

Galley
3/28/69

re: the second meeting of the Women's Liberation Movement

Anyone sensitive to currents of irrational rage, who attended the second meeting, felt great unease from the experience of feeling an un-understood rage flowing into a political movement. Most men and women approve of the aims of the movement, and would like to work in the programs, but many will shy away because the drawing power of the movement is in part based upon an appeal to un-understood emotions.

1. Language: It is important to use language responsibly. The greeting "sisters" should be deleted from the meetings, because of the terrible echoes ("fatherland", "comrades"), and the connotations of a mystical or socialistic union.

2. The yellow pamphlet associated with the movement: Ellis and Masters, or any of the other sex-psychologists quoted in the yellow pamphlet, may realize the effect sexual repression has had on women in our culture, but they do not realize that the inability of a large percentage of women to experience total orgasm is also an effect of sexual repression. To anyone who is interested in a different viewpoint on what characterises a healthy sexuality, I recommend The Function of the Orgasm by Wilhelm Reich, and Man in the Trap by Dr. Ellsworth Baker.

3. Psychological? Sociological?

Certain situations are more relevantly treated as psychological issues, rather than material for a political movement. For instance the phrase, "I felt : great the first time I hit a man", is of psychological rather than eschatological-sociological interest. Similarly, theraputic aims should be distinguished from social aims. The psychological roots of extreme positions, such as female separatism, should be honestly explored.

The degree to which the irrational infects our most rational undertakings is, in both our personal history and our social history, our greatest oppressor.

S. H.
(MFA 1965)

