

peasants. In the course of this anti-national agrarian policy monopoly capital increases its efforts to make the rural co-operations which were originally to serve the protection of the peasants against the pressure of high finance, instruments of the monopolies to force the capitalist change of structure in agriculture. The present development of the West German cooperative system with the formation of big co-operatives and cooperative centres as well as the strengthening of the bureaucratic-centralistic apparatus removing the rests of an inner-cooperative democracy plays into the hands of monopoly capital. Monopoly capital gains more and more influence on the cooperative system, involves the co-operatives in the interest of the monopolies in the extension of the vertical integration and assigns the co-operatives a selective function which leads to the destruction of the economic existence of many small and middle farmers. Since the mass of the members in the rural co-operatives consists of small and middle farmers as well as members of other strata which are in antagonistic contradiction to monopoly capital the co-operatives could play a positive role in the struggle against the power of the monopolies if it were possible to bring about a broad alliance of all non-monopolist forces in West Germany under the leadership of the working class.

The striving after a reform of the co-operative law by means of co-operative legislation has to be estimated as an attempt of monopoly capital and its state to integrate the co-operatives in the state monopoly rule completely and under disregard of the vital interests of the farmers.

The Constitutional Principle of the Equality of Man and Woman and its Realization

by Anita Grandke

This contribution starts from the new codification of the basic right to equality of man and woman in the constitution of the GDR of April 6th 1968, and the author deals with the essence of the principle of equality, the level of its realization reached in the GDR and the future tasks. It is proved that the position of the woman cannot be estimated by the wording of the constitution as nowadays in all socialist constitutions and also in most of the constitutions of the imperialist states the principle of equality is legally documented. The decisive question is whether on the basis of equality the distinct and additional hindrances for the development of the woman's personality can be overcome. Criteria for the woman's social position are therefore the possibilities of her professional development, the consequences in the realization of equality also with respect to her family life and the question whether the state avows its responsibility for the creation of the necessary preconditions for the women's exercise of their equal rights and meets this obligation.

In the GDR the process of the actual realization of the equality of the woman has far-advanced because the mass of the women have been exercising the decisive basic rights such as the right to labour, education, and co-determination. The future tasks are part of the shaping of the comprehensive system of socialism and aim at the development of all sides of the personality of the woman and at the possible utilization of her abilities both in her social and personal interest especially to support her to bring her professional work and training still more in