

PALANTE

MARXIST-LENINISTS UNITE AND WIN
THE ADVANCED TO COMMUNISM TO
BUILD A GENUINE COMMUNIST PARTY

Vol.6 No.4

April 1 - April 30 1976

25¢

The Woman Question is a Class Question

THE LINE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WING ON I.W.W.D.

On Friday night, March 5, 1976 a forum was held on "Party Building and the Woman Question." The forum was sponsored by the Anti-Imperialist Coalition, consisting of the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers' Organization, Revolutionary Workers' League, Resistencia Puertorriqueña, the Revolutionary Bloc, Puerto Rican Student Union, and February First Movement. This coalition was forged in the heat of the class struggle, the struggle against revisionism, Trotskyism, and right opportunism, most particularly the right opportunism of the so-called "leading circle," the Workers' Viewpoint Organization. The activities of the Anti-Imperialist Coalition, most particularly the forum itself, were clearly indicative of the period we're in: the fight for the line and program of our party, calling for an intense struggle against opportunism as we implement our two tactical tasks, the uniting of Marxists-Leninists and the winning over of advanced elements as the concrete form in which we fuse the communist and workers' movements to form our Bolshevik Party. Advanced elements, especially those from P.R.S.U. and F.F.M., were exemplary as they, under the guidance of the genuine wing, took the struggle for the party as their very own, defending Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought and battling all those who tried to distort it.

The forum itself was a continuation of the intense two-line struggle. After the speeches by P.R.S.U.-F.F.M. (of which we shall take key excerpts - look for the whole text in the next Maceta) and the representatives of the revolutionary wing of the communist movement (reprinted in full), the Socialistics performed the party building song, placing special emphasis on the last stanza -- "The party is built in the struggle against falsehood for the light." In the question-and-answer period, the line of demarcation was more clearly drawn. The Anti-Imperialist Coalition,



led by the genuine communists, fiercely polemicized against the utter bankruptcy of WVO's line on party building, which distorts the history of the communist movement, calls for conciliation with the bourgeoisie and its agents, and tries to resurrect the ghosts and monsters of Menshevism in the present period. Workers' Viewpoint Organization failed to defend their line, slipping and sliding, attacking advanced elements for raising questions about their muddled nonsense (WVO's), quoting out of text to prove their bankrupt line, and finally storming out in a petit-bourgeois frenzy, like the sneaky traitors they are. It was clearly evident that Bolsheviks are in the majority, that the genuine forces are what is growing in strength day-by-day, while the marsh forces, beaten back by the defenders of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought, are losing ground, drowning in the putrid marsh of opportunism. The future is indeed bright for us; it is certainly bleak for the enemies of the proletariat from within and without. The following is the text of the presentation given by the representative of the genuine wing on the "Woman Question and Party Building."

Comrades,

We must heighten our vigilance to the treacherous Menshevik line within our ranks, the line of class peace which threatens to corrode the Bolshevik Party we are in the process of forging.

The modern day Mensheviks want to separate every class question including the woman question, from the most burning class question, the building of our Party.

To them the party is a lightweight thing; to them it is a by-product of the mass movement, which they are feverishly trying to build and worship.

Their focus is of necessity on the reform struggle - "we must win the advanced to lead these struggles for reforms" - they say.

The main proponents of the Menshevik line - the October League and the Workers Viewpoint Organization and other hidden Mensheviks - although they have posed as mortal enemies, are fundamentally united on one thing - their hatred of the so-called ultra-leftists, the dogmatists who insist on raising the party in everything we do, who are "isolated" from the masses because in fact we are applying to the real world - the teachings of the Bolsheviks as to how to build a party - concentrating on the development of the Party itself - concentrating on the unity of Marxist-Leninists and the winning of the advanced to communism on the basis of a concrete analysis of concrete conditions.

The application of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse

Cont. on pg. 2

Contents

Statement of the F.F.M. and P.R.S.U. on
I.W.W.D.....pg. 3

Tung Thought to the problem of the U.S. revolution - the fight for the Party's basic line and program.

