already indicated that they would like to speak and we hope that there are some men as well.

It's not exclusive to women. We would ask that any speakers who do come forward to the three microphones, would identify themselves first by their names and by their country, by way of interest for those of us who are listening and if you wish to direct questions to any of the speakers, please feel free. They're virtually sitting ducks here on the platform. That, of course, excludes the moderator. It's a very firm rule that you don't pick on the moderator. She's neutral. I would ask those who are

going to either question the speakers or participate by way of speaking to whatever they feel is essential, if they would keep in mind the topic for this evening and that is Women, the Neglected Resource, and that you would also keep in mind that we're talking about participation of women. We've had to narrow the subject because as we all know, the whole issue of women's rights took up more than just an international conference in Mexico last year, so we would ask that you keep those guidelines in mind. Are there any questions or are there any people who wish to speak?

My name is Joan Hagerty - I'm a feminist novelist, I've written two books which have been published here and I've been sitting on something a long time during this conference and I'm going by the old chinese notion which is called "speaking out" and not sitting on stuff if you can't stand it any longer, and that is precisely this. That I am really tired, I'm exhausted that the political naivety of a conference of this dimension that persists continually to use the word the home of man and his world as if people do not know by the mere mention of a word like that, it is a mere word, right, that they set up in people's minds, an image which is what words do, folks, and that I will bet on last bottom dollar that what is created in the human mind is a picture of you guess, a human male. Right. That's one thing that I just really needed to say and that mere word, the use of continually, repetitively that mere word is one way that our growing women's power is suppressed and I'm also tired of the ignorance that allows a conference of this dimension to miss a really fundamental fact and what I'm talking about now is religion. I mean I think mother Theresa does wonderful work, nobody can dispute that but the fact is also that since the creation of the notion of God the Father and the missing of the female principle, we have been in deep trouble and the Celtic myths, many many years ago predicted that when in fact men no longer consulted women as people to say whether they could go to war or not, whether it was really justified, that we would be in for years and years and years of mess.

In fact, since the female goddess was dethroned and the great matriarch was destroyed, the female principle has been tragically missing. That's really important too. On our side, is the fact that women's movement is growing steadily and what people seem to really misunderstand is that the women's movement is not an old styled revolutionary movement, we simply don't use the same kind of tactics. It's like a crumbling fortress, right, and the tide is really slowly moving up over that fortress. The last thing, I want to say is that we're in trouble, until the three wisemen who are still out pining under the stars about brotherhood, when they start pining about brotherhood and the peace that will never come until her resurrection.

My name is Navila Brair - I come from Palestine, I am from the Palestine Liberation Organization Movement and I'm here to tell you about our women and I quote Rosemary that "woman and man are fighting side by side for liberation" and we, Palestinian people, have been in search of our homeland since 1948 on the establishment of the Israeli Zionist state and we are fighting to go back to our homeland. Well, regardless of our national habitat and our political orientation we are all human beings and we are struggling against oppression, racism, discrimination and to tell you that our women since the establishment of the Palestinian Liberation Organization which is the representative of the Palestinian and it is the legitimate and only representative of the Palestinian by the United Nations and the United

Nations resolution has been passed since 1948 after asking that we have the determination to go back to our country. I'd like to tell you about Palestinian women. The Palestinian women are fighting and are in prison now and we are very proud of those women in prison in West Bank and Gaza and they are in Israeli prisons because they are fighting to come back to their habitat, to their homeland which is Palestine and we appeal to you to support us in our resistance movement. Thank you.

Myriam Wilkinson of Canada - I thought you might be interested from facts about the Canadian delegation because there are a lot of Canadians here. There are 72 people in the Canadian delegation, of the 6 official members, they're all men, of the alternates there is one woman who will be in the chair tomorrow in Committee no. 3, of the others, there are three other women on the group who are in an advisor role which means they really don't have too much say, so that is the position in a conference on Habitat which has such a strong impact on women. In addition to that, the Canadian government asked a group of academics to monitor the conference and they informed us today, there are 10 of them, they are all men and they said the reason there are no women on this group is because there were no women of the caliber that they wished who were available because they were all too busy. I strongly believe that women must take responsibility. You can't just sit and wait for things to be handed to you on a platter but it's obvious that we're going to have to take the initiative if we're going to get anywhere and the only way to do that is to bring it to the government's attention, that you do feel that this type of representation is not fair, sure or a democratic form of representation by writing letters or speaking to your members of parliament or your provincial representative and in particular, when you do have women running for political office and it's a hard thing to do, I've done it myself and I won and I've been defeated and that's worse, help them and support them if you can believe in the policies that they are bringing out in front of you and consider yourself taking a step forward because once you've done it you'll never go back. Thank you.

