

Transcript of Proceedings

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

House of Representatives Hall
State House
Hartford, Connecticut

September 26, 1977

PAGES 1 thru 185

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MEET.

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC HEARING before the Connecticut
State Advisory Committee to the United States
Civil Rights Commission, held in the House of
Representatives Hall, State House, Hartford,
Connecticut, on September 26, 1977, commencing
at 8:00 a.m., ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

SITTING:

John Rose, Jr., Chairman
Gloria Busch
Judith Helene Hones
Matthew J. Forstadt
Doris Roldan
Steven Rabinovitz

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PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN ROSE. Good morning. My name is John Rose, Jr. I am an attorney here in Hartford, and I am chairperson of the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. I am now calling the meeting to order.

This open session of the Connecticut Advisory Committee is being held pursuant to Section 703.2 and Section 703.7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, as amended, and is in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder.

The purpose of this open meeting, or informal public hearing, is to collect information on the subject of battered women to determine, in our judgment, if current laws, policies, procedures, and practices tend to deny equal protection of the laws for certain women and deny them due process and equal rights under our system of justice. During the course of the day we will receive information from police officials, court officials, representatives of social agencies and hospitals, persons who operate shelters for battered women, organizations which provide support services for such women, and testimony from battered women themselves.

1 All persons who will present information to the
2 Connecticut Advisory Committee are appearing voluntar-
3 ily in response to an invitation from the Advisory
4 Committee. No subpoenas have been issued nor does
5 this committee have authority to issue subpoenas,
6 as this authority is reserved for the parent Commission
7 on Civil Rights. This is not an adversary proceeding
8 and testimony will not be taken under oath. However,
9 a court reporter is present and a transcript of the
10 entire day will be available to the Committee and to
11 the general public. The information collected here
12 today, together with reports of interviews conducted
13 by staff and Advisory Committee members will be care-
14 fully analyzed by the Advisory Committee; and it will
15 prepare a full report including findings and regula-
16 tions which will be submitted to the United States
17 Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, and at a
18 later date made available to the general public.

19 Under Commission and Advisory Committee rules
20 only those persons who have received a specific written
21 invitation from the Advisory Committee may offer oral
22 testimony at this proceeding. If there are persons
23 in the audience who feel that it is essential that
24 they offer oral testimony today, they should make
25 themselves known to a member of the staff who are

1 seated here, and a decision will be made as to whether
2 written or oral testimony is required.

3 Under Commission rules and regulations no
4 person may present testimony to the Advisory Committee
5 in open session such as this which may tend to defame
6 or degrade any person. If such testimony is offered,
7 I will immediately interrupt the person and a deter-
8 mination will be made as to the importance of the
9 testimony; and if it is deemed appropriate, such
10 testimony will be heard by the Advisory Committee in
11 closed session only. Commission rules also provide
12 that any person appearing or offering testimony to the
13 Advisory Committee may decline to be televised or
14 photographed. As you may have noticed, a vidio tape
15 recording is being made of the entire proceedings.
16 Any person who declines to be video taped should make
17 that fact known to me or the presiding officer at the
18 time prior to offering testimony.

19 This open session or informal public hearing of
20 the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the United
21 States Commission on Civil Rights is a culmination of
22 several months of research and fact finding on the
23 part of staff of the Commission on Civil Rights and
24 members of our Advisory Committee. We have interviewed
25 a number of battered women and representatives of

1 organizations which assist them; interviews have been
2 conducted with a number of officials of the Hartford
3 Police Department, an analysis has been made of police
4 and court records, and staff and committee members
5 have accompanied police officers in patrol cars in
6 the conduct of their duties; officers of the Depart-
7 ment of Welfare, State and local, have been inter-
8 viewed, as have hospital emergency room personnel and
9 other social agencies; prosecutors, public defenders,
10 judges, and administrative officers of the courts of
11 the State have been interviewed; and finally we have
12 interviewed expert witnesses from outside of the State
13 of Connecticut who have extensive experience in
14 dealing with the subject of the day. Some of these
15 persons will present oral testimony at this session, and
16 the report of interviews with others are part of
17 the records of the Advisory Committee.

18 For those of you who may be unfamiliar with
19 the work of the Connecticut Advistory, we are a group
20 of private citizens, who serve without pay, who
21 represent a cross section of the citizens of this
22 State. Under Commission rules we are democrats,
23 republicans, and independents -- no more than fifty
24 percent of our committee may be of the same political
25 party; we are men and women -- under Commission rule

1 our committee must be approximately fifty percent male
2 and fifty percent female; we represent a variety of
3 racial and ethnic groups -- white, black, Hispanic,
4 and Native American. We are from a variety of
5 occupational classifications. Our purpose here today
6 is to ascertain the facts with regard to the experiences
7 of and the treatment received by battered women and
8 the extent to which the institutions of our society
9 provide for them equal justice under the laws.

10 The Connecticut Advisory Commission to the
11 United States Commission on Civil Rights is one of
12 fifty-one such bodies in the United States, one in
13 each of the states and in the District of Columbia.
14 The United States Commission on Civil Rights has
15 appointed us as members of the Advisory Committee
16 under the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1957,
17 as amended, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act
18 of 1972.

19 Before we begin today's proceedings I would
20 like to introduce to you members of the Advisory
21 Committee who are serving on the panel and members of
22 the staff of the Northeast Regional Office who provide
23 technical assistance to our committee. To my right
24 immediately is Gloria Busch of Middletown, chairperson
25 of the sub-committee on domestic violence. Next to

1 her is Judith Helene Homes of Wethersfield. Next to
2 her is Matthew J. Forstadt of Stamford. We are
3 missing one of our members at this point, Doris
4 Roldan of Middletown. Then there is Steven Rabinovitz
5 of Bloomfield.

6 In addition to the members present today
7 other members of the Advisory Committee are Richard
8 Brown, Mary Evans, Sidney Gardner, Joan Gibson, Irene
9 Rodriguez, and William Worthington of Hartford;
10 Antonia Diaz, Libia Hernandez, Hector Nieves of
11 Bridgeport; Clarence J. Jones and James Thomas of
12 New Haven; Shirley Childs of Windsor, Marion Fitch
13 Cornell of Glastonbury, Trudy Lamb of Meriden,
14 Augustus Southworth of Wethersfield, Edith Stolzenberg
15 of West Hartford, and Dr. Susan Taylor of Mansfield
16 Center.

17 Members of the staff present are Jacques E.
18 Wilmore, Director of the Northeast Regional Office
19 of the United States Commission on Civil Rights;
20 Eugene Bogan, regional attorney; missing are Linda
21 Dunn, Diane Brewer who is the field representative,
22 and Paula Webster who is a consultant to the regional
23 office of domestic violence. Yvonne Griffith is here
24 today. Also present and assisting with these proceed-
25 ings is Miss America Orteiz, who is administrative

1 assistant in the regional office. I would also like
2 to call to your attention the presence of Ms. Gloria
3 Lopez, who is on the staff of the Women's Right
4 Program Unit of the Commission on Civil Rights in
5 Washington, D. C., and Wilma Espinosa from ACTION.

6 Before calling the first witness it is my
7 pleasure to present to you Senator Betty Hudson, who
8 is representing the Honorable Ella T. Grasso,
9 Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Honorable
10 George A. Athanson, Mayor of the City of Hartford.
11 Would Senator Hudson and Mayor Athanson please come
12 forward.

13 SENATOR HUDSON. I have a message from the
14 Governor that she wanted me to bring to you: "On
15 behalf of the citizens of Connecticut it is a privilege
16 to welcome you to the public hearing on battered
17 women. This is certainly an important occasion.

18 The Connecticut Advisory Committee and the
19 United States Commission on Civil Rights is to be
20 commended for sponsoring this outstanding event.
21 In all areas of our society protection, safety, and
22 well being of our citizens is a major concern. In the
23 home, at work, and in any other area we must take the
24 necessary steps to prevent injury and to insure the
25 security of all people.

1 In recent years our citizens have been startled
2 by the rising statistics involving the number of
3 battered women in our State and nation. However,
4 the fact that we have become aware of the severity
5 and extent of this situation is certainly a positive
6 step toward its improvement. We can now better assess
7 and evaluate the needs of battered women and provide
8 them with vital service and protection.

9 This year the Connecticut General Assembly
10 passed legislation to support our efforts on this
11 issue. Any adult person subjected to physical injury
12 by his or her spouse may now make application for a
13 hearing in the Superior Court to secure protection for
14 themselves and their families. This relief action
15 will be provided in response to each individual case
16 with regard to the necessity for speed and discretion.

17 The program today is another important advance.
18 Information will be solicited concerning social and
19 legal services available to the battered women.
20 Victims will also participate by discussing their
21 experience with various public and private agencies.

22 I deeply regret that because of previous
23 commitments it is not possible for me to join you. It
24 is my sincere hope that it will be a rewarding and
25 educational experience for all."

Ella Grasso, Governor

CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you, Senator Hudson.

Next is the Honorable George A. Athanson,
Mayor of the City of Hartford.

MAYOR ATHANSON. Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Advisory Committee, and ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to be here to welcome you at these informal hearings on battered women. I can say that as an attorney for many years I had occasion to have matters in my office pertaining to the battered women; and continually at first hand I have heard from victims their plight pertaining to such batterment. As professor at the University of Hartford I have also had occasion with some of my students to have talked with them and at first hand obtained additional information concerning such batterment. As Mayor of the City of Hartford for a number of years I have also had occasion to be able to be exposed to such abuse against women.

I think it's necessary to talk in terms of laws, and shelters, and supportive measures; and now I think all these things are important. But this problem is very, very prevalent, much more so than anyone of us perhaps deems pertinent. I think that the apathy pertaining to the problem is just as prevalent

1 however. This is why hearings of this kind are
2 extremely important in order to be able to educate,
3 because the biggest problem in this country tends
4 to be that they really don't know what the problems
5 are. Therefore, we have to promulgate truth and get
6 testimony in order to be able to understand the gravity
7 of the problems that may be involved.

8 I think battered women are symbolic of deeper
9 problems in our society; and unless we address our-
10 selves to the deeper problems, we're not going to be
11 able to take real preventive measures to aid in such
12 abuse against women. We are aggressive people. We
13 are an aggressive people. We have been throughout
14 the course of our history. Read Grancis Grund,
15 David Reisman, Karen Horning, right down the line.
16 There are many more. Mylai in Vietnam was an example
17 of our aggressiveness. Our invasion of Cambodia, one
18 of the most dastardly things undertaken by this country
19 in the course of its history, is an example of our
20 aggressiveness. Often times foreign policy and the
21 conduct thereof is a reflection of our own domestic
22 problems and needs as they exist. And, therefore,
23 I think it's important for us and incumbent for us
24 that if we're really going to talk about prevention,
25 that there are syndromes and that there are character-

1 istics within the American character and society
2 itself. When a person doesn't have a job, when a
3 person is discriminated against, when a person is not
4 able to make ends meet, when a person has emotional
5 problems because of the difficulties that exist in
6 our society, when the priorities are wrong, when we
7 have no national urban policy and still don't have
8 one, when the President of the United States, for
9 example, says that he'll not take any trips abroad
10 during his first year in office and instead of taking
11 trips to Youngstown, Ohio, to see the people out of
12 work or to farmers in Colorado, but instead goes
13 abroad, this has been a reflection of what I'm talking
14 about, wrong priorities undertaken by our great
15 leaders on every level. This is symptomatic of deep
16 problems that exist in our society. I think battered
17 women are one of the results that often times take
18 place in a society, in a prevalent sort of way, and
19 a deep sort of way; and that's why hearings of this
20 kind are important not only to talk about symptoms,
21 but to reflect upon our entire character, our society,
22 our leadership, our priorities as a people and as a
23 nation. This is why I'm very, very honored to be here
24 to welcome you and to say, "God speed and carry on
25 with all this testimony that is going to be coming

1 forth."

2 I think Mr. Rose, the chairman, should be
3 commended; the United States Civil Rights Commission
4 should be commended; and the Advisory Committee should
5 be commended for this wonderful, wonderful task. It's
6 not wonderful because women are battered, but wonder-
7 ful from the viewpoint that education can be the
8 stepping stone to ultimate prevention and solution.

9 May God bless all of you.

10 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you, Mayor Athanson.

11 Before we move to the agenda I want to do a
12 couple of housekeeping things. The first one is to
13 tell everyone that so far as mens and womens rooms
14 are concerned, the mens room is just opposite us on
15 this side on my left and on the right on this level
16 is the ladies room. They're comparably located on the
17 next floor up as well.

18 Secondly, I want to correct a couple of things.
19 I indicated that Steven Rabinovitz is from Bloomfield.
20 He is actually from Simsbury. His place of business
21 is in Bloomsfield. In addition to that, I want to
22 recognize a couple of other people who have assisted
23 us and who are here today in conjunction with what
24 we're about to do today. First is Leslie Wolf,
25 former staff member of the United States Commission on

1 Civil Rights. Second is Julia Scott from the New
2 Jersey State Advisory Committee, chairman of the sub-
3 committee on battered women. I understand that the
4 New Jersey Advisory Committee will also be holding a
5 hearing on this issue some time in November.

6 At this point I want to move on to the subject
7 for the day; and I believe that Betsy Karl is the
8 first witness.

9 Witnesses, by the way, if you are here as a
10 witness, are going to be testifying from this area
11 where Betsy Karl is. It says "Witnesses only," and
12 that's in the first row.

13 MS. KARL. I am Betsy Karl; and I'm a member of
14 the Connecticut Task Force.

15 The Task Force was organized just about a year
16 ago. At that time I had no idea that the issue of
17 battered women would become such a known public issue,
18 particularly in the State of Connecticut. The
19 support that we've received from the Governor, and
20 Senator Hudson, Senator Beck, other legislators,
21 public officials, people that have expressed concern
22 and support, has resulted in the two important pieces
23 of legislation that Senator Hudson referred to. The
24 media has responded well. We've had T.V. shows,
25 radio presentations, newspaper stories. I feel that

1 much progress has been made.

2 What I want to concentrate on is the prominent
3 part that battered women themselves have played really
4 in bringing this to the attention of those people that
5 I've just referred to and of the media, and especially
6 the battered women have brought the issue to the
7 attention of other battered women.

8 The Task Force study played a major part in
9 setting off this wave of interest and action. We
10 determined from the beginning, a year ago, that we
11 needed statistics, data, that could unquestionable
12 convince those with power, the people with the money,
13 and the people who make the laws, primarily men, that
14 some attention needed to be turned.

15 The problem of battering, by the way, has been
16 compared to just natural aggressiveness. It's been
17 going on, beating of women has been going on, for
18 centuries. It's been condoned. It could be said to
19 be a lifestyle that's been happening. Women have been
20 deprived of rights; and now that we can vote and own
21 property, I think the physical domain is where we're
22 coming to now, the right to protection.

23 In January the public media asked women in this
24 area to call Info Line and give information about the
25 abuse they had received. We didn't know if and how

1 women would respond. Info Line phone workers had no
2 idea that they would receive hundreds of calls night
3 and day, continuously throughout the month of January.
4 We really had to stop the media at the end of the
5 month, or it would go on. As a matter of fact calls
6 have gone on. When it came to taking part in this
7 study, battered women were not silent as they had
8 always been thought to be. They called because they
9 wanted to help other women escape the kinds of physical
10 abuse that they had endured. They called because they
11 wanted to help themselves. We found when they did
12 seek help, when they did ask for help, we Info Line
13 workers and those of us who provided back-up support
14 during this study, found that the women had many
15 times had already gone to practically every other
16 service that was available; and that was very frustra-
17 ting. They had been to lawyers. They had been to
18 counsellors, marriage counsellors, ministers. They
19 had certainly been to the police. And frequently,
20 in fact one of the greatest indignities they felt,
21 was toward the police, the response of the police to
22 them.

23 This response from battered women themselves
24 is what really, I feel, has made all the difference.
25 Without their calls we would not have been able to

1 know what to do about the kinds of battering that goes
2 on, who receives it, and what women try to do about it.

3 I'm really pleased that the Civil Rights
4 Commission has dealved further by going to the pro-
5 viders, the designated providers of aid to find out
6 if, in fact, the women who are beaten and abused in
7 our society are receiving aid.

8 What I want to do is just point out some of the
9 greatest myths that we uncovered in our study and were
10 able to disprove by the study. The first myth pertains
11 to who is beaten. I think the myth is that in our
12 society that poor women and working class families
13 are the location of household violence. It's always
14 easier to pass that off and say, "Well, economics and
15 other kinds of things cause this to happen." That is
16 not the case. We found many, many women reported
17 being from middle class and upper class situations,
18 that their husbands often were in positions of author-
19 ity. They were professors, doctors, ministers, police
20 officers who were the husbands and the batterers.

21 The women themselves in our study primarily did
22 not work outside of the home. Sixty-five, seventy
23 percent of them had no other work; and there was a
24 small percentage that did have part-time work.

25 Another myth that battering starts later on in

1 marriage when the woman's children are grown, when
2 she is restless and looking for other ways to occupy
3 her time. That's also discounted. We found that
4 predominantly the women who called in, the beating
5 had started in their early twenties, sometimes in
6 their teens. It started very soon after the marriages,
7 in a few cases before the marriages, but in most cases
8 it started up -- There was a drastic change from a
9 romantic relationship with their husbands to violence.
10 We found that it had been continuing and going on in
11 many cases for over ten years, about one-third of our
12 cases the beating had been going on for ten years.

13 Another important myth is that child abuse is
14 a distinct and different kind of concern. Many people
15 believe it deserves more attention because children
16 really have no means of protection; and we must
17 intervene on behalf of children. We found that child
18 abuse is very closely linked with battering. Forty
19 percent of the women who called in with children did
20 report that there was abuse of the children. They
21 didn't report who was doing the abuse. In some cases
22 they had said, in the notes on the interviews it said
23 that it was the man or the woman who was abusing the
24 children; but we found in working further with battered
25 women that virtually every home that has battering has

1 abused children, has children that are suffering
2 severe psychological effects and learning abusive
3 behavior themselves. Those with grown children report
4 that often times the sons marry and abuse their wives.
5 So there was substantial evidence of this cycle being
6 carried on. So that there's definitely a tie-in
7 with child abuse.

8 There's also the myth that the woman, because
9 she's an adult, that she has more rights than the
10 child in terms of protection. This needs to be re-
11 examined; and I'm sure we'll hear testimony today to
12 the effect of the difficulty a woman receives in get-
13 ting protection.

14 Another myth is that a lot of women who
15 considered themselves battered are really victims of
16 verbal abuse or an occasional slap; but it's a condoned
17 kind of thing. Most people think that's what batter-
18 ing is about. Well, the most shocking finding in our
19 study discounts that myth. We found that seventy-
20 four percent of the women who responded as victims
21 of household abuse described severe abuse that would
22 in this State be called a felony crime. It was not
23 just kidding, hitting, and kicking, but choking,
24 beaten until unconscious, broken bones, lacerations,
25 internal bleeding, miscarriages, severe kinds of

1 abuse on pregnant women, being hit with a weapon,
2 with every kind of weapon conceivable, many household
3 kinds of things like frying pans, tools, kitchen knives
4 used on them. Ironically that it would be the items
5 in the household that the woman uses herself that are
6 often used against her.

7 And then the final myth that I'm going to go
8 into now is perhaps the most destructive one, and
9 that's that women have not sought help and do not want
10 to press charges and really do anything about it.
11 That, of course, is destructive. It puts the whole
12 blame back on the woman; and it makes the rest of
13 society satisfied to sit back and do nothing because
14 after all she's not doing anything. We asked women
15 what they had done, what kinds of help they had sought.
16 Overwhelmingly we found that they had sought police
17 protection in about sixty percent of the cases. They
18 had sought legal help. They had been to attorneys.
19 Seventy percent of the cases, these are of the women
20 who reported seeking help, they had sought counseling
21 help. What we did find very low on help-seeking was
22 financial and housing assistance. And what we could
23 conclude from that is that they didn't seek it because
24 it wasn't there. That's really what women need, to
25 escape. They need protection so that they can be

1 alive, and so that they can be healthy enough to
2 remove themselves from abuse, but they need financial,
3 some means of supporting themselves and their children,
4 and they need a place to go.

5 Women that have called me since that time are
6 still -- they're not aware of services. There are
7 emergency housing services available in the area; but
8 many times that doesn't fill the need because they
9 need to -- it takes a longer time to sort out. There
10 are many kinds of things that need to be worked out.

11 I just wanted to conclude by saying that many
12 battered women were not ready to call in January.
13 They were still frightened, alone, skeptical that
14 there can be solutions. Since that time we've heard
15 from many others; and we'll hear from more today.
16 I'm really glad that there are people listening,
17 because I know that there are plenty of women out
18 there waiting to talk about it.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you, Betsy.

20 We want to congratulate the Task Force for what
21 you've done to this point; and we're looking forward,
22 our Committee and a great many of the other agencies
23 who will appear today, are looking forward to the
24 follow-up that your organization and other organiza-
25 tions will do; and we want to thank you for all of the

1 cooperation you've extended to us.

2 The procedure that we're going to follow is that
3 members of the Committee will ask questions of the
4 witnesses; and the lead questioners at this point
5 will be Gloria Busch and Judy Homes. They will be
6 questioning Betsy, and we will move from that point.

7 MS. BUSCH. Could you tell me why, or could you
8 explain why women find it difficult to leave the
9 abusive situation? You mention that some have been
10 beaten for as long as ten years.

11 MS. KARL. They find it difficult to leave
12 because they have -- Well, they're afraid number one.
13 They're really afraid of further harm coming to them
14 by their husband tracking them down. They don't have
15 a secure place to go where they will be protected.
16 Usually he'll know most of the places she would turn
17 to, and she could jeopardize other members of the
18 family. Often the family members aren't supportive
19 either. So that's one reason, the fear.

20 And then another reason is that I would guess
21 that until recently the woman felt that maybe she had
22 been wrong, that she had done something to cause him
23 to attack her; and she would try to modify her behav-
24 ior. This would lead to mental -- to institutions,
25 to institutionalization because it was more than a

1 person can endure to be told that they're nothing over
2 a period of time and to continually be striving to
3 improve in some way and still get beaten. The cycle
4 only becomes worse at that point. So that's another
5 reason, that she's still trying to please her husband.
6 She's still trying to pacify him.

7 Another thing, the financial reason, is that
8 how is she going to support herself? When she does --
9 First of all, she may be co-owner of the home; but
10 when she goes to the police, they will tell her that
11 they cannot remove the husband from the home. She
12 has to leave. She has no where to go.

13 MS. BUSCH. What are some of the recommendations
14 that the Task Force has made for the improvement in
15 the legal system as it pertains to the battered women?

16 MS. KARL. In the legal system, one of the
17 important things is speedy court orders. The bill
18 that was passed this year, that goes into effect this
19 week, will certainly improve a woman being able to
20 get protective orders quickly. It's a matter of
21 education and awareness also as to how soon this
22 bill will actually be used and how many judges know
23 about it. So one of our recommendations is in the
24 training and awareness around the new law. We do
25 feel that the law, hopefully, will be further changed

1 to extend to victims of abuse that may not be married
2 to one another, but are living together.

3 When you ask legal, you may have been talking
4 about the police. I'm not sure.

5 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Let me interrupt just for a
6 moment.

7 As difficult as it is to do it, we have to
8 speak directly into the microphone because they are
9 not super powerful, and there may be people who can't
10 hear you or us. So if you can remember to do it
11 please. We're trying to record on all kinds of
12 machines all over the room. So please talk directly
13 into the mike.

14 MS. HOMES. Did the Task Force make any other
15 recommendations for improving services available for
16 battered women?

