June 22, 1979

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We are writing to invite you to participate in the public street trial of WOMEN vs. GOVERNOR EDWARD J. KING (and accomplices) on the charge of RAPE, being called by the Rape Action Project and organized by the Boston Wages for Housework Committee, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Black Women for Wages for Housework(USA), and Wages Due Lesbians, Boston.

The tremendous campaign against rape and violence in Boston, and internationally, has made it clear to state and city officials that we refuse to accept that violence against us is "natural" or inevitable. Whether we are Black, Third World, or white, lesbian or straight, we have all been organizing against these attacks and the conditions which give rise to them. As a part of this, R.A.P. has been circulating a petition which makes four demands (see p.2) that we see as crucial to ending rape. These demands have received a great deal of support from women in many different situations.

Yet, the government's response to our demands, led by Governor King, has been more rape. From King's do-nothing approach to the recent rapes and murders to his welfare cutbacks, which by taking money out of our hands makes us more dependent and vulnerable to attacks, to his proposed budget cuts which mean less money for social services, street lighting, public transportation, and police protection, King's policies and proposals have put us in situation where we are vulnerable to rape.

King's consistent refusal to hear our voice—whether in the
streets or in his appointments to commissions--makes him the biggest rapist in this state. Therefore, we are putting him on trial for the rape of women. We are holding him responsible for ALL rape until he meets the following demands:

1) Rape in marriage must be recognized and treated as a crime under the law.
2) Financial compensation for all the costs of rape must be made available to every woman who has been raped, whatever her situation.
3) The Common Night-Walking Law must be repealed.
4) Every woman must have the financial independence she needs in order to leave a situation where she feels in danger of rape.

The trial is planned for the end of July. Exact time and place will be announced in a later mailing. We hope you will all come and let your voice be heard. Until then, there are several ways that you or your group can participate. You can:

* TESTIFY AT THE TRIAL! All women are invited to be witnesses. Please let us know in advance if you will testify so that we can schedule you into the trial format.
* PUBLICIZE THE EVENT by distributing leaflets in your neighborhood or to your mailing list.
* CIRCULATE PETITIONS with the above demands.
* DONATE MONEY for production of materials.
* ENDORSE THE EVENT.
* SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT to be read at the trial.

If you or your group are interested in helping with any of these things (and we need help), please call us at 782-7685. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

POWER TO ALL WOMEN!
Sandy Resnick * Jo Multanesh for Rape Action Project
Black Women for Wages for Housework(USA)
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Boston Wages for Housework Committee
Wages Due Lesbians, Boston