

LATE AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT PLATFORM DOCUMENT

The Drafting Committee has received a number of late amendments to the Document which would have been incorporated into the main text if received earlier.

In proposing that the line of these amendments be accepted in principle, the Drafting Committee would emphasise that in some instances the precise wording may need to be altered to conform in style and length with the requirements of the text as a whole.

JRL

SM

Gay Liberation This is not an amendment but a late section of the Platform)

The WSL is committed to fight for full and equal rights for homosexual men and women. The WSL completely supports the liberation of gay people and pledges to make the WSL a habitable and supportive organisation for gay comrades. It will participate in the Gay Liberation Movement. It believes that homosexuality is as valid an expression of human sexuality as heterosexuality. It declares its intention to fight an organisation against all manifestations of prejudice and discrimination against gay people - by the capitalist state, in the workplace, in public life and in organisations of the labour movement.

The majority of gay people are working class, condemned to lead a double life of oppression in bourgeois society. Gay liberation cannot be won without workers liberation. We fight to commit the class to active support and understanding of gay liberation and against the reactionary ideas engendered by bourgeois sexual ideology in which the class is steeped.

We fight for a working class based gay movement committed to socialism through the overthrow of the bourgeois order. We fight now to win the best sections of the gay movement to our programme and we fight to make our organisation habitable for gay people.

Amendments

Page 1. 1.9: after: 'poisons' insert: 'society'

1.10 for 'against' read 'from'

1.16 Delete sentence beginning: 'Its expansion...' and replace with:  
'The postwar boom was not a new epoch of limitless capitalist expansion as many in the bourgeois and the labour leadership predicted.'

Page 1. Para. 2 Insert after 'degrades life':

'It is a bankrupt system which has nothing to offer the masses of women but a double oppression as class and sex, humiliation, degradation and exploitation of them in their allotted role as mothers and wives and daughters.'

Page 5. After para. 5 Insert:

'We fight for the fullest representation and participation of those sections of the working class which are at present held back within the trade union movement. The most glaring examples are those of women and blacks who have, however, at the same time come forward in the lead of many struggles.'

For women we fight for meetings during worktime, to give a lead and encouragement with policies through which they will be able to participate in independent class action to defend and extend their rights. We fight for positive discrimination within the labour movement not in anyway to see it replacing male bureaucrats with female, but in linking it with a committed fight for accountability and democracy at every level of the movement.

Page 7. End of para 3:

'We must stress the historical relation of domestic labour to womens' waged work and that ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES in domestic labour will always be within this system in response to the contradictory needs of capitalism eg. during war.'

'In any period the provision made by the state, bosses etc. for the reproduction, maintenance and servicing of labour power is premised on the existence of womens domestic labour in the home. Payment of wages to workers does not provide in itself adequate material conditions for the labour power to be maintained and reproduced either day to day or generation to generation. This has meant that provision of services within the welfare state through providing a rise in living standards and improved health, education and social services have not altered the basic position of womens' responsibility for domestic labour, has not altered the basic dependence of women on their husbands or on means tested benefits and has not included the socialization of childcare or housework (except in war). It has at its best served to provide mothers with more resources to carry out their domestic tasks better or to encourage women to cope with their oppressive role in the home better. This has resulted in a situation where women when required by capitalism to join waged labour participate in employment in jobs that are extensions of work in the home and traditionally womens work - undervalued, underpaid, part time to fit in with domestic commitments and therefore poorly organised. It has also resulted in women when losing their jobs melt out of the job market not classifying themselves unemployed but as housewives again.

Page 7. After Para 6:

'We fight throughout the labour party, trade unions and local cuts campaigns to put maximum pressure on labour controlled local authorities to adopt the policy of no cuts, no rate and rent increases. We demand that the labour movement take supporting strike action in the likely event of government reprisals (surcharges, bankruptcy orders etc). We consider this could escalate to the most major confrontation and challenge to Tory rule eg Lothian.

Page 9. After Para 6:

'No party will be in a position to fight for the end of the oppression of all of the working class unless it has developed women in leadership and in the fullest participation within the party. Basic to this is the fight against any sexist language and behaviour in the movement and the establishment of the best childcare arrangements for party events etc.

Page 10. WOMEN Replace first para with:

'We fight to build a revolutionary working-class based women's movement. For the first time in history it is possible to build it at a time when a mass female proletariat exists. The depth of the capitalist crisis falls particularly hard on women. threatening every step forward since the war. Despite being largely ignored by the Trade Union - Labour movement (or because of this) many of the major struggles in the recent years have been led and fought for by women. Women in their thousands have entered the political arena for the first time - working class and middle class women - women workers and women in the home. We fight to build in this movement a politically conscious leadership from the forces brought into struggle. We carry out this fight bearing in mind an imperative need for a sensitive approach to the movement, recently reborn, of the doubly-oppressed half of humanity.

Page 11. Delete Para 1:

'The womens' movement today has not been forged hand in hand with the Communist movement. Increasing economic and social emansipation of middle class women, together with greater control over fertility produced a drive for liberation from the

shackles of male dominated ideology and for personal freedom. Although the womens' movement has socialist currents, it is **heavily** dominated by forces not committed to socialism and hostile to democratic centralism; placing instead stress on individual guilt of men and individual liberation of women. The mass of working class **women** can find no liberation along that course. It is by linking the fight for the material emancipation of women - particularly working class women - to the ideological battle for emancipation that the WSL will intervene correctly in the womens' movement.

Add at end of section:

'This means positive discrimination inside the organisation where women are not being automatically brought into real positions of leadership at all levels.

Page 12. After Para 2 Insert:

'Black workers continue to bear the brunt of unemployment. Internationally in this period of crisis it is virtually impossible for black women to find a job.

Page 13. After Para 2 Insert:

'Young women are denied even 'token' work before marriage and children are thrust straight from school into staying at home and helping with housework etc. - they are most difficult to organise through, this isolation.

Para. 8 after line 1 Insert:

'No racist or sexist discrimination on apprenticeship schemes

After full pay at 16 add:

'Cheap state housing available to all single youth

Page 16: After Para. 7 add:

'But the probability still remains that a new parliamentary Labour government however 'left' in appearance, would restrict itself and its programme to the implementation of piecemeal reforms within the capitalist system, based more or less on the so-called 'Alternative Economic Strategy'. It will then be necessary for us to focus on working class self defence against that government and to campaign within the workers' movement for policies and actions to expose the inadequacies and betrayals embodied in such policies and win mass support for a programme which goes beyond the limitations of capitalist property relations. We will need to lend **critical support to any** such measures taken by such a government that **actually** attack the power of the bourgeoisie, while spelling out the necessity for a full programme of democratic and transitional demands.

#### SEXISM

'The WSL opposes all manifestations of sexual prejudice in its own ranks. It opposes language or behaviour which could be offensive to other members because of their sex or sexuality. We will also fight against sexist language and behaviour in all organisations of the Labour movement in which we participate.