It is in fact these hypocritical traitors to the working class who are fundamentally opposed to the masses. No amount of talk about "fighting back," the "real world," building women's fronts as part of building the mass movement to prevent fascism, can cover up the fact that it is the highest form of treason to belittle in anyway the pressing importance of the building of a granite Bolshevik Party, steeled since its birth in the struggle against opportunism and steeled in the Bolshevik principles of democratic centralism.

To do this, and in so doing attack "dogmatists" is to attack the quintessence of Marxism. These parasitic leeches can never give scientific leadership to the woman question or any other questions for that matter. All they will do is tie the masses ever more firmly to the tail of the bourgeoisie. Both WVO and OL proclaim themselves to be at the head of the movement - leading circles with the over-

all most correct lines - yet, when we deal with who is coming to the head of the movement, attempting to apply Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought, to outline the tasks of our movement and the questions that this involves - where are these "leaders?" Promoting spontaneity, fearful of polemics, - slinking away like wounded dogs at the first sign of fierce lively ideological struggle, hiding among the masses to the point, for example, that in the IWWD Coalition WVO organized and the subsequent propaganda for their event - not one mention is made that there are communists supporting the event, let alone leading it. Instead there's talk of building the anti-Superpower movement, a new twist on an old line; of the ruling class as the bankers and monopolies and not the entire bourgeoisie. There is no mention at all of Marxism-Leninism or the role of the Party; this got lost in the sauce.

Now WVO will hide behind their front groups and say, "we didn't write this, this isn't our line." "We do propaganda." But we will not be deceived. Before cowardly punking out of the line struggle in the IWWD Coalition they told us that they would be initiating another coalition. All of the groups that walked out with them are involved in tomorrow night's "cultural event" they are sponsoring. So we don't blame the masses, including the disarmed forces under the influence of WVO's political swindling; we put the blame where it lies - on the great so-called "leading circle" of the movement for shamelessly totally belittling the role of the conscious element, of totally belittling the role of theory and thereby following the other swamp creatures off to the marsh of opportunism. We reject this bankrupt line and practice and call upon honest and genuine forces to follow suit and break with this treachery.

We must show through example of how Marxist-Leninists give leadership in the course of accomplishing our central task and its relationship to the other class questions.

At this time we will now go into IWWD, the Woman Question and the work of the Coalition. We put forward International Working Womans Day as opposed to International Woman's Day (that's what OL, RCP call it) to speak to the importance of working class women's role and leadership in the work among women.

In 1908, 146 women were killed in a fire because the factory owner of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory kept the doors locked to prevent any kind of job action by the workers. IWWD originated in N.Y.C. in that same year, when women battled for better working conditions, shorter hours, benefits, and higher wages. It was a heroic, life-and-death struggle, where women workers were attacked and beaten by the police. They fought militantly.

This was not the first nor the last time working women in this country led militant strikes against exploitative work conditions, child labor, low wages, extremely long working hours and the firing of fellow workers.

Historically, women of oppressed nationalities have played an important role in the movements of the oppressed nationalities; Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Lolita Lebron, Sojourner Truth and others are examples. Comrade Stalin has said:

"There has not been a single important movement for emancipation in the history of mankind in which women have not closely participated, for every step taken by an oppressed class along the road towards emancipation

brings with it an improvement in the position of women. The movement for the emancipation



WORKING WOMEN, LIKE THE FARM WORKER SHOWN HERE, CONTINUE TO SHED THEIR BLOOD FOR THE CAUSE OF THE WORKING CLASS.

of slaves in ancient times, as well as the movement for the emancipation of the serfs in modern times, had in its ranks not only men, but also women - fighters and martyrs, who with their blood sealed their devotion to the cause of the toilers. Lastly, the present movement for the emancipation of the proletariat and the mightiest of all the emancipation movements of mankind - has brought to the fore not only heroines and women martyrs, but also a mass socialist movement of millions of working women, who are fighting victoriously under the common proletarian banner.

"Compared with this mighty working women's movement, the liberal movement of the bourgeois women intellectuals is a child's game, invented as a pastime."

