

What Is It Women Really Want?

By Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Curbstone comments of a Pavement Plato:

What is it women really want?

This question has created a great deal of honest male bewilderment in the wake of the new women's liberation movement.

Among the stated aims of the movement are these: Child care centers, equal pay for equal work, an end to job discrimination, abortion on demand, equality with men at every level and a refusal to be treated as mere sexual objects.

While some of these aims are laudable, and some debatable, others probably aren't even desired by a majority of women themselves.

"I don't want to be put on a par with men," said a practical unmarried young lady of my acquaintance. "Then I'd have to do everything myself. I like the system as it works now. If I need something done, I can get some guy to do it for me."

What puzzles the average man most, however, is why women should want to be equal with him when he already feels he is unequal to them. Do they want to turn the clock backward?

The liberation-seeking ladies protest the chauvinism of the American male, but to the men of the rest of the world the American man is an object of ridicule for what they feel is his abject servility to women.

While he is still waddling

around in his diapers, a little boy is able to punch a toy-stealing little girl in the mouth as if she were just another ordinary human being.

But in kindergarten he is taught that little girls are superior and extraordinary human beings made of delicate fibers. He is browbeaten or bottom-spanked into saluting them, and he goes on saluting them until the end of his days. The female sex gains an edge on him—it never loses.

It is not men but women who have the better union in America.

A man is expected to light a woman's cigarette for her, leap to his feet when she enters or leaves a room, push both his and her way through revolving doors, buy her lunches and din-

ners, help her in and out of her coat, get her cabs, yield his seat to her on the bus, charm her out of her bad moods, turn the knob when she doesn't like the television program he is watching, listen to her opinions whether they make good sense or nonsense, eat anything she cooks up, try to do everything she dreams up — and also save her from runaway horses.

A man is also expected to marry a woman when she wants him to, name his kids after her side of the family, and work himself to death earning the money to buy her a bigger car, a nicer home, more expensive vacation trips, and a better hair dryer than the wife next door has.

Does all this sound like he treated her like a mere sexual object?