

# AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

1972

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*Executive Secretary*  
Helen Bolln Munzer  
131 Kent Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

1 December 1972

## NEWSLETTER 1

### COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMICS PROFESSION

#### SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., OCTOBER 6.

On October 6 the full Committee held its second meeting in Washington, D.C. with a press conference that attracted some attention in various parts of the country. An article in the October 16 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education summed up the flavor of the Press Conference in its title, "Economists say Universities' Bias against Women Exceeds Businesses." Carolyn Shaw Bell, Chairwoman of the Committee gave a preliminary report on the returns from the academic questionnaire. About 2400 letters were sent to the chairmen of Economics departments in every academic institution, and to departments of agricultural economics and business schools. In October, 10% of these had been returned. To nobody's surprise women accounted for less than 6% of the fulltime faculty; these women were 10% of the instructors, 8% of the assistant professors, 4% of the associates, and 2% of the full professors, but 37% of the "special lecturers." Of the 43 cartel universities (graduating two-thirds of all the Ph.Ds.) over half had no women on the faculty, and most of those who did had employed them within the past two years. By contrast, almost every major business school had women among its faculty and has been strenuously recruiting women students. As for women economists in business, government, and non-profit organizations, the Committee has various problems, mostly those of definition. About 14% of the economists employed by the Federal government are women, but many economists hold jobs with other titles; this is even more evident in business firms, especially in banking and finance. We remain convinced, therefore, that our chief interest should focus on the academic area, and that our efforts should aim not only at increasing the demand for women economists but increasing the supply as well. A further report from the questionnaire, along with the results of a similar request sent to a smaller list of business and non-profit enterprises, will be made in December at the

Toronto meetings. WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED BACK MANY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES. PLEASE CHECK YOUR DEPARTMENT OR FIRM TO SEE IF THEY HAVE SENT THEIRS IN.

The October meeting also served as an introductory meeting for Associate Members in the Washington area. About forty people attended a luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel and heard Sonia Pressman Fuentes, Senior Attorney at EEQC, give an excellent talk on the impact of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination with respect to Sex in conditions of employment, remuneration or receipt of benefits. Marina Whitman, the only female member ever, of the Council of Economic Advisors, also spoke briefly to the Group, describing the origin and purpose of the CEA's Advisory Committee on the Economic Role of Women. Apparently CEA hopes to do some detailed work on the economic role of women, including the causes of pay differentials, the trade-offs between unemployment and inflation with respect to women, and women as entrepreneurs in Society.

BOSTON AREA - ASSOCIATE MEMBERS MEET ON NOVEMBER 15

About thirty associate members in the Boston area met at Radcliffe on November 15 to get acquainted and discuss the development of guidelines to deal with the Resolutions passed by the AEA in New Orleans in December 1971. Among the Conclusions of that meeting were the following:

Resolution Ia - To encourage women to study economics

Women role models are essential; Successful women must be visible to Students. Thus, if a School does not have a woman faculty member in any given semester, the Department should sponsor outside lectures by woman economists or make successful women visiting professors, etc.

Resolution Ic - To prohibit discrimination against women in employment, assignments, promotions, etc.

Women should no longer be relegated to "typical" women's subjects like consumer economics, labor economics, etc. Limited geographic mobility should not automatically be associated with women candidates. Employers should look into the economic status of women employees: using sick leave or annual leave for maternity, helping to establish day-care centers, changing hours or shifts, having family emergency as a valid reason for days off, etc.

The Committee needs your help in developing all of the Guidelines. Let us know if you need another copy of the resolutions adopted on December 28, 1971. Write or call one of us with your ideas. Attend the Round Table Session on these Guidelines in Toronto on December 29 at 10:30 A.M.

Also, in order to be effective, the Committee needs to know about violations of any of the resolutions. Please get in touch with one of us if you are aware of any discriminating actions in violation of the resolutions.

#### AEA COMMITTEE REPRESENTED AT MEETING OF FEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

On November 17-18 an organizational meeting was held to establish a Federation of the various committees, caucuses, etc. concerned about the status of women. About 40 organizations were represented. It was decided that the purpose of the Federation would be "to provide member organizations with a mechanism for combining their efforts to optimize the position of women in American society by promoting equality of opportunity at all levels and in careers in all fields." A Steering Committee was elected to guide the Federation into incorporation, obtain financing and publicize its purpose.

Martha Blaxall, AEA Committee Member, is the AEA representative to the Federation. She needs the help of Associate Members in two ways. First, the Steering Committee needs workers, people who can do staff work on drafting bylaws, incorporating, developing specifications for a national registry, developing priorities for a legislative program. Second, the Finance Committee needs ideas for research projects and operational projects for which money can be raised from public or private sources. A national registry is an obvious thing; others include a short course on administration for women managers, publishable research projects on women in history, economic role, etc. Ideas are needed which could then help pick-up core costs of the Federation.

Please send any ideas to Martha Blaxall, 2522 Queen Anne's Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. Telephone 202-961-1721 or 965-0956.

#### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN TORONTO

The Committee will sponsor a Registration and Information Suite for Women Economists and prospective employers at the Annual meeting in Toronto. The suite will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Thursday and Friday, December 28 and 29, at the Royal York Hotel. Each Committee member will staff the suite at some time, but we also need help from volunteers so that there will be someone present during the entire time the suite is open. Please give us an hour or two of your time. Contact any one of the members of the Committee or send a postcard with hours you will be available, directly to Myra Strober, 130 Corona Way, Menlo Park, California 94025. Telephone 415-854-3408. She will compile a schedule and post it at the hospitality suite on Wednesday night. You may also telephone Myra or Carolyn Shaw Bell at the Royal York to find out if you're scheduled as a volunteer.

Be sure not to miss the Committee's Round Table Session at 10:30 on Friday, December 29. We'll have up to date information on our questionnaire returns and we look forward to an enthusiastic discussion of our draft guidelines.

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

At the moment, the following places are looking for women economists: University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Hampshire College, Amherst; Bennington; Antioch; University of New Mexico, Department of Agricultural Economics; State University of New York, Oswego, industrial organization; SUNY, Genesco, Finance, International Trade; University of Wyoming; University of Michigan School of Public Health; Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington 98505; SUNY, Buffalo, Micro, Urban Environmental Economics; San Diego State College; Wellesley College; University of Massachusetts, Boston; Ford Foundation, Jane Heffner; Northern Illinois University; University of Washington, Director of Women's Studies; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Director of Research; Purdue, Krannert Grad. School of Indus. Admin.; University of California at Irvine; Douglas College; and finally Yale. Remember that nearly all major universities are under considerable pressure to increase the number of women on their faculties, and economics is one of the worst offenders.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS NEEDED TO PUBLICIZE AND SUPPORT COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

We hope to be able to put together a roster of all women economists in the U.S. and from these develop some kind of employment registry. We have a good start towards a national roster with our present associate membership. But we're empire builders; we want more members. Please pass the word to your colleagues. Send us their names or have them contact us directly.

See you all in Toronto or before.