ANCY MORRISON: I think that you've triggered something with Fran Hoskin and she'd like to speak to our audience before our next speaker.

FRAN HOSKIN: All I wanted to add really to the first speaker who talked about the home of men, I move that the home of men should be renamed a home fit for humankind, it is not a matter of communication, she has been spoken to but she hasn't changed the name, the excuse that was given was that it wouldn't translate into other languages and the book is being done in many languages simultaneously. This is simply what the reply was and simply restating it, but as soon as women become planners and architects, the administrators of cities, we should rename the book and the conference as well.

I'm Betty Carroll from the U.S.A. I just wanted to follow-up on the first speaker and call your attention to the fact that I think in the U.S.A., in Canada and all the nations of the world really, women are the backbone of churches and religious traditions and yet, we have no power in any decision-making to a great extent except a few of protestant churches and I think

that this is another area in which women have to exert pressure in order to participate in the decision-making and become sharers in the ministry of all the religions. We've been conducting some seminars in Washington on the various great religion traditions and we find that the same thing exists in practically every great religious tradition, that it is the woman who socializes her children in the tradition but have very little to say about what that tradition says about women. Thank you.

ANCY MORRISON: I think if the Salvation Army would not mind me for putting a plug in for them, they have a history of liberationists in their church that they're proud of.

I'm Lucille Donam, U.S.A. and they're two things that I have been especially interested in and am pushing as hard as I can. One of them, of course, is action for women and the other is the development of a power base, and I think that if all of us here would go back to our own cities and our own towns and determine to get ourselves or our women friends on the city council or the city commission or the city committees especially with an eye to the city planning or town planning committees and commissions, we would be getting our first training and experience in the political process without having to put out a lot of money in order to run for office. I did include city council there and I should not have because at least in the U.S.A. we have to run for those on the partisan-political basis but in the city councils or city committees and the city commissions, we can get women on those without going through the expense of the political process. As an example, in the city of Oakland, California, three years ago, we got together as a coalition of 18 or 19 women organizations and we took the membership from 4 women to 11 women elected out of a total of 20 simply by action.

To emphasize that, the next year there was a go-around on the committees and commissions of the city, we were busy with other things and we did not get out at all, and there were 2 women put on the commissions and the committees that year, so I think that our first attitude is action and we can bring that to the local level where we can become participators for the future. Thank you.

I'm Judy Langdon and I live in Canada, as a matter of fact in Rosemary Brown's riding Vancouver-Burrard and I'm very pleased to be there. I'd like to challenge our most eloquent and accomplished speakers this evening. You're the people that have really succeeded and yet each of us has talent, women, men, people have talent. But the problem with it is that we all need encouragement and it is not good enough just to encourage each other and I think that's what you've been telling us. What we need is you to encourage us. I understand that Rosemary was the one who prodded and assisted Nancy in getting her a judgeship and probably Nancy would not have done it unless Rosemary had said, get in there, take the position you can do it, and you'll do a darn lot of good by taking it. Now, if I'm wrong, I heard it from Nancy's own mouth a few months back, so she'll have to hold herself to that one. I really think that that's the key. A friend of mine once said: "Oh look, the reason there aren't any women principals much in Vancouver is that they don't apply. We had one application from a woman and 50 from men". Yes, but the point is that his friends who have power said: "Hey Joe, apply for that job" and he felt encouraged by that and he felt that they

thought he could do it. What I'm saying is, Lisa, you're in the news paper business - look out there at the women writers, look at Joan and say "come on, work for the Sun, I'm in a position to hire you". Rosemary, tell the people that Judy Langdon runs for Parks Warden and to vote for her. Nancy, you know get out there and get some other women in law and moving right on up there and Fran, I think you're probably doing it in your country, but I don't know the individuals you are to encourage, that's my challenge."

