

NEW FASCIST LAWS AGAINST WOMEN

"The position of women has often been referred to as one of the surest measures of the level of a civilisation. By this measure communism stands out as the first fully-developed civilisation in history, where for the first time men and women participate with full equality, while fascism is revealed in its most undisguised reactionary character." (Fascism and Social Revolution, R. Palme Dutt, International Publishers, New York, 1935, p. 238)

This statement certainly holds true today. The position of women under capitalism is one of extreme exploitation and oppression. As the capitalists are being forced to move towards fascism, the position of women is becoming steadily worse. The extent of this relationship can be seen in the increased attacks waged by the capitalists against women in our society.

Recently the capitalists have launched two of these attacks aimed mainly at the national minorities and working women. These two fascist attacks have taken two different forms, one under the guise of democracy and equality, and the other, an outright undisguised attack. But both are the same in content - reaction down the line!

On Wed., March 22, the great "liberals" in the U.S. Senate ratified a proposed women's equal rights constitutional amendment. If it is ratified by three fourths of the state legislatures it will become the 27th amendment to the U.S. constitution.

"Bourgeois democracy is democracy of pompous phrases, solemn words, exuberant promises and the high-sounding slogans of freedom and equality. But in fact, it screens the non-freedom and inferiority of women, the non-freedom and inferiority of the toilers and exploited." (Lenin, Women and Communism p. 58, from an article in Pravda, 1916)

What does this so-called equal rights bill really mean for working class women? First of all, it will wipe out all protective laws that the working class has had to fight for. Women will have to do any job and work as many hours as the capitalists see fit. This bill will only pave the way for the necessary increased exploitation of women in the capitalists' drive for maximum profits. The days of the 12 hour stifling sweatshop can now be revived!

One of the most fascist features of the proposed amendment is the drafting of women into the military. Not content with just using working class men, the bourgeoisie is attempt-

ing now to also use working class women as cannon fodder in their imperialist wars of aggression! But just as they have been unable to make working class men fight their wars, working women will surely not fight for the imperialists against their brothers and sisters of the world.

The second proposed law can only be described as the most brutal, barbaric assault on working class women. The California State Social Welfare Board has proposed that when a woman has her third so-called "illegitimate" child, she would be labeled an unfit mother and the baby would be taken away from her by the state! A girl 16 or under could have her first "illegitimate" child taken from her. And, if a mother did not identify the father of a child, her baby will be taken away! Right now this law is being proposed in California, but similar laws are sure to pop up throughout the country, and in fact, such fascist measures already exist in the Negro Nation (essentially the black belt area of the South).

Many representatives of the bourgeoisie have already given their approval to the plan. Los Angeles Superior Judge Jack T. Rayburn says, "I think the taxpayers have sustained sufficient burden caring for children people can have biologically but cannot care for economically." (Los Angeles Times 3/25/72) James Hall, a member of California Governor Reagan's staff said, "I think it is a very good report. I welcome it." (Los Angeles Times 3/25/72) Governor Reagan, himself, said he wants to "study" the plan a little more before he gives his "opinion".

Such fanatic ravings sound as if they must surely come from the sick minds of depraved madmen! But no, these are not the words of the insane but rather the cold, cunning words of the bourgeoisie - products of a system gone mad - decaying capitalism. In order to protect their drive for maximum profits, the capitalists must crush revolution and destroy the potential revolutionaries that working class women and men produce!

Clearly, this fascist legislation is particularly aimed at Welfare mothers and national minority women - who the bourgeoisie are trying to portray as "unfit and morally depraved".

And what does the bourgeoisie plan to do with these children? They plan to take the children of the most exploited and oppressed - the most revolutionary sections of the working class and use them for their own benefit! Every-

(cont. on p. 8, Spanish)

Fascist Laws

(viene de la pag. 8, Ingles)

one knows that it is impossible for all the children to be adopted, and the national minority children are always the last to be adopted! These children would be raised by the state - their revolutionary potential replaced by fascist ideology - or even to be used as slave labor. The fascist possibilities are endless!

The Communist League has always said that working class women must play an active role in the fight for socialism. And it becomes clearer every day with each new attack on women that the bourgeoisie is out to crush and further enslave the masses of working class women! They must be stopped!

We urge the masses of working class women to get in the fight - to build a communist party to fight for socialism. It is our only protection against fascism. The working class can in no possible way win this fight without the leadership of the revolutionary working class women!