on the right to abortion, day care, equal protection laws, welfare rights, and others. Women's liberation is tied to their ability to be equally productive members of society and capitalism cannot provide the jobs and services for them to become fully productive.

Working-class women continue to face discrimination of the job. Layoffs hit women harder than men since in many industries women were only employed in recent years. Incidences of sexual harassment on the job are being exposed daily. And there is still a definite gap between the wages of men and women. Industries that employ mainly women remain among the lowest in wage standards, as women are a cheap source of labor. The working conditions in most of the women dominated sweatshops are deplorable. Capitalists continually threaten women workers with dismissal since there is a large labor reserve among women seeking work.

Also growing is the promotion of women as sex objects, rape and violence towards women. Under capitalism the oppression of women gives rise to dissatisfactory sexual relationships. This can be manifested anywhere from unhappy relationships to homosexuality, and going further, violent acts on women (and children as well). As imperialism collapses, it becomes very decadent, accentuating these problems. Rape and violence are promoted by pornography as well as "respectable" media such as television and advertising, where women are portrayed as helpless, mindless, sex objects. This has the bourgeois purpose of making women afraid to be independent and serves the bourgeois function of escapism for many men.

The deep economic crisis U.S. imperialism has entered has an effect on the way the bourgeoisie rules. Whenever it is possible the best way for the bourgeoisie to rule is through liberal reforms. This is best because it takes the revolutionary steam off of mass discontent. But with a deep crisis, liberal reforms become more and more impossible. Oh, for awhile the bourgeoisie can promise reforms, but these will not be realized. Thus the bourgeoisie begins to resort to more openly reactionary measures against the masses. Carter yet was of the bourgeoisie's reformers, but even with him, the reforms were mere hot air. With Reagan, there has begun a turn towards more repressive tactics. Reagan swept into office advocating conservative, repressive solutions: against federal spending in large amounts for social programs, increased "defense" (imperialist war) spending, anti-affirmative actions, anti-integration, anti-ERA, anti-abortion, for state's rights, and on down the line. According to Reagan, his election represents a "mandate from the American people" to enact all kinds of repressive legislation to "put America back to work." In reality, however, Reagan's "mandate" isn't what it is cranked up to be. Statistics show that only about half of the people eligible to vote

actually did so. Slightly more than half of those voted for Reagan. So what Reagan's mandate amounts to is a decree from about 27 percent of the voting population. This 27 percent were generally the privileged sector of society, since it is this sector that is politically active. Many of the labor aristocracy and petty bourgeoisie that voted for Reagan, consciously or unconsciously wished to have the effects of the crisis removed from their shoulders and onto the shoulders of the lower stratum (since, for example, Reagan's program calls for slight tax cuts and "fighting inflation" on the basis of massive cuts in social programs). Also, they were voting for a stronger imperialist foreign policy which would insure continued super-profits. The highest percentage of non-voters comes from the poorest and most oppressed sections of the workers and toilers. Reagan did not have their mandate. This section has the most obstacles in being active in politics. Poverty, lack of education, lack of economic organization, a history of having been denied the right to vote and oppression among oppressed nations, national minorities and women, all keep this lower stratum of workers and toilers away from political activity. Their apathy is spurred on by an instinctual mistrust of the bourgeois politicians and political parties. It is this stratum that will become politically active in the coming revolutionary period and will gravitate to and form the ranks of the revolutionary working-class party.

Since Reagan's election some people say that the U.S. has gotten very close to having fascism in power, and some say that Reagan himself is fascist. This is not the case. Fascism is a mass repressive movement promoted by the bourgeoisie, which relies on the declassed and discontented privileged sections of society (the lumpen proletariat, the petty bourgeoisie and labor aristocracy) and, with its demagoguery, on some confused lower strata workers and toilers. Fascism in power is the bourgeoisie resorting to an all-out attack on the masses. In power, fascism attempts to crush any threat to bourgeois rule. This includes outlawing the workers' organizations (trade unions, etc.), the working-class revolutionary party, unleashing terror on the masses, attempting to split the class through special terror of national minorities, oppressed nations, oppression of women, and even destroying sections of the fascist movement when the masses in it realize the demagoguery. The bourgeoisie, through Reagan, is taking repressive steps, but this is in no way fascism.

Though the bourgeoisie does not need to resort to fascism now, fascist elements are being encouraged and their groups are steadily gaining converts. Groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazis, and right-wing militarists around the Soldier of Fortune magazine are resurfacing, gaining influence and support in some privileged quarters, and preying on the fears and anxieties of a few lower stratum workers,