

NATIONAL ANTI-BAKKE CONFERENCE-- FEBRUARY 19th

The first national conference of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition is set for Sunday, February 19, 1978, in Los Angeles. This is an important step in the campaign to mobilize national resistance to the Bakke decision. It is an important opportunity for revolutionary and democratic forces to coordinate their efforts to turn back the reactionary attack of the ruling class on the democratic rights of oppressed nationalities and women.

The Bakke decision holds that a white applicant to a medical school cannot be denied entrance because of a special admissions program for national minorities or women. Consequently, it represents the spearhead of a chauvinist attack on all affirmative action programs.

As we set up the ABDC nationwide, more than ever we must ensure that work unfolds on a sound basis of principle.

THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

The Anti-Bakke struggle is first of all and above all a struggle for equal rights. This point must be brought forward in a militant and unambiguous way in all our propaganda and agitation. On the national question, Marxism-Leninism makes clear that equal rights is the basic democratic demand of oppressed national minorities. It is also essential to the solution of the woman question. Therefore, it is on the basis of the principle of equal rights that we can point clearly to national and sex oppression as the focus of the Bakke attack of the bourgeoisie; it is on the basis of the principle of equal rights that we can show systematic national and sex oppression in all aspects of social life and connect it with the worldwide struggle of oppressed nations and peoples against imperialism; and it is on the basis of the principle of equal rights that we can best show the connection between the democratic struggle of oppressed nationalities and women to the class struggle of the proletariat.

Equal rights means the abolition of all forms of economic, political or social oppression or exclusion in every sense of the word against women or minority nationalities. It opposes any sexual or national narrowness or privileges whatsoever. If we ignore the struggle for equal rights or bring it forward only by innuendo or as an afterthought, but do not base our work on that foundation, our coalition is bound to be narrow, confused, and disorganized.

BAKKE

DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PRINCIPLE AND THE AIM OF PROPAGANDA

In coalition work it is important to distinguish between the principles around which we organize and the aim of our propaganda. The principles should reach as broadly as possible to include all those who can be united. On the basis of those principles our propaganda should raise the level of consciousness and struggle of coalition members and give orientation to our work.

Equal rights is a principle that reaches all those who can support the struggle for equality. At the same time on that basis we can unfold propaganda to show from a Marxist-Leninist and anti-imperialist perspective the systematic oppression which makes a sham of the bourgeoisie's pretensions to formal equality. On each practical question faced in the struggle we can show the difference between a revolutionary and a reformist solution.

On the other hand, if we do not connect the struggle to overturn the Bakke decision to the struggle for equal rights, we have no basis to oppose reformism and our campaign becomes a tool of the bourgeoisie. If we focus only on the decision itself, and not its connection to all reactionary policies of national privilege and inequality, we will sooner or later promote reliance on the bourgeoisie.

UNITE ALL WHO CAN BE UNITED!

Our struggle to build the ABCD must be guided by the mass line of uniting all who can be united to overturn the Bakke decision. We must say so straightforwardly and anything less is too narrow. If

we base our work on a revolutionary presentation of the principle of equal rights we can do this with confidence since we have a weapon to take up the fight against reformist tendencies which inevitably arise among the broad masses in struggle. If we fight these tendencies by excluding the masses from our coalition, we will be guilty of closed doorism under pseudo-revolutionary phraseology and accomplish nothing. Even if we limit our struggle to the working class and oppressed nationalities the scope of our work is too narrow. Forces who could be won to our fight will be driven into the enemy camp or adopt a stance of passivity.

On the other hand, we rely on the working and oppressed masses. We rely on the working class because it is a vanguard fighter for democracy--the only thoroughgoing and consistent democratic force. We rely on the oppressed masses because they are the specific target of the Bakke attack. Furthermore, both the struggle of women for emancipation and of oppressed nationalities for national equality and liberation are closely allied to the struggle of the proletariat for social revolution.

We must insist particularly on stepping up work among the working class. The Bakke decision's impact has been felt first in the schools, but its greatest impact will be in the workplace, taking back gains won in recent years in the struggle against job discrimination. At the same time while students are often the first to take up struggle, in this as in other struggles, it is the working class which is capable of carrying it through to the end. We need to take Bakke to the workplace and union hall--to shop cores and nuclei, to rank and file caucuses and trade union fractions.

EXPLORE THE REACTIONARY AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM

As we deepen our work among the working class we need to emphasize the role of the trade union bureaucracy and other reactionary forces such as the Ku Klux Klan which are not directly a part of the official state apparatus, but which have a big role to play in the policies of repression unleashed by the Bakke case. We must oppose all reactionary policies of national privilege and inequality.

DEVELOP A DEMOCRATIC STYLE OF MASS WORK OPPOSE ORGANIZATIONAL AMATEURISHNESS

We must ensure that the national conference insists on professional methods of leadership for the Anti-Bakke work. In our mass work organizational amateurishness leads inevitably to lack of democracy and must do so. It leads necessarily to confused struggle without clear result. Our work to overturn the Bakke decision can succeed only if we pledge ourselves to an unrelenting struggle against organizational amateurishness.

BUILD A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BAKKE DECISION

We call on all comrades and friends to build a nationally coordinated campaign to overturn the Bakke decision which places the decision squarely in the framework of the struggle for equal rights, which opposes all reactionary policies of national privilege and inequality, and which, utilizing the resistance of the working and oppressed masses as our only reliable support, unites all who can be united to defend and expand affirmative action programs for women and oppressed nationalities.

BUILD THE NATIONAL ABCD!



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