

The following statement was adopted by the S. D. S. National Convention in June, 1967, as written by the Women's Liberation Workshop.

We call for all programs which will free women from their traditional roles in order that we may participate with all of our resources and energies in meaningful and creative activity. The family unit perpetuates the traditional role of women and the autocratic and paternalistic role of men. Therefore we must seek new forms that will allow children to develop in an environment which is democratic and where the relationships between people are those of equal human beings. These new forms will allow men to benefit from the experience of and responsibility for the protection and continuation of life. The following suggestions are programs which point in the direction of the new relationships which we are creating:

(1) The creation of communal child care centers which would be staffed by the men and women and controlled by the staff and children involved in the center.

(2) In order to help women in their struggle for independence we call for the right of women to choose when they will have children. This means (a) the dissemination of birth control information and devices to all women regardless of age and marital status, and (b) the availability of a competent medical abortion for all women who so desire.

3(Ultimately technology and automation will eliminate work which is now necessary for the maintenance of the home. Until this occurs every adult person living in the household will have to assume an equal share of the work.

People who identify with the movement and feel that their own lives are part of the base to bring about radical social change must recognize the necessity for the liberation of women. Our brothers must recognize that because they were brought up in the United States they cannot be free of the burden of male chauvinism.

(1) Therefore we demand that our brothers recognize that they must deal with their own problems of male chauvinism in their personal, social and political relationship.

(2) It is obvious from this convention that full advantage is not taken of the abilities and potential contributions of movement women. We call upon women to demand full participation in all aspects of movement work, from licking stamps to assuming leadership positions.

(3) People in leadership positions must be aware of the dynamic of creating leadership and are responsible for cultivating all of the resources available to the movement.

(4) All S.D.S. chapters must recognize that campus regulations discriminate against women in particular and any program must include in its demands a call for women's rights. The above is also true of all programs conceived and initiated by SDS.

Educating ~~xxx~~ people and generating discussion about the liberation of women shall be the responsibility of the internal education arm of the SDS.

(1) The editor of New Left Notes shall solicit articles on the subject.

(2) Bibliography and pamphlets on the subject shall be part of the program.

(3) A committee shall be set up by the National Council to develop an analysis of the exploitation of women as producers and consumers in the American capitalist economy, and to present a report to the December NC upon which concrete proposals of a programmatic nature can be based.

We seek the liberation of all human beings. The struggle for liberation ~~xxx~~ of women must be part of the larger fight for human freedom. We recognize the difficulty our brothers will have in dealing with a male chauvinism and we will assume our full responsibility in helping to resolve the contradiction.....

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"What is open to this body is the acceptance or refusal of programs designed to 1) free women to participate in other meaningful activities and 2) relieve our brothers of the burden of male chauvinism.

"Analysis: In the world today there are three main divisions among people: Those of the capitalist world, the socialist world and the Third world. The crisis of our time is the transformation from capitalism to socialism. The role of the Third World in this transformation is revolutionary, but an integral part of their fight is the necessity of their own independence.

"As we analyze the position of women in capitalist society and especially in the United States we find that women are in a colonial relationship to men and we recognize ourselves as part of the Third World. Although we realize that our sisters in the Socialist world have problems with male supremacy, we feel that an analysis of their position would be different than ours and is not necessary for the purposes of this statement.

"Women, because of their colonial relationship to men have to fight for their own independence. This fight for our own independence will lead to the growth and development of the revolutionary movement in this country. Only the independent woman can be truly effective in the larger revolutionary struggle."

With a woman in the chair, debate opened over the question of male participation and voting on the analysis. This was handled by having a general discussion of the position presented in the resolution in a Committee of the Whole and then the Women's Liberation committee withdrew the analysis section as something to be voted on.

Discussion focused around the analog used to relate American women to the Third World. A number of critiques were raised over the lack of material dealing with the role of women in the economy, etc. however it was generally agreed upon that the importance in the analogy was its placing of the problem of male chauvinism within a clear social and political context. That there is a vital need for much study and discussion in order to begin to develop a solid analysis from which we can begin to seriously attack the problem. of male chauvinism.