

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

September 9, 1971

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRACTION HEADS

Dear Comrades,

Since the national abortion conference in July, the major focus of our work around the abortion campaign has been helping to build and expand local abortion action coalitions, preparation for the opening of the campuses and high schools, and, nationally, helping the national office of the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition get established in Washington, D.C. and the West Coast office in San Francisco.

Almost without exception, local coalitions have made major strides forward in reaching out to many traditional organizations involved in abortion law repeal and gathering around themselves many activists. With the opening of school, the crucial component of campus women activists will be added to the weight of the coalitions. Much success has been achieved in involving women from such groups as YWCAs and churches. Serious effort should be made to reach the trade unions and organizations and individuals from the Black, Chicana, Latina, and Asian communities.

It is especially important that WONAAC reach out to and involve members and chapters of the National Organization for Women in the abortion campaign. Despite the increased participation of NOW in the National Women's Political Caucus, there are hundreds -- even thousands -- of potential supporters of the abortion campaign within NOW. This fact was demonstrated by the great interest in WONAAC on the part of NOW members at the NOW national convention in Los Angeles on Labor Day weekend (see coverage of NOW convention in The Militant).

In some states, such as Michigan and California and now Illinois, women are meeting with success in tying class action court suits to the building of the November 20 demonstrations.

The purpose of this communication is to stress the major tasks before us in the coming weeks.

National Coordinating Committee

The first meeting of the NCC of WONAAC was held in Washington, D.C., on August 28. (See Militant story, September 10, by Delpfine Welch.) The meeting projected an ambitious program for building the November 20 demonstration and called for another NCC meeting for October 12 in Detroit.

The National Coordinating Committee, as originally constituted at the national conference in July, is a body consisting of representatives of national and local organizations supporting WONAAC and its projects. The first meeting of the NCC on August 28 decided that the NCC will have the power to add to itself important individuals who are playing an active role building the abortion campaign.

These additions will enable the NCC to include in the decision-making process of WONAAC women who may not formally be representing their organizations, or who may not belong to organizations, but who play an important role in the abortion campaign in a given area. This will give WONAAC more authority and make it more representative.

Coalitions in local areas should be considering whether there are individuals in their area who should be added to the NCC at its next meeting. Names of these women should be sent to the national office of WONAAC.

The new address of WONAAC is 917 15th St. N.W., Suite 502, Washington, D.C., 20005. The new phone number is: (202) 347-0946.

The next meeting of the NCC will be very important, and local coalitions -- particularly in the Midwest and on the East Coast -- should be organizing representative delegations to attend the meeting.

Endorser Drive

Of particular importance to getting this demonstration off the ground nationally and establishing the authority of WONAAC will be an aggressive drive to obtain endorsement from individuals and groups for the national abortion campaign. This next few weeks will be crucial in this drive. By the NCC meeting October 12, WONAAC would like to have the basic core of endorsers that can help push this campaign ahead. Local coalitions should think big in this endorser drive. Names of all endorsers should be sent into the national office of WONAAC as they are received.

Campuses and High Schools

We cannot underestimate the importance of aggressively building support for the abortion law repeal campaign and the November 20 demonstrations on the campuses and in the high schools. Young students will provide the backbone of activists and organizers for the November 20 demonstration. These next few weeks, when school opens, are prime time for the abortion law repeal campaign.

West Coast

The West Coast office of WONAAC has been established in San Francisco. Western states coordination will focus on the building for the western states conference of WONAAC on October 15 and 16 at the University of California at Berkeley. This conference, whose purpose is to implement the decisions of the national abortion conference, is being coordinated by the San Francisco WONAAC abortion coalition.

Thus, the three most important tasks in the weeks ahead for building the national abortion law repeal campaign and the November 20 demonstrations are: (1) an all-out national endorser

drive; (2) building for the next National Coordinating Committee meeting October 12; and (3) taking advantage of the opening of schools for involving new activists in this campaign.

Comradely,

Carol Lipman _{RL}

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