ABSTRACT: This paper raises questions concerning the use of Wilhelm Reich's discoveries in the alternative therapies as they impinge on clinical social work. Clinical social workers use Reich's theoretical concepts and treatment techniques that come to them second-hand from the alternative therapies. Social work graduate schools appear not to recommend him to students. Reich's theoretical and treatment concepts concerning body or muscular armor and its three-layered structure are discussed. "Red" and "black" fascism is related to the secondary layer in discussion of the sociopolitical character. Questions related to orgonomic counseling for social workers are raised and recommendations made for social work to open channels of communication with the American College of Orgonomy.

This paper addresses the use and misuse of Reich's discoveries in the alternative therapies as they impinge on clinical social work. These discoveries will be discussed as they emerged from Freud's psychoanalytic theories into new principles of bioenergetic functions. A comprehensive review of Reich's findings is not intended. At a time when social workers are using theoretical concepts and treatment techniques first discovered by Reich that come to them second-hand from the alternative therapies, it is appropriate to ask why the profession of social work as represented by the literature in its journals has ignored the life energy concepts and orgonomic principles of Wilhelm Reich. My concerns are that the central themes from Reich's work are being muddled and the full impact of their potential lost to social work.

In general terms, Reich discovered two major sources of human misery: the patriarchal, authoritarian family with its sexually repressive attitudes, and mankind's ensuing biological rigidity that results in its inability to achieve its highest ideals of responsible individual freedom in social and political life.

Reich started as a psychoanalyst but left that field early in his career, when his findings carried him in more fruitful directions, from "psychology" to the energy in the organism that gives rise to psychology and the emotions. He acknowledged his debt to psychoanalysis
and he made a definite and widely recognized impact on it. When viewed from the perspective of Reich's character analysis and orgone therapy, Freud's work takes on enrichment and depth.

Freud's theories on sexuality, the libido, repression, stasis, the sexual etiology of the neuroses, the unconscious and the make-up of the psyche were brilliant breakthroughs. However, there were certain difficulties. Utilizing them in a method of treatment was one. Another was the problem of where these psychological concepts existed biologically in the body. Reich solved this problem with his discovery of muscular armor and bioenergy. The pulsatory nature of this life energy laid the groundwork for the solution of the psychosomatic problem (Wolfe, 1970).

Orgone energy is described (Raknes, 1971) as mass-free, pre-atomic cosmic energy, universally present and capable of being demonstrated visually, thermically, electroscopically, and with the Geiger-Muller counter. In the organism Reich called it bioenergy because he found that in the clinic and in the scientific laboratory its streaming and pulsatory nature was different from any other form of energy yet discovered. Reich (1948) advanced treatment principles on the basis of this pulsatory and streaming nature of orgone energy.

In the early twenties, when Reich was a psychoanalyst, free association was the psychoanalytic technique and the goal was to make the unconscious conscious. Baker (1967) writes that when Reich left psychoanalysis he found a new concept of health based on three major discoveries which opened a vast opportunity for understanding human functioning:

- the reality of the libido (it is a flow of energy),
- the function of the orgasm (it regulates the flow of energy), and
- the muscular armor (it prevents regulation of the flow of energy). (p. xx)

Oller (1950) describes the theoretical changes brought about by Reich as follows:

an entirely new understanding and meaning of the "unconscious" presents itself... the prevailing concept of the "unconscious" was essentially the one evolved by Freud... that it is some sort of nebulous, intangible, non-spacetaking entity, not discernible except through its secondary manifestations... as a result of newer insights gained in orgonomy and orgone therapy... the unconscious actually is the biologic soma in certain states of reduced activity and immobility... The unconscious then finds its meaning in a rigid jaw, a retracted shoulder, a fixed chest, an immobile pelvis, and in the pressure of a living energy that has become immobilized but not eliminated... under conditions of undisturbed living function, all motivation is conscious... where repression of function exists a considerable portion of behavior may not be consciously perceived, accepted, or motivated. Unconscious