

## SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Today Claimants Unions in the London area are beginning a campaign against sex discrimination by the Department of Health and Social Security. Today, we are giving Barbara Castle a taste of the treatment her department metes out to us claimants every day. We are all people on Social Security who feel that more sex discrimination is practised by the DHSS than any employer or government department.

At present the man in the family is the only person who can claim. He is treated as natural Head of the household, and his wife is completely ignored. She can't even claim for underwear on her own grounds, or appeal on a Social Security decision affecting herself. Women are not allowed to claim in their own right, unless they can prove that they are completely unsupported. They have to endure interrogation and snooping by Social Security officers, if the SS has the slightest suspicion that there may be a man around. Here the COHABITATION RULE is merely the tip of the iceberg, and sex snooping is only part of the DHSS discrimination.

The SS employs several thousand men to spy on us claimants. They sit in cars outside our homes, and watch what comes and goes, especially late at night and early morning. They question neighbours, children, employers, visitors, tradesmen and even the police. Guests and visitors are followed to their own homes, or places of employment where further enquiries are made. When the SS thinks a woman has a boyfriend, they intrude into her home, often on false pretences or brute force, and intimidate her into giving them her Supplementary Allowance book. They threaten us with prosecution for fraud, and force us to sign ready prepared statements.

We are given no chance to defend ourselves, or to contact someone for advice or support. A woman thus loses her own income, and is forced either into low paid employment, or to borrow money and get into debt, or pressurized into an unhappy relationship, which might be disastrous for herself and her children.

Her friends and visitors are acutely embarrassed by these events. Some women are so frightened of this possibility that they will invite no-one into their homes, and avoid relationships with men.



continued

SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

WE WANT EVERY MAN AND WOMAN TO BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM BENEFIT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT  
We demand a guaranteed adequate income for every person as of right,  
regardless of age, sex, colour etc.

We demand that people on Social Security benefits be treated as other  
people who get their income from the State - MP's, Ministers, the Royal  
Family, and SS officers all live off the tax payers money, and we as  
claimants have to pay taxes to support them every time we buy a bar of  
chocolate or a packet of cigarettes. If there are to be means tests for  
the poor, then why not means tests for ministers -

"The rich man in his Castle,  
The poor man at his gate,  
God made them high and lowly,  
And ordered their estate."

This is the Poor Law philosophy which still prevails in Britain in 1974.  
We believe that - 'every Englishmans home is his castle'.

Stop SS snoopers

END TO SEX SPIES

STOP SEX DISCRIMINATION BY 'SSHH, YOU KNOW WHO'

EVERY WOMAN TO GET BENEFIT IN HER OWN RIGHT.

BARBARA GETS HER STATE BENEFIT, WHY CAN'T OTHER WOMEN?

