

Poverty high on agenda of women's movement

By SHIRLEE IDEN

The women's rights movement should be focusing on the poor, an international representative of the United Auto Workers said on Wednesday.

Dorothy Haener in an address to the National Jewish Community Relations Council at the Shawnee Hotel spoke on "Equal Rights for women."

Ms. Haener, a founding member of the National Organization of Women (NOW), said:

"With one third of the dog food purchased in this country being eaten by poor people, poverty is a women's rights issue since two thirds of the nation's poor are women."

"I say we've been too concerned with making full professors out of assistant professors."

"We should be concerned with seeing that everyone has a job."

MS. HAENER told of her own experience with inequality of treatment after World War II.

"The state of Michigan put me out of work right after the war," she said. "They invoked protection laws that said I couldn't lift more than 35 pounds or work overtime as I had all during the war."

She explained this happened when the men were returning from service and needed employment.

Citing a need for much more activity in the movement, Ms. Haener said: "We are seeing only the tip of the iceberg in the women's rights movement today."

She recalled that the first political caucus for women happened right here in Michigan.

"Fifty-one percent of Ford Foundation grants are now going toward getting equal rights for women," she said, "but the gut problem must be poverty."

Concerning maternity leaves for pregnant women, she pointed out the Supreme Court recently decided against making such leaves mandatory.

"This decision of the court is a travesty of justice," she said.

"Either the law or the court has to be changed."

Ms. Haener said the labor movement is now dealing with problems of women to a large degree, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has moved in cases of women's rights.

"The Business and Professional Women, an older organization, spearheaded the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)," she said.

"THEY HAVE changed somewhat and are now concerned with minimum wages for household workers."

She said in 1958 over 100,000 women were doing household work in this country for less than \$1 per hour.

"Although I recognize women need to start moving into higher paying jobs, I feel that part of the movement can take care of itself," she said.

She recalled that NOW was born as a result of the Kennedy Commission on the status of women.

"At first I thought of it as an NAACP for women," she said, "but it's different."

"NOW has grown from 12 or 15

women to 2000 at its last national conference."

"MANY GROUPS splintered off such as into the pro-abortion movement too, and much of women's lib came from former Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) people."

Citing the need for a continued assault on poverty, Ms. Haener said: "Society has always needed a scapegoat and ours is the working poor and the underprivileged."

"WITH WELFARE programs and programs to feed pregnant women being cut out, we must ask ourselves what's wrong and address ourselves in this area."

Stating that she is the chairperson for NOW on poverty, she listed minimum wages, child care and welfare reform as the most important items on the women's rights agenda.

"I don't believe more means better and that more women in the movement means a better world," she said.

"We have to use our energies correctly. We should not delude ourselves that because NOW is stronger and bigger, we're going in the right direction."

Training program earns award

Today's Woman and Tomorrow's Woman, in-service training programs which can be used as an affirmative action for females, received an achievement award at the June meeting of the American Society of Training and Development, Greater Detroit Chapter.

Developed by Janice Guerriero, director of business education for Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education, Rochester, the programs earned her an award "for outstanding contribution to the training and development profession."

Chapter awards are entered in the professional organization's national competition.

Ms. Guerriero developed Today's Woman in response to a stated need from General Motors divisions to help employed women focus on themselves, their aspirations and their work settings.

"Today's woman is eager for an understanding of herself, and her many diverse and, frequently conflicting, roles," said Guerriero.

"The employed woman especially faces problems in our changing society."

"SHE IS MOTIVATED, interested and has job aspirations. She sees herself as a resource who wants to be well used all her life, in all her roles. Yet the very complexity of her world can present problems."

"For instance, a woman's various roles generate good and bad feelings. But when these roles overlap, she may be confused as to which role is the source of a particular response."

According to Guerriero, participation is a key element in the success of the programs. Today's

Woman puts participants in touch with themselves and acquaints them with productive ways of thinking. Tomorrow's Woman moves in the same direction, but concentrates on productive ways of doing, she said.

Both programs focus on the work setting and its related variables, as well as individuals' prospects for personal satisfaction combined with productive upward mobility.

DURING THE first year, 293 voluntary participants completed the programs at four General Motors divisions. Since then, the programs, which are tailored to the individual needs of both partici-

pants and the employing firm, have been used by other large corporations in the Detroit metropolitan area.

The content in Today's Women sessions cover identity and self search, motivation and attitudes, physical and psychological influences on job performance, psychological communication, and advancement within the company.

As a follow-up program, Tomorrow's Woman focuses on leadership development, leadership styles and female role models, human interaction models, values clarification, problem solving and decision making, and career resources for upward mobility.

Volunteers

This column describing volunteer needs in Oakland County is co-sponsored by the Junior League of Birmingham and the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau.

Inquiries regarding volunteer needs listed here should be made to the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, 642-7272. Requests for volunteer listings should also be made through the Volunteer Bureau.

HEART ASSOCIATION: Michigan Heart Association, 16310 W. Twelve Mile Road, Southfield.

La Leche to meet

The North Suburban Group of La Leche League will hold the first of four monthly meetings at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Janet Berman of Oak Park.

La Leche League is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization, the purpose of which is to help encourage "good mothering through breastfeeding."

The group will meet the second Tuesday of each month. A series of four informal meetings will discuss different aspects of breastfeeding. The topic of the first meeting is "The Art of Breastfeeding."

For further information about the series of meetings, or about breastfeeding, contact Mrs. Kupinsky at 541-2477 or Mrs. Charleen Madill at 398-1455.

and 277 Pierce, Birmingham, needs volunteers in the Heart Information Centers.

People are needed to do clerical work including mailing, filing and handling requests for speakers and films. No typing is necessary.

A volunteer coordinator will provide training. Three-hour shifts are available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

SENIOR CITIZENS: The Senior Citizen Nutrition Program for Oakland County, 196 Oakland Ave., Pontiac, sponsored by the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity, needs volunteers to deliver noon meals to homebound senior citizens. Volunteers are especially needed during the summer months. Drivers provide their own cars. Mothers can bring small children.

Volunteers, pick-up eight to 10 meals at Pontiac General Hospital at 12:45 p.m. and deliver them to North Hill Farms senior citizen housing development.

Two hours per week is required. A map and instructions are provided.

JOB SCREENING: Women in Community Service, 2220 Witherell, Detroit, screens girls 16 to 21 for the Job Corps. Volunteers are needed to do the screening, make home visits, complete clerical work and answer the telephone.

Volunteers are asked to work one half-day per week between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Job training is provided.

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