My name is Christine Goodman and I'm from Manchester, England. It's hard not to be cynical about the official Habitat Conference. I'm trying hard to believe that I'm in, not sitting in the dark, but it seems to me that most of the governments represented at the conference and the economic interest they control or controlled by them are the problem, so I have difficulty believing that they will pass resolutions to abolish themselves and create alternative governmental and economic forms. Economics and government cannot be separated and it appears that in this world economic clout is the only route to real power apart from revolution. Revolution and/or very fast evolution should be against the existing world-wide economic forms, i.e. capitalism. I believe that the oppression of women is in transit to capitalism. Women in socialist countries are oppressed but it is not the necessary part of their economic form. Simply put, the general of capitalism is the accumulation of capital by the maximization of profit. It is very profitable to have the most necessary work for our survival. i.e. the care of people to be unpaid. It is very comfortable for the payers that those very people engaged in this world are the least verbal and the least able for reasons that you all know very well, to stand up and complain.

For this reason, too, our education is neglected. We get stuck in low-skilled demeaning jobs, for the most part trade unions ignore us, medical science ignore us, governments ignore us, and the media ignores us apart from washing up liquids, fashions and make-up and vaginal deodorants, for crying out loud! It seems that we are not part of anyone's constituency. I also wish I could believe that the women could succeed but I don't, because it would not change the economic order. I wish I could believe in evolution too, because preaching revolution is very dangerous but as I said, I'm cynical so I have to believe in revolution. Thank you.

FRAN HOSKIN:

I would like to come away a little bit from what I've been hearing at the forum and that's the kind of doomsday's kind of thing and complaining and I don't think that we need to be in this camp at this particular moment. I'd like to say that based on this, I think we've had a certain amount of training from other political conferences beginning with Stockholm and going right through to today's conference or the conference going on here and that is that we're really with institutionalized violence and that is something that one can learn about and do something about.

I must say that I've heard a lot of cliches also this evening, and I'm a little tired of cliches and may I put forward two very positive things that I think we can do and that are being done as a result very largely of women's year. One is that we can first of all, there is a great talk about setting up women's bureaus and departments somehow channel these irritating problems of women and to get them coped with. May I say that Jamaica has a very interesting solution at this time, I don't know how well it will work, but at least they are attempting something new and that is to create a women's bureau

that is, in fact, under the wing of the prime minister's office. This means that if you have someone in government who is favourably inclined, you can then create a very small department which enables you to move into whatever ministry you want to. Get from that ministry what you need to have, if it's vocational training for women, if it's literacy, whatever it is, you find you have a great deal of freedom, you can be catalytic but you can utilise all the resources under all the various ministries and do something about it. That's one thing I think that we all need to know, what's happening to women's affairs, where is it going, what's happening, and I think that a great number of us don't know.

I, for instance, I come from England and I know that after the conference that my government pledged so much for developing countries to go into the women's development decade, now I think that every women's organization, should question the United Nations on how it's spending that money and up to this point, the leadership from within the United Nations itself, has, I think, been a very reformist one and has been very constitutionally-inclined. The final thing I'd like to say, I forgot one thing which I think was rather interesting about Jamaica and that is that you find what happens very often, that if we get put into ministry of labour, that our concerns become very much something of equal pay for equal work or special maternity benefits and they're not all embracing. If we get into social welfare, that's usually the poorest ministry of all, and so I think there's something very very positive that we can do, we don't have to complain, I think we can transform society and we have to start working about it, and doing it. Thank you.

I'm Gloria Woody from Santa Cruz, California. I want to see women gain power in participation in this world, in all seasons. In time of war, a woman who supposedly is not able to open a door for herself suddenly becomes able to fly airplanes and handle heavy machinery. In time of depression, all of a sudden the woman needed in the job market heretofore, is put out of the job market. In time of revolution, she can bear arms and march shoulder to shoulder with the men but suddenly when revolution has been achieved, she is back in the home again and I think that it's time that we realize that we want to be ready for participation in life at all times. Thank you.

My name is Barbara Wilson and I'm from Vancouver and I'm an architecture student here at UBC. What I have to say I think, should reinforce something that Fran Hoskin has talked about, but I would like to let this meeting go on record as urging the equal participation of women in the physical design process at all levels of planning including the architectural design and construction in order that the feelings and opinions of women do not become reinterpreted or diluted by the male power within the development-building process. We need women in the process of political decisions, yes, making it, but we also need women who will share in the physical engineering and sensitive detailed design of our entire environment. This is true at all levels of technology whether it's building simple shelters or large-scale industrialized mass housing. Perhaps we can urge women and men to incorporate child-care facilities within the architectural and design organizations themselves. If we are to produce revolution in our design, we as designers must ensure that women are recruited and well-accommodated within the particular work place; we must further ensure that women have equal access to design contracts by condemning in our own country the present private club business environment which excludes women from the competition within the contracts in the design professions.

