

NOTES FOR WOMEN'S MORNING TEA

Launceston.
26/6/75

1. COMMITTED TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING WOMEN. BUT GIVEN THAT WOMEN HAVE TENDED TO BE NEGLECTED, NECESSARY TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO ENSURE AS MUCH IMPROVEMENT AS POSSIBLE IN AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE TIME.

2. APPOINTED ADVISOR ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS. WIFE OFTEN COMMENTS THAT I SHOULD HAVE ONE ON MEN'S AFFAIRS. BUT POINT IS MEN HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED EN MASSE FOR CENTURIES AND WOMEN NEED SPECIAL VOICE. BACKING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, NOT BECAUSE A GIMMICK BUT BECAUSE EXCELLENT WAY TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON BROAD SPECTRUM OF WOMEN'S CONCERNS.

3. HAVE PAID MORE THAN LIPSERVICE TO I.W.Y. \$2 MILLION SET ASIDE. CONFERENCES BEING PLANNED - ON WOMEN'S HEALTH, WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT AND WOMEN AND THE MEDIA PLUS MEXICO CONFERENCE AND CHOGM WIVES MEETING. MAY NOT LIKE BADGE BUT WILL HAVE SEEN IT ON STAMPS. MY SECRETARIAL STAFF AND PRESS OFFICE HAVE LIBERALLY DECORATED WITH "WOMEN ARE ON THE MOVE", "WOMEN ARE TRANSMOGRIFYING" AND "WOMEN'S PLACE IS EVERYWHERE" STICKERS.

4. WOMEN'S PLACE IS CERTAINLY ON A NUMBER OF THE COMMISSIONS AND ADVISORY BODIES MY GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED - ELIZABETH EVATT, ENID CAMPBELL, HILDA ROLFE, AND WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE - MARIE COLEMAN AND JEAN BATTERSBY. WOMEN IN THE HOUSE - THE LOVELY JOAN CHILD, SENATORS MELZER AND COLEMAN AS WELL AS LIBERAL SENATORS GUILFOYLE AND MARTIN. TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION.

5. STILL GREAT CHALLENGE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE TALENTS AVAILABLE. COMMITTEE ON JOB DISCRIMINATION, FOR A START. HOW TO BRING ABOUT EQUAL PAY WITHOUT PUTTING WOMEN OUT OF WORK. HOW TO MODERNISE WITHOUT MAKING PREVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL PROCESS WORKERS REDUNDANT? AWARE OF THE PROBLEM: ITS WHY SO MANY WOMEN ANXIOUS TO GET A WEAT GRANT. WOMEN BEING EMPLOYED ON SOME OF THE RED GRANTS AND QUITE PROPERLY.

6. THEN THERE ARE ALL THE VOLUNTARY WORKERS AND VOLUNTARY ENTHUSIASTS WHO MAY NOT CHOOSE TO GO OUT TO WORK BUT ARE NEVERTHELESS INVOLVED IN VITAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT WHETHER THE OLD, THE VERY YOUNG, THE HANDICAPPED, YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS, FAMILIES WITH PROBLEMS - THE VERY GROUPS UNABLE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AND ABOUT WHOM MY GOVERNMENT CARES. AND MY GOVERNMENT ALSO REALISES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP VOLUNTARY AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THIS KIND OF WORK - BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITHOUT CONTROL SO THAT THE WORK CAN GO ON MORE EFFICIENTLY BUT WITHOUT LOSING THAT PERSONAL CONTACT WHICH IS VITAL.

7. JUST THIS WEEK I VISITED THE LOW HEAD GERIATRIC HOSPITAL AND SAW AT FIRST HAND THE EXCELLENCE OF THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THESE OLD PEOPLE. IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS I HAVE OPENED THREE OLD PEOPLES HOMES BUILT SINCE MY GOVERNMENT INCREASED SUBSIDY PAYABLE TO ORGANISATIONS TO \$4 FOR \$1 FROM \$2 FOR \$1. TASMANIA HAS RECEIVED NEARLY \$3 MILLION FOR SUCH ACCOMMODATION. WE REALISE THE NEED TO HOUSE OLD PEOPLE WITH AS MUCH INDIVIDUAL INDEPENDENCE AND COMFORT AS NECESSARY AND WE HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

8. THEN AT THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE THERE IS THE WHOLE RANGE OF CHILDHOOD SERVICES WHICH BENEFIT BOTH MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. KIM BEAZLEY POINTED OUT THAT 5,000 KINDERGARTEN PLACES ARE BEING PROVIDED IN TASMANIA - NOT BY THE SCHOOLS COMMISSION BUT BY THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION. AND I WANT TO KNOCK THE RUMOUR THAT IT FORESHADOWS A FEDERAL TAKEOVER OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION. IT MEANS PURELY AND SIMPLY THAT MORE PLACES ARE AVAILABLE FOR KINDERGARTEN AGE CHILDREN.

9. UNDER VARIOUS ACTS, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED \$298,000 FOR THE CITY OF LAUNCESTON TO PURCHASE LAND AND CONSTRUCT A CHILD CARE CENTRE FOR 55 CHILDREN FROM 0-5 YEARS, AND THE QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL CRECHE HAS RECEIVED A \$21,718 FOR STAFF SUBSIDY AND \$6,127 ON A NEEDS BASIS. AT LILYDALE, A SINGLE UNIT PRESCHOOL WILL RECEIVE A \$47,850 GRANT, AND ANOTHER AT YOUNGTOWN WILL GET \$48,950. RAVENSWOOD PRIMARY WILL GET \$111,000 FOR A DOUBLE UNIT PRESCHOOL. AN ADDITIONAL \$119,000 GOES TO SUMMERDALE FOR SIMILAR UNITS. THEN THE TASMANIAN CHILD CARE ORGANISATION IS TO GET \$10,500 FOR THE FIRST YEAR'S OPERATION FOR LAUNCESTON FAMILY DAY CARE, PLUS A \$13,000 RECURRENT PER CAPITA GRANT AND \$1,700 FOR EQUIPMENT.

10. AFTER THE PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON YESTERDAY, TWO WOMEN MADE A POINT OF THANKING ME FOR WHAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS DONE FOR HANDICAPPED AND RETARDED CHILDREN. BUT OF COURSE WE DON'T GET MUCH PUBLICITY FOR THE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO HELP IN THESE AREAS. AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES REALISE, THAT IS WHAT MATTERS MOST, BECAUSE YOU CARE MOST.

IN 1973/74 WE MADE \$179,368 AVAILABLE TO TASMANIA FOR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT. THAT FIGURE ROSE LAST YEAR ON THE BASIS OF A \$4 FOR \$1 SUBSIDY FOR CAPITAL COSTS AND \$1 FOR \$1 FOR ELIGIBLE STAFF SERVICES TO NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

SIMILAR GRANTS COME UNDER ASSISTANCE FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS INCLUDING A \$4 FOR \$1 RENTAL SUBSIDY TO ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING CENTRES, EQUIPMENT AND RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND ADULTS.
