

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
February 23, 1977

TO ORGANIZERS, TRADE UNION DIRECTORS, AND CLUW MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a report on the February 5-6 National Executive Board meeting of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, held in Philadelphia.

Comradely,



Cindy Jaquith
SWP Women's Liberation
Director

Report on Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)

National Executive Board Meeting,

February 5-6, 1977, Philadelphia

1. CLUW convention

This was a special point on the agenda. It turned out that the officers had decided that they would prefer an open, non-delegated convention, but the proposal for a delegated convention won by a narrow margin in the referendum vote. Of the 3,000 or so members who could have voted, only 728 returned ballots: 368 for, 353 against (some void ballots). Some NEB members wanted to find a way to reverse the referendum, but the majority finally decided this could not be done.

The date for the convention was set, June 4-5; the place remains to be decided. In setting the date, the NEB was bound by the constitution, which states that no more than 18 months shall elapse since the last convention.

Delegates will be elected in accordance with the delegated convention proposal, one delegate for every twenty-five chapter members and one delegate for every ten union members.

During the lengthy discussion on the convention, all sorts of problems with the constitution developed. There may be some constitutional revisions at the convention, but this is not to be a major point. There was no discussion of the convention agenda.

2. Membership

Little was said about the CLUW recruitment drive voted at the previous NEB meeting in October. There has been an increase in membership of about 500 (membership now a little over 3,500) and it seems some unions are trying to recruit. For example, there's an ad and application form for CLUW in the current issue of UAW Solidarity.

3. Chapters

There are 15 "certified" chapters. Less than half the members of CLUW are in chapters. But there are functioning chapters in Chicago, St. Louis, Houston, San Francisco, and Milwaukee that will be certified when technicalities are taken care of.

At one time there were about 30 chapters. There was no suggestion, however, of any change in chapter setup. Boston--a chapter which ultralefts have controlled--is in the process of reorganization. There are plans for a new chapter there. Two new chapters were chartered at the NEB, both in Michigan--Big Rapids and Macomb-Oakland.

4. Supreme Court ruling on maternity disability and Title VII

This was a special point on the agenda, an educational session. An attorney from the International Union of Electrical Workers spoke on the details of the case (IUE-Gilbert vs. General Electric Company). The Campaign to End Discrimination Against Pregnant Workers, which

CLUW is associated with, was outlined. The main goal of this campaign is to amend Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to explicitly make pregnancy discrimination illegal.

5. Resolutions

Passage of legislation amending Title VII on pregnancy rights was voted a priority for CLUW national and chapter action. The program committee recommended educational material and meetings on the issue.

The resolution on abortion, tabled at the last NEB, was adopted this time (see attached). It reaffirms CLUW's position in favor of legal abortion and states its opposition to the Hyde amendment.

A long resolution for child care was introduced. It included a proposal by the American Federation of Teachers delegates that the Board of Education should be the prime sponsor of child care centers. This would be an endorsement of the move by the AFT to grab jurisdictional control of workers in child care centers who are presently represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. The AFSCME representatives opposed this, as did CLUW President Olga Madar, who argued that CLUW is supposed to influence the unions, not be influenced by the unions. The Board of Education as prime sponsor was deleted from the resolution.

6. Equal Rights Amendment

This work was reported to be going along very well and in proper organizational fashion. A state-by-state report on contacts with unions working for passage of ERA was given. The victory in Indiana was reported as a vindication of CLUW electoral and lobbying tactics.

7. Miscellaneous

There were reports of attempts to get more female appointments on government commissions, and of meetings, along with representatives of other organizations, with the Secretary of Labor.

This time there was talk about the need to pressure Carter for real full employment and meaningful health care programs, echoing the dissatisfaction of the AFL-CIO officialdom. No "peanuts" jewelry was in sight this time.

Abortion Resolution Adopted by CLUW National Executive Board

February 5-6, 1977

Whereas, the Supreme Court decision of January 1973 establishing the legal right to abortion was a landmark victory for women's rights and working women's rights in particular, and;

Whereas, safe abortion, always available to rich women, was thereby made available to all women--through medical plans and Medicaid, and;

Whereas, the Hyde amendment to the Labor-HEW appropriations bill voids all Medicaid funds for abortion;

Therefore be it resolved:

First, that CLUW reaffirm and make known its unconditional support to women's right to abortion and its opposition to any constitutional amendment against this right, and;

Second, that CLUW make known its opposition to the Hyde amendment, and;

Third, that CLUW urge the labor movement to take action to block any such anti-abortion moves and to defend legal abortion.