PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY 1982 PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONVENTION MEETING, LOS ANGELES, AUGUST 21-22, 1982

The Peace & Freedom Party, founded in 1967, is committed to socialism, democracy, and feminism. While organizing for the future, we work in the present, challenging the system with the following immediate and long-range goals:

SOCIALISM vs. CAPITALISM

We support social ownership and democratic management of all industry and natural resources. Under capitalism, the proceeds of labor go to the profits of the wealthy few. Apart from its injustices rampant in our society, capitalism shows a spectacular inability to deal with its own contradictions, not the least of which is the simultaneous existence of a stagnating economy and runaway inflation, staggering unemployment and massive military spending. Under socialism, the working class controls the planning and management of the economy, with production planned to meet human needs. The employer-employee relationship is replaced with cooperative labor, and the work required by society is shared by all. Social surplus is reallocated to the people as a whole in the form of social services and improvements in their standard of living.

Politically, socialism is the massive extension of democracy, from each workplace and neighborhood to the widest levels of society, including the principle that all officials are elected, recallable at any time, and none receives more than a worker's wage.

THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM

Socialism can only be brought about if the working-class unites and acts as a body in its own interests. This means that our goals cannot be achieved by electoral means alone. We favor mass organization and direct action in the community, the workplace, and the armed forces, and a fight for democracy at all levels of social organization.

LABOR AND FULL EMPLOYMENT

We support the right of every individual to a socially useful job at union pay levels. Such jobs should provide for housing, education, health and child care and the restoration and improvement of the environment. We must also expand, improve, and diversify our productive capacities.

A guaranteed dignified income should be a right of those who should not or cannot work. We call for a 30-hour work week with no loss in pay, abolition of forced overtime, unlimited unemployment insurance at full pay, vigorous enforcement and expansion of effective job health and safety laws, compensation and retraining for workers displaced by automation, a moratorium on further layoffs and plant closures, and the opening of management's books. We also oppose the exploitation of prison labor for private profit.

We support and call for:

- The right of everyone to organize, to form caucuses, to strike at any time (particularly over unsafe working conditions and unresolved grievances); repeal of all laws which restrict or hinder union organizing, against refusal to handle scab goods, secondary boycotts, sympathy strikes, and the crossing of picket lines.
- An end to the recognition of the "exclusive prerogative" of bosses' management in contracts and in union constitutions.
- The reorganizing, expansion, and democratization of the labor movement and development of a rank and file socialist orientation within it. Recognition that the ultimate purpose of a workers' movement is to mobilize working-class people to assume ownership and control of the economy.

FOREIGN POLICY, MILITARISM, THE DRAFT

We stand for a foreign policy based on peace between nations and the right of all peoples to self-determination. We support an ongoing socialist transformation everywhere. We therefore call for:

- An end to the arms race, both nuclear and conventional. We call on the U.S. to renounce nuclear first strike and to disarm with the elimination of all nuclear weapons, worldwide; an immediate ban on chemical and biological weapons.
- Withdrawal of all US troops and weapons from other countries; ending support and military aid to repressive regimes. Stop training their counter-insurgency forces.
- Dissolve all military pacts. Conversion from military to peaceful production to meet needs and fund jobs.
- An end to the draft and to prosecution of draft resisters. Release those in prison; honorable discharge and full restoration of rights for all military draft resisters. We support all forms of opposition and resistence to draft registration.

SEXISM

We demand full equality for women in all aspects of life. Sexism is a major instrument for teaching relations of domination and inequality, specifically for keeping one half of the workforce underpaid and subserviant to the capitalist system.

We support and call for:

- Adoption of an equal rights amendment. Equal pay for equal work. Comparable pay for comparable work. Initiating, defending and improving affirmative action programs. Extension of all labor rights won by women to men as well. Unions must do more to organize women and ensure their greater share in union leadership.
- Provision of free, high quality, community controlled child care. The right of men and women to change oppressive sex roles in society and to have a full share and responsibility in the raising of children. Paid maternity and paternity leaves and time off work for childcare.
- Convenient provision of safe, free birth control measures and information to both men and women of any age. Opposition to involuntary abortions and sterilization. Full restoration of abortion funds. Reproductive freedom must be guaranteed. End physical abuse of women.

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We favor the integration of the following into the normal operations of and planning for society:

- Effective comprehensive planning for our urban and regional environment based on the principles of sound ecosystems management, the conservation of resources and environmental quality, and the ending of despoiling and abuse of our air, water, land, and biological resources.
- Reconstruction of our cities and urban regions and the revitalization and preservation of our open space recreational, agricultural, and wilderness regions.
- A multi-source energy system — mass development of solar technology and other renewable non-polluting energy sources — and the elimination of nuclear power plants and liquified natural gas (LNG) terminals. Cost effective recycling of wastes and energy.
- The massive development of public transportation free of tolls and fares.

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