These historic struggles led by working women continued and continue to this day as can be seen in examples of Parah and Oneida, strikes that were led by oppressed nationality women. As Chairman Mao says, where there is oppression, there will be resistance.

In our commemoration of IWWD and developing our political line on one of the burning class questions, the woman question, we need to deepen our understanding of the oppression of women in general and the oppression of women in the U.S. in particular.

Developing political line on the woman question also means getting a better understanding of the character of the struggles of women. It means better defining what special work among women means in this country. It means putting forth demands that sum-up the correct democratic demands of women in the struggle for economic and social equality.

Political line which represents our concrete analysis of burning class questions, is hammered out in the heat of class struggle. It is this struggle that forges iron unity and not sham unity - and that brings the line and action of the Party into being.

Now let's turn to the historical development of the oppression of women.

The woman question is a class question. Working women are oppressed based on class and sex. Oppressed nationality women suffer triple oppression - class, nationality and sex.

The oppression of women goes back to the historical development of classes, where at one time the woman held a principal role in production under primitive communalism on equal part with men.

Under primitive communalism women were held in a dominant position due to their importance in the society. Why? Engels says that:

"According to the materialist conception, the determining factor in history is, in the last resort, the production and reproduction of immediate life. But this itself is of a two-fold character. On the one hand, the production of the means of subsistence, of food, clothing and shelter and the tools requisite therefore; on the other, the production of human beings themselves, the propagation of the species.

"In primitive communal society, women were the dominant figure in both aspects of society.

They were producers of life as well as producers of food."

But with the development of private ownership of the means of production and consequently the



development of exploiter and exploited, masters and slaves, bourgeoisie and proletariat, in other words, classes, women became subordinated to men. Thus the resolution of the woman question internationally is a component part of the class struggle against U.S. imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism.

Under capitalism, working women serve as a reserve army of labor. Not only reserves but an integral and growing sector of the working class.

"Working women are not only reserves, however. They can and must become - if the working class carries out a correct policy - a real army of the working class, operating against the bourgeoisie."

How does the bourgeoisie use women as a reserve?

If the economy booms or there is a need for extra workers because of war production, as in World War II, women are called on to fill the gap. This has proven time and time again that women can do all of the jobs in modern industry - from laborer to welder. But, as soon as the need diminishes, they are pushed back into unemployment or lower paying jobs. This was the fate of thousands of working women after World War II.

There have been a growing number of women who have joined the ranks of the industrial proletariat. Women working in industrial jobs is in the interests of the entire working class. All attempts by the bourgeoisie to get them to fight against the right of women to jobs must be turned around and aimed back at the bourgeoisie.

As women are increasingly moving from mere household work to socialized labor, it becomes easier for them to define their enemies and friends in the struggle to overcome the oppression of women. On the job they begin to realize, under the leadership of communists, that the source of male supremacy is not their husband or brother or men in general.

Being on the job, she will have a better understanding of the fundamental differences in the problems she has with her husband/brother as opposed to the problems she has with her boss, with the factory owners, with the store owners, the landlord, with the bourgeoisie.

Engels says:

"The emancipation of women and their equality with men are impossible and must remain so long as women are excluded from socially productive work and restricted to house work which is private. The emancipation of women only becomes

possible when women are enabled to take part in production on a large scale, and when domestic duties require their attention only to a minor degree. Working class men and women realize this is in their interests."

Presently, with the large number of lay-offs, marsh forces, as well as some honest, genuine forces who we believe are making a right deviation, are calling for the support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Let's now take a look at this so-called Equal Rights Amendment.

This bill is a conscious plan of the bourgeoisie to eliminate women from the labor force; under the cloak of "equal criteria" for both sexes, split the working class, and divert the struggle of the working class and women into reformism.

First, the E.R.A. is a reform and we will put forth our view on reforms and analyze the E.R.A. in light of that view.

Our attitude towards reforms is expressed by Lenin in Marxism and Reformism. He says:

"Unlike the anarchists, the Marxists recognize struggle for reforms, i.e., for measures that improve the conditions of the working people without destroying the power of the ruling class. At the same time, however, the Marxists wage a most resolute struggle against the reformists, who directly or indirectly, restrict the aims and activities of the working class to the winning of reforms. Reformism is bourgeois deception of the workers, who, despite individual improvements, will always remain wage-slaves, as long as there is the domination of capital."