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M. ROSKIN:

Well, I certainly agree, the first instance is to have more women in the architecture schools, but then after that, it is a question of the consciousness of women to stand up for the points that are made in the design profession, in the offices where invariably the decisions, unfortunately, are made by the majority of men on the team. There's a very direct relationship between behaviour and environment and the influence of the environment If you begin to think about it, then we, at first, admit and therefore to re-organize the environment from a woman's point of view becomes a very important issue.

I'm Susan Kegley - I come from New Zealand and I work in the women's section of the United Nations and the International Women's Year, but I'm here working on the report on Habitat. I'd like to speak in my personal capacity and complain about the passivity of us, collectively and individually at this conference. I would like to make two points which underline this. First of all, we've done statistics about female participation of women in the General Assembly and these statistics are the highest percentage of women in any international organization, but the most women there has ever been in any General Assembly has been 7% and at the present rate of increase in 300 years time, there will be equal representation between men and women in the UN General Assembly. Now, I've been sitting in the debates in the plenary sessions and the word "women" has not been mentioned. But I think the thing is that we're sitting here, discussing rather politely but we are accepting this basically, if we are treated with ignorance, I believe it is ultimately because we allow ourselves to be treated with ignorance and if we are treated patronizingly and I think it's not too late in Bucharest, as it has been pointed out, the world Plan of Action had, for a population, mentioned women in about sub-paragraph 13-C. I think there were three words but by the end of the conference because of the activities of women, they were quite strongly mentioned. Now, of course, this is only words but at least that's a start and I feel it's not too late and I would just like to urge that even in this gathering tonight, we women stop being passive and we adopt a very strong statement, which is stronger than something that I've seen circulated here and that we just no longer sit around and talk, we stop allowing and stop being so subservient and ultimately so passive, because I feel as long as we allow ourselves to be treated in this very patronizing way, we will continue for the next 300 years, to be so treated. Thank you.

I'm Elaine Livingstone, I'm from New York. I'm a member of the National Organization for Women. I was also a representative in Mexico City and when I returned to the U.S.A. I was asked to speak on panel after panel after panel about what happened in Mexico and it got to be terribly boring, then I became a member of the Decade for Women's Committee at the United Nations and all we did there was talk and make comments and be brief beyond belief, and commented on every document which was obviously thrown in the waste paper basket, so with great impatience, I decided we had to do something and we have formed - this is in form of a commercial to tell you what we have done. There are four of us who have started something called the "Women's Decade for Health Committee". It is geared to primary health care to train women, both in this country and in other countries, this can be women with very little formal education. It is really a para-medical corps. We have tried to get support for this, as you know to get support for any women's endeavour

is not easy, so we urge anybody here who is interested in something as basic as primary health care, which can be done for women - by the way, it will solve an employment program also, there are women over age who cannot find jobs in this country who could be very usefully employed in this way, there are also women in other countries with little schooling who could be used for this work. We are meeting on Monday at 3:00 o'clock at the Hotel Georgia to go into great detail about the program and we urge you all to come. We need your help. Thank you.

My name is Wendy Surkissian - I'm a town planner in Adelaide, South Australia and Rosemary, your sister sends you greetings from Adelaide; I'm also a director of the state housing authority, the State Housing Trust in South Australia and I'd like to ask everybody here if they just go home and start thinking about what you might do about the problem of city planning and men as I understand it, and I'm sure that this is a universal problem, is that men are running the city planning and while we're waiting for the revolution to happen, we're going to have to get into this situation where men have got a stranglehold in city planning.

Now I think I've identified the problem being one of the lone women in this profession in Australia and that was the problem I was discussing with some people earlier, the problem of puberty and algebra, and I'm quite serious about this. Now, the problem of puberty and algebra in my perception goes like this. When girls hit puberty, they figure out that they can no longer do algebra; you may not think that this has globe shattering consequences, but I assure you that it does and it goes a lot further than whether or not you got a fluorescent light over your stove. What happens when girls decide they can't do algebra is that they make a lot of decisions about their future that influence your urban environment. They decide that they cannot become engineers, they can't become architects because their structures won't stand up, they can't become town planners except the soft kind of social planners that the men planners don't listen to anyway, they also can't become mathematicians or nuclear physicists and a lot of other things we probably don't need anyway, and I'd like to ask you why we're handling the big problems that you go home and you talk to every pre-pubescent female you can find, until those pre-pubescent females that they can understand algebra, only long enough to pass the examinations and then you can forget it. Thank you.

