

# WE DID IT!

## BLACK WOMEN'S UNITED FRONT



Delegates from many states and organizations across the country came together to form the Black Women's United Front in Detroit in January. Since that time local Fronts have been formed in most of these states. The Black Women's United Front consists of a wide spectrum of Black Women unified in an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist United Front. The national body will reconvene May 3, to elect its national officers.

### Black Women's United Front

In Detroit, on January 25, 1975, Saturday morning, over 600 Black women and some men joined in to build an anti-racist, anti-imperialist, and anti-capitalist Black Women's United Front. There were women from 26 states including Canada, prepared for the task of trying to pull together a structure for the first Black Women's United Front in the U.S. There was a broad base of women, women who worked, unemployed women, women on welfare, students, housewives, political activists, older women, and women who want a vehicle to fight back.

The morning's session opened up with greetings from a comrade in Congress of Afrikan People who was a member of the local Detroit Task Force. From that point on the meeting proceeded with speeches from Congress of Afrikan People and the co-sponsoring organ-

izations. The first to speak was a sister from Youth Organization for Black Unity who have a historical development of the Black student movement and the emergence of a new student formation called the "February 1st Movement". Y.O.B.U. expressed that they supported women's struggles. The second speaker was a sister from the All Afrikan People's Revolutionary Party who talked about some of the contradictions in imperialism and the need for a Black United Front. Third speaker was a brother from Pan Afrikan Student Organization in the Americas, who expressed his solidarity with women's struggles. Next to speak was a sister from National Welfare Rights who talked about the inequalities between men and women. Then there was a sister from Black Workers Congress who spoke to the crisis of

*(Continued on page 9)*

**WE DID IT**

(Continued from page 1)

monopoly capitalism and imperialism and stated that the "Woman Question" was a class question. Last were the speakers from C.A.P., a sister who began by expressing her solidarity with Lolita LeBron, Gail Madden, Inex Gracia, Joanne Chesimard - all the unnamed working women. She then outlined the woman question as a class question rooted in capitalism and pointed to the bourgeois feminist movement as being in collaboration with capitalism rather than an instrument against it. Next Amiri Baraka, chairman of the Congress of Afrikan People who ended up the morning session by expressing his solidarity with the building of a Black Women's United Front and clearly outlining the problems that face the Black Liberation Movement as well as the new Communist Movement at this point in history, and stated that what was needed is a Revolutionary Women's Organization that would be a part of smashing the system of monopoly capitalism and imperialism. The morning session ended in thundering applause with almost everyone on their feet.

There was a lunch break and the afternoon session jumped off with a 5 minute opening statement from each of the co-sponsoring organizations. The rest of the afternoon was given over to the women who came to build the Black Women's United Front. The first discussion was centered around whether we should have a Black Women's United Front without first having a Black United Front. This was put forth by All Afrikan People's Revolutionary Party. After there was some back and forth discussion from co-sponsoring groups and conference participants, C.A.P. replied that Afrikan Liberation Support Committee is an anti-racist and anti-imperialist black united front, and we needed a Black Women's United Front. The rest of the evening's discussion was around structure. (There were some destructive counter-revolutionary forces there, like the Trotskyites, who found unity with every group who they thought they could use to block any structure, but there were honest forces there who were not turned around by Trot counter-revolutionary tactics.) At points in the meeting C.A.P., who was chairing the meeting, tended to be heavy handed in reaction to the Trots and other disruptive forces. We think we could have handled this in such a way as to not have confused honest forces who were not aware of the sectarian struggles of the left, and C.A.P. is moving to put this criticism in practice.

Out of long and honest struggle, the meeting ended up with a structure: A Steering Committee, Assembly, Regionals (Northeast, Midwest, South & West) and Locals.

The Common Program was to:

- 1) Hold local meeting within next 60 days. Before May 3, elect 2 represen-

tatives and 1 alternate to Black Women's United Front Assembly.

2) Go to Masses of Black Women in that city, do a survey to find out what are the areas of mass interest (in order that we can put together a National Program that can deal with the problems & needs of the masses of Black Women).

At 8:30 P.M. there was a break and when everyone returned, the meeting parted into state caucuses to elect a temporary state organizer. The organizer's task is to call a meeting and make a report on what went down at the meeting and set up a time to elect official representatives to the Assembly.

The next Black Women's United Front is scheduled to be held May 3, 1975 in Detroit, Michigan.