As communists, it is our duty to fight for real reforms. How do we determine real from false reforms? We must look at (a) whether or not the reform would divide the class; (b) whether or not it provides for better conditions for the working class to wage struggles, and (c) whether or not it is something the working class fights for.

There is one additional quote from Lenin in Once Again About the Duma Cabinet that expresses our views:

"We pursue an independent policy and put forward only such reforms as are undoubtedly favorable to the interests of the revolutionary struggle, that enhance the independence, class-consciousness and fighting efficiency of the proletariat. Only by such tactics can reforms from above, which are always half-hearted,

always hypocritical, and always conceal some bourgeois or police snare, be made innocuous."

"The most effective way to secure real reforms is to pursue the tactics of the revolutionary class struggle. Actually, reforms are won as a result of the revolutionary class struggle, as a result of its independence, mass force and steadfastness. Reforms are always false, ambiguous and permeated with the spirit of Zubatovism; they are real only in proportion to the intensity of the class struggles. By merging our slogans with those of the reformist bourgeoisie we weaken the cause of revolution and consequently, the cause of reform as well because we thereby diminish the independence, fortitude and strength of the revolutionary classes."

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS REFORMS CONCRETELY APPLIED TO ERA

We oppose the ERA because it is a false reform. It is not a reform that communists should lead a struggle for it to be passed.

A. The ERA would not provide for better conditions for the class. In fact, the ERA would take away certain existing protective laws that now exist for women. These laws should not be taken away but extended to men as well.

B. The ERA would promote bourgeois democratic illusions. People who fight for ERA push that equality of sexes can come about through passage of laws. Laws have already been passed - Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the 13th, 14th, 15th amendments.

The ERA says "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or by any State on account of sex." Passage of the ERA will not bring about equality. The bourgeoisie pushes ERA on the one hand while at the same time pushing for the passage of Title 20 which would cut out day care centers and other programs needed by working women. Communist forces who push for the passage of the ERA are promoting bourgeois illusions siding with the bourgeoisie and acting against the

interest of proletarian revolution. Struggle for ERA diverts communists from work we should be doing amongst working class women, from taking up the issues facing the class and working class women.

Lenin says:

"Participants in all emancipation movements in Western Europe have long since, not for

decades but for centuries, put forward the demand that obsolete laws be annulled and women and men be made equal by law, but none of the democratic European states, none of the advanced republics have succeeded in putting it into effect, because wherever there is capitalism, wherever there is private property in land and factories, wherever the power of capital is preserved, the men retain their privileges."

C. The ERA is not being pushed by the working class now nor historically. The ERA has historically been a demand pushed by petty bourgeois feminists. It has never been nor is it now a real issue of the working class. It has been an issue in Congress since 1923 and has failed to pass Congress for the past 47 years. Revival of the movement for the passage of ERA has occurred in the past 4 years, led by liberal bourgeois and petty bourgeois feminists. Lenin explains the role of the liberal bourgeoisie - "The positive, real aim of the liberal policy of the bourgeoisie, Pannekoek says, 'is to mislead the workers, to cause a split in their ranks, to convert their policy into an impotent adjunct of an impotent, always impotent and ephemeral, sham reformism.'"

The petty bourgeois feminists push reforms as the road towards equality. Pushing blind faith in the system. Seeing the principal contradiction between men and women. Reformist solutions to exploitation.

D. The ERA divides the working class. It pits men against women. It leads to seeing men as a problem of inequality and not capitalism. It takes the focus from the bourgeoisie to men as the problem.

A concrete manifestation of the way the E.R.A. divides the working class is the fact that there has been a rise of right-wing reaction to the E.R.A., similar to the reactionary opposition to busing and gun control. This is a clear example of how the bourgeois and petit bourgeois-led women's movement, supporting the E.R.A., paves the way for fascism, by playing into the hands of the reactionaries, who have used this struggle to raise that women have too many rights. Objectively, this would lead to some women not wanting to work, which holds back the development of women, which serves to retard the development of the working women's movement as one of the revolutionary forces necessary for proletarian revolution.

