

--"'Salt of the Earth'(U.S. left film about the leading role of women during a copper miner's strike)is for us a model...because it is one of the films which created a method of work that we try to put into practice. The difference is that 'Salt of the Earth' remains in the realm of the psychological. It deals with the relationship between a couple. Michael Wilson(script writer of 'Salt of the Earth')said rightly that it was a love story and that it was through that story that two people found out a number of things about themselves. We placed ourselves at another level, that of the masses. We are not dealing with raising individual consciousness, but with mass consciousness."

2-WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN FRANCE?

There was not a great deal of information available to us on this subject. We present here excerpts from an article written by two women(Genevieve and Therese Brisac)that appeared in Le Monde Diplomatique in August of this year.

--"The composition of the working class itself has changed drastically since the '60s. More and more women are wage earners. Fewer and fewer women stop working to raise their children, and the^{of} of married women working has grown from 31% in 1962 to 40% in 1975."

--"The long strikes of the early 1970s were a turning point; brought together in solidarity, women became conscious of their oppression.

--"Women's strikes have invented a new form of militancy, creating different rhythms, different organizations. The need to breath, to escape from the constricting authoritarian relationships in the family led women to look for an egalitarian, non-authoritarian, non-hierarchical forms of organization, where the traditional mechanism of delegation and power are eliminated. The strikes have led women to want to learn new skills.

--"The women's struggles first took place outside of the trade unions. With the creation of the Movement for the Freedom of Abortion and Birth Control in 1973 things began to change. Womens' groups started to form within various factories and workplaces....By 1977 the CGT (the largest union)came to recognize the 'useful role' played by these womens' groups in the factories. Birth/control, abortion, sharing of house work, and criticism of sexism has been offically supported by the CGT"

The union has agreed to these positions because otherwise women would form their own unions to fight for them.

--"It would be an illusion therefore not to take for granted the inevitable growth of the feminist revolt and consciousness in France. The women's movement now represents a new social force which cannot be stamped out; it forces us to expand the classical analysis of the contradictions of capitalist society. Women express their determination to reintroduce the personal. The invention of a different practice, the problem of delegation of power, of active democracy without separating "public" life from "private" problems, psychological problems from social ones."

--"No unity between men and women is possible if it must rely on the silence and passivity of women. There is no point in winning the right to work and equality of pay if the structures themselves which reproduce these inequalities are not changed: the division of work in the family and in society, and the obligatory^{social} roles for each..."

3- WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE WORKING CLASS? HOW IS IT ORGANIZED?

Of the 52 million people in France 15 million are waged workers. Of these, approximately 20% belong to trade unions. The largest union is