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January 29, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The following is a report we received from an observer at the National Coordinating Committee and Steering Committee meetings of the Coalition of Labor Union Women held in St. Louis, Jan. 17-19. Please share this information with those comrades active in CLUW work.

Comradely,



Linda Jenness
National Office

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Steering Committee Meeting, Friday evening, Jan. 17

This meeting was attended by 21 steering committee members, including 2 members of the October League, one member of Youth Against War and Fascism, at least two members of the Communist Party, at least two social democrats, and one member of the Socialist Workers Party. There were over 60 observers present, most of whom were members of the NCC.

The meeting took action on the following:

1. Set up a permanent task force on organizing the unorganized.
2. Established a liason representative to the National Council of Negro Women.
3. Set up a rules and credential committee to screen NCC members.
4. Set agenda for NCC meeting.
5. Discussed and acted on 16 charters. The areas that received charters are: New York City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, North Jersey, Greater Louisville, Central Arkansas, Madison, Southwestern Michigan, Central Jersey, Wayne County Michigan. Charters held up for further information: Twin Cities, New Haven Conn., Pittsburgh. Charters rejected: Boston and Denver.

The Boston charter was rejected because this chapter, dominated by OL, has permitted women involved in organizing drives to be voting members in violation of CLUW's structure.

The Denver charter was rejected at the second steering committee meeting on Sunday because of the censoring and expulsion of CLUW members there. (See report to Political Bureau by Linda Jenness dated January 13, with attachments.)

During the steering committee meeting the OL was very disruptive at times, but they were so clearly outnumbered (mustering at most 4 votes), that the disruptions were easily dealt with.

NCC Meeting

The president's report announced that there are now 24 chartered chapters of CLUW and 2,500 members nationally. Unions with highest membership include the United Auto Workers, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

The results of the recruitment efforts have been very poor and the sentiment was to improve the recruitment efforts dramatically.

The credentials committee announced 104 NCC members present. My estimation is that a solid 20 were members of OL, 2 YAWF, a couple IS, 3 SWP, and a fairly large sprinkling of CP members.

Vice-president Addie Wyatt reported on a campaign, already begun in Chicago, to win massive labor support for passage of the ERA. The five target states are Illinois, Indiana, Florida, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Secretary Linda Tarr-Whalen reported that CLUW has been endorsed by 17 international unions and 7 state federations of labor.

The plenary of the NCC took actions on the following issues:

1. Education: Four regional educational conferences will be organized in the spring.

2. Legislation: CLUW will support legislation for full employment, extending the public services act, creation of more jobs with training for women and oppressed nationalities, ending tax loopholes, comprehensive health program nationally, voter registration, and a series of other things. The only way they see at this time to win any of these programs is through lobbying efforts.

3. Minority women's issues: CLUW passed a strong resolution in support of the desegregation efforts in Boston and nationally. (Resolution enclosed.)

4. Layoffs and unemployment: This was seen by all as the major priority for CLUW in the coming months. (Resolution enclosed, also see Militant article of Feb. 7 issue on CLUW and the layoffs.)

Next Convention and NCC

The convention will be held in mid-November or the first weekend in December in Chicago. The next NCC will be the weekend of May 31 in Houston.

The day after the NCC the officers met with George Meany in Washington, D.C. and obtained his official approval of CLUW and his agreement to instruct the central labor councils to cooperate and promote CLUW activities. Next they plan to meet with Woodcock and Fitzsimmons.

The entire three days of meetings was organized and handled exceptionally well and run democratically. The officials were bending over backwards to work with OL, mainly because there were so many of them there.

There seems to be agreement on the need to build this campaign against the lay-offs into a large and successful CLUW building activity.

RESOLUTION ON BOSTON SITUATION (From unofficial minutes)
as amended and adopted January 19, 1975
by the National Coordinating Committee
of the COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

WHEREAS CLUW is an organization of trade union women committed to fighting against racial and sexual discrimination and (to) guaranteeing full democratic rights and equal opportunities to women, Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and other minority peoples because this fight is in the interests of all union members and brings unity and strength to the labor movement, (and)

WHEREAS the present crisis in the city of Boston over school desegregation and busing is a clear example of how discrimination and disregard for the rights of minority people undermines the unity and strength of working people, (and)

WHEREAS we as women and mothers have a particular concern for the quality and equality of our children's education, (and)

WHEREAS the situation in Boston has national implications and impact. And the struggle for democratic rights for all people must go hand in hand with the struggle for full unionization and economic justice,

THEREFORE, the national Coalition of Labor Union Women resolves:

- 1) That the National CLUW is in full support of quality education and school desegregation and supports the use of school busing where necessary to achieve this goal (including the court order by Judge Garrity in Boston) and in support of minority children to attend the school of their choice in safety.
- 2) That the National CLUW opposes any segregationist boycott or movement of organized violence against minority children in the United States as a movement contrary to the interests of all children and demands full protection for children subjected to such violence.
- 3) That we call for the preservation and extension of the cultural and language programs of all national minorities in the public schools.
- 4) That the National CLUW will make every effort to expose the anti-labor, anti-woman and anti-minority efforts of the reactionary segregationist movement across the country.
- 5) That we will stimulate through our unions and local CLUW chapter the education of working people to the imminent danger of racism which would divert workers from the urgent struggle for economic, political and social justice.

