Celebrate International Working Women's Day 1979!

Women Working To Support Families Permanent Feature of Capitalist Economy

To meet the demands of the war effort, more women were needed in industry. Some were drawn from the ranks of the bread winners, who were paid lower wages than men; but many had to come from elsewhere. The feminization of the labor force was a direct consequence of the demands of the war effort, as women were called upon to fill the jobs vacated by men who went to war.

Feminist Movement of the 60's: Shock Troops for Feminism

The 60's witnessed a significant expansion of the feminist movement, which sought to liberate women from the constraints of the traditional family and the household. The movement was characterized by a series of protests and demonstrations, as well as the formation of women's liberation organizations. The movement was fueled by the growth of the women's rights movement, which sought to secure equal rights for women in a variety of spheres, including education, employment, and politics.

Resurgence of the Welfare Rights Movement Beginning

A powerful welfare movement is beginning to take shape in many cities, as residents are fed up with the cuts in welfare programs and the increasing demands for work. The movement is being led by young people, who are determined to fight for their rights and demand a fair share of the nation's resources.

Women Recipients Face Rising Costs

Welfare recipients are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. The cuts in welfare benefits have led to a sharp increase in the cost of living, and many recipients are struggling to survive.

Daily harassment by welfare workers is a common occurrence. Many recipients are threatened with losing their benefits if they dare to speak out against the system. The welfare system is built on a false premise that welfare benefits are a form of charity, rather than a right.

Harm to Mental Health

The stress of living on welfare can lead to severe mental health problems. Many recipients suffer from depression, anxiety, and other psychological disorders, which can have a long-term impact on their health and well-being.

While the demand for welfare is growing, the resources to meet that demand are shrinking. The welfare system is underfunded and understaffed, and the cutbacks are leading to a crisis in the provision of services.

The fight for women's rights is far from over. We must continue to fight for a society that recognizes the dignity and worth of every woman, and that provides opportunities for all people to live in peace and prosperity.

(Continued from page 17)

Women's Day 1979

March 8 has been declared International Women's Day by the United Nations. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of women and to call for gender equality and women's rights.

Many events are planned for International Women's Day, including rallies, marches, and cultural events. The day is a time to reflect on the progress that has been made and to determine the steps that must be taken to achieve full equality for all women.

Women's Day is a day to remember that women's rights are human rights. It is a day to remember that women's struggles are part of the larger struggle for a just and equitable society.

Let us use this day to take a stand for women's rights and to demand a better world for all. Let us remember that the fight for women's rights is the fight for justice and freedom for all people.

(Continued on page 18)
ratification committee devoted solely to lobbying and letter writing to their local politicians.

To fight for the ERA alone strutted-jacketed and noisy oratory, public meetings and testifying, lobbying and petitioning Congress, pinning our hopes on a constitutional amendment. This has sidetracked many women from taking up the real pressing demands of our concrete demands will build a fighting basis of unity for the women's movement. Most importantly, these demands rally and organize the working women's struggle and raise them to the forefront of the women's movement.

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Women/geoiests the price is cheap. As one however, among this strata, ideas are not tied to production, they lack tight organization and a protracted outlook. So they are open to many ideas, especially in times of difficulty when they too feel the effects of the economic crisis more and more. So working class women must have their own independent line and organization in order to provide leadership in the women's movement, including the petty bourgeois feminist forces, in order to strengthen the fight against capitalism. By providing staunch leadership, some of the feminist forces can be won over though they themselves cannot sustain a movement.

Bourgeoisie Tries to Sidetrack Resistance

So why did Carter, representative of the U.S. bourgeoisie, support the ERA all along? Because he desperately needs the ERA. It is about the only issue he has left to shore up his rapidly crumbling image, and for the bourgeoisie the price is cheap. As one welfare mother pointed out, "Sure he will push the ERA, cause it doesn't cost him one cent!" He got the loudest applause in his midterm State of the Address for supporting this amendment. While cheerleading for the ERA, he hasn't supported the desperate need for an increase in the welfare grant. In fact, he has cut $20 billion in food stamps, WIC—child nutrition, and the milk program, taking the food right out of our hungry children's mouths. And under Carter's administration has become the Bakke decision which is a rallying point for attacking gains and special programs fought for by women and minorities.