17 MS. KARL. Yes. Recommendations were made,
18 and the Task Force study should be available at some
19 time during the day. The recommendations were
20 partly based on the interviews from the women in the
21 study.

22 In the area of shelter services, we have made
23 fairly specific recommendations that there be shelters
24 providing longer-term stays for women, that they be
25 set up; and that is going to be done shortly since

1 there's just been some money in Connecticut appropriated
2 that will be going to several sites for shelters.

3 Also, guidelines on counseling, that support
4 services need to be provided. There needs to be
5 some place for a woman to call where she can be
6 responded to as having rights and not that this is
7 something that she's brought upon herself. Many of
8 the existing social services and counseling services
9 are very inadequate. We also feel it's very important
10 that battered women link up with and talk to other
11 women that have been through the same experience.
12 That was another one of our recommendations, that
13 there be support systems set up.

14 In the area of economics, there is a whole
15 series of ideas for creating jobs and using Federal
16 programs like CETA for getting jobs for women where
17 they could work with that agreement and in shelters.

18 MS. HOMES. Thank you.

19 MS. BUSCH. Miss Karl, will the Task Force be
20 available to assist police departments or police
21 officers or training academies in the training of
22 police officers in handling domestic violence cases
23 or battered women; or will you be publishing any kinds
24 of materials that would assist them in any way?

25 MS. KARL. I'm glad you asked that. The Task

1 Force is not funded, and all of what we have accomplished
2 has been without any funds. Our only income now is
3 from selling copies of our report to tell you the
4 truth, and occasional donations. But I understand that
5 the State of Connecticut is applying for some L.E.A.A.
6 funds that many people have heard about. Recently
7 there's one million dollars available in L.E.A.A. funds.
8 That's what is needed if we're talking about police
9 departments and doing other kinds of training and
10 working. So there's going to have to be money avail-
11 able to do it. We certainly have the resources
12 combined on the Task Force to be able to provide
13 services other than financial.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Would you tell us something
15 about the make-up of the Task Force generally?

16 MS. KARL. The Task Force is an open group.
17 Anybody can join. It's made up of people from all
18 over the State of Connecticut who have been involved
19 in this effort. It's primarily people that have
20 worked with battered women and are doing organizational
21 work in their communities. A lot of times people will
22 come in who are just starting, and, for example, our
23 study has been duplicated in Danbury and out in the
24 eastern part of Connecticut, and I think in New London.
25 So it's a real coordinating group where resources are

1 that I'm one of the staff members on the project. We
2 sought out these agencies and told them the problem;
3 and we were able to feel out who was sensitive to the
4 issues and who wasn't. We also made it not a personal
5 problem, or a man's problem, or a woman's problem,
6 but a community problem; and that helped. Some agen-
7 cies in the community are not responsive to it; but
8 with a little bit of work and support with women
9 together as a group it can be done.

10 MRS. B. I originally went to Family Relations
11 before there was any police action. They told me they
12 would like to help me, but they could do nothing to
13 make my husband come in and talk to them unless he was
14 arrested. He was arrested later on; and we were
15 summoned in together to talk. I called the Family
16 Relations officer and told him that I was terrified to
17 say anything in front of this man. He indicated that
18 he wanted to see the two of us together; and he did
19 see us several times; but I don't think he was very
20 sensitive to the fact that I was in a very difficult
21 position with this man. I was afraid. He was sitting
22 right next to me.

23 On the second incident of the arrest I was
24 again sent to Family Relations; and I called the
25 Family Relations Officer a second time and said that I

1 MR. FORSTADT. I'd like to ask one question,
2 and it may be too subjective to answer; but did the
3 study show any relationship in terms of cause and
4 effect between the non-working women and the battered
5 women? You indicated in your presentation that there
6 was some sort of statistical relationship between
7 the women not working or having a part-time job and
8 the incident of battering. Were you able to perceive
9 any cause and effect relationship in this?

10 MS. KARL. We didn't explore that further, but
11 one thing we found from taking calls from women call-
12 ing in for counseling and support and other things,
13 is that some women would report that when they'd stopped
14 working the abuse began. They would become unemployed
15 and have some children -- I remember one woman, it was
16 not until she had her third child that she stopped
17 working; and it was during the pregnancy with that
18 child that her husband started to beat her. So I
19 think that that's certainly an area that could be
20 explored. The employed woman has other options; and
21 I think that there could be a different kind of abusive
22 situation going on.

23 But there's another category with employment;
24 and that's the woman who's employed and the man
25 isn't. She's supporting him; and this accounts for a

1 situation where they're not married also. They might
2 be living together; and she's virtually providing all
3 the support. They'll describe how they come up with
4 money and food, and they eat up all the food, and
5 there won't be anything for the children let alone
6 herself. So that's another kind of employment situa-
7 tion.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSE. There are no further questions.

9 Thank you very much, Ms. Karl. We appreciate
10 your coming today.

11 We're going to move now to Panel B; and I want
12 to tell you that this includes women who have been
13 encouraged to come forward and speak who are, in
14 fact, battered women and have had those experience.
15 They've arranged for those women to be in another part
16 of the building, but wired into this room to give the
17 testimony or to answer questions of the Committee
18 members. We're going to hear from those women at
19 this point. There are also battered women or women
20 who've had experiences with battering in the hall with
21 us today who will testify following the testimony and
22 the questions given to the women who are out of the
23 room.

24 Paula Webster, do you hear me upstairs?

25 MS. WEBSTER. Yes, I can.

1 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Are you ready?

2 MS. WEBSTER. Yes, I am. I thought we were
3 going to start with the women -- There are six women
4 up here who would like their identity protected, and
5 that's why we're in this room. We're going to be
6 identifying them by letters. We have Miss A, B, C, D,
7 E, and F; and the first person to speak will be
8 Miss A.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Will you make sure that every-
10 body gets right up to the mike?

11 MS. WEBSTER. Okay.

12 This is Miss A.

13 MISS A. I'd like to start with the experience
14 that has led me to be here. The violence started
15 right when I first was married. It got progressively
16 worse as the years went on. I didn't really sustain
17 that serious injuries, but it was a constant slapping,
18 kicking, choking. It never led me to the hospital,
19 but it was the last few years that I was with him,
20 it was almost nightly that this occurred.

21 My husband is alcoholic, and that instigated
22 most of the beatings. It could also have happened --
23 If any little thing was wrong, this would be enough
24 for him to start hitting or slapping. It could be just
25 a cobweb in the ceiling that could have started it.

1 I did call the police -- Well, I was afraid to
2 call the police for a long, long time because of,
3 you know, what would people say and that sort of thing,
4 but I finally did; and he was arrested. The only
5 reason he was arrested was because he got belligerent
6 with the police.

7 When I did separate from my husband he continued
8 to come to the house, harass, rip down doors, break
9 windows. He'd have tire irons. I constantly called
10 the police. I continued to call the police, and they
11 wouldn't do anything. They knew I was serious about --
12 that I didn't want him arrested; and I wanted it to
13 stop. But -- Well, the reason why they said they
14 wouldn't is because I didn't have a restraining order.
15 I had papers to keep him out of the house, but I
16 didn't have a restraining order. And this is what
17 they said, why they couldn't arrest him.

18 In the process I was trying to get a restraining
19 order with a lawyer. I didn't know anything about it.
20 I didn't know that this was what I was supposed to
21 have. So in the meantime I was trying to change
22 lawyers and trying to get a restraining order; but
23 this took a long period of time; and it was about a
24 six or seven month period of time where he continually
25 came to the house and harassed me; and I continually

1 called the police. They finally arrested him after
2 six months of this; and, again, it wasn't because I
3 wanted it. I guess they were sick and tired of having
4 me call. And also he did get belligerent with the
5 police; and they finally got sick and tired of coming
6 over; and they arrested him. He did stop coming
7 around after that; but he was going to court; and I
8 called up to find out who the prosecuting attorney
9 would be; and I wrote a letter to him telling what
10 went on because he was just arrested on a minor charge.
11 I guess it was disorderly conduct, something where
12 I thought it would be thrown out of court; and
13 fortunately I heard later that the judge did read the
14 letter that I wrote; and they put a one-year probation
15 and sixty days suspended sentence; and I guess they
16 really told him that if he came around again there
17 would be a heavy fine, or I don't know, penalty.

18 So that's what, you know, that's what happened,
19 and that's it.

20 Any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN ROSE. What we're going to do is
23 listen to each one of the women who are up there,
24 and then the people of the Committee will ask questions
25 generally.

1 MRS. B. I have been married approximately
2 twenty-five years. As the marriage progressed the
3 violence first was -- There was long periods between
4 each episode of violence, and as the years went by the
5 episodes became closer and closer. For the first few
6 years I found it very difficult to call the police.
7 I think basically for the reason that the names always
8 appeared in the local newspaper; and I felt this would
9 be an embarrassment to my family, his family. So I
10 was very reluctant to take this step. I did have the
11 police there many times. As many times as I had the
12 police I think I got as many reactions as the police-
13 men came to the house. They ranged anywhere from --

14 My husband has been arrested on several
15 occasions. Most of the time there is such a long time
16 lag between the time he was arrested. He was arrested
17 immediately. There was such a long time lag between
18 the time he was arrested and the time he came to court
19 that there was a great deal of harassment. The first
20 time he was arrested I think there were several months
21 because it was postponed a few times; and there was
22 constant harassment, would I drop the charges, when
23 was I going to drop the charges, what he was going to
24 do if I did not drop the charges. Finally the day he
25 was going to court he typed up a letter himself

1 supposedly written by me saying that he would no longer
2 drink and that he was going to behave himself and had
3 me sign the paper saying that I was willing to drop
4 the charges. I did sign the paper; but apparently the
5 judge saw through who had written the paper and put
6 him -- I guess on probation and insisted that he go
7 to Honor Court, which is A.A., for a period of time.

8 The second time he was arrested we went through
9 interviews -- The first time we also went through
10 interviews with the Family Relations. The second time
11 we did also; and I had to explain to the Family
12 Relations officer that I was afraid to say much of
13 anything in front of this man; and the Family Relations
14 officer said, "I can't understand why anybody would be
15 afraid of a man she had been living with all this time,"
16 and obviously he did not understand my fear. During
17 the sessions with the Family Relations officer, the
18 second time, there was a great deal of talk; but he
19 finally ended up suggesting that I drop charges the
20 second time because, obviously, this was not helping
21 the situation at all; and I was not accomplishing
22 anything by pursuing the charges. So I did sign a
23 paper saying that I would drop the charges.

24 Since this there have been more episodes. I
25 believe the last time the police were at the house they

1 were much more sympathetic for many reasons; and one
2 of the main ones was that they had been called the
3 week before to a place of business because my husband
4 had made a scene there. I had the same officer come
5 to the house, and somehow hearing this from a business
6 man carried a lot more clout with people than hearing
7 the same story from me. When they got into the house
8 they recognized it was the same person; and they were
9 far more sympathetic.

10 Many times I've had the police tell me that
11 there wasn't really any point in having him arrested
12 because he would be out in a couple of hours and come
13 home and maybe he would set the house on fire, and
14 what would I do then? This was right in front of my
15 husband. I felt they were giving him ideas he didn't
16 already have.

17 I've gotten involved in a group, several of us
18 have started a group, a self-support group to try and
19 work things out with each other and try to help each
20 other for some point like many other self-help groups;
21 and we have made some progress, although I find it
22 very difficult for most battered wives to even appear
23 because there is a great deal of fear that they will
24 be caught. I feel that to build up the self-esteem,
25 women getting together is one of the main problems,

1 because as the beating progresses somehow I believed
2 when I first got married that I deserved this because
3 he would say to me, "Well, I have a lot of trouble
4 with headaches; and if you would quit aggravating me,
5 I would not hit you; if you did not say the wrong
6 thing at the wrong time, you wouldn't have gotten a
7 chair over your head; if you had not given me a hard
8 time when I already had a hard time at the office, this
9 would not happen; if you'd kept the kids quiet when I
10 was trying to sleep, this would not happen." And
11 somehow I believed it was something I was doing wrong;
12 and then as the years progressed the situation kept
13 happening over and over again with so many different
14 situations that I finally realized it was not me, it
15 was him; but by this time my self-esteem had hit
16 pretty low bottom; and I have no job; and I had no
17 job then and did not finish my education, so I felt
18 somewhat trapped. I had no money of my own. I had
19 no job to go back to so to speak; and I felt really I
20 was -- I felt sort of alike a prisoner; and the more
21 I felt that way, the more I went into myself and was
22 unable to help myself.

23 It was finally with almost complete breakdown
24 in psychiatric treatment I was able to gain a little
25 self-esteem and realize it was not my fault. And then

1 after hearing the information from the Task Force and
2 finding out that there were so many other women in-
3 volved, I realized I was not the only woman in the
4 world that was being battered. It was very helpful
5 to my self-esteem to know there were other people,
6 and it wasn't all my fault.

7 So I think the problem of low self-esteem and
8 establishing some sort of work skills for women is
9 very essential, because if you have no self-worth and
10 no self-esteem you can't do much for yourself; and if
11 you can't do much for yourself, you're trapped in an
12 unfortunate situation; and this is why I feel this
13 self-help support groups are extremely essential.

14 If there are any questions, I'll be glad to
15 answer them.

16 CHAIRMAN ROSE. As I said earlier, we're going
17 to reserve questions until all the women have had an
18 opportunity to testify.

19 MRS. C. I have been married for about fourteen
20 years; and I have a husband who occasionally would hit
21 me, restrain me on the bed and beat me while the kids
22 were watching. I never knew what to do for a long
23 time. I used to think if I kept the house better or
24 had a good supper on the table these things would
25 change; and nothing I did really helped until I changed

1 my own attitude.

2 I had a fear of calling the police because
3 police records go right into the newspaper, and you're
4 in fear of everybody finding out about your situation,
5 your neighbors finding out. They read it in the
6 newspaper, and you don't want anybody to know what
7 you were going through. I didn't want my family to
8 know about it.

9 At one time I did call the police, and they came
10 to the house. The only thing they said was, "Now,
11 you can't do that. That's not nice to do." It was
12 kind of like a slap on the wrist; but nothing really
13 concrete; and then I had the fear of what my husband's
14 reaction would be to that.

15 We went to Family Relations, and they told me to
16 leave. I went to Child Guidance to try to help my
17 kids, because I know they were upset about this. They
18 allowed my husband to come in, and during counseling
19 to be drunk and to start calling everybody names. And
20 they didn't even ask him to leave. But he badgered me
21 in front of these people.

22 I think like Mrs. B said, your self-esteem gets
23 so low that you don't know where to go. One time I
24 left home; and I stayed at a friend's house; but, you
25 know, when you don't want to keep running with three

1 kids -- You'd like to be able to stay in your own home
2 and not have the fear of your husband beating you and
3 harassing you all the time. And then you are also
4 afraid that he might find you over there and cause
5 trouble for your friends.

6 One time I called my family; and I had a tough
7 time. That, I think, does not help either. You don't
8 need your family coming in there trying to protect you,
9 and they could get hurt too. I went to see a lawyer.
10 He suggested leaving him. Most of these agencies
11 suggested leaving the home. It may sound silly to you;
12 but I do care for my husband; and I think the only
13 reason that things changed in my home was because I
14 got help from a women's group of self-help. And my
15 attitude changed. My self-esteem went up; and once I
16 started getting respect for myself, the batterings
17 have stopped. I'm still living with my husband. It
18 is a lot better because I think I have changed, and
19 he knows that I don't allow myself to get beaten,
20 because he knows I'll go even further than I did
21 before.

22 I have to say the only places that I did get
23 help was Alanon. The women there that were trying to
24 get together to help other women, because I believe
25 nobody knows what I'm going through except another

1 woman who has gone through the same situation and has
2 found help for herself.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Mrs. D, or Ms. D?

5 MRS. D. I have a problem. Why I come here is
6 because I got five kids, and my husband has been
7 separated for five years. We went back together and
8 bought a home. And I live in -- Things aren't going
9 too good for me. Well, you'll have to excuse me.
10 I'm kind of nervous. This is my first time talking
11 on a microphone; but I don't have no place to go.
12 I live in a Salvation Army shelter; and there's a lot
13 of kids there and a lot of people out of homes; and
14 when you get together with a lot of people, there's
15 just trouble; and I went looking for an apartment;
16 and I can't find none; and my social worker has been
17 after me; and every time I find an apartment it says
18 no kids, no pets.

19 I got a job. I can't go to my job because I
20 have to stay with my kids. If I go to the hospital to
21 get a treatment and I come back to the shelter the
22 kids are -- the kids are fighting again. What am I
23 going to do? I don't have no money. I don't have
24 nothing. I don't have no place to live, and I'm tired.
25 I been running, and I been running, and I'm not going

1 to run anymore. I want to go away. I need to go away.
2 I don't have no money. I go to the State. They tell
3 me I'm not -- I can't get no help. If you just get me
4 a place for me and my kids. I can go to welfare and
5 tell them to give me some money. I had a little money,
6 and I spent it. I know I have a job because I'm a
7 good worker.

8 My father said I could come back any time.
9 But how am I going to come back with no where to live?
10 My husband won't get out of the house. He broke my
11 son's arm, and I told the cops. The cops come to the
12 house. He got a lock on the door, on the apartment
13 door; and when I go away the kids want to eat. He
14 take the food out of the kids mouth. And he knock them
15 on the floor, and he kick them; and when I tell him to
16 stop, he go to beating on me.

17 He work all week long. He gets his money, and
18 that's it. He don't want to buy food. I buy the food.
19 And a lady from school, she help me get the kids
20 medicine, because he say he don't have the money to
21 do it; but he do. All he want to do is run around.
22 And I cook. He just spit on me; and I let him and say
23 he shouldn't have hurt my son's arm, but he say what
24 you going to do.

25 I don't have no clothes in the shelter. You

1 know? And I like to have my job back. I'd like to make
2 some money. And I go to church; and I pray, and I
3 pray; and he starts going to church with me; and he
4 didn't get no better. He don't get no better; and
5 I'm not going back in the house; and I called the
6 legal aid; and I said I want a divorce. So he said
7 you got to wait because it's taken -- but how long am
8 I supposed to wait in that shelter? I've been waiting
9 in that shelter for three weeks, three long weeks;
10 and my nerves are just about gone. I went to the
11 doctors last night because he said I got to have some
12 pills. So I don't have the money. I go to the State.
13 So they said I got to get an apartment. How am I going
14 to get an apartment? And I call the people. And he
15 said, "No chance." I got five kids, four with me,
16 four kids with myself. And when I go to the table to
17 eat, I don't get enough. It shouldn't be that way.
18 They say you can't eat. What do you think I should do?
19 I need a place to live; and I need to go back to work;
20 and I want him to leave me alone. If I get the house,
21 he'll come in and cut the heat off. He'll cut the
22 heat off. I had to call the copsto cut it back on.
23 So I tell the cop he cut the heat off; and he say,
24 "What can I do? He pays rent here." So I don't know
25 what to do.

1 All I want is an apartment and my kids to go to
2 school. I ain't got a job, but they won't give me no
3 apartment.

4 (Portions of the above testimony were
5 unintelligible.)

6 MRS. F. I'm Mrs. F. I've been married for
7 twelve years. My husband is an alcoholic; and I've
8 been a battered wife for twelve years. My children
9 are also battered children. My face has been completely
10 distorted. I sustained head injuries, concussions,
11 bruises about the middle, in the breast area. I did
12 not go to the hospital as I could not afford any
13 medical bills. I finally got the courage to call the
14 police. I, like the other ladies, didn't want to call
15 because my name would be in the paper, or our names
16 would be in the paper; and it was all kept quiet.

17 I've been to different agencies, and all of
18 them said to me, the Family Relations and all said,
19 "The best thing is to divorce this man," which at the
20 time for me was not the answer. I tried to get my
21 husband committed to a mental institution, but I failed.
22 I couldn't do it until he killed me or the kids; and
23 then they would send this man to a mental institution.
24 My kids used to get beaten, hit in the stomach, kicked,
25 hit about the head. You know, this type of stuff.

1 Finally, as I said before, I finally got the courage
2 to call the police. My little five year old at the
3 time ran out to a neighbor's; and the only way that
4 he stopped was I told him that our son had run out
5 in the snow, and he let me go. I went to the neigh-
6 bor's and called the police. They took about ten or
7 fifteen minutes to get there; and when they got there
8 my husband was very calm and cool; and when they got
9 to the door he said, "What is it, Officer? Can I
10 help you?" I had all the bruises. I had a concussion.
11 He had one little scratch. I must have tried to stop
12 him from beating on me. I told him that I wanted my
13 husband arrested. The officer said that the only way
14 he could arrest my husband is to arrest me too and
15 send the children to the State. I could not do this.
16 My children have been through enough; and I could not
17 see them going to strangers. I said I would not do
18 this; and they said to the husband, they said, "Well,
19 will you leave the property?" And he said no. They
20 asked me if I could leave; and I said I'd be glad to
21 if there was some place to go. There wasn't, so the
22 officers left the two of us in the home.

23 I did take my child, and I had gone to the
24 doctor's, because I slept painfully; and I remember
25 hearing when children sustain head injuries they

1 didn't let them go to sleep; and that's how I found out
2 I had a mild concussion.

3 I am not a working woman. I work in a home.
4 And my husband is an alcoholic; and through Alanon I
5 found courage and the strength to do the things that I
6 must; and today I am in the process of a divorce.

7 Thank you.

8 MRS. E. I've been married for three years.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Excuse me. Talk up. We can't
10 hear you down here.

11 MRS. E. I'm separated now from my husband.

12 (Unintelligible.) When I went to the hospital --
13 I was -- I came back to Hartford. I went to the police
14 station to -- I went to my lawyer for a divorce. My
15 lawyer called the police. They didn't do anything
16 about my husband. I was living in the house with my
17 husband. He tried to kill me. I called the police.
18 They take me to the hospital. I had a lot of black
19 and blues on my neck and my eyes black too. My baby
20 was bare. They was all the time my husband was hitting
21 me. My baby is only two years old. She was crying
22 and telling her father to stop. I was supposed to go
23 to school -- I had to leave --

24 I went to the Salvation Army. I was going to
25 stay no more because I was too depressed. Everything

1 is going on there, you know. I said -- I have no
2 place to live or money. I live in Portugal. I can't
3 find no apartment, because they don't want no baby.
4 I go to the charity. My husband is -- They come, and
5 they call my husband. He already left; and if they
6 don't come in twenty-four hours, they don't do nothing.
7 They didn't do nothing about it. I don't want to be
8 -- you know. And this before -- Legal separation and
9 support money.

10 (Above testimony by Mrs. E totally
11 unintelligible.)

12 MS. WEBSTER. Do you have any questions now?

13 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Yes, we do.

14 MRS. BUSCH. I think rather than ask questions
15 of the group up there, could we hear from the women
16 down here first and ask questions of the general
17 group?

18 MS. WEBSTER. Okay.

19 MS. BUSCH. Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN ROSE. We're going to hear from the
21 women who are in the hall who will identify themselves
22 as battered women; and I think we'll start with what-
23 ever order the three of you are interested in; or
24 we'll start from the left to the right. Whichever is
25 appropriate, or whichever microphone is on.

1 MS. LARDSON. My name is Christine Lardson;
2 and I'm an ex-military wife. I was married for three
3 and a half years.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Excuse me. Pick up the hand
5 mike. Start over, please.

6 MRS. LARDSON. My name is Christine Lardson.
7 I'm an ex-military wife. I was a battered woman. I
8 left my husband last summer. I was married for three
9 and a half years; and the beatings occurred right after
10 we were married. As time progressed the violence in
11 our marriage became worse. There were times that I
12 was so badly bruised that I was embarrassed to leave
13 the house. One of my neighbors used to come over to
14 the house to check on me if she hadn't seen me for a
15 couple of days because she used to worry, and she
16 used to advise me to get out before my husband really
17 hurt me or, worse, killed me.

