

**Women's
Liberation
and the Socialist
Workers Campaign**

Throughout history women have rebelled against the oppression of the female sex. The great suffrage movement of the early 1900s proved that women can organize as women to raise demands that meet women's needs, and that through struggle these demands can be won.

Today, with the rise of the women's liberation movement, women are again on the move. And now there is the determination to continue until every aspect of society which oppresses women has been eliminated.

The demands being raised by women today are major issues in the 1972 election campaign. The socialist candidates, Linda Jenness for President and Andrew Pulley for Vice-President, are active supporters of the women's liberation movement.

Women as political force

The women's movement, potentially representing 53 percent of the country, can become a powerful force for change in this society. An example of this power is the movement to win the right of a woman to control her own body--the right to abortion with no forced sterilization.

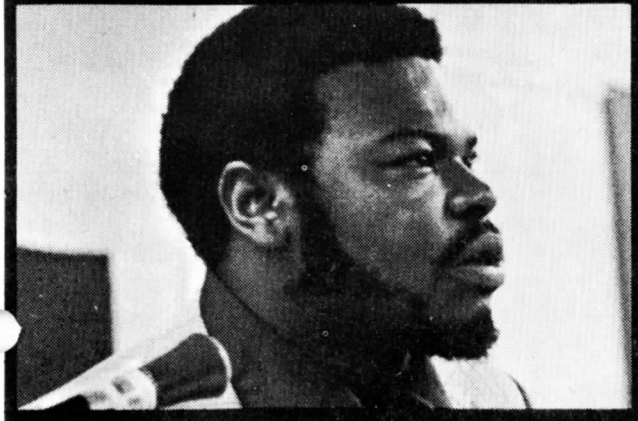
For years various groups have been working on reforming the anti-abortion laws in this country. But they had very limited success. Now, with the rise of the feminist movement, women are beginning to make headway in this

fight. In July, 1971, more than 1000 women from 29 states and a wide range of organizations held a conference in New York City to form the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition (WONAAC). The conference voted for a nationwide campaign to demand repeal of all anti-abortion laws, no forced sterilization, and no contraceptive laws. Many tactics and methods are being utilized, including local and national mass demonstrations, class-action lawsuits, education and research on abortions, and support to repeal legislation.

Through these actions, women will be organizing as a political force. This movement will speak for the millions who have suffered from fear of unwanted pregnancies, who have been killed or mutilated by butcher abortionists--all for the "crime" of wanting the right to determine when or if to bear a child. The Socialist Workers Party is one of the many groups which support this national abortion law repeal movement.

The socialist candidates are for a crash program of government-funded research to develop safe and effective birth control and abortion methods. Abortions and birth control devices should be free to all women who want them.

Society has created many divisions among women. Women have been isolated from each other in individual homes, divided by class and race, and pitted against one another. A woman is told that if she is unhappy, there



Linda Jenness, Socialist Workers candidate for president, and Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president

is something wrong with her, not with society. But women today are discovering that all women are oppressed as women and are developing a sense of sisterhood in the fight against that oppression.

The movement to repeal the anti-abortion laws can unite women from the high schools and college campuses, the Black and Brown communities, the trade unions, the professions, gay women, young and old women, housewives and others in a united struggle. Massive demonstrations to repeal the anti-abortion laws will show the rulers of this country that women will no longer be silent!

Black, Chicana, Puerto Rican, Native American and Asian American women suffer the most from abortion laws. Eighty percent of the deaths caused by illegal abortions occur among these oppressed nationalities. In addition, these women are often forced by racist judges, doctors and hospitals to undergo sterilization. Therefore, the fight for women to control their own bodies must include the struggle against forced sterilization. It must also include opposition to any laws which deny women easy access to safe contraceptives.

We are against forced motherhood, and forced sterilization. It is a woman's right, and her right alone, to decide!

The Socialist Workers Party supports an independent mass movement of women. We are ready to unite with women of different political

persuasions and from many different backgrounds on such issues as abortion law repeal, regardless of whether we agree with them on other questions.

At the same time, we believe that the attitudes and prejudices, sustained by law and custom, that tie women to a second-class status are embedded in the very foundations of present-day society. A fundamental change in this society will be required to eradicate them.

The 1972 socialist campaign is an action campaign which is part of the socialist movement for the full liberation of all oppressed groupings in this society. Our platform on women's liberation includes the following additional planks:

Childcare

Total responsibility for the care and raising of children has been thrust onto women. Women should be able to choose whether to stay home with children, or to go to work, to school, or engage in other activities. Because this society fails to provide child-care facilities, women are faced with the dilemma of giving up life outside the home, or leaving children inadequately attended. Women and children both are victims of this system.

We demand free child-care centers available at all times to be controlled by those who use them!

Economic freedom

Women, who compose almost 40 percent of the workforce, receive on an average only 60 percent of the pay of men doing the same job. To eliminate this inequality, the Socialist Workers Party calls for equal pay for equal work and preferential hiring of women as well as of Blacks, Chicanos and other oppressed nationalities. Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley are campaigning for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and enforcement of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. All protective legislation which is beneficial to women should be extended to cover men as well.

Equal education

Women are oppressed by an educational system which trains and psychologically conditions them for an inferior status. We demand an end to derogatory and stereotyped portrayals of women by textbooks and the media.

In order to establish equal opportunities in education we call for open admission for women to all institutions of higher education, and women's studies programs, run and controlled by women, to teach the truth about women.

Women prisoners

Women are subjected to special forms of legal victimization by the police and the courts. Women in prison are subjected to sexual assaults and forced sterilization. We demand a review of the cases of all women prisoners by a commission of their peers. All laws which victimize women, such as laws directed against prostitutes, should be abolished.

Oppressed nationalities

Black, Chicana, Puerto Rican, Native American and Asian American women suffer the most from the oppression of women. They get the worst jobs, the worst treatment at the hands of illegal abortionists, and are the most economically dependent-- either on a man or on welfare. We support their struggle for national liberation and for the control of their communities.

Bring the troops home now

The billions wasted on destruction should be used to build child-care centers, abortion clinics, hospitals and decent housing. We demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U. S. forces from Southeast Asia!

Democrats & Republicans

The Democratic and Republican parties, both of which support the basic structures of this oppressive society, do not want to see a mass women's movement develop that can fight for power outside those two parties. Instead, they want to channel the new feminist sentiment back into the capitalist parties. Supporting these parties, whether their candidates be male or female, will only derail the women's movement and result in women casting votes for the very system which oppresses them.

The Democrats and Republicans know the power of a mass, independent women's movement and they fear it. We know that power and we welcome it.

Full liberation--Socialism

We are for a complete break with capitalist politics. Women must seek a society that knows no oppression because of sex, race or class. Full liberation, with complete human dignity, cannot be found in an unjust and exploitative society. An alternative is needed-- a socialist alternative.

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