

APRIL 15 ANTI-BAKKE MARCH

After regional meetings and demonstrations last weekend to protest the racist Bakke decision, the anti-Bakke movement looks forward to a national demonstration in Washington, D.C. on April 15. Militants from both the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition (ABDC) and the National Coalition To Overturn The Bakke Decision will be participating in the march. The demonstration therefore provides a good opportunity to strengthen the national scope of the overall anti-Bakke movement.

What is the basis for unity of action among all anti-Bakke forces? In our view the fundamental basis for such unity, which must be based on principle, is support for the struggle for equal rights of women and oppressed minorities. Specifically, in the framework of the Bakke decision, this means a defense of all affirmative action programs and support for their extension.

Thus while we carry out propaganda in our workplaces, in our communities and in the mass movement on the leading role of the proletariat as a vanguard fighter for democracy, on the particular character of national oppression under imperialism, and on the difference between

a revolutionary and reformist approach to the question of equal rights, we should seek common action with all those who mobilize mass support for the equal rights of women and oppressed minorities and for the affirmative action programs attacked by the Bakke decision.

This is the basis for widespread and militant mobilization for April 15.

The anti-Bakke movement is definitely growing in amplitude as the significance of the Bakke offensive becomes more and more clear in every workplace and community across the nation. Because of Bakke dozens of law suits have been filed challenging affirmative action programs, with the result in many cases that the program itself gets frozen in the meantime. In February a federal court for the first time adopted the position of the California state court in Bakke and decided that a police department affirmative action program in Detroit which divided promotions equally among blacks and whites was unconstitutional racial discrimination against whites. Even more significant, in Louisiana a federal appeals court extended the reasoning of the Bakke case to a suit arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This statute prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sex or national origin. The court held that the statute was violated when a white employee was passed over for craft training at a Kaiser steel plant because of a company affirmative action plan.

As resistance to this offensive grows, particularly among the working class, we will be left behind if we do not mobilize with an energy and scope equal to it.

The policies we pursue must neither isolate us from the broad masses eager to take up the struggle nor belittle our responsibility to give the most advanced leadership possible to the movement.

On the one hand we must strive to unite in common action with all who can be united to give firm support to the struggle for equal rights of women and oppressed minorities, and to defend affirmative action programs. On the other hand, we must preserve our independence and, as Marxist-Leninists, point out that the struggle for equal rights must be connected to the struggle of oppressed nations and peoples for liberation from imperialism and to the struggle of the proletariat for proletarian revolution.