18 I left my husband last summer because I really
19 felt my life was threatened. My husband beat me one
20 night while he was drunk. My sister was visiting and
21 witnessed some of what happened. I was living on base
22 at the time. My husband was in the Army. The Military
23 Police were called. Four military police came to the
24 house. They asked my sister and me questions. We
25 both wrote statements. I said I wanted to press

1 charges because it wasn't the initial time that my
2 husband had beaten me, so I wrote statements; and I
3 was brought down to the military police station.
4 At the military police station I was interrogated by
5 four more military police. Each police tried to
6 discourage me from pressing charges. Finally they
7 referred me to a military police investigator. His
8 decision was I could not press charges because my
9 husband hadn't used a weapon on me. He then referred
10 me to the Company Commander.

11 The Commander was unsympathetic to my situation.
12 He suggested that I stay with my husband. I said my
13 husband was violent. He had an alcoholic problem;
14 and he suggested that I stay with my husband for moral
15 support and the Army would persuade him to join an
16 alcoholic rehabilitative program. I became really
17 upset because I was badly beaten; and I told the
18 C.O. that this was not what I wanted, that I wanted
19 my husband thrown out of the house until I consulted
20 with legal aid on post to get papers to leave. So the
21 C.O. complied with my wishes; and he made my husband
22 move back into the barracks. The C.O. did not take
23 the keys away from my husband however. So in the
24 meantime, while I was waiting to go to military legal
25 aid, my husband used to come to the house and harass me.

1 One night my husband broke into the house. He had his
2 keys; and he threw his weight against the door and
3 gained access into the house. The military police
4 were called. They came; and they said they couldn't
5 do anything because it was my husband's house. They
6 called the C.O. to verify the fact that I was telling
7 the truth. The C.O. was not concerned. He said it's
8 eleven thirty at night, what do you want me to do?

9 The next morning I got on a plane and flew back
10 to Connecticut. I was charged with desertion. Right
11 now my divorce is pending.

12 There isn't much help for a battered woman.
13 The response is very poor. You're really intimidated;
14 and it's very embarrassing to have to admit that you're
15 a battered woman.

16 SECOND WOMAN. My husband was neither an alcoholic,
17 or dope, or whatever. He was just a very irresponsible,
18 immature animal. We were married very young. I was
19 seventeen years old when I met and married him.
20 Everything was fine up until the day I announced I
21 was pregnant, which was about a month after we were
22 married. He took it pretty badly. I was about five
23 months pregnant when the beatings started. The pattern
24 began with slapping his fists on things, throwing
25 things, general frustrations taken out on inanimate

1 objects.

2 Shortly after my son was born I became the
3 inanimate object. I was kicked, punched, beaten,
4 slapped, and damn well degraded. I was constantly
5 run down by him. For me, I found the emotional
6 abuse to be more than the physical abuse; but the
7 emotional scars stayed for a long time.

8 At one point I could not call the police.
9 We were involved heavily into religion; and I couldn't
10 involve my name and his name in that manner, because
11 I would have to answer to a lot. At one point I got
12 sick of it. I called the police. I was beaten,
13 bleeding, and a mess. The police came and left the
14 house.

15 It was a constant thing of my calling, the
16 police coming, and he split. Finally the police said,
17 "If you don't keep him here, don't call us." And I
18 said, "Would you prefer that I keep him here, and
19 he'll kill me, and you can come back to take over?"
20 They left. He came back and started in; and my girl-
21 friend upstairs called the police. They arrived.
22 Their response was, "Look lady, he says he didn't
23 beat you. He wants to work things out. You're being
24 unreasonable. Why bother pressing charges? He's
25 going to be out in a little while, and he'll be back."

1 I insisted they press charges. The finally said,
2 "No, and don't call us again."

3 Eventually I moved to Farmington, and I filed
4 for my divorce there. Things were very bad financially
5 for me, and I couldn't deal with it any more.

6 When I had married my husband I said this was
7 forever, and it stuck. We decided to try it again.
8 We got back together in February. I was living at the
9 house with him for two weeks. I began smoking, and
10 at one point, one day I was smoking. That triggered
11 it off. He smacked me only with one of my son's
12 toys, which was a pony stick. Broke it over my back
13 and continued to beat me. My three year old son began
14 screaming, "I'm going to kill you." He locked us in
15 the bedroom. Finally I got out of my room; and he
16 said, "I want you out of here and out of here now.
17 Take the kids and go." That was fine with me, but
18 where the hell was I going to go? Two kids in the
19 middle of a snowstorm. I stopped; and I pulled
20 religion on him; and I told him, "If you come within
21 one inch of me, I'll kill you;" and I would. He
22 believed me, and let us out the door.

23 We were working up East Main Street, and it
24 just occurred to me, where am I going to go? None
25 of my family was going to take me in. The only thing

1 I could think of was a girlfriend's house. I stayed
2 there three days. I got into a home. At that time
3 there were no services available. It wasn't that they
4 didn't want to help, but there was nothing. No money,
5 or shelter, or nothing, with the exception of two
6 generous families of the Host Homes. I stayed there
7 for a week and was able to get an apartment with a
8 girlfriend. Things went from bad to worse; and at
9 certain times I almost felt like I would rather be at
10 home with him in a house that had heat, and food, and
11 take the abuse than be out on my own living on less
12 than \$300 a month, trying to support two children, and
13 trying to pull myself together.

14 Eventually the program began to step up; and I
15 was able to get a job as staff member. As both a
16 victim and as staff member it's a horrendous task;
17 and my feeling right now is that it angers me that
18 women have to have hearings and testimony and have to
19 plead their cases before judges to get a right that
20 was given to them at birth, that is that we are human
21 beings, and we do not deserve to be beaten or brutal-
22 ized.

23 MRS. TURNER. My name is Sophie Turner. I am -
24 I was rather, a battered woman. And that takes a lot
25 out of you, and nobody really knows what you're going

1 through but you. And it's very difficult when you got
2 six kids and somebody comes in and says, "Well, you,
3 you know, you're not worth very much anyway." If
4 I'm not worth anything -- How can you not be much?
5 I mean, I was woman enough to have six kids.

6 He wasn't an alcoholic because he was a long-
7 distance truck driver; and he made good money; but he
8 felt that he had to have an outlet; and I happened to
9 be that outlet. Coming from a very religious and
10 strict home, it was very difficult for me because I
11 taught Sunday school and stuff like that; but I ain't
12 never been exposed to the other happenings, the parties
13 and the good times; and he would like to go to parties;
14 and he would say, "Come on, let's go to a party;" and
15 I'd say, "No;" and he'd say, "You think you're better
16 than I am." It wasn't that; but that wasn't a part of
17 my time because you don't have too much time left for
18 parties when you have to take care of six kids.

19 We started with the beatings when maybe my
20 second child was born; and he would come in from the
21 route; and he would say, "What you been doing?" So
22 I'd sit down and tell him what I've been doing; and
23 he would say, "I guess you found time to do other
24 things;" and I said, "Say what;" and he'd say something
25 and beat me around to where it would finally lead to

1 me calling the police. So I called the police; and
2 the police said, "Now look, your husband is a hard
3 working man. So you got six kids. He's supporting
4 you in a pretty nice apartment here. Now, why don't
5 you be nice and go back and do everything he says to
6 do; and, you know, everything is going to be all
7 right." I listened to them. Okay? "If you're so
8 church-minded, I'm sure you don't want your name in
9 the newspaper anyway." I thought about that, so I
10 didn't press charges.

11 So the next time it was just worse and worse.
12 So then he banged me around and opened this part above
13 my eye; and I called the police back. The police
14 said to me, "Oh, what happened here?" And I told him.
15 So he said, "Well, okay, we'll see what we can do."
16 And he says, "Well, I might have to take both of you
17 down;" and I say, "For what? I need to go to an
18 emergency room." And he said, "Okay." Then he turns
19 around, and he says to me, "You really want to press
20 charges?" I said, "Yes, I do." And he said, "Make
21 sure you don't let the blood get in my car."

22 But I'm saying this: What makes it very
23 difficult for a woman to have made up her mind that
24 she wants to leave a man that's battering her around
25 is not having no place to go; and this is the case

1 where you have a lot of kids, because who wants to
2 take six kids in their home? Then the other thing is
3 you have no money because the husband controls the
4 money. If you leave him, he cuts off the money.
5 You go to social services. What do they say? Oh,
6 they got all this paper in front of them. They'll
7 look at it and say, "Is all those kids your husband's?
8 Do these kids belong to your husband?" That's a
9 stupid question to ask when you're looking at papers
10 with all the kids names on it; and besides with six
11 kids I don't know what man would let you use his name
12 if they weren't his; and they degrade you and humiliate
13 you.

14 I was going for Title 219; and the only reason
15 I was going for that was my daughter was having
16 terrible headaches; and I was in medical bills up to
17 here. And this is another reason why so many women
18 go back to the same situation; and it seems like every
19 door that you can knock on is closed. You go to any
20 social service agency. They refer you to somebody
21 else; and all you get is the run around; and they look
22 at you as if you're plain old trash. You know, and
23 this is what makes a lot of women get disgusted with
24 just going from place to place and they'd rather be
25 back home and take some more than to feel like trash

1 for trying to get help for yourself. Because you're
2 not asking for yourself. You're trying to get help
3 for your kids.

4 Now, what I'm saying is I'm glad now that I
5 am in a position to see other women that were in the
6 position I was in at the time, because now I'm work-
7 ing for the project out of New Haven; and we give
8 women the support that they are seeking. We go with
9 them to the legal parts of the courts and the social
10 services and counseling. We see that they get all
11 the things that are available to them; and I just wish
12 that more women would come forward, because we have
13 nothing to be ashamed of by having been battered and
14 knocked around. A lot of people think if a women got
15 hit she's a bad woman. I find most of the women that
16 have been battered are basically good women; and
17 they're not all dumb women. A lot of people feel,
18 "Well, she's too dumb. She don't know so it doesn't
19 matter. That's not true also. Because I myself have
20 seen a lot of very smart women being knocked around.
21 All I'm saying is we are people. We're decent human
22 beings. I believe that battered women and their
23 children deserve to have a chance just like every
24 other women do; and the only way that they're going to
25 get that chance is by other people knowing that some

1 of us out here are really trying to get our heads
2 together; and all we need is that chance.

3 MRS. RAKIS. My name is Dorothy Rakis. I am
4 the chairperson of the Battered Women Household
5 Violence Task Force of the Central Connecticut
6 Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

7 Once upon a time I too was a battered woman.
8 My heart goes out to those who are still suffering.
9 My family and I suffered for twenty-seven years under
10 this misery until I was in the position to afford a
11 lawyer to get a divorce under the no-fault divorce.

12 My husband was a victim of the disease of
13 alcoholism. When he was sober he was the kindest,
14 nicest person you could ever meet. Yet, he worked.
15 He worked hard to support me and my children. We
16 had eight children together. I loved my husband; and
17 I imagine he loved me too; and he loved the children;
18 but being an alcoholic, and when he was under the
19 influence of this terrible illness, he was subject to
20 fits of rage where he would unwittingly hit me and
21 even attempt to hit my children. I was always the
22 one that tried to protect them and took the battering.
23 Unfortunately, in one of these instances I was hit
24 so badly that I suffered a miscarriage. Of course my
25 husband was very sorry. We both were for all these

1 things.

2 My children suffered psychologically and
3 emotionally from this domestic violence. In their
4 teen years I found out the results of all this violence,
5 how it effected them. Those that were fortunate enough
6 of my children either went into the service, got
7 married happily, I hope. The ones that were left
8 suffered along with me until we were able to cope with
9 this problem. Fortunately, I finally used my God-
10 given intelligence, took my brains out of mothballs,
11 shook off the dust, and went back to school under the
12 Manpower Development Training Program in 1965. I
13 sharpened up my skills in typing, business math,
14 English, bookkeeping, and office practice; and thanks
15 to this program I took Civil Service tests for the
16 State and Federal government, passed them, and
17 obtained employment with the Federal Government, where
18 I have been employed for twelve years. Due to this
19 program and to Alanon, the program for alcoholic
20 rehabilitation, I was able to cope with my problem;
21 and I was able to come out strong and try to help
22 others on the way. That is my goal now, to help all
23 the women who are suffering and are in this predicament
24 now.

25 As the Chairperson of the Battered Women House-

1 hold Violence Task Force for Central Connecticut now,
2 we've tried to work with the Connecticut Task Force
3 on abused women to formulate a shelter for the Greater
4 Hartford area; and I hope that in the future we will
5 be able to work with them so that we can help these
6 women that are struggling and suffering now; and they
7 have all our sympathies; but we hope to give them more
8 than sympathy in the future.

9 That is all I have to say now, except to pledge
10 our help to these women who are suffering and in the
11 same predicament that we have been before.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSE. We're going to go to questions
13 now. I want to thank all of the women who testified
14 at this point.

15 Gloria and Judy will lead off the questioning.

16 MS. BUSCH: Paula, I'd like to ask a question
17 to Mrs. B.

18 Mrs. B., can you hear me?

19 MRS. B. Yes.

20 MS. BUSCH. You stated that the violence in
21 your marriage, or the physical abuse against you,
22 became progressively worse during your marriage. Did
23 at any time you seek help at a local hospital?

24 MRS. B. Yes, I did. I was at the emergency
25 room once with a broken nose and had several stitches.

1 MS. BUSCH. Did you at that time tell the
2 hospital how you sustained your injuries?

3 MRS. B. No, I did not. I lied about it.
4 At the time I was much to embarrassed to be in this
5 ridiculous position to talk about it any further.

6 MS. BUSCH. Did they ask you, or did you just
7 sort of volunteer whatever story you gave them?

8 MRS. B. They did ask me; and I told them I
9 had walked into a door; and they thought it was
10 ridiculous. The doctor who treated me didn't believe
11 the story, but he did not question me. He indicated
12 that he knew I had not walked into a door; and that
13 was the end of it.

14 MS. BUSCH. I'd like to ask Mrs. F.

15 MRS. F. Yes.

16 MS. BUSCH. You stated that you did sustain
17 some kind of head injury. Did you seek help at a
18 hospital?

19 MRS. F. No, I did not. I could not afford the
20 bills.

21 MS.. BUSCH. At the time you stated you did
22 call the police. Did they suggest you seek help at
23 a hospital?

24 MRS. F. No, they did not.

25 MS. BUSCH. Thank you.

1 MS. HOMES. Mrs. B, you mentioned that you did
2 get some psychiatric help. How did you obtain this
3 help?

4 MRS. B. My husband told me I was crazy, and
5 I should see a psychiatrist; and he sent me to one,
6 as a matter of fact three or four; and every time
7 announced that it wasn't helping me. In a short
8 period of time he would refuse to pay anymore on the
9 basis that it wasn't helping me anymore; and a few
10 months later he would send me to another psychiatrist
11 because I was crazier yet. This continued for several
12 years; and I did benefit quite a bit from the treatment.

13 MS. HOMES. A question for any of the women,
14 please.

15 Did the police, when they were called, ever
16 refer you to any agency?

17 MRS. B. One policeman referred me to Alanon,
18 and nobody else referred me any place.

19 MS. HOMES. Mrs. C, you mentioned that you went
20 to child guidance. Will you go into your experiences
21 there a little more in detail please?

22 MRS. C. My son had an emotional problem. The
23 things that were going on -- And he went to a doctor;
24 and my husband and I talked to the social worker there,
25 and I told them what was going on; and they -- I believed

1 the problem was alcoholism; and they never pinpointed
2 it to that. They kept side-stepping the issue. They
3 kept saying, "Well, you do this. You communicate with
4 your husband. You don't communicate well." We tried
5 to communicate with him that night. He was drunk;
6 and they didn't even ask him to leave. I don't see
7 how they helped us at all. They helped my son, I
8 have to say that. He was better; but I don't think it
9 helped the marriage at all.

10 MS. HOMES. Did they ever follow-up on the
11 alcoholism with you?

12 MRS. C. No. They always said they didn't
13 think it was alcoholism.

14 MS. HOMES. Thank you.

15 One more question. Have any of the women dealt
16 with Legal Aid at all?

17 THE WITNESS. (No name given.) I did. As a
18 matter of fact my lawyer is here in the courtroom.
19 There was a good, good response. I was very pleased
20 with it. I did not deal with them in my home town
21 because I had moved back at the time. I had filed
22 for divorce there. Because I was State assisted,
23 they -- I went through my lawyer to get a restraining
24 order, got my restraining order; and the only problem
25 I had was that I had a restraining order; but the

1 police would not respond to the restraining order even
2 then.

3 I got my divorce on July 5 and was very pleased
4 with the reaction I got with Legal Aid in Torrington.

5 MS. LARDSON. I went to legal aid in Hartford.
6 They're very responsive; but in my case my husband is
7 in the Army; and he's in another state, so there's
8 not much they can do. He did file against me on
9 desertion though I had good cause to leave; and they
10 had tried to fight that; but there wasn't much they
11 could do. I did write a letter to Toby Moffat, telling
12 him what had happened. My husband claimed the
13 privacy act, so they weren't able to pursue this
14 matter.

15 MS. HOMES. I believe there was a young lady
16 upstairs --

17 MRS. E. (Unintelligible.) Now I have a legal
18 separation, and they won't help me. He called --
19 (Unintelligible.)

20 MS. WEBSTER. This is Mrs. F.

21 MRS. F. This is Mrs. F. I went to Legal Aid;
22 but they wouldn't help me because I was a home-owner.

23 I also would like to say that my two children
24 are in need of counseling; and because I'm on State,
25 I'm unable to obtain it. As soon as the doctors hear

1 that you're on State, they don't want to know.

2 MRS. B. I'm ineligible for Legal Aid because
3 I'm a property owner.

4 MS. BUSCH. You said you were not eligible
5 because you were a home-owner. Was that your own
6 home or in conjunction with your husband?

7 MRS. B. In conjunction with my husband.

8 MRS. BUSCH. Were you living in the house at
9 the time?

10 MRS. B. Yes, Ma'am.

11 MS. BUSCH. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Are there other questions of the
13 women from members of the Committee?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN ROSE. I have one question directed
16 generally. I believe that there was at least one
17 witness who indicated that their problem was apparently
18 not alcohol-related or drug-related; and although a
19 great many of the women testified to the fact that
20 their husbands were alcoholics or had drinking
21 problems and that the battering took place during that
22 time, I was wondering if any of you would like to
23 comment with respect to the rationale that you made
24 in your own mind for your husbands having assaulted
25 you or beaten you exclusive of alcohol?

1 MRS. C. I said my husband has a drinking
2 problem; but he was not drunk every time he beat me.
3 He could be perfectly sober; and he would beat me;
4 and I know there's other women up here that their
5 husbands might have a drinking problem; but they get
6 beatings when their husband was not under the influ-
7 ence of alcohol.

8 MRS. B. My husband hasn't had a drinking
9 problem; but most of the abuse happened when he was
10 sober. Usually when he was drinking, he would pass
11 out quite promptly. He's been sorry for several
12 years now; and it doesn't seem to have made any
13 difference. He has a violent temper; I believe he's
14 had a violent temper since he was a child; and I
15 don't think, basically, alcoholism has done more than
16 just release inhibitions. When he's drunk, he usually
17 misses hitting me.

18 MS. BUSCH. Several of you have spoken about
19 a variety of needs for battered women. What would
20 you list as one or two of the most important needs
21 that the battered women face; and this is generally
22 to all of the women.

23 THE WITNESS. (No name given.) Some place to
24 stay with the kids and some kind of job placement.
25 Most women are willing and able to work.

1 MRS. C. The first thing was shelter and job
2 training; and I think one of the biggest ones up
3 here, I think, is self-help to get your self-esteem
4 up, because you can't do anything when you're down and
5 low. You don't have enough self-worth to reach up to
6 get help.

7 Counseling for the children, because I think
8 it's a cycle that if the kid is brought up in this
9 type of home, they kept up doing the same thing when
10 they get married.

11 MS. ROLDAN. No one has mentioned either seeking
12 to enroll their children in a day-care center; and if
13 they have, whether they have been successful, or they
14 have considered it in order to gain employment and
15 become independent of this problem.

16 THE WITNESS. (No name given.) I tried to; but
17 the problem is that you don't have transportation in
18 certain areas to get your children there. Then you're
19 out of luck. If you don't have State-aid, usually
20 you're out of luck there too because it could run into
21 \$30. If you get it, tremendous. You have the problem
22 of transporting your children there and back.

23 MR. RABINOVITZ. I believe it's Dorothy. You
24 mentioned after twenty-seven years you finally were
25 able to get the dust off your brain, et cetera, et

1 cetera, and you were able to get your thing together
2 and take action which proved successful after twenty-
3 seven years in your case. During the testimony of
4 all these women no doubt everyone was and perhaps may
5 be even is under a great deal of stress during this
6 period of time. It seems that everyone feels like
7 they're all alone, et cetera. If some type of a
8 family or housing help were provide, what kind, or
9 what period of time, do you think one would have to be
10 away from this kind of environment to get one's marbles
11 together and take certain steps as you did in your
12 case?

13 MRS. RAKIS. I would like to clarify that
14 twenty-seven years. Actually the battering was for
15 an eleven-year period until -- I should say I took
16 my brains out of mothballs a little sooner. After
17 eleven years I went into the Manpower Development
18 and Training Program because at the time my husband
19 had lost his job because of alcoholism and his
20 irrational behavior on the job; and we were forced on
21 Welfare because with eight children to support there
22 was no other means of support. So at this time,
23 fortunately, the Manpower Development Training Act
24 was in effect; and I was able to go into training
25 under it; and then I took Civil Service tests for the

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1 State and for the postal service and became employed
2 by the postal service.

3 After this, when I became actually employed,
4 his employment waivered. He was becoming -- At that
5 time he was unemployed, he was very ill. I could see
6 it; but no one -- There was no help for him. No
7 matter where we went, it seemed as if no one wanted to
8 recognize that as a disease at that time. It is
9 reocgnized as a disease now, but at that time, twelve
10 years ago, it was not. It was up to me to work and
11 to support him and my children and to take not batter-
12 ing but verbal abuse from him. We took verbal abuse
13 after that. He was afraid to hit me after that be-
14 cause he felt that I was a Federal employee and right
15 away there would be some type of terrible consequences;
16 and he would be thrown in jail for the rest of his
17 life. Of course, my children were older then and more
18 able to defend me and themselves. The older ones
19 took care of the younger ones while I worked. It was
20 no help until alcohol was declared an illness. We
21 both went to Alanon. We went to different programs
22 put on by the Program for Alcoholic Rehabilitation;
23 and it helped me to cope with the problem; and it
24 helped me to teach my children to cope with the
25 problem.

1 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Is it safe to say, this is just
2 generally to the panel, that you've learned that if
3 you have an agency that's cooperative with you, your
4 own agency, one you've created yourself or an agent
5 or lawyer who goes with you to respond to the Family
6 Relations Officer or to the Welfare Department --
7 The lady on the right testified she was from New
8 Haven and indicated she's working now with women; and
9 she's satisfied that they're getting services because
10 there are people who are with them.

11 MRS. TURNER. We give the women the supportive
12 services that they need., because going to a strange
13 place and a strange person, telling them what you need
14 or seeking what you actually need, is really a
15 difficult thing. Some of the questions are so
16 personal, it's really a put-down; and I can understand
17 what some of these women are going through. Not only
18 do we do that for them, but we go with them to the
19 legal services; and we have a person in there that
20 also works along with us. That makes it much easier
21 for us. When they come to us we try to support them
22 from the beginning to the end, even down to finding
23 counseling for her and the family if this is what she
24 seeks.

