

Socialist Workers Party  
873 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10003

December 10, 1969

TO ALL ORGANIZERS, AT-LARGE MEMBERS, & NC MEMBERS:

re: Women's Liberation

Dear Comrades,

As you can see from the reports in the latest **Internal Information Bulletin** (No. 7 in 1969) branches and locals around the country are becoming actively involved in the women's liberation movement in their areas. In addition, our press is beginning to gain a reputation as one of the primary sources of information on the activities and new developments in the women's liberation movement nationally.

This makes it all the more important that branches and locals keep the national office informed about the women's liberation movement in their areas. In addition to general reports and reports on specific actions and conferences, it would be helpful for us to have copies of literature put out by the women's liberation groups in each area, and copies of leaflets and any other literature put out by the branches and locals directed toward the women's liberation movement.

The sooner such information and literature is sent to the national office after it becomes available, the more valuable it is. This is doubly true of stories or suggestions for The Militant.

Comradely,

Mary-Alice Waters  
National Office

## WHY SOCIALISTS SUPPORT WOMEN'S LIBERATION

In the United States we have developed our productive resources on such a scale that it is easy to demonstrate the real possibility of liberating all sections of the population from social and economic insecurity. But if men are not yet free -- women are less free because they are further enslaved by their sex. We socialists maintain that the attitudes and prejudices both reflected in and sustained in law and custom that tie women to what has been called a second-class citizenship, are embedded in the very foundations of present day society.

Despite the centuries of degradation and oppression that American women have faced, today there is a new upsurge in the struggles by women to change their situation. The Congress to Unite Women has been called to discuss how we can advance our fight for free abortion on demand; free, quality childcare facilities; complete equality of women at work; an end to the "sexual sell" in advertising -- as well as many other issues women are concerned with.

There is a revolutionary potential in the fight by women to free themselves, a potential that must be realized if we are to eliminate women's oppression and reconstruct this society on a humane basis. Today's historians try to deny the creative role that women have played in developing human society. They never teach us about the key role of woman in primitive times: how, for example, she invented agriculture, toolmaking, and architecture; how woman was the first to domesticate animals, while primitive man, who spent prolonged periods on the hunt, was isolated from the community. They never devote more than a sentence or two to the struggles women fought in this country for over 50 years to win the right to vote. And the media of today distort and ridicule the struggles of the women's liberation movement.

As socialists we believe that the struggle for women's liberation is an essential and integral part of a broad social struggle against the many forms of oppression that exist in this society. The struggle against the war in Vietnam, the black liberation struggle, the struggle of working people to better their conditions, and the women's liberation struggle are leading to an overturn of the capitalist system which is the source of our oppression.

That means that if we are to succeed in our goal of completely liberating women, we will have to consider the relation of our struggle to the struggles of other oppressed groups in our society, and the relation of our struggle to the fight for socialism.

For more information on the socialist view of women's liberation and its relation to other struggles, subscribe to The Militant and Young Socialist and look over the other literature at the table in the hall or at the Militant Bookstore, 873 Broadway (near 18<sup>th</sup> St.), 2nd Floor south.

Socialist Workers Party - Young Socialist Alliance

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