Let's look at what Comrade Lenin says on this front:

"To effect her complete emancipation and make her the equal of men, it is necessary for the national economy to be socialized, and for women to participate in common productive labor. Then women will occupy the same position as men.."

Again, at a time when thousands of women have been laid off, and the ranks of the unemployed are swollen, the bourgeoisie resurrects the sham ERA.

The working class has never fought for the ERA.

The bourgeoisie re-raises it in order to cover their plan to lay off even more women. At the same time they use the ERA to capture the revolutionary sentiments of the working women and channel it into reformism and struggle against working class men. They try to hide the fact that the source of the problem is the bourgeoisie's exploitation and oppression of the working class. Only social reformers, pacifists, liberals, opportunists, Trotskyites and revisionists support the ERA. Also, within the revolutionary wing the ATM supports the ERA. We will be struggling with these comrades to take the correct class stand in opposition to the ERA and to repudiate their present position. Let the agents of the bourgeoisie - the opportunist hypocrites defend the ERA. As communists we must uncover its treachery and we must make it clear that the true emancipation of women can only come about through the abolishment of classes. "Hence, women's liberation must be a component part of the proletarian revolution."

Let us now take a deeper look at one of the spineless opportunist forces in the communist movement who is pushing for support of the ERA - the October League of Menshevik Liberals.

The October League's line on the Woman Question is a reflection of their overall right opportunist line.

These Menshevik liberals have had to naturally belittle the training of advanced working class women just as they belittle and totally negate the winning of the vanguard to communism.

Instead of bringing scientific socialism to the spontaneous movement concentrating on winning over the advanced, the October League glorifies and worships the spontaneous petty bourgeois woman's movement which they have seen as a cadre pool, which in fact has been a source for their recruitment. This adding to their already petty bourgeois social basis would then logically show itself in their support of the ERA as well as superseniority, which has already been shown has not been a demand of working class women, and is not in the interests of uniting the class as a whole, but rather divides the class, weakening it from within, a result of the opportunists' and all reformists' role within the communist and workers' movement. (Check out the present issue of The Call on IWWD, where there is no mention of party building.)

In not treating the woman question as a class question, the OL and WVO and all opportunists try to sneak in the theory of humanity, cutting across class lines, blunting the antagonisms that exist between proletarian women and the bourgeoisie-led women's movement, which has been a nesting ground of decadence.

We can very clearly recall the Red Stocking Manifesto, which bred petty-bourgeois feminism - the petty-bourgeois filth which breeds homosexuality, reflected then in these very same organizations' positions, or lack of positions against these parasites.

The WVO just recently was raising discussion over the "gay question," which, for genuine Marxists-Leninists and the proletariat, is no question.

At the same time, these philistines do everything in their power not to discuss the burning question of our day: party building.

Why is this? Because the Menshevik-Liberals are catering to the most backward ideas of the masses, the petty bourgeoisie in particular, and have become totally divorced from the real questions facing the working women and the proletariat in general.

Hammering out the party's - the Bolshevik Party's - basic line and program of action on all the burning class questions is beyond their interests, their capabilities, their desires, of passively crawling along at the tail of the mass movement, looking for numbers, numbers of students, numbers of bad intellectuals, numbers of women - all in an attempt to build themselves up - under the cover of "build the mass movement."

Comrades, time has come when we must rip off this mask of treachery once again. We must insist that all Mensheviks stop using the masses to cover up their scheming, intriguing and conspiring. The truth is that they care as much for the masses as the bourgeoisie does.

In whose interest is it not to raise the party in all our activities, our propaganda, our agitation?

Who is it that fears more than anything else the coming into being of the mightiest weapon of the proletariat in its fight for proletarian revolution, consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat - establishment of socialism and on to the complete abolishment of classes?

Why is it that OL and WVO refuse to raise the woman's question in relation to the central task? Because linking the two is in the interest of the revolution, and opportunists, as lackeys of the bourgeoisie, will do anything to prevent the coming into being of the revolution.