25 THE WITNESS. (No name given.) I'd like to add

1 would like to talk to you alone. If I cannot talk to
2 you alone, I cannot say anything in front of this man
3 besides a simple yes or no. He said, "I'm sorry.
4 I can't talk to you alone. I have to talk to you
5 together."

6 Also, one child was brought in who didn't want
7 to talk in front of her husband. She was asked about
8 her parents marriage; and she said, "My parents
9 marriage is none of my business. I'm concerned about
10 the beatings I get myself." With me, most of my
11 questions were involved with yes or no until at one
12 point I wasn't sitting up straight; and my husband
13 went into a tirade that I wasn't sitting up straight
14 in front of the officer; but he still refused to talk
15 to me individually.

16 MR. WILMORE. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we
17 could ask if any of the other women upstairs or in
18 the room have any experience with the Family Relations
19 officer.

20 CHAIRMAN ROSE. The question is with respect
21 to the Family Relations Department officers. Would
22 any of the other women like to testify?

23 MS. LARDSON. When I first came home my
24 lawyer suggested I go to Family Relations to try to
25 get support from my husband. I called them to make

1 an appointment and told them I was referred by my
2 attorney. He said, "Why don't you go get a job;" and
3 that was his response.

4 MRS. F. I went to Family Relations out of
5 desperation of not knowing where to go, the same as
6 Mrs. B. I was terrified of my husband; and they
7 insisted that they see us together; and I told them
8 that I couldn't, because I was afraid that this man
9 might kill me; and he said that he couldn't help us
10 unless the two of us were together. We did go once;
11 and the man just sat there and lied about everything
12 that the officer asked him; and to me it was just a
13 waste of time because I would have to be sitting there
14 and attending myself and saying that this man is lying;
15 and, of course, I'd have to go home with this man;
16 and they didn't understand, so they were no help to me
17 at all.

18 MISS A. I went to Family Relations four or
19 five times; and there was no help at all. At one
20 time they were aware that the problem was alcoholism;
21 and the Family Relations officer sat there and said
22 that he was an alcoholic too; but he did drink
23 occasionally.

24 MS. ROLDAN. I have several questions. The
25 first one is in exercising the right to obtain a

1 restraining order, have any one of you either exercised
2 that right, and what has been your experience in try-
3 ing to obtain a restraining order?

4 THE WITNESS. (No name given.) I had a very
5 good response with mine; but I do have a good friend
6 of mine who also worked on the project with me. She
7 went to New Haven Court to get a restraining order.
8 She was denied a restraining order. Her husband had
9 strangled her to the point where she was unconscious.
10 He had beaten her severely. He dragged her in the
11 street and broke her foot. When we went before the
12 judge to get it, she was denied it. She was also told
13 that he may not issue her a divorce because it would
14 not be good for the system to have another Welfare
15 mother. Her two children witnessed the abuse that she
16 took from him.

17 MRS. B. I had a lawyer; and I tried to obtain
18 a restraining order; and, unfortunately, this lawyer
19 did not understand my problem. I had to go and find
20 another lawyer who, fortunately, did understand the
21 problem. This took over a year to get the restraining
22 order, which I do have today. He has no visitation
23 rights; and he is not allowed on the property as of
24 today.

25 MS. ROLDAN. Just one more question. I wanted

1 to know if any one of you ever felt at any time that
2 you were being discriminated against, either because
3 of your sex, your color, your national origin; and if
4 there were any problems as far as your language, if
5 you spoke another language such as Spanish, if there
6 was anyone available to help you in understanding and
7 conveying your problem to the police.

8 MRS. D. Yes, it is. When I went to the
9 Salvation Shelter he told me to put down for a week,
10 you know. So I got a job. But you don't have no
11 money; and I went to the State; and he told me I
12 cannot get on the State until I have an apartment.

13 I do have problems, like when I went down to
14 the State, and I told them I needed some money to get
15 me some pills. I have nerve pills. I got off of them;
16 and my kids need to go to school; and the Salvation
17 Shelter has too many people. We have two rooms, but
18 downstairs when you eat, there's just not enough.
19 They grab it all from you and all like that. If you
20 come in at five o'clock, you cannot get no food.
21 If you're hungry, you cannot get it.

22 I need an apartment. I been calling the social
23 worker and told him I need an apartment. I been
24 looking for myself. He told me to go back home.
25 I'm not going back home because he broke my son's

1 arm. He beats me up. He tells the cops -- we had a
2 home together. We got off the State; and I felt we
3 were going to make it; and I keep telling the people
4 I want an apartment. He won't get out. I told the
5 people to get him out of the house. He says no,
6 that's his house; but I got five kids, and there's
7 just one of him; and he don't belong there; and I
8 don't have no clothes; and I do want to go to work.
9 I got a job; and I got to depend on myself. I'm just
10 that way. I need help. I need pills; and I ain't got
11 no money to get no pills; and I got to take pills.
12 I got nerve trouble.

13 I went to St. Francis last night, and I told
14 St. Francis to keep me there for awhile because of my
15 nerves; and they said no. The kids are going to find
16 jobs. There's a lot of jobs. So he put it all on my
17 kids.

18 "Mary Jane, you got to get out of here. You
19 got to get out or I'll put your clothes on the outside.
20 I don't care where you go. " So what should I do?
21 I need an apartment. I ain't got no money. My job,
22 I can't get nobody to keep my kids; and I need help.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you.

24 I want to thank all of the women for taking the
25 time and having the courage to come and talk with us

1 today. We appreciate everything you've done; and we
2 hope that something good comes out of all of this.

3 We're going to move on. We're going to take a
4 break for five minutes for the court reporter's sake.

5 (Brief recess.)

6 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Ladies and gentlemen, we're
7 going to start again. Please take your places so that
8 we can begin. We're ready to go. We're going to
9 start.

10 What I'm going to do next on the schedule is
11 ask Jane Brown from United Social and Mental Health
12 Services, Incorporated, to read a letter from the
13 director to Panel C, which is entitled Shelters and
14 Support Services.

15 MS. BROWN. I'm going to read a letter from the
16 Interim Executive Director of our agency, which is
17 United Social and Mental Health Services, Incorporated.
18 We're located in Putnam, Connecticut.

19 "Dear Mr. Rose:

20 We wish to congratulate the Connecticut
21 Advisory Committee for your interest in the serious
22 problem of battered women. There is certainly nothing
23 new about the issue of domestic violence, particularly
24 in relationship to the physical abuse of women.
25 However, what is new is the growing awareness by the

1 public and by women themselves that this is a serious
2 problem which demands solution.

3 We are submitting for the Committee's informa-
4 tion a copy of the grant application for which we are
5 hopeful of approval to establish emergency shelter
6 services for abused women and their children in
7 northeastern Connecticut. The application details the
8 nature of our area, a rural region of small towns
9 characterized by low incomes and under-employment.
10 The application also relates the preliminary results
11 of a survey we are just completing on the extent of
12 need for services for abused women. From both the
13 women who called us directly regarding abuse problems
14 and those who had called the police, we do find a
15 significant number of women throughout the area
16 suffering from physical abuse. Many of the attorneys
17 and agencies who wrote to support our application
18 reported their own experiences with abused women.
19 Particularly, we wish to draw your attention to the
20 letters in the application from private attorneys who
21 talk about battered women who are their clients and
22 for whom services are desperately needed.

23 We are hopeful that if we can obtain the
24 funding for shelter services that we not only will be
25 able to offer emergency housing, supportive and

1 therapeutic services to abused women, but that we will
2 also be able to focus public attention on this problem.
3 We know, for example, that police departments with
4 whom we are already working are making almost no
5 referrals to us on domestic violence situations. We
6 also strongly suspect that many women have given up
7 trying to do anything about their situation because
8 they feel no realistic help is available. Therefore,
9 there should be a strong concern in any service for
10 abused women of advocacy as well. Another hidden and
11 related problem in the physical abuse of women is the
12 abuse of children which may also be occurring in the
13 family situation.

14 We wish to thank you again for the opportunity
15 to present this material to you and will be very
16 interested in the results of your investigation.

17 (Sincerely, Shelia B.
18 Amdur, MSW
Interim Executive Director)

19 CHAIRMAN ROSE. I have one question. To whom
20 is the application being made?

21 MS. BROWN. We have applied for a portion of
22 the \$75,000 allocated in the State funds recently for
23 emergency shelter and shelter services. It's to the
24 Department of Social Services.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you very much.

Transcript of Proceedings

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

House of Representatives Hall
State House
Hartford, Connecticut

September 26, 1977

Part II

PAGES 1 thru 185

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P. Downs to Chief Bannon

Acme Reporting Company

Official Reporters

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1 Next we're going to have the panel on shelters
2 and support services. Ms. Pat Downs.

3 MS. DOWNS. Thank you.

4 In introduction, I am the resident counselor
5 at the Prudence Crandall Emergency Shelter for Women;
6 and the following statement is a fairly brief descrip-
7 tion of the operation of our shelter and the statisti-
8 cal summary.

9 Since October of 1975, after dealing with
10 several tragic and urgent emergency housing cases,
11 the Prudence Crandall Center for Women was granted and
12 maintained a six-room apartment for the purpose of
13 providing temporary housing for women and their child-
14 dren who are without shelter, funds, family, or
15 friends who are unable to assist them. There is a
16 fully-equipped kitchen, living room, bathroom, laundry
17 facilities and three bedrooms for the temporary resi-
18 dents. One room is for the resident counselor.

19 Since August of 1976 we have contracted with
20 a twenty-four hour answering service. Initial meet-
21 ings with potential clients took place at the Prudence
22 Crandall office. For security reasons the location of
23 that apartment will be kept confidential.

24 We have received referrals from Welfare offices,
25 churches, police departments, YWCA's, Salvation Army,

1 neighborhood corporations, help line, info line,
2 protective services, family relations departments,
3 area counseling services, physicians, attorneys,
4 hospital emergency rooms, and from the women them-
5 selves after spreading the word. All referrals must
6 be weighed through Prudence Crandall. During business
7 hours Prudence Crandall's staff responds to initial
8 calls and then refers them to the resident counselor.
9 During evening hours and weekends the resident counsel-
10 or is on call and responds to messages from the
11 answering service.

12 Prudence handles administrative tasks and
13 assists the resident counselor with the supportive
14 services aspect of the program. The Center reserves
15 the right to determine whether or not a woman's
16 situation warrants emergency housing and whether her
17 physical, emotional condition is such that the facility
18 can accomodate her needs.

19 General criteria for eligibility includes:
20 Adult women age eighteen or over, unless they are
21 married or accompanied by a female guardian; women
22 with or without children who literally have no where
23 to go; women with or without children who are in
24 situations of physical abuse. Length of stay has been
25 set at a maximum of five days, during which time the

1 woman is expected to find another place to live either
2 temporarily or a permanent situation. Extensions
3 have been granted in situations with special circum-
4 stances.

5 In addition to shelter, supportive services
6 are available to abused women and include crisis
7 counseling, information and referral regarding legal
8 procedures, financial assistance, medical aid, housing
9 and employment matters, advocacy services, and a
10 support group for women who have been or are victims
11 of violence.

12 The staff has allotted a limited amount of time
13 to community outreach. Initial funding for the
14 apartment was through donations from local churches
15 and women's organizations. Grants to cover work
16 during the period of September, 1976 to December,
17 1977, total approximately \$15,000. The largest of
18 these is Community Development Act monies, which have
19 been restricted in use to the population of three
20 central census tracts in New Britain. 1970 figures
21 for these tracts indicate a population of approximately
22 10,000 compared to a total population of eighty-three
23 and one half thousand. Other major funding sources
24 include charities of the Hartford Diocese, which
25 includes cooperative sharing and Campaign for Human

1 Development, the National Methodist Church, and the
2 Women's Association of Southern Congregational Church.
3 From October, 1975, when the emergency housing program
4 began, through July, 1977, we have dealt with
5 three hundred ten cases involving at least 662 women
6 and children. In 178 of these cases emergency
7 housing was identified as an immediate need. The
8 potential need for housing was apparent in the remain-
9 ing cases. Of the 310 cases, 120 involved women who
10 were in transition from one living space to another
11 or who were temporarily but suddenly forced from their
12 homes. 190 cases involved battered women. We were
13 able to house 49 cases, 24 of which were battered
14 women involving 78 people. Other housing arrange-
15 ments were made for 107 cases and in 65 cases the
16 women did not maintain contact with us after the
17 initial call.

18 These statistics are not an adequate indication
19 of the need for emergency housing and services for
20 battered women. There is a dramatic increase in the
21 number of women who seek assistance after learning
22 that services may be available.

23 In June, 1976, public media began to focus
24 attention on the issue of battered women who have
25 always suffered silently in the isolation of their

1 homes. What was previously considered a family
2 matter, if it were acknowledged at all, began to be
3 identified as a social problem. In January of 1977
4 there was an intense media campaign by the Connecticut
5 Task Force on abused women to urge battered women to
6 respond to an inquiry. Respondents were given informa-
7 tion as to available service. In the first three
8 months of 1977, during and following that publicity,
9 the number of battered women who contacted Prudence
10 Grandall was approximately equal to that of the pre-
11 vious seven months. Both the number of battered
12 women who have sought our assistance and the complex-
13 ity of their cases have increased beyond our antici-
14 pation. Our capacity to respond has been limited by
15 our lack of resources, specifically further funding
16 to increase staff and to expand the emergency housing
17 facility in order to serve more women.

18 In the past year our emergency housing program
19 has become the center of our attention and activity
20 and will remain the focus of our work. Initially,
21 the program was seen as simply providing a space for
22 shelter, an interim measure until something more
23 substantial could be developed. Changes and adjust-
24 ments in response to the needs of the women served
25 have resulted in the programs becoming a model for a

1 transitional living center. Our objective is to
2 move from the model toward the full-scale implementa-
3 tion to continue to respond to the emergency needs of
4 women who are forced to be in transition and to pro-
5 vide housing as well as a central influence for them.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ROSE. I think it might be just as
8 well if we listen to everyone who is going to talk
9 and address questions to the group of you.

10 MS. HUNGERFORD. My name is Liz Hungerford.
11 I'm a program director with the YWCA in Meridan,
12 Connecticut; and we've been involved with the issue
13 of battered women since late 1975. I opened a women's
14 center in Meridan; and the first four women that walked
15 in the door were seeking help for abusive situations.

16 I'd like to introduce what I have to say by
17 explaining how I became involved personally in the
18 issue of battered women, and then move on to a brief
19 history of our shelter services in Meridan.

20 I'm the daughter of an abused woman. I've
21 seen my mother pushed through picture windows, pushed
22 out of moving automobiles, stabbed with a knife,
23 and one time when I was nine years old I witnessed
24 what I believed to be my mother's death. She was
25 beaten repeatedly. First my father broke a coffee cup

1 over her head, after spilling boiling hot coffee on
2 her, and placed the thumb hole of the coffee cup on
3 the middle finger of his hand and kept hitting her on
4 the head with the broken edge of the cup. She passed
5 out; and I ran to a neighbor's. We lived in a rural
6 area. I ran to get the police in Colchester; and
7 they responded well; but by the time the police got
8 there my mother was conscious and all of the evidence
9 -- When I left there was blood all over the kitchen;
10 and when we came back with the officers, there was
11 nothing. My father was very calm, you know, welcomed
12 the policemen into the house; and I was starting to
13 feel like perhaps I was crazy.

14 I don't really need to go into the volume of
15 my experiences. The battered women have covered that
16 pretty well. What I'd like to say is that as a result
17 of my experiences as a child, that made me a feminist.
18 What I saw with my mother was a woman who was a house-
19 wife with very little education, who had been social-
20 ized both through her education and through religious
21 education to be a devoted wife and not to get a
22 divorce, the kind of employment discrimination that
23 women face, going to get jobs and finding since she
24 was never encouraged to go to college, although she's
25 a brilliant person, that she stayed in factory jobs

1 and that her employment was considered supplemental
2 income. Through her experiences with the legal system,
3 the emphasis of family relations court as we saw it,
4 was to save the marriage, not to protect the woman.
5 That made me a feminist; and I think that when we
6 talk about battered women, what we need to look at is
7 that the women's problem is very logistic in nature;
8 that battering is really the epitomy of women's
9 problems in this country and probably around the world.
10 It's been culturally tolerated for -- well, since the
11 time, I guess, when we wrote our Colonial laws that
12 included the "Rule of Thumb," which rule of thumb is
13 a very common expression that we use these days.
14 Rule of thumb means, in Colonial America, that you
15 could beat your wife legally with an instrument that
16 was no bigger than your thumb. If the gentlemen on
17 the committee would look at your thumbs, you could see
18 that you could probably beat your wife with a broom-
19 stick and be considered perfectly within your rights
20 as men in Colonial America.

21 We opened a women's center; and the first woman
22 that walked through the door was on Valium that was
23 prescribed by her doctor. She did not know what time
24 of day it was. The doctor prescribed the Valium to
25 keep her calm so that she would not excite her

1 husband, who was abusive. But he also had a heart
2 condition, so that they prescribed the Valium to keep
3 the wife calm so the husband would not get excited and
4 be detrimental to his own health to get excited.

5 After working with women and referring them to
6 the Meridan Psychiatric Clinic, we decided that this
7 problem was broad-based enough to try to hold a public
8 conference; and we did in February of 1975. We called
9 it a private-based public problem because by that time
10 we had a more social prospective on the problem of
11 battered women. The conference -- Forty women attended
12 the conference. Many of them were professionals, not
13 many of them were battered women; and as a result of
14 the conference we opened up a Host Home Service for
15 battered women. We had five Host Homes. The Host
16 Home system, it's very generous of them to give up their
17 homes for battered women and shelter them and their
18 families; but it's a very inadequate way to deal with
19 the problem; and it's also, I think, not the respon-
20 sibility of volunteers to put themselves in life-
21 threatening situations to house battered women.

22 We started serving approximately five cases a
23 month; and we're up to about thirty-three cases a
24 month; and we're still not meeting the needs. The
25 first shelter that we opened was an apartment that was

1 given to us for our use, for the use of the Task Force.
2 We had no staffing at the time. And what I would really
3 like to point out to this Committee is that once you
4 find a place for a woman to go, you have to then think
5 what you're going to do with her once you get her
6 there. You may have a woman running for her life, and
7 that's usually the way we find them, with no clothing,
8 no shoes for the kids, no medical supplies, no income.
9 The woman's husband may be making \$40,000 a year, but
10 at the time you put her in your shelter she has not
11 any access to the resources of her husband, no employ-
12 able skills, no job, no transportation, up to seven
13 children. We've had them with seven children.
14 And you have to do something as a social servant.
15 You feel responsible for her welfare while she's in
16 the shelter. We have managed by miracles and hours
17 and hours of very, very hard work, people giving up
18 weekends, evenings, vacations for the Task Force to
19 be able to organize in our community medical services
20 so that in the hospital emergency rooms women can be
21 referred to shelters. We are still working very hard
22 on organizing the police to respond effectively.
23 We're not there yet. We have a question as to what
24 you do when you find policeman's wife in your shelter,
25 or when you have a woman in your shelter who's the

1 only Spanish-speaking policeman in your city. It's
2 interesting to contemplate, or a woman who's husband's
3 best friend is the police training officer or some
4 such thing. I'm not saying specifically that we have
5 those cases, but I'm implying that the possibility
6 exists.

7 Financial. If you want to get the woman out of
8 your shelter, she must provide for herself and her
9 children. If she owns half the house as we heard one
10 of the battered women talking about, she's ineligible
11 for any of the free social services that most commun-
12 ities provide. Around the State of Connecticut there's
13 no uniformity as far as Welfare goes and what the
14 eligibility is. If she has a job, she may not have
15 access to transportation. If her husband has money,
16 she may not be eligible for welfare. If she's going
17 to move out of your shelter independently, it's going
18 to cost her a small fortune. Most realtors require
19 security deposits of a month's rent plus a month's
20 rent in advance when you move in. That's to say
21 nothing of utility deposits for someone who hasn't
22 worked and discrimination against people that are on
23 Welfare and renting to begin with. We have managed
24 through the generous support of the Board of Realtors
25 in Meriden to have a list of eligible apartments that

1 Realtors will let to battered women without security
2 deposits; and it has been one of the most valuable
3 resources that we could have. As far as employment,
4 we have organized the CETA and other services in
5 Meridan to give priority to battered women who have
6 no skills. Of course, if you find a woman a job and
7 she has kids, you have to also provide child care and
8 transportation. Child care has been one of our
9 really biggest problems in providing services to the
10 battered woman. If you have a Welfare appointment in
11 Meridan, you have to go to Middletown for your deter-
12 mination of eligibility. If you have three children
13 and one of them has no shoes, and you have no car, and
14 no child care services in your city, and you're sitting
15 in a shelter in Meridan twiddling your thumbs, and you
16 miss the appointment, and your case worker gets all
17 upset, it's really a trapping situation. As for child
18 care, I list courts as a very difficult obstacle for
19 a battered woman to surmount. It has been very common
20 in our experience for husbands, before any legal
21 determination of anything has taken place, it is
22 perfectly legal for husbands who are abusive, even if
23 the woman does get out of the situation, it is
24 perfectly legal for a husband to steal the children
25 whether or not he is abusing them. He can steal them;

1 and he has every legal right to do that until something
2 is settled in the court. We have one woman who's been
3 waiting to get her children back for over a year now
4 and is still waiting; and the husband abuses the
5 children as well. If a woman has no job, once the
6 husband steals the kids and has temporary custody
7 because he is the father of the children, and you go
8 to Family Relations Court, and you say, "I'm the
9 mother but I have no job, and I have no place to live,"
10 it doesn't sit well for your obtaining custody later
11 on.

12 A middle-class woman needs \$600 retainer for a
13 private lawyer; and there is also the issue of protec-
14 tion. Because most battered women are victims of
15 harassment even if they do get out of the situation
16 and find themselves living independently. We have a
17 counseling service through the Meridan-Wellingford
18 Adult Psychiatric Clinic, as well as using CETA staff
19 that are formerly battered women to run the counsel-
20 ing service; and we've put together a referral booklet
21 of existing services and contacting people in Meridan.

22 That takes care of our Phase 1 program; and
23 we're moving now to create a program around the
24 State allocation which has just been granted us for
25 about six months; and we're hoping to provide a very

1 comprehensive program for the battered woman in
2 Meridan that includes the services that are now lack-
3 ing, transportation, child care, counseling, protection,
4 legal services, employment, financial services,
5 cooperation with the police, and emergency medical
6 treatment. It's a tremendous task; and I would urge
7 everyone to look at it in prospective of the whole
8 problem and not just the problem of how do you get her
9 out of the house. What do you do with her when she's
10 out to make her a strong, independent, secure person?

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSE. I believe that the next witness
13 is Alice Kugelman.

14 MS. KUGELMAN. I'm president of a Hartford group
15 known as Hartford Interval House, Incorporated, which
16 has come together with the purpose of establishing a
17 shelter for battered women in the Greater Hartford
18 area to serve this region.

19 We came together more than a year ago and
20 incorporated in February of 1977. Each region and
21 each city within the State of Connecticut has approached
22 this problem from a slightly different angle depending
23 upon the expertise that was available, the institutions
24 who were partially involved in the area, and the make-
25 up of the region itself. Shelter services have been

1 provided by the Salvation Army; and I think we're going
2 to hear testimony to that effect. Our group has come
3 together to fund a shelter; and I feel I'm going to
4 limit my testimony to the problems involved in funding,
5 because I think this is the serious question that has
6 to be answered in facing this whole issue. Who has
7 the responsibility for funding the solutions to a
8 problem such as this? Should it be the Federal
9 government? Should it be the State? The private
10 sector? Or a combination?

