

extend it throughout the country.

The aim is to change the heavy disproportion between women voters, who make up 54 per cent of the nation's electorate, and members of the Bundestag, or Parliament, of which only 6.6 per cent are women. This percentage has steadily declined since the founding of the state in 1949.

"My phone hasn't stopped ringing since the first announcement of our program," said Mrs. Inge Sollwedel, spokesman for the group. "Everyone wants to join."

Law Is 'Discriminatory'

The women believe, she said, that the predominantly male Parliament is incapable of putting into practice the constitutional equality of women that was written into the basic law of West Germany.

Even the law is still discriminatory, Mrs. Sollwedel, a 45-year-old free-lance journalist specializing in women's affairs, said. It specifies, for instance, that a woman "may" take a job if she fulfills all her household ob-

tion," Mrs. Sollwedel, the wife of an architect and mother of three children, said. "But the movement has encouraged the potential that has always been there."

Women's liberation as it is known in the United States is considered an extremist

generally where men and women work side by side, particularly in government jobs. But in large categories of industrial work done mainly by women, she said, pay scales are lower than equivalent work for men.

"German industry still

Her interests in women's rights has propelled Mrs. Sollwedel, as well as an increasing number of women, to become active in party politics. She is an elected member of the ruling body of the moderately conservative



The New York Times/Barbara Bell

Dana Sardet, left, and Lucy Komisar, above, were among the American women who attended organizational meeting of the Paris chapter of NOW.