Through numbers, they hope we will evolve out of the clutches of the bankers and corporations. Nonsense - pure and simple rubbish.

In fighting against the party, the OL and WVO are no different than the Triangle Shirtwaist factory boss who locked the doors to prevent any kind of job action by workers. OL and WVO and all Mensheviks are trying to put a dagger in the heart of the party: this is their treason.

This treason is clearly seen in the actions of the opportunists in the IWWD Coalition. The Coalition will be doing a sum-up of the history and struggles of the Coalition. The following is a

brief sum-up of the Coalition that will be deepened in the future.

The Coalition was started by a call from the WVO to sum-up the Socialist Feminist Conference which they had attended. This was the plan for the start of the Coalition. In the initiation of the Coalition the only forces WVO invited were the Trots, the centrists and revisionists, those spineless beings who had participated in the Socialist Feminists Conference with them. Organizations in the revolutionary wing were not contacted and from the jump plans for the IWWD were not viewed in light of the central tasks of all genuine communists, party building.

When genuine Marxist-Leninists and advanced and honest elements came into the Coalition heated class struggle prevailed. As the struggle against revisionism and right opportunism intensified, revisionists and opportunist forces, one by one left the Coalition as the Coalition began to purge itself of marsh forces. While these traitors to the class were in the Coalition we had to struggle with them in their raising only U.S. imperialism and not Soviet Social Imperialism for principles of unity; in raising support for the ERA; in separating the woman's question from party building and in wanting us to raise up democratic rights for lesbians in the principles of unity and in wanting us to keep men out of the Coalition.

With the Trots and Revisionists out, line struggle continued and intensified against right opportunism. The Coalition has summed up that right deviations have been the main ones made in the Coalition and the main exponent was the Workers Viewpoint Organization. WVO hollered that left errors were the main danger in the Coalition, but we say No - WVO, the errors we made were right errors when we conciliated with your line at times.

What were the manifestations of the right line of WVO as seen in the Coalition.

First, as we said, their outlook on IWWD was never from the point of view of our central task. Throughout, from start to end, they belittled the role of the revolutionary wing and all genuine Marxist-Leninists and advanced elements. They did not and were not for giving Marxist-Leninist leadership to the Coalition.

They united with the revisionists from the start by bringing them to the Coalition and then tried to get the Coalition to join the CP Coalition.

The WVO see themselves as the leading circle and in the Coalition they proceeded to do things on their own.

In divorcing the woman question from our central task of party building, the most burning class question, WVO in essence failed to treat the woman question as a class question.

They were not interested in hammering out political line on the woman question. They spoke proudly of and said they upheld their work with the Socialist feminists. "We uphold our work with the revisionists in the "CP"-USA Coalition last year," they cried. Not once did they speak about upholding any work among working class women.

With the intensification of struggle against right opportunism, WVO resorted to formalism and bourgeois maneuvering. For example, when WVO was asked to speak to their line on party building, they said we should deal with practical tasks and not party building.

Also, they packed meetings for votes since they thought they could not win the Coalition over through line struggle. Throughout the Coalition, they historically kept raising left dogmatism as the main danger in the Coalition, hysterically, typical of the petit-bourgeoisie.

What were some of the things we put forth that they called left?

These so-called left dogmas were good old Marxist-Leninist principles.

They said it was left of us to keep raising propaganda as our chief form of work in this period. It was left of us to talk about principal focus on the advanced in this period and uniting Marxist-Leninists. WVO kept raising the problem is the left to hide their raggedy line of build the mass movement. Come forward and stop hiding your raggedy line - people are becoming more and more aware of your bankruptcy. WVO, you raise the question of study but do you have your cadre read more than the premises?

We urge you to read Comrade Stalin, Vol. 5, The Party Before and After Taking Power. Check it out. The principles we put forth that you call left dogma are Marxist-Leninist principles.

WVO, listen closely to what you call this left stuff. Comrade Stalin says:

"The first period was the period of formation, of the creation of our party.