11 Our approach was one of funding through a
12 combination of all of these; and for that reason we
13 took several months to gain tax-exempt status. We
14 got off the ground in the first place through contri-
15 butions from churches; and the churches have been
16 extremely supportive both in terms of making low
17 contributions, which is all they can afford, but also
18 to put together programs to work with their own members;
19 and we have contacted both the battered women who have
20 come forward as a result of contact in churches or
21 elsewhere.

22 We've approached corporations in the Hartford
23 area with a goal of funding the shelter to forty
24 percent from the private sector. The first question
25 the corporation wants to know, and this applies to the

1 foundation, is, "Who are you? How do you know you
2 have a problem? Certainly we're not going to take
3 you on as an on-going project. If we help you now,
4 who's going to help you after you are going?" These
5 are extremely tough questions; but they have to be
6 answered. To date no corporation has come across with
7 a contribution. This is not to say they have all said
8 no, but we have basically been asking for contributions
9 from their 1978 budgets. Interestingly enough, I
10 think they are waiting to see what the other corpora-
11 tions are going to do, because this really has not
12 been recognized as a problem that has to be funded in
13 relation to the many, many other urgent things that
14 corporations are being asked to fund. We're part of
15 a larger picture, whether or not we like to admit that;
16 and as testimony has shown, it is so difficult for a
17 battered woman to convince an agency that she has a
18 problem that deserves help. It is even more difficult
19 to convince the private sector that there is an
20 urgent funding priority that has got to happen in the
21 near future.

22 The news that LEAA is planning to fund shelters
23 for the next three years, in addition to the work
24 they've already begun, is extremely good news; and we
25 hope that Hartford Interval House will be successful

1 in being a part of this whole Connecticut picture,
2 which is being put together so carefully by the Task
3 Force and all of those that are working so hard on
4 this.

5 Let me just say that Hartford Interval House,
6 the name "Interval" refers to the space of time that
7 a woman needs to be safe, to back off from her partic-
8 ular situation, to be out of danger, and to use that
9 interval, or that space of time, to make the decisions
10 that have to be made, the financial decisions, the
11 attainment of medical care, arrangements for her
12 children, all of these things. We could open a shelter
13 tomorrow because we have located it here in Hartford.
14 It's in compliance with zoning, health, and fire
15 regulations; and as soon as that funding is in hand,
16 this shelter will also be opened. But it may be six
17 months or even a year before this can happen. I
18 don't want to give anyone a false feeling of success.

19 I want to commend the Committee for holding
20 this hearing, and thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you.

22 I have two names for the Salvation Army.
23 Would you identify yourself, sir?

24 MR. DESCOTEAUX. I am William Descoteaux; and
25 I am the director of the Salvation Army Emergency

1 Shelter, which is located here in Hartford.

2 The Salvation Army Emergency Shelter opened in
3 December, 1975, to address what we and leaders in the
4 community considered to be a high priority problem;
5 and that problem was, namely, temporary sheltering
6 care for both children and for families. The shelter
7 program was designed based on the philosophy that a
8 trauma situation, a crisis in a family life, on an
9 individual child, or adolescent's life, could be
10 lessened if temporary sheltering was provided,
11 accomodations and meals for a temporary time.

12 To meet these goals the Salvation Army Shelter
13 here in Hartford has two components: We are not a
14 shelter that is solely for the purpose of providing
15 sheltering for the battered women. The first com-
16 ponent of our shelter is for adolescents and children
17 who are referred to us by the State of Connecticut
18 for temporary stays until permanent foster homes or
19 group placements can be found for them. The second
20 aspect of our sheltering program is a family component;
21 and it is through this component that we provide
22 temporary shelter and care for battered women. The
23 family component provides for twelve to fifteen
24 family members or adult persons at one time. The
25 family members who come to us come from a variety of

1 crisis situations. These include families who have
2 been burned out of their homes, who have been evicted,
3 perhaps families who are stranded and in transient
4 somewhere, and battered women. During the last --
5 During 1977, from January 1, 1977 to the end of
6 August, we have housed forty-six battered women in
7 our shelter. These are battered women cases. I don't
8 have the statistics today of how many persons that
9 involved when we totalled family members who have
10 come. Often it will be only the battered woman her-
11 self. And other times it will be a battered woman
12 with up to seven children who will come at any one
13 time to stay at the Salvation Army.

14 What we provide at our shelter is a comfortable
15 place to stay, living accommodations, three meals a
16 day, in-take interviewing through which we hope to
17 assess the crisis situation. We have twenty-four-
18 hour staff coverage to provide for the medical needs
19 of the residents in our shelter, also to provide it
20 probably for families who have been referred to the
21 Salvation Army at any time of the day or night year
22 round. Many of the referrals that we have received
23 for the battered women come in during the night hours,
24 or during the weekend hours, or during holidays when
25 many other public and even private agencies cannot

1 be directly contacted. We seek to provide sheltering
2 for battered women for a temporary time until their
3 situation can be assessed in terms of what direction
4 the battered woman hopes to be going with her life.
5 During that time our goal is to attempt to mobilize
6 whatever private and public resources and agencies
7 there are to help the battered woman.

8 We mentioned that we have serviced battered
9 women ever since the shelter has opened in 1975.
10 We have serviced those battered women that we have
11 been able to admit according to our capacity. We
12 have turned battered women away. I would simply re-
13 enforce what my colleagues have said thus forth,
14 there are not enough community resources in the
15 Greater Hartford area or in Connecticut for the
16 battered women. We have had the experience of having
17 battered women referred to us from virtually every
18 corner of the State of Connecticut; and these women
19 have had to come to Hartford, because they were not
20 able to find a place to stay within their own
21 community and the only place for them to stay was by
22 their coming to Hartford.

23 We have experienced frustrations as we have
24 attempted to provide services for battered women;
25 and one the many frustrations is a financial one in

1 that we have discovered that there are very few
2 financial resources to help the battered woman while
3 she is escaping from her situation. This seems to be
4 particularly so in the case of a woman who comes from
5 a middle-income background and does not qualify for
6 public assistance in any way. There are very few
7 places where she can turn to tap resources in order
8 for her to reestablish herself.

9 Our shelter is not funded in any way at this
10 time by the United Way. That means that our total
11 budget must be recouped by a per diem rate that is
12 paid by -- paid for each resident who is at our
13 shelter. The rate is often paid by some public
14 welfare agency; but if there is no public funds avail-
15 able for a battered woman, we have a policy, and open
16 door policy that we will take in the woman if she
17 needs housing and our capacity will allow for it.
18 In those cases the Salvation Army then pays and
19 finances the stay of the battered woman for a brief
20 time. So internally we finance that woman's stay.
21 The funds that are available within the Salvation
22 Army to shelter battered women are extremely limited.
23 If we have a battered woman stay at the shelter for
24 three or four days, that can exhaust our total amount
25 of funds for a week's period for sheltering; and we

1 are called upon to shelter persons with a variety of
2 needs, not only battered women. So we are in a very
3 difficult situation in terms of financial resources
4 in order to provide sheltering for women.

5 The Salvation Army is committed to providing
6 sheltering for the community as we have the resources
7 financially to do so. The plight of battered women
8 is very severe; and there are not always the adequate
9 resources that there ought to be to provide for their
10 situations. We will continue to address this special
11 problem. We are delighted that the Committee is
12 addressing this problem; and it's my personal hope that
13 through the mobilization of our various commitments
14 that some plan, coordinated plan of action, can be
15 laid out for the region that will provide the necessary
16 sheltering and long-term care for battered women and
17 provide the financial resources for the battered women.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSE. The final witness is Mary
20 Calvert, a representative of Womanshare; and I under-
21 stand that she is in room four and a half. Is a
22 representative of Womanshare there who can hear me?

23 MS. CALVERT. Yes.

24 We have formed a group in Manchester, a group
25 of battered women who are meeting together to try to

1 support each other, to try to give each other moral
2 support so to speak, and to try to give any solutions
3 that we have come across to other people to try and
4 help pass information along and try to help us .
5 get the idea across that you're not alone.

6 I think when I first read the report of the
7 Connecticut Task Force in the papers, my first thought
8 was, "Gee, I thought there wasn't another sole in the
9 world who cared;" and when I heard the Task Force
10 was involved, and they cared, I felt if there was
11 anything I was able to do in the way of passing along
12 this information that somebody else cared too, I
13 think it would be very helpful because self-esteem
14 is one of the basic problems. That is what we're
15 trying to do in essence, give each other moral
16 support and boost each other's egos so to speak, and
17 do anything we can to help each other.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Okay. We're going to turn to
19 questioning of the Committee to anyone.

20 If you're going to respond, please identify
21 yourself just before you do that.

22 MS. ROLDAN. I have one question. This would
23 be to all the agencies who shelter people here. What
24 has been your experience with minority women and,
25 specifically, Hispanic women? Have they sought your

1 services; and if they haven't, why do you think they
2 haven't?

3 MS. HUNGERFORD. One of the greatest advances
4 that we have in Meridan is that one of the women on
5 the Task Force is the director of Neighborhood Services
6 for Community Action Agency; and she is an out-
7 spoken battered woman and has testified and spoken
8 publicly before about her experiences. It is wonder-
9 ful to have her with us. I don't know of any other
10 way that we could cover that population with the
11 services that exist without her cooperation. She
12 spoke of her own experiences of having to move from
13 an area where her family was to move with her husband
14 and not speaking English and trying to communicate
15 with police that did not speak Spanish and social
16 welfare agencies and the whole gamut of problems that
17 have to do with the Hispanic.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSE. What percentage of the women
19 that you've seen in your shelter were Black or
20 Spanish-speaking?

21 MS. HUNGERFORD. That's really hard to say
22 because I'm not familiar with our entire caseload.
23 I personally have three Spanish-speaking cases and
24 two Black cases out of sixty-six; but there --
25 I'm sure there's many more; and she works a lot on her

1 own aside from the Task Force work with battered
2 women.

3 MR. RABINOVITZ. I have a quick question to
4 Miss Liz Hungerford and Bill Descoteaux.

5 What is the average stay of each case?
6 How long are they normally in your care, custody,
7 and control?

8 MS. HUNGERFORD. That's really a heavy question.
9 We've been limited by the donor of our apartment up
10 until now to a three to five-day stay; and when we
11 have a five-day stay, we're expected that two of
12 those five-days are weekends. So when we talk about
13 mobilizing resources, we mean to get a woman in and
14 out within three days. Our Host Homes currently
15 serve as a back-up. It's inadequate. I would like
16 to see, as the State has recommended, that we be
17 allowed to keep women for up to sixty days in order
18 to get all of the resources -- We also have Welfare
19 to the point where they will pick up a woman within
20 that period of time; and it's taken us a long time to
21 get there.

22 MR. RABINOVITZ. Of the thirty-three cases
23 that you had, I believe it was last month, was the
24 average three to five days for each case?

25 MS. HUNGERFORD. Yes.

1 MR. DESCOTEAUX. The average would be about
2 two weeks, although it's a difficult question to
3 answer because the stay may be from three days to
4 one month depending upon how plans are coming and what
5 kind of resources we have been able to help her tap
6 in the community.

7 I wanted to respond to the previous question
8 though about the minority breakdown of battered women
9 that we service. We receive referrals for battered
10 women from a wide variety of sources. There are
11 self-referrals from all of the Hosts in Hartford,
12 the police department, the state protective service,
13 city Welfare, and Salvation Army centers around the
14 State; and I think due to the fact that the Salvation
15 Army itself is a source that people tap for help, and
16 because our referral sources are so varied, our break-
17 down of minority -- the breakdown on battered women
18 for minority is that we have many Blacks, many Hispan-
19 ics, many White. I would say it's evenly distributed.

20 MS. ROLDAN. How do you communicate with a
21 language problem?

22 MR. DESCOTEAUX. Up until August we had two
23 bi-lingual workers at our shelter. At this point we
24 do not. We do have difficulty when the person is not
25 bi-lingual; and we could re-enforce what some of the

1 battered women spoke about earlier in terms of their
2 difficulty in relating to different agencies or to
3 public support agencies if they do not speak English.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. I have one question with
5 respect to an issue raised by Mr. Descoteaux. They
6 mention referrals from police. I was wondering if
7 you had experiences that police or family relations
8 officers or courts have referred people to your
9 facilities?

10 MR. DESCOTEAUX. My answer would be yes, we
11 have had experiences with the police and family
12 relations referring persons, battered women, directly
13 to our facility. It is not uncommon because of our
14 location in Central Hartford to have a police officer
15 bring a battered woman at two or three a.m. in the
16 morning and ask if we have room to take her in because
17 if she goes home her husband may kill her or harm her.

18 MS. DOWNS. Our referral to the police were
19 not to battered women. They were not emergency hous-
20 ing cases. We've had numerous referrals from attorneys.
21 Not too many from the family relations. Most of the
22 referrals have been from referral sources of the
23 services that we provide and were in the position to
24 make very accurate conclusions as to the fact that the
25 women need our services at that time.

1 MS. HUNGERFORD. In Meridan we've been struggl-
2 ing from the inception of the whole program to secure
3 cooperation of the police. Yesterday was the very
4 first time that we got the police to escort a woman
5 from her home to a shelter. It was the very first
6 time in a year and a half. We've written numerous
7 letters to the police. Generally we find that their
8 attitude is that if a woman stays, she's ignorant,
9 that they don't want to pursue arrest because a woman
10 often drops the charges with no consideration around
11 why she drops the charges or why she prefers to stay.
12 We've written numerous letters. We have a sub-
13 committee of the Task Force now working with the
14 police and hope that eventually we can get the police
15 to respond more effectively to our requests.

16 MR. FORSTADT. One follow-up question. Do you
17 have any instances of women who wanted to be taken out
18 of the home environment and the police refused to
19 escort them to the shelter or some other residence?

20 MS. HUNGERFORD. Refuse to escort -- Mostly
21 when women call the police we request that the husband
22 be removed. If you're a woman with children, and
23 it's your house, that's a pretty preferable request
24 to make rather than being escorted out; and we've
25 had police refuse to remove the man and refuse to make

1 an arrest.

2 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Any other questions of the
3 Committee members?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN ROSE. If not, I want to thank all
6 of you for appearing before us; and I appreciate
7 your cooperation and hope that something comes out
8 of this and is helpful to you and the very beneficial
9 work that you're doing.

10 MS. CALVERT. I have had several phone calls
11 from the people in the northeastern section of the
12 State wanting to know where a woman in that area can
13 get help. There is absolutely no shelter east or
14 north of Hartford as far as I know; and when agencies
15 call and ask what we can do with a woman in this
16 area, unfortunately at this time I've had to say there
17 is not much, because there is no shelter available
18 in that whole area of the State, which covers an awful
19 lot of people.

20 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Does that last response trigger
21 anymore questions?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you very much for coming
24 today.

25 Our next panel is a panel of police officers.

1 We're scheduled to take a break right here,
2 but we're going to try to get through the police
3 officers, because they have been waiting for some
4 time; and then we'll get a break for lunch following
5 that.

6 Before we get to their testimony generally,
7 Linda Dunn, who is a staff person for the Commission,
8 is going to read into the record a statement on the
9 extent of the investigators reports that were made by
10 the staff in cooperation with the Police Department
11 of Hartford.

12 MS. DUNN. The Advisory Committee and the
13 Commission on Civil Rights would like to thank you,
14 the Hartford Police Department, for opening their
15 police files to us. We looked at all the recorded
16 police complaints for the month of March, 1977.
17 We analyzed them by category of complaint, type of
18 arrest, disposition, race, sex of victim, et cetera.
19 I am going to submit for the record a ten-page state-
20 ment on the information we received. I'll summarize
21 very briefly the data in it.

22 There are approximately four thousand cases
23 recorded. This is not arrests. This is recorded
24 police calls during March of 1977. One hundred
25 seventy-eight cases were clearly ones involving

1 persons who had a relationship or who had had a re-
2 lationship. There were a total of sixty-four arrests.
3 Of course fifteen were felonies. Those 178 cases
4 included at least 11 persons who were sent to the
5 hospital by the police. Sixteen persons were assaulted
6 with weapons. These weapons included a hammer, a
7 razor, an ice pick, a broom, an umbrella, acid from a
8 car battery, knives, and a bat. Ten persons were
9 threatened with a gun during the month of March.
10 Of the 64 arrests, 15 were felonies. Of the 64 only
11 three actually received jail sentences. All three
12 were third degree assaults. Two were bound over to
13 Superior Court, and seven received suspended sentences.
14 Thirteen received fines. Thirty were nolle. One was
15 dismissed.

16 We have a lot more data on this information;
17 and some of it will be used in our questions to the
18 police department. I don't want to read the whole
19 statement now.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ROSE. We're going to go almost
22 immediately to the police witnesses; but I want to
23 state with regard to the schedule, if someone has seen
24 it, one of the people will not appear today. That's
25 the chief of the Hartford Police Department. I think

1 the testimony has indicated the incredible cooperation
2 we've received from the Department at this point.
3 They have opened their files and allowed members of
4 our staff to ride in their automobiles with the
5 police officers who are on call; and except for the
6 fact that he had an engagement that took him out and
7 he was just not available today because of this
8 conflict, Chief Assine would have been here; and I do
9 want it on the record to reveal that we appreciate
10 the cooperation of his Department; and we're sorry
11 he's not here; but we understand the rationale for
12 that.

13 Next I'm going to go to Captain Donald Gates.

14 CAPTAIN GATES. I'm a Captain on the Hartford
15 Police Department; and I'm commanding officer of the
16 Fourth District.

17 Just to give you a little background on just a
18 couple of statistics, to elaborate, in 1976 we had
19 42,800 cases. Out of those 8,000 of those were
20 domestic calls. In 1977 so far, in an eight-month
21 period, we've had 38,278 calls. Out of those 5,879
22 are domestics.

23 I'd just like to briefly go over what the
24 police officer does when he gets to the scene of a
25 domestic. As you know, and we feel in the Police

1 Department, that domestics are one of the most dan-
2 gerous calls that we go on. The training aspect
3 Sergeant Kelly will go into, and what happens.

4 One of the first things we have to do is try
5 to separate the combatants, try to get the situation
6 under control. There are only a few things that the
7 police officer at the scene can do after he does have
8 it under control, and that's referral, settlement,
9 a separation, or an arrest. Several, I would say
10 almost fifty percent of the calls that we do respond
11 to where there is an arrest, will be followed up by
12 the court; but the next morning, either through fear
13 or through reconciliation between the two people,
14 they will not press charges. I talked to Miss Dunn
15 when she came to my office; and we did discuss what
16 we felt, or I felt would be a proper active type of
17 situation that we could utilize if something was
18 available. Myself and several students at the
19 Manchester Community College, who attended that, had
20 written a term paper on it. We felt that if we could
21 get a team or a couple of teams in the field at the
22 critical times of the day, which is usually between
23 the hours of four p.m. and twelve midnight, if we
24 could get teams patrolling, we could come into a
25 domestic scene after the officer has it under control.

1 and would be able to take it over and try and guide
2 those two people that are involved into the right
3 agency or to get help or to get shelter or whatever
4 it would take to assist people. We thought it would
5 go a long way towards cutting down on the amount of
6 battered women.

7 I'd like to stop now, and then later if you
8 have any questions I can answer, I'll be glad to.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSE. What we'd like to do,
10 Captain, is proceed through both you and the other
11 gentleman and take questions following that.

12 SERGEANT KELLY. My name is Sergeant Arthur
13 Kelly. I'm the training coordinator of the Hartford
14 Police Department and commander of the Hartford
15 Police Academy. I'd like to begin with a basic
16 description of our training programs that we have in
17 the Hartford Police Department today.

18 We have two basic modes: First, is the
19 recruit class. The recruit class takes the person
20 who is hired as a police officer. It's an 18 to 24-
21 week program and provides him with the basic and
22 initial training that he shall receive as a police
23 officer. Our in-service mode is officers that are
24 already trained, already on the job and working, and
25 brings them back to the academy or to various other

1 locations where we conduct our training, for an
2 8-hour day dealing with specific topics and/or
3 problems. Our goal this year, and we have been able
4 to meet it substantially, is to have everyone come
5 back for around 48 to 60 hours of refresher training
6 in addition to the in-service training that they
7 already receive.

8 Who does the training? I have an academy
9 staff of 8 officers. In addition, we use outside
10 resources, State and Federal agencies, experts be
11 they necessarily degreed or by experience, courts,
12 various universities, and referrals really by people
13 that we've acquired cross-training with, such as the
14 YWCA. We recently ran a program on rape crisis
15 utilizing YMCA instructors in the academy and police
16 instructors at the YWCA, not the YMCA.

17 Our response to battered women is really
18 geared under a program we refer to as Crisis Intervention
19 or Domestic Intervention. And really is begins
20 with a description of the programs. As Captain Gates
21 mentioned, the response to a domestic dispute --
22 Keep in mind that the police respond to a call for
23 service based upon the person who initiates the
24 request description of the incident. In other words,
25 the police do not know what they're responding to.

1 "My friend has a problem breathing" once led me to
2 respond to a homicide with 8 bullet holes in him.
3 That was classified as a first-aid call. So we have
4 an initial problem in the type and manner the police
5 are first notified of the call.

6 We review the description of the problem, types
7 of domestic problems be they husband and wife, be
8 they married in a more formal manner or common law, son,
9 daughter, brother, sister, aunt, uncle or the extended
10 family, anyone who lives in that family unit. We
11 then go through the process. The process is -- I'll
12 just run through it. It has around 8 steps to it.
13 The initial response is a halt. There's an arrival
14 upon the scene. If there is active action taking
15 place, to cause that to stop; to do an evaluation for
16 injury, in which case the police officer is often
17 inhibited by the fact that there either is an injury
18 or not, but if there is an injury the person who has
19 received that injury refuses treatment for that injury.
20 "No, I do not want it taken care of." Or will deny
21 how the injury occurred. A broken nose can be labeled
22 a fall, "I walked to the door and my husband hit me,"
23 or whatever. At that step there's a halt in the
24 combat. If there is combat, a separation of the
25 parties to allow calm discussion to take place if it

1 is at all possible without interruption of one party
2 by the other: "No, you didn't." "Yes, I did."
3 There's a listening phrase on the officers to listen
4 to both parties or all parties. Many times the
5 response to a domestic, to a situation where a woman
6 is being battered, involves more than just the two
7 initial parties. There's an evaluation at that time
8 by the police officer; and he really has about four
9 decisions that he can make: One is to reconcile.
10 "Now, can you handle the problem yourselves?" At this
11 stage it might be a warn or a threaten: "If I have to
12 come back, there will have to be arrests. If this con-
13 tinues, I will arrest you on my next return." One
14 problem there being in the warn or threaten situation
15 there's no guarantee that the initial responding
16 officer will be the second or repeat officer who
17 responds to a similar situation.

18 If you do not reconcile, another decision you
19 can take is refer; and you refer to agencies. Up
20 until a year-and-a-half to two years ago, when the
21 agencies changed, you could not really refer to an
22 agency as a crisis intervenor. You could refer to,
23 "You can go down to this building on Tuesday at
24 10 o'clock, and they may be able to help you."
25 Unfortunately, it's Friday night at 11, and they want

1 to kill one another right then and there.

2 Now, I'll go over -- There are many different
3 agencies you can refer people to, including among them
4 the Hartford -- We refer them to the YWCA, the
5 Salvation Army, or the Family Relations Court, and
6 several others.

