

for m.s.

Council Of Women

On March 20 Dr. Katie Cooke spoke at the semi annual meeting of the P.E.I. council of women. After being introduced by Mrs. Dorothy Hicks, Dr. Cooke said that the P.E.I. report on the Status of Women was the best provincial report she has seen. She was very happy to see so many women involved in their status and hope they will make even more progress by stating their opinions.

Dr. Cooke went into a few of the priorities of the Federal Advisory Committee on Women. Their first concern is the establishment of the Human Rights Commission which will hopefully end not just discrimination against fe-

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THE STATUS OF WOMEN REPORT

No doubt many an Island woman, whether she was aware of it or not, has suffered job discrimination which could be directly attributed to the fact that she was a woman. Such discrimination is even more apparent if the potential employee is married and of child bearing age. In such cases the woman involved would probably feel very angry, but, also very powerless. Those who might turn to the P.E.I. Human Rights Code in an attempt to defend themselves against such

discrimination will find no protection from it, but rather what accounts to legislated loopholes which permit social and economic discrimination against women. As many women can testify, this permeates almost all areas of economic and social interaction, e.g., housing rentals, trade union membership and advertising related to these areas. Consider, for example, that in Canada only P.E.I. and Quebec do not prevent employers from advertising positions which specify the sex of the applicant. It must be recognized that, as the provincial advisory committee on the status of women observes, "All persons work because they must, whether this need be financial, self-satisfaction or a combination of personal & monied identity factors. To

males but also against many other minority groups. They would also like to see the Canada Pension Plan change. As it stands now the husbands and children do not receive any pension (just a very small lump sum) if the wife who has been paying into it should die. They feel that a husband and the children should have the same rights as the wife. Another example stated was the lack of a pension given to the housewives of Canada. Although they are contributing to society, they are not as yet covered under the Canada Pension Plan.

The Committee would also like to see some change in the Citizenship Act. As it stands now, the child, if born to a non-Canadian father and a Canadian mother out of Canada must take her father's

deny these needs as individuals is to deny adults the freedom to chose gainful employment as a life-style."

Furthermore, although 'equal pay for equal work' is specified in the P.E.I. Human Rights Code, the report of the status of women points out that what constitutes 'equal work' in this context remains nebulous; thus, it is easily violated. The code must be revised to ensure that the loopholes allowing discrimination no longer exist. If you agree you must express your concern to the members of the government and demand that the relevant recommendations of the Status of Women Report be implemented immediately.

HOW MUCH IS A HOUSEWIFE WORTH?

We've all thought about the question; Newsweek magazine recently helped me get an answer.

That magazine reported on a decision handed down in New York City in February of this year. In that city a jury provided a "handsome" settlement to a Joseph Montalbano for "loss of services".

Usually, said Newsweek, those whose wives or husbands are injured in accidents often sue for 'loss of services' and receive awards from injuries. This is because, said Newsweek, "affection is not easily come by in this alienated world and a person can pine away if the spouse is laid up."

However, the settlement given Mr. Montalbano was for a different kind of "loss of services."

His wife, Catherine, had been injured in a car crash

citizenship and is not allowed to take her mother's instead. Hopefully this will change.

Dr. Cooke also stated that she hoped there would be some change in federal employment along with the other inequalities toward women in Canada.

One point that Dr. Cooke could not stress enough was the need for the women in Canada to get involved. If their ideas and opinions about any of the recommendations made by the federal or provincial council are not heard, then little will be done. You must help to help yourself.

After Dr. Cooke's lecture there was a question period where many interesting points were made.

All in all it was a very good meeting and a shame you missed it!!



and was laid up for two months. For this period of time he was forced to do all the housework by himself.

"As the jury saw it," reports Newsweek, "Montalbano was entitled to \$56,000 for his labours."

This amounts to \$336,000 a year--for a woman's housework services.

Again, we must credit Newsweek for phrasing the next question nicely: "What remains to be seen, now that Mrs. Montalbano is up and about again, is whether Mr. Montalbano can afford her."

UPCOMING EVENTS

** Woman ... Second world Exhibition of Photography, sponsored by the Goethe Institute, a German Cultural Center in Montreal. The theme of the 552 photographs from 85 countries is "Woman." It will be on display at the Confederation Center of the Arts from April 18 to May 15.

** The annual meeting of the Family Planning Association of P.E.I. will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 at the Family Planning Center at 202 Queen Street. A new board will be elected at this meeting, which is open to the public, and new memberships (no fee) will be accepted. Your support is required.