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The Feminist Press
State University of New York
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Dear Friend,

Have you taken a look at a high school textbook recently? If you have, you may have been shocked and disappointed. Textbook publishers have made only token changes, and a recent survey reveals that *substantial* revision of textbooks to eliminate sex-bias is at least a decade away. High school students are *still* being taught the history of only one-half the population; high school classes are *still* being deprived of literature by and about women.

The Feminist Press now has an exciting opportunity to change all that.

In recognition of our work in publishing and in educational reform, The Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York have awarded grants to The Feminist Press for a series of supplementary paperbacks for high school English and social studies. In the enclosed *News/Notes* you will find a description giving details of this important project. We know you will be pleased to see us undertake this significant work.

Of course, the grant money is earmarked for this project alone. We cannot use any part of it for the regular, on-going work of the Press. Today, we continue to rely on you for the support of our regular programs.

Here are some of the projects that depend solely upon your support:

- **Educational Projects.** Because neither teacher-training institutions nor school systems offer nonsexist and nonracist approaches to learning, courses in this area are essential. This year we have expanded our women's studies inservice program to eight districts and have added many specialized courses as well. Among the offerings are three introductory courses for teachers and administrators on sex and race stereotyping in the public schools, and five specialized courses ("Rediscovering Women in the Social Studies," "Sexism and Racism in the Media," "Women's History: A Bicentennial Retrospective," "Women in Literature: An International View," and "Women in Literature: A Feminist Approach to the Language Arts Curriculum"). At present, this program costs The Feminist Press \$12,000 - \$13,000 annually.
- **The Clearinghouse on Women's Studies.** The Clearinghouse maintains a unique collection of information on women's studies for the use of students, faculty and the general public. The following are some items that indicate the scope of materials in our files:
 - articles chronicling the history and development of women's studies
 - syllabi on women's studies for every educational level
 - bibliographies and research guides
 - catalogues of films, media kits, women's organizations, alternative presses
 - periodicals, newsletters, magazines (both local and national)

Anyone is invited to use the library free of charge. The cost to us for maintaining this service is \$17,000 per year.

- *Consultation, Speaking, Information/Referral.* Teachers, school systems, publishers, scholars and librarians turn to us for help. We lead workshops and discussions, address student, school and parent groups, consult about feminist textbooks and films. As a small sample of the volume and variety of requests we receive through the mail alone, November-December brought inquiries from 66 universities, 16 research institutes, 14 libraries, 5 new women's centers, 3 church groups, 7 new journals, 2 alternative schools, 2 state government offices, 33 elementary and high school teachers, 20 college professors, 24 students and 104 individuals. These figures do not include telephone and drop-in inquiries, or inquiries to specific departments (Editorial, Distribution, Educational Projects, Clearinghouse). Every request for information is answered. The expenses for maintaining the general information services are \$15,000 per year.
- *The Publishing Program.* After a long pause we are again bringing out new books. Among them are Susan Griffin's *Voices*, the *ABC Workbook*, and *The Girl Sleuth: A Feminist Guide*. In addition, we are reprinting books and materials on our list which continue to be in demand, and are issuing our quarterly, the *Women's Studies Newsletter*. Because of soaring publishing costs and our commitment to high-quality, reasonably-priced books, our publications program does not pay for itself.

So you see, we still need you. Long before the foundations recognized us, people like you supported us. In fact, if it weren't for those of you who have insisted upon educational change and who have helped to create the organizations to bring it about, there never would have been a Feminist Press. We can continue with our work only if you will continue to believe in and support it. Won't you send a contribution today?

In sisterhood,



Phyllis Arlow
Fund Raising Committee

P.S. Just a reminder: your gift is deductible for income tax purposes.