7 Another decision that can take place, and
8 which is in police practice but has no basis in founda-
9 tion in law, is the removal of parties under threat
10 of arrest. In other words, "You have to leave for the
11 rest of the night to calm the situation down." There's
12 no real basis that we can have people or require them
13 to leave a building where you do not arrest them.
14 This is an alternative to an arrest.

15 The fourth step is the arrest. And the fourth
16 step -- I think Captain Gates has some figures, and
17 I think Miss Dunn has some figures that can show us
18 that the arrest is made as a last resort, and a very
19 minimal number of arrests are made. The principle
20 reason for an arrest is the familiarity of the
21 responding officer to that particular situation.

22 Besides alternatives the program description
23 on domestic disputes or battered women also includes
24 an examination of the role of the respondent. Why
25 has he been called to that scene? Sometimes he's

1 been called because the participants, combatants, or
2 the victim, is looking for a referee, someone to look
3 in and take her side or his side in the instance.

4 They want a cessation of hostilities, a cessation of
5 the immediate problem, and they would like to have
6 someone else come in and arbitrarily place the blame
7 on someone. Another time an officer will be called
8 to the scene because the person who calls is looking
9 for an ally, someone to take their side and say,

10 "Yes, you've been badly done to."

11 I'd also like to point out in domestic dis-
12 turbances and crisis intervention to the response we
13 we often find husbands who are victims, if you will,
14 battered husbands. I think it's a bigger problem,
15 that we just can't say it's only battered women.
16 The problem is not large, but we can't allow ourselves
17 to forget that there are other parties to the same
18 conflict.

19 Another occasion, that the parties who call are
20 looking for a rest. They feel that they can handle
21 it, but they need a "time out," if you will.

22 A fourth type of call is a call for help. They
23 do not know what's available. They do not know where
24 to turn for help. They do not know who can help them
25 find where they can go for help.

1 And the fifth type of response that you could
2 look at is people who call the police and they are
3 looking for a party to be arrested. You go there and
4 they don't want to talk. They don't want to reconcile.
5 They don't want to listen. They don't want to evaluate.
6 They want an arrest. And if it is presented in that
7 manner, then an arrest will be made.

8 I think another problem is you have to be aware
9 of the type of situations; and Captain Gates referred
10 to it is that in a lot of the cases where an arrest is
11 made the cases are awful. Referring to a report on
12 domestic violence by the Police Foundation in 1977,
13 and one of the authors is Chief Bannon who is on the
14 panel with me, there is a section, and I'd like to
15 read this small section to you. "Another possibility
16 to reassess the way in which arrest and prosecution
17 of assault cases are handled, every police officer is
18 all too familiar with the current practice, when an
19 arrest for familiar or non-stranger arrest is made
20 it is followed in the majority of cases by the victim
21 being unwilling to prosecute and thus the charges being
22 dropped; or if prosecution occurs, only minor
23 penalties being imposed."

24 Now he refers to the Vera Institute of Justice,
25 New York City's recent study of a sample of criminal

1 cases in New York City courts. "We found that half
2 of the non-stranger assault cases were dismissed. Of
3 those that resulted in conviction none produced a
4 prison term of a year or more."

5 There are several ways they refer to as inter-
6 preting the facts. One they feel is widely accepted
7 is that "A non-stranger assault is essentially a private
8 dispute, that barring very serious injury disputants
9 should be allowed to resolve privately with arrest
10 being used only as a temporary order-maintenance
11 strategy of last resort."

12 Another view now is that the community has a
13 vital stake in even familiar violence and that some
14 significant penalties should be imposed upon the
15 accused by the criminal justice system in those cases
16 even if the victim is reluctant to prosecute.

17 The manner in which we then proceed with the
18 training after this very short process of sharing
19 information and sharing ideal ways of doing it is
20 setting up role-playing situations. We utilize people
21 from the academy. We use people from the University.
22 The academy is located within the Hartford Greater
23 Community College. And we utilize a few of the outside
24 thesbian sources to role-play the part of a husband and
25 wife or people who are living together who are in the

1 process, in the throes, of violent or more subtle
2 domestic disputes in which there is assault, in which
3 the woman is being battered, and to train the
4 officers how to respond, because as people are
5 different, almost every situation an officer will
6 respond to are equally different. It is difficult to
7 train one ideal way. Unlike Frederick Taylor's
8 School of Scientific Management, I think all of us
9 will agree there is no one ideal way to do anything;
10 there are many ways. And as the situations change we
11 must change with them.

12 As far as strategies for change, I think it
13 really has to be a three-phase approach. One is to
14 increase the society in general, an awareness of the
15 problem of battered women and the associated problems
16 that they have while trying to escape being battered.
17 Another is the area of awareness for the potential
18 victims or for the victims themselves. They have to
19 be more aware and be made aware. We, I think, we in
20 general, not only the police, but this Commission and
21 all those who participated and are here in the hall
22 tonight, or this afternoon, be aware of the type of
23 resources, the type of help, and more importantly, how
24 do you enter the process, how do you get into a train
25 of thought that will allow you to separate and to leave

1 and to get the help that you need. The third point
2 really is an increased awareness for the police of the
3 problems, an awareness, an important awareness of the
4 resources, of people who will get there and say that,
5 "No, I don't want to leave the children. I do not
6 want my husband arrested. I don't know what I want."
7 Being able to tell her that in Hartford we have the
8 following available. If you need the protection of us
9 to get out of the house without a continual assault,
10 we'll wait and help you get out of the house so you're
11 not continually assaulted. I think there has to be an
12 awareness of resources on the part of the police
13 officer and an awareness of how to get into that
14 program.

15 I think we have to try to improve our interven-
16 tion techniques through the development of various
17 multi-media programs and intensive role-playing.

18 I had planned on bringing a film with me this
19 morning and some tapes, but I was told that we were
20 not able to get the House dark enough so that we could
21 benefit by them; but there is material now coming out
22 on the market that will make it a lot easier to train
23 people; and, of course, then we get into the question
24 of cost; and I'd just as soon avoid any such descrip-
25 tions, because if we had all the money we needed, none

1 of us would be here.

2 CHAIRMAN ROSE. What we're going to do is
3 question the Hartford Police officers who are here;
4 and the lead questioner is Judy Homes with Doris
5 Roldan.

6 MS. HOMES. Captain Gates, please. Are assaults
7 in the home treated differently from assaults in a
8 public place, in a bar or a restaurant or on the street?

9 CAPTAIN GATES. Not really. I don't think
10 they're that much different. The same weapons are
11 employed. Whether it be fists, knives, chairs, glass
12 bottles, same type of thing. The only difference is
13 that in the home it doesn't usually start over some-
14 body bumping somebody. It's something that has
15 developed over a longer period of time.

16 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Let me see, Captain, I think
17 we're trying to concentrate on a situation where a
18 man and his wife are in a public situation as opposed
19 to the same two people in the privacy of the apartment
20 or home. Do you think that the police response is
21 different, or that the setting is different so that the
22 police response should be different?

23 CAPTAIN GATES. Well, I think the police response
24 in a bar as compared to the home will be different,
25 short-term. Again, you have to separate these two

1 people; and in a bar you're going to have to get them
2 out of that bar in order to get anything done. In a
3 public place it's a very difficult situation.

4 The police officer has to really be sensitive
5 involving domestic problems; and in a bar it's almost
6 impossible to work something out. You have to get
7 them out of there.

8 I hope that's answering your question.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Would you say that the chances
10 of an incident of arrest are better in a public place
11 as opposed to being in a home?

12 CAPTAIN GATES. Not really. I'd say it doesn't
13 make any difference whether it's in a home or a bar.
14 The key is that it's a domestic situation whether in
15 public or not. You still have the same situation; and
16 you have to deal with it.

17 MS. HOMES. If it's not a domestic situation,
18 if it's two people who don't know each other, is that
19 handled differently in a public place than between a
20 man and a woman who are married or living together?

21 CAPTAIN GATES. Not really. You have to base
22 the arrest or the -- Where you say a man in a bar
23 smacks a girl across the face or he beats her with a
24 chair, if witnesses are in that bar and they're willing
25 to testify with the woman, an arrest is going to be

1 your opinion somebody is going to get hurt very badly
2 or killed and the alternative to that is to make an
3 arrest to get him away from that area.

4 MS. HOMES. My concern is with a first degree
5 assault where nothing happens. Now, that's a felony;
6 and it would seem that there should be some arrest
7 coming from a situation like that.

8 CAPTAIN GATES. I would hope that the officer
9 would make an arrest; and then if the woman gets in
10 court and decides that she's not going to prosecute,
11 that's up to her in court; but on a felony there should
12 be an arrest made. Absolutely.

13 MS. ROLDAN. How soon is the person out follow-
14 ing an arrest?

15 CAPTAIN GATES. Every situation is different.
16 When an arrest is made, and the officer comes down and
17 says, "If this guy gets out, he's going to go back and
18 kill her or do serious physical damage to this girl,"
19 we will set a high bond. It is brought to our atten-
20 tion through the officer, and we will set a high bond.
21 When it gets to the courts, it's up to the court to
22 decide.

23 MS. HOMES. Captain, have you found any relation-
24 ship between battering and homicide in this area?

25 CAPTAIN GATES. I don't have any statistics on

1 it, but based on my experience I would say that most
2 homicides are usually involving related people. There
3 are not too many non-stranger homicides other than a
4 robbery where a shooting occurs. Most of them do
5 occur between related people that know each other well.

6 MS. HOMES. Do the court procedures influence
7 police procedures?

8 CAPTAIN GATES. I can't comment on that. I
9 think you better ask Mr. Shay when he gets here.

10 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Do the police customarily refer
11 women or men for that matter who are in to the
12 prosecutor's office for the purpose of filling out an
13 arrest application, or do they in the alternative make
14 the arrest themselves?

15 CAPTAIN GATES. To answer that, some of the
16 time an officer, when he gets to the scene, the guy is
17 already split. He'll take an affidavit from the woman
18 on a misdemeanor and put out a pick-up. If the party
19 is not picked up by the time court convenes the next
20 day, then an affidavit is filed with the prosecutor's
21 office. If he wants an arrest, he will sign that
22 warrant.

23 MS. ROLDAN. In those instances where warnings
24 or threats of arrest of both parties are threatened
25 or carried out, what happens to the children in that

1 home?

2 CAPTAIN GATES. Are you talking about when an
3 arrest is made on both parties?

4 MS. ROLDAN. Yes.

5 CAPTAIN GATES. The children -- We have to
6 notify Children's Services. They have emergency
7 numbers, a twenty-four hour service, where we can
8 place those children for the evening. And the next
9 day whatever is decided in court, the next day the
10 social services takes care of it. We have had a case
11 where we have arrested people, both parties, and we've
12 had one or two children in the house; and they could
13 not contact anybody to take care of these children;
14 and we've had police officers take them home and bring
15 them back the next day. I'm going back a couple of
16 years ago; and I'm sure it's been different since.
17 We have had officers take kids home during the night.

18 MS. HOMES. Under what conditions would you
19 arrest both parties?

20 CAPTAIN GATES. It varies with each situation.
21 I would say if both parties have cut each other so
22 badly that if you leave one there or the other there --
23 You have to make an arrest on both parties in a felony
24 where both of them have seriously damaged each other.

25 MS. ROLDAN. Is that the only time?

1 CAPTAIN GATES. Only time what?

2 MS. BUSCH. That you would arrest both people?

3 CAPTAIN GATES. It depends on the situation.

4 We try not to arrest a mother that has children in the
5 home. If both parties are guilty of the crime, and
6 it's not a serious felony -- Let's say there's a
7 mental problem or the felony is so bad that you can't
8 leave her at the home. A misdemeanor, we try to leave
9 the woman at home to take care of the children and
10 notify her to go to court, and take the husband in.

11 MS. BUSCH. I think you both stated that the
12 women will get to court and drop the charges. In your
13 mind why do they do this? Can you speculate on why
14 they might do this?

15 CAPTAIN GATES. I think two reasons: No. 1 is
16 fear. No. 2 -- three reasons. No. 2 is that they
17 have reconciled during the evening, or they've had
18 time to think about it after they've cooled off; and
19 they really didn't want the arrest made; and they want
20 the marriage to stay together; and there are very few
21 instances where women really do enjoy it. It's true.
22 I can name a couple of names where we go to this house
23 every weekend of the year. Every single weekend we
24 arrest, and every Monday morning she won't prosecute.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Is the Police Department on the

1 strength of computer work and what-have-you advanced
2 to the point where you can identify a particular house
3 where the Department knows that by plugging in the
4 location, the name of the victim, or the caller, or
5 whomever, that this is a place you've been to before,
6 so that you go prepared to answer in a way differently
7 than you would if you were ignorant.

8 CAPTAIN GATES. We do have the facilities now
9 in our computer where we can punch in an address in
10 the city; and we can get up in three seconds the type
11 of calls that have occurred in that house, how many
12 arrests have been made, who the participants are,
13 whether there was any threat on police officers, any
14 attacks on the police officer on that address. Any
15 information such as that we can get very quickly out
16 of the computer. We will also have very, very shortly
17 the capability of separating -- You know when you make
18 an arrest on a domestic -- You can say we have 500
19 arrests on domestics -- Out of domestics you may have
20 500 arrests for assaults, but out of the assaults
21 how many were contributing factors, the main contribut-
22 ing factor, was out of a domestic situation. We didn't
23 have that before; and we will have that within a
24 month where we can get that information from a computer.
25 How many direct cases of assaults, knifings, shootings,

1 came as a contributing factor from a domestic situa-
2 tion.

3 MS. BUSCH. Sergeant Kelly, I think one of you
4 stated that domestic calls were considered dangerous
5 calls. Do you train police officers to handle, in the
6 training academy, to handle domestic calls differently
7 from the average call?

8 SERGEANT KELLY. No. The training for the
9 domestic, because it is so complex, varies. I doubt
10 that you could show me twenty domestics that are
11 exactly the same. We try to make them aware of the
12 differences.

13 Are you asking me if they respond differently,
14 with a different attitude? I think they're walk-in
15 attitude would be a lot different from a domestic.
16 But in view of the fact that we also make them aware
17 that they are responding to calls, the type of which
18 is based on the information made by the caller, that
19 they have to be alert and aware at all times of any
20 call, because you don't know what you're going to get
21 into.

22 If you could better explain the question, I
23 think I could better explain my answer.

24 MS. BUSCH. My question is if there's a hold-
25 up in progress, I'm assuming from the T.V. shows I

1 watch, I'm assuming that you would go one way. You
2 would not go with the lights flashing or the sirens
3 blowing, or you may depending on the information you
4 get; and I wondering whether or not -- Of course,
5 that would be different as you said to a response from
6 a cat up a tree. I'm assuming that in the training
7 academy you let the police officer know that if there
8 is a hold-up that you walk in in a certain way and
9 respond in a certain manner. I'm wondering if you can
10 make the same distinction when you are training
11 officers or working with them on domestics calls.

12 SERGEANT KELLY. Keep in mind that there is
13 television, and then there is reality.

14 MS. BUSCH. I was being a little bit funny, but
15 my question is do you train them to handle the calls
16 differently?

17 SERGEANT KELLY. On that issue you would train
18 them if you had the information. An assault of a
19 first degree or a homicide call could also be a domes-
20 tic call if the husband has shot the wife. If we're
21 told there's a homicide or someone being killed or
22 shot or knifed, there is a response that way. There
23 is a particular response to a call which requires
24 immediate intervention in which a weapon is being
25 used. There is another type of call that requires

1 just to respond in a normal fashion. And then respond
2 in a normal fashion when you have the time to do it;
3 and it all depends on how the information is given
4 to the complaint writer at the initial phone call.
5 It sort of keys the response of the police officer.
6 I think in view of the facts that if it's a domestic
7 it's hazardous, and then they approach the situation
8 with caution until we can assess it. They stop the
9 combat.

10 MS.HOMES. I was one of the Committee members
11 who spent a night with one of the police officers; and
12 I did view several domestic incidents. I think what
13 Ms. Busch is getting at is that when we walked into
14 the home I don't think the police were cautious enough.
15 It's widely agreed by experts that domestic violence
16 cases are dangerous for the police; and at various
17 points I wondered why they weren't more cautious. The
18 police officer really had no way of knowing whether
19 someone in the house had a weapon. The call came over
20 the radio as a 1047, which just identifies a domestic
21 violence. There could have been three or four times
22 when the officer could have been shot. I don't think
23 there's enough caution. I don't think the training
24 is different enough; and this is from personal exper-
25 ience. It's not from television.

1 SERGEANT KELLY. One, you have no idea whether
2 the training is different or not, because you didn't
3 see the training, but saw the response of officers
4 who have spent a long period of time on the street.
5 We're constantly warning our officers and providing
6 training, for example, of care with your weapon both
7 on duty and off duty; and yet we recently had an
8 officer shot himself in the finger putting his gun in
9 his holster. Is that a failure of the training, or
10 a ca sera sera attitude based on the respondent?
11 I think that's hard to describe or define; and I really
12 don't know whether it's a failure of the training
13 system that we can't have them retain everything we
14 train them or that we're not stressing that in all
15 cases you should walk in, after casing the outside of
16 the building, looking in the windows, and having people
17 cover the front and back door, announce yourself, don't
18 leave yourself in front of the doorway, enter with
19 your gun drawn, get everybody against the wall,
20 frisk them for weapons, and then say, "Why did you call
21 us?" I think you should consider the fact that you're
22 dealing with humans and their humanness. Often a
23 stricter rigid response turns people off; and yet at
24 the same time if you don't, you may end up with a dead
25 policeman.

1 CHAIRMAN ROSE. A couple of questions.

2 One, you indicated that the goal is 48 to 60
3 hours of refresher training in service. Over what
4 period of time?

5 SERGEANT KELLY. One year.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSE. For every police officer?

7 SERGEANT KELLY. That's our goal, right.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Now, also in that connection,
9 with respect to some of the people who testified here
10 today, and I'm not sure that you've seen all of them,
11 one of the questions that we put to the people was
12 would they be willing to cooperate with the police
13 department or to seek funding to do that if they could?
14 I mean cooperate with the training officers like your-
15 self with the strength of their experience, which are
16 obviously different than yours. I was wondering what,
17 in your opinion, the response from the police depart-
18 ment would be bringing some person in who is a battered
19 woman, who can lecture to police officers about their
20 experiences with police officers.

21 SERGEANT KELLY. I tried to include that in my
22 opening remarks, that we reach out to anybody who can
23 help the officers help themselves; and Chief Assine
24 has almost an open-door policy on that; and we not only
25 train members of the Hartford force, but on specific

1 topics we have seventeen departments represented in
2 the training academy in a program they're running for
3 five days this week, for example. If there's someone
4 out there who wants to help, and they'd contact me,
5 I'm more than willing to use them. We use the YWCA.
6 We had tapes, and they had tapes.

7 MS. BUSCH. A couple of questions.

8 What kind of remedial action do you recommend
9 in cases where women consistantly call the police,
10 and there's no arrest made?

11 SERGEANT KELLY. I tried to cover why people
12 would call; and I think I listed five of them. I
13 don't know. I think that if we knew, I could put out
14 a shingle over on Jefferson Street and do some
15 consulting on my own time.

16 I think women who call consistantly for the
17 police and then don't respond are really looking for
18 help. It's an extremely frustrating position to put
19 the officer who responds in. Sometimes we don't know
20 how to help them or even know if they want to be
21 helped; but I think as a cry in the wilderness.

22 MS. BUSCH. In a lot of cases the assault, as
23 you said, is in the first degree; and then the charges
24 get dropped. What kind of assistance to you suggest
25 for women who are the victims of a criminal assault,

1 but who, for whatever reasons, refuse to press charges?

2 SERGEANT KELLY. One thing, as we already heard
3 -- I was just here for a short period this morning.
4 I refer to them as half-way houses or places they can
5 go and be secure. I think one fear is that right after
6 they finish testifying against the husband they have
7 to wait in the car for him to drive them home or
8 wherever because it's his car and his home. I think
9 if you could provide a respite place for them, it
10 could help. I think they wonder what kind of protec-
11 tion will be given, what are their rights. The rights
12 of the victim are often overlooked. Not necessarily
13 wife-beating, but --

14 MS. BUSCH. You stated earlier that in a lot
15 of cases more men are battered than women --

16 SERGEANT KELLY. No, I did not state that more
17 men are battered than women. I said that there are
18 some battered men. So you may want to refer to it as
19 "battered people." A very small percentage. I
20 responded to situations where the husband is calling
21 for help because the wife is doing a job on him. It's
22 an extremely small percentage, but there is a problem.
23 But I think if we take a look and say we're not going
24 to deal with that problem -- Let's forget about
25 battered children, wives and children. Let's deal with

1 the people who need the help regardless of whether
2 they're male or female, young, old, or tall.

3 MS. ROLDAN. Captain Gates, I'd like to know
4 how many police officers are employed in Hartford,
5 and how many are Black, and how many are Hispanic?

6 CAPTAIN GATES. We are authorized 505 police
7 officers, uniformed officers. That includes super-
8 iors. We are down to, I believe, it's 429 or 426.
9 Out of those we have 25 employees that are CETA
10 funded. In my district, four, I have 40 officers;
11 and that's in the northwest section of the city.
12 We serve a population of approximately 35,000, mainly
13 Black, minority groups; and I would say most of them
14 are poor to lower income levels.

15 MS. ROLDAN. So then at this moment you can't
16 provide us with any exact figures as to how many Black
17 or Hispanic officers you have?

18 CAPTAIN GATES. No, I don't have specifics.
19 I think we have 58 Black officers, but it may be up.
20 I think it was 58; and I believe we have ten or twelve
21 Hispanic.

22 MS. ROLDAN. In the deployment of officers
23 during these critical times, specifically between
24 four and twelve midnight, which you identified as the
25 critical times, you also mentioned teams, I believe,

1 of officers responding. Do you have any women
2 officers that respond along with these teams?

3 CAPTAIN GATES. In my district, four, I do have
4 one police officer who is a woman who patrols in the
5 streets; and she does respond to the calls. What I
6 had mentioned was that I would like to see a pilot
7 program developed within the city of Hartford where
8 we could have professional social workers that would
9 be able to come out into the field on the four to
10 twelve, but from four to twelve then get out there in
11 two teams, one north and one south, and work it where
12 they could go into a car where a police officer calls
13 them, where an arrest is going to be made, but where
14 the officers and the people are seeking help; and
15 these people can go in and develop some type of help
16 for them right there in the field. This was discussed
17 a couple of years ago; and at that time there was no
18 funding available. Sergeant Charles Allen, who is
19 retired, was working with family services, I believe;
20 but it never got off the ground; and I think it's
21 very, very worthwhile.

22 MS. ROLDAN. I'd like to know if you can give
23 us a definition of what a criminal act is in a domes-
24 tic situation as against assault and battery?

25 CAPTAIN GATES. I don't think there's any

1 difference to be very honest with you. It's an
2 assault, and it's an assault whether it's domestic
3 or strangers hit each other. I think the problem
4 is what is the cause; and I think that's the big
5 problem. The cause of the assault in a domestic
6 as compared to two people fighting on the street.

7 I think there's a past history in domestics of a
8 problem that is constantly growing and nothing being
9 done about it; and that's where the assaults come in.

10 MS. ROLDAN. Wouldn't that be a sufficient
11 reason for arrest?

12 CAPTAIN GATES. It would probably be sufficient
13 reason for an arrest on every occasion; but, again,
14 we have to take into effect some of those factors that
15 the people don't want an arrest made. You talk to
16 them for five minutes, and they go from, "Arrest,"
17 to "I want them out of the house," to "Leave them
18 here." I think that's important. An officer has to
19 be sensitive to that. I agree that many times a
20 woman should press for an arrest; but if she doesn't
21 make the complaint, we can't make the arrest. Our
22 hands are tied by law; and I think it's important for
23 women to understand. If they want an arrest, they're
24 going to have to press charges.

