

Union. They even resorted to the murder of workers sent into the villages to assist the peasants. They set fire to the dwellings of those peasants who were active in support of the Soviet government.

Developments in the Soviet Union have proved that there is unity between the class interests and class organizations of the bourgeoisie and the religious bodies and institutions organized for religious purposes. The domination of the bourgeoisie has been done away with in the Soviet Union. The working population has been freed economically. The church is made to stand on its own feet with no revenue from the State or large contributions from wealthy classes. The result is that countless numbers of working people have left the churches. Many churches had to close down because there was no congregation. Church buildings were converted into social and educational institutions. This process was aided by the establishment of a wide network of scientific and educational institutions showing up the religious deception of the masses, that "religion is the opium of the people" (Marx).

The bourgeois press tries to fan religious antagonism in the capitalist countries against the Soviet Union, in order to divert the attention of the masses away from the great achievements of the working class in the Soviet Union. By these tactics they hope to divert the attention of the working population away from fundamental political and economic questions which the wonderful achievements of the Soviet Union have pushed forward into the limelight and which become all the more glaring under the conditions of the present world economic crisis.²⁷

18. Is It True that Women in the Soviet Union Are Forced to Work in the Factories?

In capitalist countries, it is taken for granted that the labor of women has less value than men's labor. For the same kind of work as that of the man, the woman receives lower wages.

Upon this economic slavery is built the slavery of woman in general—inequality in marriage, inequality in life in general.

In czarist Russia, this same principle of the slavery of women prevailed. The severe economic conditions under which woman was forced to exist made her grow old before her time. She was a mere slave, a means of enjoyment for men. In the east of capitalist Russia, the whole country was veiled in darkness and slavery. Here woman was compelled to cover her face with a veil. She was considered the property of the man. In the villages, the peasant woman was compelled to work from morn till night. She had to bring her babes into the fields with her, into the scorching sun, as there was no one to care for them while she worked. She was the slave of the man.

In the Soviet Union, it is the women who are among the most ardent supporters of the workers' state. They are listed among the heroes of labor—the Shock Brigaders—whose statues adorn the new boulevard leading into the Workers' Park of Culture and rest in Moscow. One meets them in the workers' demonstrations, loudly proclaiming their new freedom in spirited songs about their emancipation. Millions of women have enrolled in the "Asoviakhim," the Society for Aerial and Chemical Defense—where they are learning to defend the hinterland of the workers' country in case of an attack by the imperialists. Masses of women are members of the Workers' Red Cross where they learn the principles of first aid. They are to be found as directors of large factories; in the ranks of high Red Army commanders; they hold high government posts; they are engineers, professors, judges, etc. They are to be found in all occupations, the same as the men, excepting such occupations and trades which would injure their health or impair their functions of motherhood. Women hold high posts in all organizations—including the trade unions and the Communist Party.

Only a workers' state was able to abolish the capitalist law of economic inequality of women. In the Soviet Union women receive the same wages as men for the same kind of work.