THEREFORE, be it finally resolved that CLUW implement this resolution through the following:

- 1) That national and local CLUW send copies of this resolution to the appropriate labor bodies, city and educational officials on both a national and local level.

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- 2) That CLUW both nationally and in local chapters be encouraged to participate in action in various cities, which are in keeping with this resolution. Specific actions to be discussed in the local chapter and decisions to be made by democratic vote.
- 3) That CLUW publicize this resolution in chapters, in unions, in the labor press and in our local and national newsletters.
- 4) That CLUW urge its members in chapters and in their unions to take up education around the issues of busing, desegregation, racism and the struggle for full democratic rights for all minority people.

PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT
as amended and adopted January 19, 1975
by the National Coordinating Committee
of the COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

(From unofficial minutes)

A. We propose a campaign against the depression, unemployment and layoffs.

- 1) CLUW-NCC nationally calls for actions on March 8, International Women's Day, to kick-off a campaign against the depression, unemployment and layoffs. We encourage all local chapters to hold activities on that day.
- 2) CLUW members should immediately seek union endorsement of our activity March 8, as part of a continuing campaign to get union endorsement for our campaign against depression, unemployment and layoffs.
- 3) We propose public forums, or hearings, on the plight of women as a result of the layoffs, be sponsored by CLUW chapters, with other groups (union, women's); that women be interviewed on the shop floor, and other places. . . . [sic].
- 4) Proposed date for these forums be during the week of April 28 - May 3. Target cities, those with high unemployment rate be focused on -- Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Seattle, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Cleveland. All other chapters are encouraged to hold similar activity.
- 5) CLUW encourages local chapters to engage in mass lobbying and other demonstrative actions, along with trade unions and other concerned organizations, toward influencing government agencies, legislatures, and private corporations responsible for maintaining full employment. In no case will any CLUW chapter engage in demonstrative actions against an employer without consultation and agreement with the union involved. CLUW will only work with organizations whose stated purpose and goals are not in opposition to CLUW's statement of purpose.
- 6) The NCC charges the Steering Committee and Officers to plan for mass lobbying on the economic crisis in Washington toward the Congress and administrative agencies by mid-June.
- 7) Endorse the UAW demonstration in Washington D.C. Feb. 5 against layoffs.
- 8) Endorse: The proposals advanced by the Full Employment Action Council (FEAC) headed by Coretta King and Murray Finlay, president of ACWU. FEAC, which includes CLUW president, Olga Madar, on its Board of Directors has called for: a) creating 1,000,000 new public service jobs for 1975, b) extending unemployment insurance to 52 weeks, and c) substantial federal tax reduction for low and middle income earners. . .and for permanent tax reforms emphasizing the closing of tax loop holes.

The proposals and actions by the National Coalition to Fight Inflation and Unemployment (NCFIU) headed by Sidney Von Luther, former N.Y. State Senator. NCFIU recently held public demonstrations in 35 cities, endorsed by 600 prominent people, including 100 local union presidents. These demonstrations called for jobs and comprehensive unemployment insurance and a roll back in prices. Another action is called for in April, a nationwide march on D.C.

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B. Demands of this campaign will be:

1. Shorter work week, no loss in pay.
2. No overtime as long as anyone is laid off.
3. No wage controls and support for the concept of cost of living (clauses) in all contracts.
4. No speed-up or any other form of job harassment.
5. Full SUB (Supplementary Unemployment Benefits) pay backed by the employers' assets for the duration of the layoffs for all workers.
6. That unemployment insurance be raised to 2/3 of gross pay, top limit removed, no one to receive less than the minimum wage, for the duration of unemployment for all categories of workers, including first time job seekers.
7. More jobs at union wages and working conditions including public works jobs; support the Hawkins Bill, enforcement of the Full Employment Act of 1946, and any other measures to create full employment.
8. Unions place the burden of past discrimination of minorities and women on employers rather than the workers.
9. No runaway shops.
10. CLUW supports legislation to roll back prices, starting with the necessities -- food, rent and utilities.
11. Oppose federal budget cuts in programs for people, and recommend a cut in U.S. military spending to pay for these programs.