25 On a misdemeanor you have to file an affidavit

1 where you -- If she doesn't want the arrest, we can't
2 make it.

3 MS. ROLDAN. I'd like to know what you do in
4 instances where the call comes from an Hispanic
5 family where there's a domestic situation. How do you
6 respond and communicate things in a case like that?

7 CAPTAIN GATES. First of all, many Spanish
8 families in Hartford can't speak English. Where they
9 cannot, we do have Spanish officers in the Hartford
10 Police Department who will come out and interpret or
11 take over the investigation. Where they are not work-
12 ing, we try to get somebody at the scene who does
13 speak English who can interpret for the officer at the
14 scene.

15 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Captain and Sergeant, the
16 Connecticut legislature has passed Public Act 77-336,
17 which provides that in a spousal situation a spouse
18 that claims that he or she is being battered may apply
19 to the Superior Court for a restraining order or other
20 relief. I was wondering what, if anything, that --
21 the toughness of that law -- what's going on in the
22 Police Department in regard to that statute?

23 SERGEANT KELLY. This is similar to previous
24 laws that I referred to as peace bonds. If one is
25 bothered, you can get a peace bond; and if they

1 continue, it would be contempt of court. It would be
2 another referral back. There are these agencies,
3 there are these people who will help; and there is
4 another alternative, literally the Public Act to
5 Superior Court, and where to go to fill out an appli-
6 cation. I think it could be very interesting if we
7 could refer them to the agency, that the agency would
8 have sufficient copies to assist them in that. I
9 think it would be a logistics problem in showing the
10 police officer how to fill out the form.

11 CHAIRMAN ROSE. You advise officers that, in
12 fact, it is available as of October 1 in your training
13 programs?

14 SERGEANT KELLY. There is a time-lag in a new
15 item in the training program, but not in the training
16 bulletin or training information which we try to share,
17 which includes role-call training; and I think there
18 were -- The problem of this act, and it does into
19 effect October 1, I think there are 23 different items
20 that we had to train the officers on and make them
21 aware of changes. Some very minor and some very
22 significant.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Are you aware of the work of
24 the Connecticut Task Force on abused women at the
25 Hartford Police Department?

1 SERGEANT KELLY. Yes, yes.

2 MS. ROLDAN. Just one more question.

3 Going back to the battered husband. I'd like
4 to know what the experience of the department has been
5 as far as what reasons do the battered husbands give as
6 to why they have been battered by their wives, and
7 what, if anything, has precipitated the battering of
8 the husband?

9 SERGEANT KELLY. I did not mean to infer --
10 I think I was adding as an aside of a personal exper-
11 ience in making people aware that there is a larger
12 problem. I don't think it's a statistical phenomenon
13 that we're drawing the -- At both times the response
14 was the same whether it was male or female. Some-
15 times they didn't share the information, and sometimes
16 they weren't sure.

17 MR. FORSTADT. We're going to have the opportu-
18 nity this afternoon to have some judges here. If you
19 could make a recommendation or a series of recommenda-
20 tions to the court system of Connecticut to improve
21 the methods in which they deal with domestic violence,
22 what would those be? The reason I ask you the ques-
23 tion is I get the distinct impression from what you
24 say that in many instances where an arrest would
25 otherwise be made or seriously considered by the

1 officer responding, they didn't make the arrest be-
2 cause they know that it's not really the resolution
3 of the problem and in many instances it only exagger-
4 ates the problems. If that is, in fact, so, could you
5 suggest anything that could be done to change the law
6 to make it more effective in dealing with this type
7 of situation?

8 CAPTAIN GATES. No, I can't make any suggestion
9 on how to change the law. If the woman decides when
10 she goes to court that she is not going to prosecute,
11 there's no law in the world that will make her get on
12 the stand.

13 MR. FORSTADT. If the system were implemented
14 whereby the accused, the husband, were in lieu of a
15 jail sentence to be required to go through a mandatory
16 marital counseling program, do you think that would be
17 effective at all?

18 CAPTAIN GATES. In some cases, yes. I think
19 there has to be a cooperation on both spouses to go
20 into such a program. Where you don't have cooperation
21 one one or the other party, it's not going to be
22 effective. I think the problem is so vast it's going
23 to be a tremendous task to try to bring it under control.

24 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Captain, are you aware that
25 there's a Connecticut statute that provides that where

1 a woman is the victim in a husband-wife assault
2 situation that she can be compelled by the State to
3 testify?

4 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes. I retract my statement
5 about not getting on the stand.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Have you had experience or have
7 you seen cases that, notwithstanding that statute,
8 cases have been disposed of, nolees, or by the employ-
9 ment of far lesser serious offenses because the women
10 refused to prosecute?

11 CAPTAIN GATES. Oh, yes. Many cases like that
12 where they refuse to testify. They drop charges be-
13 fore it ever comes up. They get ahold of the
14 prosecutor before the case comes up, and tell them
15 they're not going to prosecute. It's mainly out of
16 fear or reconciliation.

17 MR. FORSTADT. Sergeant Kelly, one comment you
18 said is that if we had all the money we needed, none
19 of us would be here today.

20 SERGEANT KELLY. I think I'd go back to my
21 three-phase program. It's to find out and make society
22 in general aware of the program and what are the causes
23 of the problem. I don't think the root cause is
24 criminal justice response. I think people need help;
25 and a lot of people need mental help. If they can

1 afford the help, it's not being made available to them
2 in hours that they can enter the system. How is a
3 woman going to go if she has children and there's no
4 day care, or a man going to go if he's working at that
5 time? That's what I meant. It was a mildly facetious
6 remark. It was the second one I made. I will be
7 careful. That's one reason we decided not to respond
8 to how we would tell the courts to change things.
9 If we did the paper this afternoon would say, "Well,
10 the Hartford Police Department said this would be
11 better if this were the case." I think you have to be
12 extremely careful when you're dealing with that.

13 By money I mean, not that money is the solver
14 of all problems, nor is it the root of all evil; but
15 I think we're really aware that in the inner-City or
16 in any city, the large part of the problem is econ-
17 omic. The people that don't have the funds or the
18 resources are those who really cannot take advantage
19 of it. That's what I meant. I think if everyone knew
20 the problems and the type of problems and where we
21 could go for people, I think that the battered women
22 syndrome would be reduced.

23 MS. BUSCH. I have one two-part question to
24 ask you. We had testimony this morning from some of
25 the battered women who said they sought to have their

1 husbands arrested and that the fact that they had been
2 physically assaulted, the evidence was there. They
3 were bleeding or whatever, and so from that I would
4 like to know under what conditions can an officer
5 make an arrest where that officer has not actually
6 witnessed an assault?

7 CAPTAIN GATES. We're speaking strictly in
8 Hartford, right?

9 MS. BUSCH. Yes.

10 CAPTAIN GATES. Because I cannot talk about the
11 other towns or the police departments in the State.

12 When a police officer goes into a domestic,
13 and the woman has been physically assaulted, and there
14 is evidence such as a swollen eye, cut lip, broken
15 nose, or arm, whatever the case, then an arrest will
16 be made on speaking information. Again, if it's a
17 simple assault where the woman got slapped, and she
18 has a red mark, or she has a swollen eye, and the
19 officer, again, is going to ask her if she wants the
20 arrest made. On a felony the officer should make an
21 arrest at all times.

22 MS. BUSCH. Say the officer walks in and finds
23 the husband actually, or the man, actually assaulting
24 the woman. Is it then necessary for the woman to ask
25 for an arrest or file a complaint, or will the police

1 -- or can the police officer then arrest the man on
2 what he witnessed?

3 CAPTAIN GATES. Again, the officer can make an
4 on-site arrest for violation of the law. Again, I
5 have to go back to the fact that if the woman says,
6 "No, I don't want him arrested. I just want him out
7 of the house," the officer will again have the guy
8 leave the house.

9 MS. BUSCH. This is in the case where he actually
10 witnessed the battering?

11 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes; and the arrest can be made
12 right on the scene. But, again, if the woman says,
13 "No, I don't want him arrested," what is the sense of
14 making the arrest and coming down Monday, and there's
15 no complaining witness? The woman is not going to
16 testify that she got beaten. The officer can testify,
17 and nine out of ten times the case will be noise on-
18 site violations, there can be an arrest, yes. That's
19 all I can answer to that; but we have to take in the
20 factors that are involved in each and every case; and
21 I think that's where the officer's experience and time
22 on the job comes into play.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSE. I used to be a prosecutor; and
24 I worked in an office, an administrative office of the
25 circuit court; and we had five state troopers assigned

1 to that office. I've seen officers in liaison positions
2 in the courts. Do you have them?

3 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes, with Circuit Court 14.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Are you satisfied that the
5 relationship that's between the courts and the police
6 department is such that the police department has in-
7 put as to what goes on in the courts? For instance,
8 if a man is charged with aggravated assault and
9 assault one in a domestic situation, gets to the point
10 where it comes to trial, and the woman comes in and
11 says, "I don't want to testify," is the police liaison
12 officer in a position where he can go into the
13 prosecutor and say look, "This is a case where our
14 records indicate that this has happened before. The
15 law says she can be compelled to testify." Is the
16 police in a position to do that.

17 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes, we are and we do it
18 often. As an example, when a party has a mental
19 problem and a repeat problem, and the officer has been
20 there several times, he will go to the prosecutor and
21 recommend that either a thirty-day evaluation at
22 Norwich take place to kind of give time to calm down
23 the situation, or that a jail sentence is warranted
24 on an occasion. Yes, the police and the prosecutor's
25 office maintain a good rapport.

1 MS. DUNN. Do you believe that the knowledge
2 that the man will be back in the home within forty-
3 five minutes to two hours of the arrest is a factor
4 in discouraging an officer from making an arrest?

5 CAPTAIN GATES. No.

6 To follow-up on that, if an arrest is made,
7 again where the officer feels that the wife and the
8 children are in imminent danger, if this party is
9 released the officer makes that fact known to his
10 superiors down at the Department to set the bond; and
11 the bond will be set high under those extenuating
12 circumstances. There are cases, yes, where the husband
13 is walking out an hour after he's arrested; and there's
14 also the danger that subsequent to his release that
15 further violence could develop.

16 MS. DUNN. You don't feel any further protec-
17 tion is necessary or any institutional system is
18 needed? For instance, would it be helpful if it were
19 possible to get a temporary restraining order
20 immediately upon the arrest to prevent the husband
21 from going back for a twelve or seventy-two-hour
22 period? Several women have said that they are
23 discouraged because they know he's going to be back
24 in the home immediately. If there was some court
25 procedure to prohibit him from coming back, they might

1 feel safer.

2 CAPTAIN GATES. A court order is a piece of
3 paper that can be enforced. But when a man walks out
4 of that cell block and gets into the street, whether
5 he decides to obey that court order or not is another
6 case. I think what we do here in Hartford where the
7 officer really feels at the time of the arrest that
8 there's extenuating circumstances, where physical
9 violence is going to occur, he notifies his supervisor
10 of that fact, then the high bond is set. I think
11 that's as close to what we can get as far as restrain-
12 ing orders. We restrain his movement with the high
13 bond.

14 MS. DUNN. What steps have you taken to
15 familiarize the officers with the Connecticut Task
16 Force services available, which were listed in
17 January? What steps have you taken to make sure that
18 the men were familiar with it? I know you have
19 issued a memo, and it's very thorough.

20 CAPTAIN GATES. Those memos go down to roll-
21 call training. We have twenty-minute roll calls; and
22 out of that twenty minutes ten minutes is spent for
23 situations such as public bills and cases such as
24 yours, training bulletins, et cetera.

25 MS. DUNN. Do you think that additional training

1 on this memo might be helpful?

2 CAPTAIN GATES. It's an on-going process that
3 we have developed in the roll call. We have mandated
4 in-service training at roll calls. Each week four
5 or five subjects are placed into the roll call train-
6 ing system; and they are changed every week, so they're
7 constantly being gone over. You may have one on
8 battered women this week, on the agency to go to, and
9 you get it a month later to reinforce.

10 MS. DUNN. One last question on an incident
11 that appeared in the police files. Judy and I were
12 impressed by the complexity of the problem the
13 officer faced; but I want your comment.

14 A woman called the police that her husband was
15 knocking at the door and trying to break it down.
16 The report indicates in a similar incident in the past
17 he shot her and was arrested at that time. In this
18 case the police respond, and it doesn't indicate
19 whether she asks for his arrest or not; but there was
20 not an arrest. It was classified as a third degree
21 assault. Do you think that the path of knowledge
22 that there had been a similar attack should have
23 effected the police action?

24 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes. If the police officer
25 who went to that scene was familiar with the past

1 incident --

2 MS. DUNN. It was written on the report.

3 CAPTAIN GATES. Then I would feel that even
4 though -- On the arrest it would call for a P.P.A.,
5 which is written promise to appear and you got out
6 on your signature. In lieu of that when the informa-
7 tion is given to the supervisor, that a bond will be
8 put on this person.

9 MS. DUNN. So that in specific incidents you
10 probably would have recommended that additional police
11 action be taken.

12 MR. WILMORE. Just one brief question for
13 Sergeant Kelly. This question is based on an assump-
14 tion, Sergeant, and that is that racism and sexism is
15 part of the life of our society, and, therefore, we
16 have some police officers who are racists and sexists.
17 Part one, I'd like to know if you share that assump-
18 tion; and, two, if you do, if there is anything in
19 police training that deals specifically with sexism
20 since there's a lot of room, apparently, for judgment
21 of police officers in these situations; and if an
22 officer brings to a given situation a sexist attitude,
23 that might effect his judgment; and other than routine
24 handling of domestics is there anything that deals
25 with sexism per se in the training?

1 SERGEANT KELLY. In response to the first
2 question, I think this police department, as any other
3 police department, reflects the society in which it
4 serves. As far as the question of sexism, in response
5 to that we do not have a particular branch or particu-
6 lar title in the training program on sexism. I think
7 we deal, and we try to make the training program and
8 the service provided by the police officers as humane
9 as possible. It's almost a humanistic approach, if
10 you will. We have officers that serve in cruisers
11 that are both male and female. I think this has made
12 it a lot easier in dealing with that particular
13 problem. I think we try to make them extremely
14 careful to avoid this in particular. Responding to
15 domestic disputes, one thing you do not try to do is
16 bring your own domestic disputes when you go to solve
17 someone else's, because policemen have problems in
18 their own homes also. We have to try to have a clean
19 slate and to respond as humanly -- given the fact that
20 we all have our own prejudices, and to overcome that.
21 And I say that is brought out in the role-playing
22 training; and we try to get them as much situations
23 as they will typically face and have them talk about
24 what they've been through. We try to tape their
25 responses; and we sit down and evaluate with them

1 what their feelings were. Why they were feeling that,
2 and try to route out, if you will, any specific
3 prejudices that their going to take when they respond.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. What I'd like to do is
5 kind of seize the chair for the moment. I've got
6 about two questions I want to ask. I'm not sure
7 whether the Sergeant or the Captain can remain; but if
8 they can, we'll ask them more questions later.

9 Sergeant Kelly, do you have a feeling along
10 that of Captain Gates to the effect that you would like
11 to see a special unit in the police department with
12 the trained social workers who would come in after the
13 police, or trained police, who only respond to domestic
14 calls? Would you like to see that kind of facility in
15 the department?

16 SERGEANT KELLY. That's for statistical
17 retrieval. I think there are and have been some
18 excellent examples of departments that have the
19 specific crisis intervention team. I have some data
20 here on the New York situation. There was some problems,
21 however, in doing that exhaustively. It's a lot like
22 the situation where if you have a community relations
23 unit no one has to relate to the community -- "Oh, you
24 want me to relate to you? They're open nine to five.
25 Go down and see them." I would think that if you have

1 a feel and that's all they did, I think that you would
2 find that some of the other responders would chove it
3 off.

4 I think the Captain pointed out earlier the
5 tremendous load. One person is not going to do it.
6 Two teams are going to do it. The Captain is talking
7 about this as an experiment to see how the project
8 will do in Hartford. I think that will be a start;
9 but we're not going to be able to say if there is a
10 family dispute or family fight, have the battered
11 woman call this number. Not in the end.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSE. We have access, or your provided
13 us with copies of your training manual?

14 SERGEANT KELLY. Yes and no. First one yes,
15 second one no.

16 I take that back, yes and yes.

17 CHAIRMAN ROSE. One final question, Captain
18 Gates. The situation where a police officer comes on
19 the scene, witnesses a misdemeanor, and the complaining
20 witness or victim says, "I don't want that person
21 arrested." The police officer is a witness. He can
22 make the arrest and be the witness in court. Is that
23 true?

24 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes, he could.

25 I would like to add one thing. On the program

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1 that I'm talking about, I'm not talking about police
2 officers acting as a team. I don't think we'll ever
3 stop the need for a police officer responding to a
4 domestic. This would be a back-up once the situation
5 is under control.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Our next witness is Officer
7 Barbara J. Richard of the Stonington Department of
8 Police Services.

9 (Brief recess.)

10 CHAIRMAN ROSE. We are going to start again.
11 Our next witness is Barbara J. Richard, officer of
12 the Stonington Department of Police Services.

13 OFFICER RICHARD. I've been a member of the
14 Stonington Police Department for nine years. Six of
15 these years were part-time where I was on-call, working
16 approximately fifteen to twenty hours per week. The
17 last three years I've been on as a full-time police-
18 woman.

19 Battered women are something I know very much
20 about. I was once a battered woman myself. I know
21 basically what you're going through, your embarrass-
22 ment, your fears. Anything that you've been through,
23 I've been through. I am very fortunate to be here
24 today. That much I can tell you.

25 I have a prepared speech, but with all the

1 questions that were asked of Captain Gates and
2 Sergeant Kelly, I think I had better let it go aside,
3 because they said most of what I would have said.

4 What seems to be a misunderstanding is why we
5 make arrests and why we cannot make arrests. If a
6 woman refuses to sign a complaint against the male,
7 there isn't too much we can do. If it's an on-site
8 violation, yes, we may arrest; but once it gets to
9 court and the female refuses to come in, the prosecu-
10 tor says, "What did you go to all that trouble for?
11 What did you arrest him for?" That's what we face
12 if we arrest. We can give our statement; but it does
13 not hold that much water. We need the statement of the
14 victim. We need her testimony, which is very import-
15 ant.

16 When an officer goes into a domestic, the first
17 thing he has to do is know what's on the other side of
18 the door to protect himself. I've read the Task Force
19 plans that came out; and this is one thing that was
20 brought to my attention when I read it, what a police
21 officer should do. His main concern most naturally is
22 himself. He has to. He's there to protect you. If
23 something happens to him, he cannot protect you. When
24 he goes into a domestic he has to try to take control
25 of the situation immediately. He has to find out what's

1 going on and control the situation. Sometimes just
2 his uniform or her uniform will do this. Other times
3 it will not. As Captain Gates stated, he tries to
4 counsel both sides of the parties involved. He will
5 take the man aside, or the female aside. He tries to
6 separate them to hear both sides of the story. In
7 other words, he's a mediator. He tries to see if he
8 can reach a reasonable solution to the problem. If
9 that cannot be done, and the woman refuses to sign a
10 complaint, sometimes he requests that maybe it would
11 be good if one of the parties left the house. We
12 cannot force a male or a female to leave the home,
13 especially if the home belongs to both parties. He
14 has all the rights to be there, and she has the right.

15 When a person is placed under arrest, some-
16 times the police officer's life is in danger. Some-
17 times to perform an arrest the male involved has to be
18 restrained. When the female finds out that her
19 husband is being restrained, or her male companion,
20 she starts thinking twice. Many a police officer
21 has been hurt by the female because he forgets she
22 is in the background. He's gotten banged over the
23 head. She's changed her mind now because her male
24 friend or her husband is being forceably removed
25 from the house. To effect that arrest this person

1 that you are arresting no longer has freedom. You
2 must cuff him, must bring him into headquarters.
3 When a person sees this, some females, they get very
4 upset.

5 When I was going through my problem, I refused
6 to sign a complaint. I at that point, even though I
7 had been a police officer part-time for two years,
8 could not understand why the police would not arrest.
9 Since that time I know why they don't arrest; but I
10 was very fortunate that there was a detective captain
11 who I went to talk to, very embarrassed. I went in
12 with dark glasses, bruised lips, marks on my throat;
13 and he told me, he said, "Barbara, the next time you
14 come in here with bruises, I don't care what you say,
15 I'm going to arrest him. My job is to protect you as
16 well as he." My husband came to the police station
17 to pick me up. He told me I had a nerve to be there.
18 I was not on duty. This detective captain put his
19 job on the line. He told him the same thing. I know
20 now he put his job on the line. I didn't know then.
21 If I refused to sign a complaint, and I came in banged
22 and bruised, he could arrest him; but if I refused to
23 testify in court, there goes my case down the line.

24 As has been said before, when the police officer
25 does make the arrest, when he does go to court, the

1 woman sometimes is sitting in the courtroom. The
2 officer is there to testify. She's holding hands.
3 Then the police officer gets on the stand. He states
4 what he has witnessed, what the female has told him
5 has happened. Then the female gets on the stand, and
6 her story has changed sometimes. This does not happen
7 in all cases, but in some cases. Then the officer is
8 the bad guy because he interfered, and he made the
9 arrest.

10 What our officers try to do in Stonington --
11 Stonington is a small town. We have thirty-two
12 police personnel. Our supervisors, who are sergeants
13 and up, have all been through crisis intervention
14 courses at the State Police Academy. They, in turn,
15 have trained the officers under their command. The
16 officers themselves have not gone to the academy
17 specifically for crisis intervention. When an officer
18 goes into the scene, he notifies his squad commander
19 what is going on at the scene either by a telephone
20 call, if that is possible -- And then the squad
21 commander will inform him some of the other choices
22 he has if he does not wish to make an arrest. We are
23 very fortunate in Stonington. We get very good service
24 from most of our agencies. We refer people to family
25 services, Alanon. We also work very closely with our

1 social worker, who is our town welfare worker.
2 Family services sometimes have, rare, but I have been
3 able to reach them in the wee hours of the morning.
4 We also have a youth services bureau where we can
5 place some of our youngsters. We have gone into homes
6 and notified the Department of Children and Youth
7 Services, who have also given us the authority to
8 place the children in the family into a relatives
9 home until the situation has been eased or until the
10 next day. It's very hard for people to understand
11 that when we arrest somebody, that once he has posted
12 bond and been processed at headquarters, he may then
13 go home. As Captain Gates states, if it's a very
14 serious problem, the squad commander tries to put a
15 high bond on him. But if he's a high income or
16 middle income person, he may post that bond.

17 The next thing the officer does before the
18 gentleman is back on the street -- I shouldn't call
19 him a gentleman -- is to contact the wife again or
20 the female involved to see if she can go someplace.
21 We do give that service. If the gentleman, we know
22 he's posting bond, since we are a small town we are
23 fortunate that we can do something along this line.
24 We give her a call. "Is there a relative you can go
25 to? Is there someplace else you can go? He may come

1 back home."

2 What we'd like to do is maybe some day -- what
3 I am doing now in the police department is the next
4 day, or within a day or two, I make a follow-up call.
5 Sometimes just a telephone call; and normally, the
6 few cases that I've worked with this year, they don't
7 want more than a telephone call. I review with them
8 the types of services that are available, where they
9 can get help. If they refuse this help, there's not
10 too much I as a police officer can do. I cannot call
11 an agency and say, "Mrs. Jones down the street got
12 beat up last night, and she refuses to press charges,
13 and she refuses to come to your agency." I cannot do
14 that because this would be an invasion of Mrs. Jones'
15 privacy; but I can ask her to please try to see if
16 she can get herself help.

