

Towards a Party Program

OL Women's Commission Intensifies Ideological Struggle

The National Women's Commission of the October League recently met to sum up key areas of mass work among women and begin discussion on points for the new party program on this strategic question.

The commission began by reviewing the political gains of the last two years' campaigns around International Women's Day. These campaigns provided concrete vehicles for giving communist leadership to the women's movement, especially among working class and minority women. They also served as the focus of sharp ideological struggle against the revisionist Communist Party U.S.A. (CPUSA) and their centrist allies who peddle the line of "united action" with the revisionists.

The commission deepened its understanding of the dangers of revisionism and reformism (including feminism) within the women's struggle and isolated right-opportunism as the main id- with in the communist movement.

DENOUNCED CPUSA

The meeting denounced the role of the revisionist CPUSA which uses the women's movement to build support for Soviet aggression under the banner of "peace" and "detente." Examples of the revisionist danger were also given by OL activists inside the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). In that organization, the CP blocked with the chief labor bureaucrats to carry out a red-baiting campaign aimed at wiping out revolutionary leadership in CLUW.

The unity between revisionism and feminism was also studied at the meeting. It was observed that neither the revisionists nor the feminists target imperialism and class society as the source of women's oppression, but aim the main blow at men and their ideas.

The revisionist notion of a "united front of women" was also criticized by the commission. This theory holds that women of all classes should unite as the main strategic alliance for women's emancipation. It is opposed to the Marxist-Leninist view that the strategic alliance to be built is the unity of the working class, men and women. Secondly, a movement of the broad masses of women must be built based on this unity and following the leadership of the working class' party.

The commission made an analysis of the OL's work in CLUW over the last two years

and criticized a rightist line resulting both from aspects of the "united front of women" theory and a failure to fully understand the role of reformism in the trade union movement. The meeting stressed that the labor aristocracy itself initiated CLUW in order to bind the working women's movement to the chains of reformism and capitalism. The top bureaucrats who run CLUW have talked their heads off about the plight of women, but have done nothing to put an end to the discrimination faced by women in the plants from the bosses or from the chauvinist labor misleaders, who refuse to organize the majority of women workers.

PROGRAM OF CLASS STRUGGLE

The discussion called for a program of class struggle inside the CLUW chapters to replace the labor aristocracy's control with genuine revolutionary leadership. The same type of struggle must be waged in the trade unions as a whole, in organizing the unorganized, and on all fronts of working women's battles.

While developing the strategic battle against revisionism, the commission also took note of the struggle against ultra-"left" deviations on the woman question. Inside the anti-revisionist movement, for example, the so-called "Revolutionary Wing" opposes the democratic demands of women such as the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The "Wing's" line, which is increasingly being followed by the Congress of African People (CAP), is one of the chief reasons that the Black Women's United Front (BWUF) has been paralyzed and wrecked. CAP's role inside that mass organization has been to promote empty sloganeering and "left"-sounding rhetoric, while leaving BWUF without leadership or a program for struggle. This has driven most of BWUF's former members away.

The commission concluded its meeting by calling for intensified efforts to recruit women, especially working women, to the new party; to build unity among men and women workers; and to raise the theoretical level around the woman question in the course of the party-building efforts.

The commission observed that propaganda work was especially important to accomplish these tasks and planned a series of Call and Class Struggle articles to deepen the analysis of the points made at the meeting.