ty of Padua. "But since World War II. says Ms. Dalla Costa, a member of the

women have begun to struggle against

the church's repression.

political science faculty at the Universiinstrument used to suppress women,"

sex, particularly from the home front.

Ms. Dalla Costa is one of the origina-

for another surprise from the weaker

The establishment in Italy may be in

a referendum permitting divorce a year ago, the church and the state were snocked. When Itahan women voted in favor of

of the women's movement in Italy. recalls Mariarosa Dalla Costa, member afraid of losing their support by men." dum because they were so weak—so women would vote against the reteren-"The political parties were sure

women's vote to their ability to move women did vote for divorce. Italian men women to that position.) took the credit by attributing the The church and state were also sur-(Laughing, she also recalls when the

litical factions have said no to the idea. Party as well as more conservative po-

strong, this past February, in protest of prised when women marched, 10,000

the arrest of women who'd had abor-

"The church has been the chief

Cions.

against wages for housework because it it is to the benefit of the state to be pay for the services a woman does. But will save the state money and keep low value—that it would cost much money to out that women's housework has a lot of he power of women "The state's economists have figured

no income-that they have had to make meals to stretch the food budget. Women having to prepare more complicated means more work for women--such as higher food or gasoline costs. This often passing the cost on to consumers, say in "If the employees get more wages, the government helps the employers by these sacrifices." have been so weak—because they have

work outside the home." women should earn less because they ment is forced to pay women wages, poby saying, for example, that some litical leaders will try to divide women SHE PREDICIS "when the govern-

cently in Toronto, Canada.

This movement is the strongest thrust

in the international WFH meeting . renates that movement in Italy, she was in wages for housework. A member of the

New Orleans following her participation WFH Triveneto Commette which coorditors of the international movement for

woman who works outside the house buy that: "It cannot be assumed that a But the WFH leaders do not intend to

as in Rome and Milan.

Reasoning of the movement is that the

out the country, in small towns as well says the movement has spread through another planned for May of 1976. She 1971, two marches have been held, with now, she reports. Since it originated in of women's liberation efforts in Italy

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do the washing, male employes would indirectly." M housework but employers also profit and children profit directly he women's not be able to work as much because dren, do the shopping, clean the house; "If women did not take care of the chilworkers for the price of one. "Hisbands these duties they'd have to spend many hours doing Dalla Corta explains.

ers, not to the working people." "Employes must show their strength so from to support these wages will depend in the home. Where the money will come that the cost will be passed on to employemment pay wages to women who work in the strength of the workers, she says: The movement is seeking that the gov-

site reports. So tar, leaders of the Communist

out the world in the first international crossed pro-anti women's movement Ms. Dalla Costa says participation demonstration for wages for housework. portive men marched in cities through-HIE In May of this year, women and sup-

"The wages for housework movement

gets up earlier, does housework until sified speed. tale at night and works at a more inten-

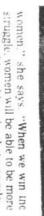
eat " linking the payment to marriage." She that all women from age 15 be eligible return for a place to live and food to housework for their married children in is not employed outside the house. Many her I.D. card says 'houseworker' if she explains. "When an Italian girl turns 15 Many older, widowed women must do girls do housework in their family honie The movement is therefore seeking

ing that men be eligible for wages if they vinism, the WFH leaders are also seckperform housework. Lest they be accused of female chau-

dren to their places of employment to working women are bringing their chilillustrate their double duties have won wages for their housework. ing against employers, some women headway in Italy, she reports. By strik-More such strikes are being planned and The WHF movement has made some

ment, with Selma James of Great Brit-Canada, Germany, and Switzerland ain, it has spread to the United States Ms. Dalla Costa helped start the movein for a surprise from housewives. Since JTALY MAY NOT be the only country

ed by Mary Capps, former head of the YWCA's rape crisis program. The local Dalla Costa, at St. Mark's Community group will hold a meeting, featuring Ms. about the local group may call 861-4480 night. Persons interested in learning Center, 1130 N. Rampart, at 7 Tuesday A New Orleans chapter is being start-



comfortable and free, in whatever role-

too, by improving, rather than putting cut across pro-anti movement lines here. career or homemaker—they choose. down, women who choose to work within the home Ms. Capps hopes the movement will

songs certainly should have wide appeal-One of the American WFH movement "There's too much worriment goes

shirt, "There's too much ironing goes to

into a bonnet,

time we waste on it. .. There's nothing that pays for the "There's nothing that lasts but trouble

it was written by Sarah Price, housewife and dirt. Entitled "The Housewife's Lament."