Bureaucrats and Misleaders

The trade union bureaucrats, after giving in to the defeat of the Labor Law Reform Bill without mobilizing the rank and file for it, made the ratification of the ERA their number one national issue. They're becoming another cheer-leader for the ERA, while in most trade unions women have to force the bureaucrats to take up the real fight for women's concrete demands against the cutbacks in heavy industry, for daycare, for maternity benefits, etc.

But since the main issues of the petty bourgeois feminists are being pushed into the background by the growing working class women's movement, the bourgeoisie and their misleaders are licking their wounds for new issues to sidetrack the rising resistance. Objectively the firing of Bella Abzug by the White House only helped to promote her misleadership in the women's movement. Bella Abzug has to keep up her image by coming out against Carter's budget. Her effectiveness as a misleader would be destroyed if she didn't appear as a friend of women's rights. In this time of permanent economic crisis, the capitalists are forced to cut back. At the same time, they know that the masses will resist, so it is important for them to keep this resistance stuck along the reformist road and away from militant struggles and revolutionary ideas. So they try to present the question of leadership as one between Carter and Abzug, or Carter and Costanza. This is an attempt to keep the masses within a bourgeois box of bourgeois choices. They are trying to build up mass motion and draw women into fighting on the issue of Abzug's firing.

One sucker who swallowed the bait is the revisionist Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist). These so-called communists say, but the real story goes deeper than simply the chauvinist attitudes of the administration. A deep rift is developing within the ruling class, and significantly within the Democratic Party, over economic matters. The rift between the Kennedy liberals and Carter's faction has grown in recent months since their open falling out over the question of a national health plan... This falling-out has exposed once more Carter's offensive against the rights and living standards of the people and especially against women and minorities. (GAL, January 29, 1979)

Blinded by their own illusions in bourgeois democracy, they think that Kennedy, the liberal, would be indispensable at Carter's cuts in the budget. Carter's image has gotten so exposed that bourgeoisie like Kennedy, to look good, have been forced to come out against Carter's budget. Without "liberals" like Kennedy who pose as the people's friend, the capitalists' state would stand totally naked. The CP(ML) once again covers up the dual tactics of the bourgeoisie, which serve to keep the masses' faith in their so-called democracy.

They even go so far as to conclude, "It also shows the futility of the liberal schemes during these times of crisis." Outside of being a little "vague," like the revisionists, this implies that the bourgeoisie will no longer use liberal schemes for pacification. This is the most dangerous and incorrect view. As we said in the last issue on Ford Foundation's appointment of Franklin Thomas, the bourgeoisie is forced to push reforms to a higher level. This means that "They cannot spend the hundreds of millions to co-opt the movement and create a strata of poverty pimps as they did ten years ago. They are forced to seek ways to split up and divide the working class and the oppressed nationalities through sham schemes like the Boston forced buying plan." (WVO, Feb. 15, 1979)

The latest step in the creation of a "safety valve" for the anger of the masses of women is in the formation of the Progressive Alliance, made up of people like Doug Fraser, Vernon Jordan, and Bella herself. "Safety valves" and reforms are still the main form of rule by the bourgeoisie to keep the lid on the masses' anger and resistance.

Capitalism Digs Its Own Grave

The present economic crisis and the rise of working women's struggles has brought the issues of working women to the forefront of the women's movement. Petty bourgeois feminists have had to address them like NOW's latest International Women's Day—"Celebrating Working Women." Meanwhile the bourgeoisie is scrambling about seeking new ways to keep these struggles bottled up. The "woman in the home" has become an economic impossibility, even for many of the petty bourgeoisie. The old bourgeois lies and values of the family have been cast asunder. The old roles are no more.

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This year's International Working Women's Day has particular significance in light of the party's campaign to "Study, Propagandize, and Organized!" Now is the time for all comrades to dig deep into the women's movement, sum up the lessons, size up the political situation, and sharpen the lines.

The great disorder nationally and internationally means that people's minds are wide open to socialism. Active women are seeking a way out. But class consciousness cannot develop on its own. Only communist propaganda and organization can give the systematic understanding and solution. Raising the political consciousness of the women's movement and fighting for concrete demands will raise the political level and the standard of living of women and push forward the struggle of the entire working class.