I'm Barbara Rogers, I'm from England and I'm here working on Jericho newspaper. I've come here for a bit of support. It's not only the official governmental conference but you'll find the people at the Jericho newspaper are just about the most sexist group of pigs you ever found. I speak from the heart because I had an argument with them at lunch time, about sexist language and I was mauled by five of them. I'd like to ask you for something very specific, if you would help to support me on this, because I'm really ready to quit. There's an office in Hangar 6 of the Jericho newspaper and there's also a tel. no., I can give you where you can phone in letters. Would you please everyone of you, write to Jericho and say how offended you are by the goings on at the conference, the sexist language, the general tone of the Jericho newspaper and anything else you want to complain about. I think this would have a great impact, they can't possibly print 500 letters, however it will have a great effect on their consciousness. Thank you. Tel. nos. 733-4811 - 733-4223 - 733-6412.

NY MORRISON: We've come to the final part of this evening and that is a proposal of a resolution, several copies of which have been drafted and there are many of you and of us who feel that the resolution may be tamed, but we're asking that it be adopted in principle. To present the resolution, I'm going to ask one of the main movers of this evening, Joyce Searcy, who's been sitting quietly and patiently but doing a lot of work behind the scenes prior to this. Joyce Searcy is the assistant to the dean of women at the UBC.

CE SEARCY: Thank you, Nancy. I think I should tell you a little bit about the background of this resolution. When we first started to plan this evening, we wondered what we could try to do to have some impact on the delegations downtown and we realized that there were all kinds of specific things that we, as women, were concerned about and we realized that it would be impossible in two hours to get everything that people were concerned about, and to pass all these resolutions, and we came to the conclusion that if we could pass a resolution and could get it back to as many delegations as possible, that would allow women within their national borders to participate and make the decisions that would suit their specific needs and that if we kept it fairly simple, that perhaps if we could just get this one thing passed, and raise the consciousness of the delegations to this important point, that we would have accomplished something and so I will read it and I hope that you will adopt in principle and that you will take it that all of you from the different countries will take it back to your delegations.

We will be taking it to the Canadian delegation and I hope that all of you will be taking it to your delegation. We're hoping we can find a delegation who will present it and if any of you have access to delegations that you think will be able to present it, we will be very happy to hear from you and you can get in touch with me very easily at the University of British Columbia, or Anne Ironside at the Women Resources Centre at UBC. I'll read to you:

A RESOLUTION ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

WHEREAS:

Women should have the right to equal representation in the planning decisions which affect their environment and the quality of their lives.

WHEREAS:

Women everywhere must cope with the deficiencies of human settlements

WHEREAS:

Implementation of the World Plan of Action developed at the world conference of the International Women's Year demands vigorous positive implementation

WHEREAS:

The United Nations has declared the years 1975 to 1985 - the Decade for Women

WE RESOLVE:

That member countries of the United Nations Conference on human settlements work towards the equal participation of women in all the decision-making processes at every level of government.

- a) international delegations of committees
- b) national governing bodies and advisory boards and
- c) local-decision making levels.

Let's hope that there is never another United Nations Conference that has such a poor representation of women. Could I have your hands for this resolution?

I'm sorry we will not have time for amendments, there is no way we could go through the amendment process tonight. If you will support in principle, Nancy is going to call for the mover and the seconder.

Mover: Fraidie Martz from Canada.

Seconder: Maureen Elston, Vancouver.

NANCY MORRISON: I'm sorry it is 9:30 and we have been told that we must clear out of here and ...

AUDIENCE: Please who is we, who are we, could you be more specific in your resolution about that please, I think it would have a great deal more impact if you did specify who we are.

VOYCE: We're the women here present tonight - no! - we, the women, would that satisfy

AUDIENCE: But that could be 2 women - we're trying to impress delegations and I do think numbers mean something.

VOYCE: I think we can only speak for ourselves, we are not, have not any way of determining, I think we would spoil it if we didn't say that we the people here tonight, I believe there's been at least a rather conservative estimate - 700 women here tonight.

NANCY MORRISON: I'm sorry to cut off the discussion but because of the time and because of the discomfort of the surroundings, I'm going to ask if there is approval in principle, with those approving in principle the resolution, please signify by saying Hi - HIIIIIIIIII. Those disapproving, please signify by saying nay, Nay (once).

Good, I'd hate to have it entirely unanimous. Thank you very much. We've enjoyed it and we hope you have.