Other issues raised at the meeting was the case of Joanne Little, raised by October League in Atlanta, as being one of their organizational projects for the Black Women's United Front.

There were papers distributed on the floor by All Afrikan People Revolution Party, October League and Congress of Afrikan People stating their position on the Black Women's United Front.

In the main, the meeting went well. All who came found unity in the need for a Black Women's United Front and the need to continue to struggle to build Black Women's United Fronts in their locals.

Now what is left is the real task of organizing Black Women's United Front rooted in the working class that will lend itself to mass struggle and this is the task of all of us who are committed to the abolition of every possibility of oppression and exploitation. That is our slogan! **BUILD THE BLACK WOMEN'S UNITED FRONT!**

\*(We have available for 75c plus postage, a booklet entitled **Black Women's United Front, Congress of Afrikan People on the Woman Question**. This is the position paper and speeches given by C.A.P. in Detroit.)

Notice:  
Black Women Workers, Students, Unemployed, Old & Young join in and help build the local (Newark Black Women's United Front. A fighting organization of Black Women for Quality Education, Free Medical Care, Shorter Work Day, Child Care for Working Mothers, Family Planning not Genocide, Stop Killer Cops, help us fight inflation, High Prices and Unemployment. Join in with us to struggle for the Democratic Rights and self-determination of all Black People. Contact: Congress of Afrikan People, 13 Belmont Ave., Newark, N.J., 621-2300.

**IGC INDUSTRIAL GRAPHICS COMPANY**  
PRINTERS/DESIGNERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS  
237 LYONS AVE. • NEWARK, N.J. 07112  
(201) 926-1150

**Listen To The People!!**

QUESTION:

QUESTION; What did you think about the Black Women's United Front meeting held in Detroit?



**Joyce McEwen - East Chicago, Indiana** - The conference was good as far as the role here. My concern is how it'll work on a local level; particularly in E. Chicago. Ours is a very industrial area and not very politically motivated. The main concern is how to reach my people.



**Diane Perez - Lansing, Mich.** - I felt the meeting was positive and very well organized. I just hope it will be able to carry through all the proposals that were presented. It's good to see an organization that encompasses all political ideologies and that is not controlled by one organization. It's good that a lot of different organizations are represented in one organization.

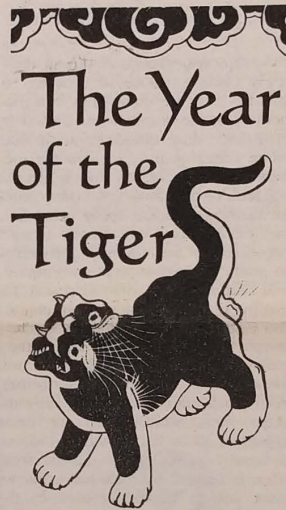
**Ella Jones - Pitts, Pa.** - The meeting was very constructive; if they ever get any unity it will be very constructive and beneficial to Black women all over America.



**Rhunette Washington - Brooklyn, N.Y.** - I felt a number of issues should have been expounded upon in more depth, by way of more evaluation, discussion and analysis. But given the nature of the co-ordination which was to present a one day conference it couldn't be successfully done. My suggestion would be to hold a 3 day conference. Issues, revolutionary tactics, political positions, etc., that involve the masses of the people on a national scale deserve more than one day at a glance.



**Patricia Jones - Pittsburgh, Pa.** - This is my first large gathering of Black women; I'm not from a specific group but I felt motivated to come based on I'm a Black woman. I felt that if this is a successful move and I hope that it is, this meeting will be the greatest contribution to that success because the structure was built right here.



NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG TODAY

"... excellent and comprehensive"

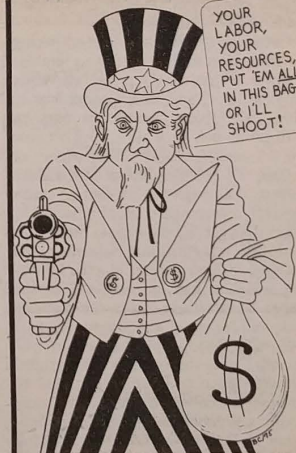
Los Angeles Times

A Color Documentary Film  
by David Davis, Deirdre English and Steve Talbot

Distributed by Odeon Films

619 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10019  
(212) 541-5677

**STICK EM UP, WORLD!**



**Capitalism is Gangsterism**