"The party confined itself to mapping the movement's strategic plan, i.e., the route that the movement should take; and the party's reserves - the contradictions within the camp of the enemies inside and outside of Russia - remained unused, or almost unused, owing to the weakness of the Party.

"In this period the party focused its attention and care upon the party itself, upon its own existence and preservation.

"The principal task of communism in Russia in that period was to recruit into the Party the best elements of the working class, those who were most active and most devoted to the cause of the proletariat; to form the ranks of the proletarian party and to put it firmly on its feet. Comrade Lenin formulates this task as follows: 'to win the vanguard of the proletariat to the side of communism!'"

WVO, this is what we were putting forth, this so-called left left left as you call it. Study Stalin and not just the premises.

Let's see what else Stalin says -

"The second period was the period of winning the broad masses of the workers and peasants to the side of the vanguard of the proletariat.

"The Party's principal task in this period was to win the vast masses to the side of the proletarian vanguard, to the side of the Party, for the purpose of overthrowing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, for the purpose of seizing power.

"The Party now no longer focused its attention upon itself, but upon the vast masses of the people."

This is what Workers Viewpoint puts forward now. WVO read Stalin, that was in the second period. In the period during the formation of the party we concentrate on winning over the advanced and uniting Marxist-Leninists.

Workers Viewpoint - shame on you. Put the Anti-Theoretical Revisionist Premises down; study Stalin. Study Marxism-Leninism. The problem may be that you consider this the second period and consider yourselves the party.

Workers Viewpoint, shame on you. You fit in the same mould as the OL Menshevik Liberals who also see themselves as the party and are now building the mass movements and not the party.

Both of you are spineless beings who refuse to struggle. You both refuse to engage in thorough criticism and self-criticism.

Workers Viewpoint displayed a philistine attitude towards struggle as the struggles intensified in the Coalition and their opportunist line was being uncovered.

As their tricks were exposed by the Coalition, the WVO failed to continue struggling and instead walked out of the Coalition, following the other spineless marsh forces they had brought into the Coalition.

The struggle with the marsh forces represented the struggle against the revisionist line on the woman question and all class questions that is being waged by genuine Marxist-Leninists.

The revisionists, spearheaded by the "CP"SU and their puppets, the "CP"USA have betrayed the Marxist-Leninist principle on the woman question, as they have done on all class questions. Their anti-Marxist lines have manifested themselves in keeping women away from production and confined to household duties and by diverting the attention of women away from the struggle against imperialism.

The revisionists have treated the problems of women in the spirit of bourgeois pacifism. They publish magazines where they promote extravagant fashions, cosmetics, and advertisements.

At the Council of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) in 1962, the "CP"SU put forward that "fighting against imperialism kept women away from the WIDF;" that "we should use language that could attract women in the WIDF and not frighten them like a world without arms, without armies, without wars," preaching peace thus nourishing all kinds of pacifist illusions about imperialism thus liquidating the just struggles of the third world against U.S. imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism.

Once again, at the opening ceremony of the International Meeting of Women in Minsk, the bourgeois romanticists' line on the woman question came forward nakedly by P.M. Masherov, candidate member of the politbureau of the "CP"SU. He said, "It is much more important to take care of our women, their health and strength, and to cherish such unique qualities of theirs as femininity, gentleness, delicate and subtle perception of the world, the inherent kindness and responsiveness of a mother's heart... Woman with her warm loving heart and gentle hands has been destined by nature for goodness, for creation, for peace." (Soviet Woman, No. V, 1975)

These were the views pushed by the revisionist and opportunist elements in the Coalition. One by one these lines and their exponents were exposed and the correct line put forward by genuine Marxist-Leninists and advanced forces held firm. As the Coalition purged itself of marsh forces, we said they could go to the marsh alone, we refuse to follow and fall into the swamp.

What role did students play in the struggle for the correct line on the woman question and all class questions in the Coalition. First, let's look at the role of students in the special work among woman by communists.

Lenin said:

"There is no lack of contact between the youth movement and the women's movement. Our communist women everywhere should cooperate methodically with young people. Communists must make sure they study Marxism-Leninism and deal with the issues of the proletariat and not spend time on bourgeois notions."

