

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

a., Sept. 20, 1972

N.O.W. PROTESTS WHITEWASH BY G.S.A.

The National Organization for Women today protested the General Services Administration's acceptance of the equal employment opportunity program submitted by the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. In a letter to Mr. Arthur F. Sampson, head of G.S.A., Ms. Ann Scott, Vice President of N.O.W., said that the Bell System's plan "clearly does not meet" the requirements of Executive Orders and regulations for government contractors issued by the U.S. Dept. of Labor. Ms. Scott pointed out six "significant deficiencies" in the Bell System's plan accepted by G.S.A:

(1) failure to provide special relief, such as back pay, to women and minorities who have been subjected to discrimination in the past.

(2) failure "to adopt meaningful goals and timetables for the employment of females in outside craft jobs. The proposed goal of 10%--when women make up approximately 40% of the workforce--is tokenism at best."

(3) failure to include "meaningful goals and timetables for the employment of males in operator and clerical jobs. The proposed goals of 5% and 8%, respectively, are egregiously low."

(4) failure to adopt the maternity leave guidelines issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

(5) failure to change testing practices that have an unfair impact on minorities.

(6) failure of Bell companies in the south and southwest--those with the worst records--to adopt accelerated goals and timetables for blacks and Spanish-surnamed Americans.

Ms. Scott concluded her letter by saying "In view of these deficiencies and the substantial evidence of widespread discrimination revealed in the current hearings before the Federal Communications Commission, your approval of the Bell System's program is nothing short of a sham."



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