

For Vita

Box 521,
Nelson, B.C.,
December 10, 1975.

Sue Findlay,
Women's Program,
Secretary of State,
130 Slater Street,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sue,

Back in the Kootenays now pondering over the events of the seminar on Alternatives, I'm writing to you out of my own personal feelings rather than out of any kind of official stand regarding the events that took place at the seminar. Unfortunately I was the victim of a mean flu bug which laid me up for a day and a half. I'm sorry that I didn't have a chance to talk with you, as I have a lot of unsaid and unresolved feelings in looking back on it all.

I think that many of us who came to the seminar, and it seemed to come up a lot in the workshops, were asking ourselves, "am I being co-opted by accepting this invitation" - so great is our paranoia of being co-opted (and rightly so in many circumstances). This fear seemed to create a tension which I certainly felt during during the first two days in my small group. Possibly, as a reaction to this fear, some women decided to try and take some power into their own hands by striking out at the "hand that feeds us", i.e. the government programme that channels money into various activities of the women's movement. Possibly another paranoia that was felt ^{was} that the Secretary of State, by observing the most radical elements in the group would then use this information to defuse the movement through grants. Although I was not in attendance at the plenary where it was decided to ask the Secretary of State women to leave, from conversations with other women, I understand that many people were ambivalent and did not come to an individual decision one way or the other. However, once the idea was presented, it had to be dealt with. It was decided that a delegation be sent to you with questions and concerns from each workshop. ^{start} I found it regrettable that at the last plenary on Friday there was not the involvement on the part of all participants to go through the process of analysis and self-criticism to its bitter end. People kept leaving until there were about 6 or 7 of us left. I see the group process of criticising