17 I like the people to know, the females to know
18 that are involved, that they don't have to be ashamed
19 because they have been beaten. They do not have to
20 be frightened and that they, the female, must make
21 the first step so that somebody can help them. We
22 cannot help them unless they help themselves. They
23 have to inform us they've been beaten. We, in turn,
24 try to refer them to an agency.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you very much, Officer
2 Richard.

3 Before we go to questions either with respect
4 to her or to Captain Gates or Sergeant Kelly, who I
5 think are still here, I'm going to ask Chief James
6 Bannon of the Detroit Police Department, who is our
7 resident expert, to speak at this point.

8 CHIEF BANNON. Thank you very much.

9 I presented to the Committee a written report,
10 and rather than belabor you with the contents of that
11 report, I'll just point out that it's here for the
12 record and hope that you'll have a fine time reading
13 it.

14 Rather than go over that report, I would like
15 to take this opportunity to talk about a few issues
16 that have been raised by the other panelists. I'm a
17 little bit disconcerted, I guess you'd call it, that
18 at this point in time we can still be identifying the
19 problem. I would have thought that we should be much
20 further down the road towards solutions to the
21 problem rather than trying to convince people that
22 there is a problem called battered wives or battered
23 spouses or battered anyone. For the record, I believe
24 that all of the rhetoric by the police officers, all of
25 which is true, is irrelevant. It's really the status

1 of the female that is the victim that is crucial to
2 the understanding of how this battering syndrome con-
3 tinues. Captain Gates, whom I admired not only for
4 the candor, but for the progressive attitudes -- I
5 think the Hartford Police must be one of the few
6 police agencies in the country that has even begun to
7 try and collect data on the incidence of battered
8 wives. One of the most difficult things, and to under-
9 stand it you have to find data, but we don't have
10 categories for assaults by the relationship between
11 the victim and the perpetrator. It's true that women
12 do not follow up a prosecution.

13 In disagreement with Captain Gates, I have yet
14 to find a masochistic woman. I think that women who
15 repeatedly go back to the environment where they're
16 beaten find many, many other answers to why they do
17 that. I don't have to look at a human being who
18 desires to be beaten. I would like to see a proven
19 case, if anyone has one. I have looked at the record
20 and can't find one.

21 The woman is treated as a second-class victim
22 in the criminal justice system principally because she's
23 been treated as a chattel historically. The chattel
24 can be treated pretty much as an owner wishes to treat
25 it so long as he does not disrupt or embarrass the

1 society at large.

2 The question was asked earlier of Captain Gates
3 the difference between a stranger to stranger assault
4 and spousal assault. There is a substantial difference.
5 There is no question about the status of that female
6 victim as there is in question when they are married
7 or had some sort of relationship. The relationship
8 seems to be based on sexual access at one time or
9 another, because it doesn't end with the dissolution
10 of a marriage or relationship by the court. Men will
11 continue to maintain that they have a property right
12 over a female far beyond the length of that marriage.
13 We've seen husbands like this all the time.

14 The sexism that -- One of the questions was
15 asked about sexism in the criminal justice system.
16 It is rampant. In the City of Detroit the police
17 department, under court order, has hired over 600
18 female police officers. We have seen no noticeable
19 improvement in our ability to deal with domestic
20 relations cases because of that for a very simple
21 reason. One of the husbands of one of the female
22 officers wrote me a letter talking about his own
23 domestic difficulties; and he was a very articulate
24 individual and pointed out the fact that his wife was
25 being socialized to be a hard person. She drank harder,

1 swore more, and she acted in every way, as he put it,
2 as a man would act. One of the ways that men act in
3 domestic cases is they empathize with the power of
4 the relationship that the husband or the boyfriend or
5 whoever has over the individual. I've said in other
6 context that probably the worst person in the world
7 to send into a domestic violence case is a police
8 officer. He's the epitomy of violent authority.
9 For a police officer in uniform to walk into a violent
10 domestic scene and claim that the use of violence is
11 illegitimate is an enigma.

12 Another aspect is the inference that seem to
13 come through that money would solve everything. The
14 City of Detroit, in what little data we have on
15 domestic conflict, seems to highlight it as a lower
16 socio-economic phenomenon. That is literally not true.
17 We do not have very good data for the poor. We have
18 no data whatever for the affluent suburbs, but go
19 talk to the women's league or whatever and you'll see
20 many women put their eyes on the floor as you discuss
21 this problem. I don't think that we should be allowed
22 to continue to believe that this is a lower class
23 phenomenon. It certainly is not. There are other
24 controls in the affluent society, the community
25 embarrassment, the stake a wife might have in the

1 financial resources of a marriage. All of these
2 things may be more effective in silencing her in
3 complaining about violence directed towards her; but
4 certainly it exists there and may only have an effect
5 on diminishing the level of that violence because,
6 again, it's crucial that society at large not learn
7 of her treatment by the husband.

8 One further issue, and then I'll defer to the
9 questions, on the issue of shelters. For the past
10 three or four years I've been speaking and working
11 with feminist groups and trying to obtain shelters.
12 For some this has seemed to be a panacea for the
13 problem. I began to have some reservations about the
14 impact of our strident cries for shelters for women
15 in crisis because in too many jurisdictions once the
16 shelter is achieved they feel that they have done
17 everything that they have to do about the problem;
18 and I think I want to caution this Committee that this
19 is the only crime where I know of where it's advocated
20 that the victim has to flee. I think that you should
21 be aware that you are compelling the victim of a crime
22 to flee out of her home to a shelter. I think that
23 when you talk about shelter, yes, they're critical,
24 and the need is there to preserve life; but you must
25 not let that get in the way of understanding that you

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1 must up-grade the female as a victim. Give her at
2 least the kind of status that we accord to other
3 victims of crime; and I appoint you to the child
4 abuse statutes which were considered highly liberal
5 when they were enacted; but this act raised the
6 child to a higher level of victim. In those cases
7 the police officer and the para-professional and the
8 principals of schools were empowered to sign complaints;
9 and you can only talk about single complaints against
10 the wishes of the victim if you're willing to accept
11 the fact that this is a public issue and not a private
12 problem.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Any questions?

15 MS. BUSCH. Chief Bannon, you stated that the
16 statistics for domestic violence, a wife battering or
17 whatever, in the lower socio-economic groups of the
18 ghetto were not that good, but that very few if any
19 were available in an affluent suburb.

20 Captain Gates, could you tell me whether or
21 not you have any statistics on the incidence of
22 reporting of battering in the different sections of
23 Hartford? I know you're over in one precinct, but
24 having been a Hartford police officer and whatever,
25 in a supervisory position for quite some time, is

1 that any difference between the reporting of domestic
2 violence cases, say, in the south end or the west end
3 versus the north end or different areas?

4 CAPTAIN GATES. I don't have statistics for
5 various sections of the city. If you're asking me to
6 answer that based on my experience as a police officer,
7 I will. And that is that yes, in the ghettos there
8 are more reported cases; and I think the main reason
9 for that is because the poor people, the disadvantaged
10 people, do not know where else to go, and the police
11 department is their only link to the different organi-
12 zations that can help them; and they know that if they
13 call the police department, there's a response. So
14 I say yes, in the ghettos there are more reported
15 cases.

16 MS. BUSCH. To follow up on that, would the way
17 the police officer responds to the call be different,
18 say, in the west end or south end versus the north
19 end or the Clay Hill area or the poorer areas versus
20 the more affluent areas?

21 CAPTAIN GATES. I can only speak for myself;
22 and I'd say no, there isn't. I think on the domestics,
23 when you go into the situation, you have to be sensi-
24 tive whether you're in the west, north, or south end.
25 Our officers are trained with that knowledge. No

1 matter where you are.

2 MS. ROLDAN. Chief Bannon, do you also feel
3 that there are higher incidences in the ghettos
4 reported as against the middle class or affluent?

5 CHIEF BANNON. Well, I would have to do like
6 everyone else has to do. I would have to guess. I
7 know from our own research, and we began the research
8 in Detroit because we wanted to get a handle on
9 homicides originally in 1972; and I know that we can
10 predict that from data that this kind of assault is
11 unrecorded by at least fifty percent.

12 I'd like to point out too that it's really a
13 strange thing that when the F.B.I. director says
14 historically that fifty percent of all police officers
15 who are killed in the line of duty are killed in
16 response to domestic relations cases, that we don't
17 have hard data. I'll tell you one thing, if we knew
18 that fifty percent of them were killed in robberies,
19 we'd know the size of the problem. Some people state
20 that one out of every two females in this society are
21 brutalized by the person they're living with. I
22 believe that's excessive, but we just don't know.
23 But for what little we do know about the ghetto, we
24 know absolutely nothing about the affluent society.

25 MS. HOMES. Do you have any suggestions,

1 Chief Bannon, to prevent men who've been arrested from
2 returning to the house that same evening?

3 CHIEF BANTON. I'm lobbying, I believe is the
4 word, with the state legislature in Michigan to pro-
5 vide for what I, for lack of a better word, call an
6 "instant bond." It would be similar to a traffic
7 citation in which the alleged perpetrator signed on
8 the face of it that he is indebted to the State for
9 \$500 if he, in fact, repeats the offense before
10 there's a hearing before the magistrate. This, I
11 think, is my response to those of you who have suggested
12 that a restraining order might be more effective in
13 some of these cases. My experience with restraining
14 orders is that they must go back before the magistrate,
15 is that they're totally ineffective.

16 MS. HOMES. You suggested also that women go
17 back for a variety of reasons. Would you list some of
18 those?

19 CHIEF BANNON. I think they're fairly tradition-
20 al. It's the only source of income, the only place
21 they have to go. There is the fact of the children,
22 and the factor that they've been socialized to believe
23 that they must be loyal to the dominant male regardless
24 of what he does. The marriage ceremony sees to that
25 somewhat. There is the fact that those agencies which

1 she has been led to believe she can depend upon, she
2 really cannot depend upon. And the fear of retaliation;
3 and all of those things are real.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Officer Richard, I have no idea
5 if Stonington is an affluent community or what. I'd
6 like to know first if you have a feeling for that
7 aspect of the town; and if you'd indicate to us whether
8 you have a notion as to the incidents of wife batter-
9 ing kinds of cases or spouse battering or women batter-
10 ing?

11 OFFICER RICHARD. Stonington has different
12 sections. Three villages make up Stonington. There
13 is Pawcatuk; Stonington Burrow, which is affluent;
14 and Mystic. We do not have what the big cities call
15 ghettos. We have our sections of town where they are
16 not too affluent, but they are few and far between.
17 Wife battering, or female battering, incidents, we do
18 have them, yes. We don't have as many, of course,
19 as a city. There are lots of them that are not reported
20 because, being a small town, I am the only policewoman
21 in town. People know me, women know me. I can go to
22 any section and be brought off to the side, and they
23 will tell me what their problem is; and these are
24 cases that are not reported; and we can't do anything
25 about it. I then refer to those various agencies.

1 I can say that so far for this year we have handled
2 approximately six cases, which is nothing compared to
3 what Hartford has handled.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Any other questions?

5 MR. FORSTADT. One question.

6 Did I understand you correctly that you feel
7 the worst person to step into this situation is a police
8 officer?

9 CHIEF BANNON. Yes. I believe that you've
10 discussed several agencies here this morning, family
11 service agencies and social service agencies. This
12 is one of the few phenomenon which no professional
13 or para-professional group is specifically trained and
14 equipped to handle. We send in police officers
15 because they are the only twenty-four-hour service
16 available. One of the difficulties we have in the
17 City of Detroit is that that's not the nicest kind of
18 work to do. It's dirty, and bloody, and frequently
19 violent; and it's very difficult to get social workers
20 to sit in the back of a car on Friday or Saturday
21 night and respond when the incident is going on.
22 They're perfectly willing to take the case on Monday
23 through Friday between nine and five with two hours
24 for lunch. We cannot get them in the street when we
25 need them.

1 Recently we did an experiment in Detroit with
2 an organization of social workers that did this on
3 their own. It was a very successful thing; and I
4 expect to be sending the Committee a report of the
5 success of that operation. What I'm saying is that
6 even though we are the twenty-four hour agency that
7 is going to get the call, we must continue to play a
8 role. That role should be as an identification source
9 for other professionals in the field who have the
10 expertise.

11 I don't want to see police officers trained as
12 therapists. Number one, I don't believe that the
13 therapy is all that great; and number two, I don't
14 think it's necessary to try and train police officers
15 as therapists. The New York experiment was a failure
16 in the last analysis because it attempted to train
17 police officers as clinical psychologists in a sixteen-
18 week cram course. The people you want to train are
19 the best people in the department and are no longer
20 available. We need some professionals within the
21 field of social and behavioral sciences, professionals;
22 and the police officers need only be trained in con-
23 flict intervention, so at least they don't leave a
24 situation worse than when they found it.

25 We need as some of the behavioral scientists

1 have learned to look at what successful police officers
2 now do without training. The unorthodox approach that
3 many police officers bring to that work, which is
4 very successful but frowned on by the establishment.
5 We had, a great many years ago, a Southern-born
6 sergeant detective who worked in the Black ghetto;
7 and he would divorce people on Friday night and
8 re-marry them again on Monday morning. He never lost
9 a client. He was ultimately fired because he was
10 charging a fee for the services; but it was very
11 successful. There are some unorthodox approaches that
12 need to be taken.

13 MS. BUSCH. Chief Bannon, do you feel in your
14 travels throughout the country, meeting with other
15 police chiefs, that they share your progressive
16 attitude toward this problem?

17 CHIEF BANNON. No. For a lot of good reasons.
18 A police officer or police executive is evaluated by
19 the community he serves based on his performance and
20 what that community calls hard-crime issues. A
21 police executive will be lauded for the anti-burglary
22 campaigns, robbery, and rape campaigns. In twenty-
23 eight years I've never seen a police officer cited
24 for successfully resolving a domestic dispute. It is
25 a zero priority; and much of it due to because they

1 perceive the rest of the justice system as being
2 totally disinterested. The police executive who would
3 allocate a large amount of resources to domestic
4 violence would not get the warrants would not be
5 recommended by the prosecutor's office; or if they
6 were, no convictions and no meaningful penalties would
7 grow out of that. He would soon find himself looking
8 for another job.

9 MS. ROLDAN. One question, Chief Bannon.
10 In the testimony this morning given by many of the
11 women a number of them testified that they had jobs
12 waiting for them and that in seeking help in the
13 shelters, and because of their immediate problem,
14 they could not become independent financially because
15 they had to worry about the children and where to
16 provide for their care. What has been your experience,
17 or how do you feel about shelters and provisions for
18 day care for women?

19 CHIEF BANNON. I think if she's going to be
20 given other alternatives, leaving the house, getting
21 a job, providing for herself and for the children,
22 that there must be some sort of interim shelter; or
23 we heard some testimony where the limit was five days.
24 How what kind of an alternative can you find in five
25 days? The Y here testified that they have people on

1 an average of two weeks. What kind of an alternative
2 in skills do you impart to a person looking for gain-
3 ful employment in two weeks? I think that maybe all
4 of those things are so short in term that when the
5 time begins to toll that individual is looking at the
6 final alternative that she's always confronted with.
7 "How bad is it, and should I go back into that
8 physically violent environment in order to try and
9 gain the skills or whatever?"

10 MS. BUSCH. Chief Bannon, what would you
11 recommend, what kind of changes would you recommend
12 to police departments and to the courts and to all
13 kinds of people who can eliminate most of the problems
14 that exist regarding the battered women?

15 CHIEF BANNON. The so-called criminal justice
16 system, every part of it seems to be too inter-twined
17 so it's difficult to separate out the police or the
18 court, et cetera. For instance, the courts, in addi-
19 tion to being chauvanistic, are also confronted with
20 a situation of inadequate alternatives to jail, such
21 as work release programs, such as enforced therapy as
22 somebody talked about this morning, such as all
23 different kinds of alternatives. They don't have the
24 alternatives. The court will tell you that they would
25 be perfectly willing to find a husband guilty of assault

1 and sentence him, but not send him to jail, because
2 the wife and the family would lose support and make
3 a charge against society for welfare. So prosecutors
4 need to know that the courts, the local courts, view
5 wife abuse as a serious problem of high priority.
6 Once the prosecutors and the courts agree that that's
7 a priority crime, then the police department will
8 have to view it as a priority crime; but until those
9 things are done, and in that kind of succession,
10 nothing much is going to be done.

11 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Further questions of the
12 Committee? Questions of the staff?

13 MS. WEBSTER. Chief Bannon, since we are not
14 yet in the position of having this squad of social
15 workers on the street, and we do have to depend as
16 women on the services of the police department, do
17 you think there's any way at this particular moment in
18 time for police attitudes about arrest to be revised
19 since -- And I believe the international training
20 manual for policemen, the order of priority about
21 what to do in what is called domestics, is the very
22 last thing is arrest; and I believe one of the
23 officers discussed all of those points. I think
24 we're all disgusted and ware of the conditions of
25 jails, and what it does to people; but if the society

1 is going to look upon this as a crime, what can we
2 expect from police officers in terms of arrest
3 procedures?

4 CHIEF BANNON. Well, the problem that police
5 officers are confronted with is that it's perfectly
6 true that a misdemeanor that does not happen in the
7 presence of a police officer, one must await the
8 warrant. It becomes a process of attrition. If we
9 adopted, from my point of view, that it's a public
10 issue, then we could empower the police officer to
11 sign the warrants on information or belief or a
12 neighbor or a social worker. We would, in effect,
13 make the female a part of that problem. For instance,
14 we have all experienced in recent years difficulties
15 with alarm systems that people have been selling all
16 over the country. We have enacted laws in most of
17 the states making it incumbent upon the alarm company
18 either financially or even criminally, if their
19 equipment fails, and the police are repeatedly called
20 back to that place, because that's a public drain,
21 it's a drain upon the police resources of the
22 community -- A female who calls the police every
23 Friday or Saturday night and then never does anything
24 further than that may have to be sanctioned in some
25 substantial way for her failure to use the system as

1 it's designed to be used. Not that I feel that she's
2 culpable in the violence, but she is culpable in
3 allowing it to continue and the fact that she doesn't
4 use the resources that are there. There may not
5 necessarily be prosecution or jail, but there are other
6 resources that she must continue to use. Barbara
7 talked about people that failed to use the referral
8 services, and she has no power to force them to use
9 it. I think that that's needed.

10 MS. DUNN. Do you know of any area of the
11 country where they have a mandatory referral for
12 counseling without an arrest in a domestic situation?

13 CHIEF BANNON. I believe Pennsylvania does.

14 MS. DUNN. But it was recommended to me by an
15 officer in the Hartford Police Department.

16 Captain Gates, do you think it might be helpful?

17 CAPTAIN GATES. Yes, I do.

18 MS. DUNN. One other question for Captain
19 Gates. Several of the officers said one problem they
20 faced when they were out on patrol is that they do
21 not know what happened in the previous patrol, so
22 that the fact that a man had been arrested and taken
23 down and booked and was out, if they received another
24 call at night they ought to know it was a problem
25 house where they went back frequently. If they did

1 not know there was a call that evening, and the woman
2 had to go through the whole thing again, her frustra-
3 tion is greater; and they aren't aware of what has
4 happened two hours earlier. Is there any way in which
5 an officer can be informed of calls made from any
6 one house earlier that day or evening?

7 CAPTAIN GATES. We do have two systems that
8 the officer should be made aware of the fact that
9 somebody was there earlier. And that is at roll call
10 when the officers are going off. The on-going officers
11 are in the room where they turn in their reports. At
12 that time it is their duty to tell the officers going
13 on where they've had a specific problem or where an
14 arrest has been made or where there may be future
15 violence.

16 The second system is the log sheet in the cruiser.
17 The fault with that is that car 44 went to the scene
18 the first time and car 45 got sent the second time.
19 Thus they wouldn't be aware of it. If the officer
20 fails to notify the on-going officer, he doesn't know.

21 CHIEF BARNON. May I?

22 In Detroit, and I believe many other jurisdic-
23 tions, we're building a computer capability. Kansas
24 City presently has it, so that they do, in fact, when
25 the call for a service from 911 is put into the

1 computer, and it dumps on the dispatcher all prior
2 calls for whatever previous time you might pre-select.
3 So that now we know what calls they have had in that
4 specific address, but not the resolution of that call.
5 Detroit is virtually operational.

6 CAPTAIN GATES. Hartford is developing a system
7 now with computers; and they will be going into
8 operation shortly.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSE. One last question.

10 Chief Bannon, this is addressed to you specifically.
11 The fact that I have gone to law school and all of that,
12 very often you look at another society's methods of
13 enforcement. The area of the British police officers
14 who don't carry guns. I was wondering whether in
15 your studies you have done an analysis of any other
16 nations response to this kind of problem and any of
17 that information would be helpful to us or to the
18 police or the Commission.

19 CHIEF BANNON. We've looked at many other
20 societies. I've been in Bagdad, Cairo, London; and
21 we found that, depending upon the society, it is or
22 is not a critical problem. In the Arab societies it's
23 not a problem simply because it's a natural function
24 of that society for certain events like that to
25 occur. In London they pioneered the notion of shelter;

1 and they have had them for many years with a great
2 deal of success. Other societies treat them in
3 different ways; but I don't believe that any of them
4 have had the issued raised to the level of conscious-
5 ness as it has in the United States; and I think the
6 reason, the basic reason, is that we are a violent
7 society, not just with our women, but with our
8 children, and our neighbors, and strangers. This is,
9 I think, the important distinction between the United
10 States and these other societies.

11 And one last thing, has anybody thought about
12 a shelter for the battering male? Why not force him
13 out of the house into this alternative place?

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Thank you very much.

16 We're going to break for lunch now. I want to
17 thank all of the witnesses. We're coming back by no
18 later than twenty-five minutes to three.

19 MS. WEBSTER. One last question. You stated
20 that your original research was on homicide; and we've
21 spoken to some judges and prosecutors and a whole
22 bunch of other people; and then we discussed the
23 seriousness of the problem and brought up some of the
24 data about the relationship between battering and
25 homicides. Could you say a few words about that?

1 CHIEF BANNON. Yes. In the City of Detroit we
2 had about 691 homicides. That was not the record
3 year. 850 was the next year, I think. We found that
4 the majority of the homicides in which the motive was
5 known were what we termed social conflict homicides.
6 Of that the majority were what we would term spousal.
7 One of the problems we will have and continue to have
8 is that it's very difficult to categorize relation-
9 ships. When we try to collect data on spouse abuse,
10 we find that people under the -- the slippers under
11 the bed and the father of the five children are called
12 "acquaintances and friends." It's very, very difficult
13 for us to distinguish these relationships; but in
14 every homicide case there was a prior history of
15 disabuse on the part of one of the parties. Now,
16 what happened in many cases is that the wife is spared --
17 will, in fact, blow him away or one of the children
18 will blow him away; but of all those homicides a
19 substantial majority do have a -- all of the homicides
20 had a prior -- We had no homicides on record of the
21 691 we looked, of that number which were domestic
22 that did not have a prior history of violence.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSE. Than't you very much.

24 (Whereupon, at 2:10 p.m. the hearing
25 adjourned for luncheon recess.)

OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NUMBER:

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HEARING DATE: September 26, 1977

LOCATION OF HEARING: Hartford, Connecticut

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings and evidence herein are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me at the hearing in the above cause before the

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

and that this is a true and correct transcript of the same.

DATED, October 11, 1977

McKenzie Mendez Rios
Official Reporter

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