The work of the advanced students in the Coalition shows Marxism-Leninism-Mao-Tse Tung Thought is being studied and grasped and put into practice by them. They recognize that communists should be giving leadership to the Coalition and criticized us severely when we deviated.

These students from the PRSU and FFM waged resolute struggles against incorrect views being pushed in the Coalition. Their talk was not on bourgeois notions but on proletarian notions.

They spoke out against the ERA.

They pointed out that right deviations were the main ones being made in the Coalition and they were able to spot the main exponents of the right deviations of the Coalition - the WVO.

When WVO attempted to play bourgeois tricks in the meetings, the students also saw them and waged resolute struggle against their bourgeois tricks.

Inside the Coalition the students from FFM and PRSU have played an exceptional role as they sided with the proletariat on every class question.

The principles of unity of the coalition are reflective of the task that we have as communists to put forward a program of how we will fight against exploitation and oppression of women. In keeping with this we raise the following demands.

Jobs, not imperialist war; equal pay for equal work; smash the ERA; full unionization of women; end discrimination in hiring, firing and promotion based on nationality, sex and age; end forced overtime and speed-ups; end forced sterilization; an end to testing of birth control on oppressed nationality women; end the triple exploitation of oppressed nationality working women; free child care services; maternity leaves with compensation pay and free maternity care and decent delivery services; the right to free abortion; fight the fascist, degenerative, sexist and chauvinist culture; no prosecution and an end to the slander of women who defend themselves against rape; the right of women to bear arms; support the national liberation struggles of the Third World; and defeat the superpower hegemonism of U.S. imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism.

Comrades, these demands are fundamentally different from the ones put forward by the marsh forces. They represent different class stands. We must remain firm and resolute in our struggle against the opportunists and revisionists.

Tonight we must struggle tit for tat on all class questions.



Krupskaya addressing soldiers during the civil war.

A COMPONENT PART OF OUR PARTY BUILDING WORK IS THE TRAINING AND PROMOTING OF WOMEN COMMUNISTS. BOLSHEVIK WOMEN, LIKE KRUPSKAYA, HAVE HISTORICALLY STOOD SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEIR CLASS BROTHERS, FIGHTING TILL THE END FOR THE COMPLETE EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKING CLASS.

We must watch out for the opportunists as they will try anything to take the revolution off its course. For example, this past Wednesday the WVO, who left the Coalition saying they would do their own thing came crawling back asking to be a part of the Coalition again and be on the forum. However, they wanted to be on the forum but were not willing to repudiate their raggedy line and put forth serious criticisms of their work in the Coalition. We told them NO, we did not just want numbers in the Coalition but honest forces. We told them they could come to the forum and put forth their position from the floor. We hope they don't punk out because we urge them to struggle to support that bankrupt line because its bankruptness will show itself.

We would like to end with an appropriate quote from Comrade Lenin from What Is To Be Done?

"We are marching in a compact group along a precipitous and difficult path, firmly holding each other by the hand. We are surrounded on all sides by enemies and we have to advance under their almost constant fire. We have combined voluntarily, precisely for the purpose of fighting the enemy, and not to retreat into the adjacent marsh, the inhabitants of which, from the very outset, have reproached us with having separated ourselves into an exclusive group and with having chosen the path of struggle instead of the path of conciliation. And now several among us begin to cry out: let us go into this marsh! And when we begin to shame them, they retort, how conservative you are! Are you not ashamed to deny us the liberty to invite you to take a better road. Oh, yes gentlemen. You are free not only to invite us, but to go yourselves wherever you will, even into the marsh. In fact, we think that the marsh is your proper place, and we are prepared to render you every assistance to get there. Only let go of our hands, don't clutch at us and don't besmirch the grand word 'freedom' for we too are 'free' to go where we please, free to fight not only against the marsh, but also against those who are turning towards the marsh." (Lenin, What Is To Be Done)

Comrades, the Woman Question is a class question and a component part of proletarian revolution.

UNITE WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY WING!

FORWARD TO THE PARTY!

LONG LIVE MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE TUNG THOUGHT!