CATALYST Nos. 10-11 Summer, 1977 Special Issue: Feminist Thought

This is a quite serious issue with each contributor being a special ist: Annette Allen, from Southern Methodist University, with a Ph. D. teaches accourse in "Momen: Images and Perspectives" and here together with Osborne Wiggins, is author of The Feminist Critique of Self and Society: a phenomenological metacritique" (Wiggins being a philosopher at the same university, dissertation on Piagest).

Mina Davis Caulfield also a Ph. D. of anthropology from Berkeley who teaches women's studies at Cal. State University at S.F. Me Her interests are analysis of imperialism resistance movements and Marxist theories of the family here writes on "Universal Sex Oppression? a critique from Marxist Anthropology"

Barbara Eacton who teaches at Merrill College and U.C. Senta Cruz and her Ph. D. was on the impact of industrialization on women and the family. Here she writes on "The Decline of Fatriarchy and the Rise of Feminisms a critique of feminist theory."

Alens Heitlinger who is at Trent University in Peterberough, Ont. seems to have the only serious contribution, and it this which I will summarize The Historical Development of European Socialist Feminism."

This is a study of the theory and practice of the German and Russian SDs foffore RR, and the Czechoslovak CP petween the 2 world wars, stating that the Serman material is from secondary cources, especially Werner Thonnesson. She calls attention to the fact that whereas the SPD had a separate organization for women, in Russia one was established (onl) after the RR. The work, therefore, begins in Germany in 1863-58, when the lassalleans) opposed female labor in the factory, but since they were B.J. for work at home being paid, the author calls attention bent to the similarity between that and wages for housework. She then deals with Bebel's work Women and Socialism; 1875/ Engels' 1884, followed by Zetkin. (Compliments Red Rag for a Marxist position. which was not simplistic, i.e., class struggle is all.) CZ was the one who developed the question of women's emancipation into political strategy in all her work beginning with The Question of Women Workers and Women at the Present Time Les rous hands getting pot

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She then lists the women's conferences. The first was in Mainz in 1900, and the fact that by 1913, 190,000 women were members of the unions; 140,000 of the SPD and circulation of Cleicheit was 122,000. The references to congresses there since 1898 at Stutgaart was olearly sexist. There is a reference to Balabanoff's book, p.223 about a deliberate discrimnation against RL, xxxxxixxxxxxxxxxxx

The author then goes over to the Russian SP where Bebel's book was likewise used, with Krupskaya having written the first complete Russian analysis of the WC in 1900. ["Krupskaya also acknowledged existing male prejudices and criticized those workers who argued that politics should main a 'mulo affair'". There seems to have been nothing on the WQ between then and (1908) when Kollontai published "The Social Basis of the WQ". It is clear that (Kollontal did more than anyone on the WQ, and yet her ideas were constantly clamissed as "right deviation toward Menshivism." This especially because she changed so many times between Mensh. and Bolsh. She also participated in more strikes, especially) after 1910, when the women workers on strike became militant. Evidently there is a reference to a strike in Moscow in 1913 at the Trisov factory (she's quoting from an article by/Anne Bobroff) "The Bosheviks and the Working Women, 1905-1920" from Soviet Studies, Oct. 1973, The attitude of the factory administration is revolting. There is no other word for it then prostitution. And indeed one of the demands of the women was for right treatment and no swearing, since the foremen would use the most obscene words to women (PP.554-55). Such actions and demonstrations did force the Bolsheviks to reassess their policy of opposition to a separate organization for women. They brought out a spearate newspaper in 1919, Rabotnista.

"It was their activism rather than their backwardness Be which compelled the Bolsheviks to recognize the "woman question" as an important socialist issue and incorporate specific women's demands into their agitation." (p.139) A good reference to celebration of (IND, 1917, which was same independent of the Bolshaviks and sparked the Feb. revolution.

The IWD conference in Stutgaart, (1907) in connection with the general international socialist conference and a sparate women's bureau way then established with CZ as secretary. (The period 1908-11 was thus characterize by an extensive participation by women workers in the election campaigns of their respective parties in Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, England, Austria, the U.S. and 'elsewhere'. The socialist women's movement

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was beginning to take root in most European countries."

The 2nd Int. Women's Socialist conf. took place in Copenhagen in 1910, and they related it to March 8, 1910, chosing it as they date to express solidarity with the current strike of the NY geamstresses.

IND celebrated in 1911 in Germany, Austia, Denmark, Switzerland and the U.S. The Bril was scheduled for Aug. 1914 in Vienna tat was not convened because of the outbreak of the war, but another conference was called by CZ in 1915. This time, on her own initiated without the approval of the SPD.

Boschevik women played a prominent role in that conference and under Lenin's direction, called for a new International, but the majority opposed it.

After RR, the First International Congress of Women Workers took place in July, 1920, in conjunction with the Second Congress of the Third Int.

CZ again "scame its head. (The 3rd CI returned to the old position that there was no specific WQ and no specific women's movement: "Women were therefore urged to concentrate on the general struggle for socialism rather than on their specific forms of oppression.")

The final section is on the Czechoslovak CP and shows that it had the highest percentage of women among its members and that the Czech at women's congress actually preceded the founding of the congress of the CP.

Two women Anna Krenova and Marie Strenadova leaders of the SD women's movement, left the party and organized the Communist women's conference March 12-13, 1921, and the CP was 2 months later, which is a light of the Nazi occupation and the creation of a separate Slovak state in 1939 stopped all forms of political activity, and with the Communist seizure of power Feb. 1948... see p.148, where she speaks of the fact that female demands did not figure on the list of trade union priorities (until 1959) more than a decade after the CP victory and during which time women's employment increased rapidly. Debates about "overfeminization" and "social profitability of women employment" in the mid-1960s began to re-examine the negative attitude towards feminism in a socialist society. A separate women's organization was established in 1967, completely under the control of the CP.

In summary and conclusions, she makes it clear that the Marxist position needs some reassessment for the relationship between dass and sex, esp as they always fail to address the social relations of the family housewives and the family have been left completely out of the organization of the proletariat.

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