A CORRECTION

The National Education Department of the Communist Party this week expressed its deep regret that a number of serious errors were made by a volunteer worker who assisted the Educational Department in the editing of the article "We Seek Full Equality for Women," by Claudia Jones, which it submitted to The Worker and which appeared in the Magazine Section of the Communist Party anniversary issue of The Worker.

The Education Department said that these errors, which were made in the process of reducing the article to its published length, were all the more deplorable because they were not only incorrect in themselves, but contrary to the sense of the original manuscript submitted by Claudia Jones. The statement of the Education Department said:

The most serious error is to be found in the following formulation, which appears at the very opening of the article as published: "The leading role of the Communist Party in the struggle to emancipate women from male oppression. . . ." The italicized phrase was written in the editing, did not appear in the original, and—as a bourgeois feminist view of the woman question—is definitely contrary to Marxism-Leninism and to the whole context of Claudia Jones' article.

The original paragraph in the submitted manuscript is as follows:

"The role and leadership of the Communist Party on the woman question is one of the proud contributions of Marxism-Leninism to a better society—to a socialist society. In fighting to project the true significance of women's role in society, Marxism-Leninism contributes not solely to the obvious restatement of the bare fact that women are oppressed, or that they they are the victims of legal and political discrimination. Marxism-Leninism does not assess women's inequality as the result of Eve's assumed sin and the apple."

The article continues as follows: "Marxism-Leninism exposes the core of the woman question and shows that the position of women in society is not always and everywhere the same, but derives from woman's relation to the mode of production."

The editing, further, tended to weaken the author's emphasis in the article concerning—and we quote the original manuscript—Comrade William Z. Foster's "qualitatively new contribution . . . to the thinking of the American Communist Party on the woman question."

In editing the article down to its present length, finally, there was a tendency to tone down the need for a class approach to the woman question, which was emphasized in the original article.

Jack Stachel, who is chairman of the Educational Department, emphasized that the Educational Department must assume full responsibility for the error in this case even though the error was committed by one who is not a member of the Educational Department. This should be a lesson, he said, of the great vigilance that must be observed in making sure that no errors are allowed to creep into our ideological work.

The National Education Department said it was especially desirous of correcting these errors, not only in order to do justice to the author, but also because our Party is now launching an intensive ideological struggle on the theory of the woman question."

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