

BWC.

March 19, 1975

To: CC members & District Committees

From: IC

Dear Comrades,

At the present time the organization is in a state of economic crisis. Funds on hand amount to less than \$100.00. Debts are mounting. Not one letter can be written, not one sheet of paper can be used, and not one stamp can be licked without us being smacked in the face by the material reality of the need for money. This lack of funds severely handicaps our ability to move forward on the ideological, political and organizational fronts.

The critical situation now confronting us is connected in a thousand ways to the "left" line that has dominated the organization. On not one occasion has a financial report been presented to the CC or the rest of the organization. The dues policy and fundraising program has always been connected to the most nebulous set of goals, never anything concrete. The dues policy was a reflection of nothing more than pure equalitarianism and sheer idealism. Cadre making \$300.00 a month paid the same dues (i.e., \$20) as cadre making \$800.00 a month. Money has been borrowed from various individuals and districts with grand promises of repayment. With more and more money being needed to finance our "expansionist" aims, the promise to repay these loans became no more than empty babble. A key question is---Where has all this money gone? It's gone to finance grandiose schemes to expand our "Iskra" to 32 pages. It's gone to build a large organizational bureaucracy called the National Center. It's gone to move people from California to Detroit for the primary purpose of pursuing hegemonic desires. It's gone to a thousand different places. Had not the struggle against the "left" line broke out, even more money would have probably gone to build a district in Boston, or to pay rent on a large building to house our ever-expanding National Center. When new funds were needed in order to more fully implement the "left" line, the November fundraising campaign was conceived. The plan was no more than a reflection of the volunteer subjectivist outlook of its designers. Paying no heed to the real situation inside and outside the organization (i.e., low wages, increasing unemployment, rising cost of living, etc.), it was decided that we would do in one month that which we have found difficult to do in one year---namely, raise \$2,000. Even more ironical is the fact that those responsible for this fundraising program placed great stress on the need to view fundraising as a political task (i.e., that we should go among the masses and link fundraising to political activity). Mind you, these are the same designers who led us in carrying forth the "left" line, the essence of which is the breach between the subjective and the objective factors. This breach in a number of districts has left our cadres isolated from the masses. Thus to phrasemonger about going to the masses for money at a time when our contacts among the masses (both qualitatively and quantitatively) are at a low point represents either wishful thinking or the desire to manipulate the masses under a political guise. This November call for a "super-human leap" by cadre under the slogan "Bolshevize the Banks" represented nothing less than the substitution of one's fantasies for reality.

Comrades, these are but a few ways in which the "left" line within the organization has led to our financial ruin. We should clarify here before proceeding (lest our dogmatists and nit-pickers jump for joy) that the development of a newspaper, the National Center and a fundraising campaign are not bad things in and of themselves. Rather it is the idealist conception of the above in conjunction with the subjectivist conception of the state of the organization that represents the fundamental "left" error.

On the other hand Comrades, there has also been a Right tendency within the organization in regards to dues, fundraising, and the financial policy in general. This tendency though not dominant, is nonetheless dangerous. This Right tendency is reflected in the following ways: 1. failure to pay dues or even report difficulties when encountered; 2. apprehension and thus a reluctance to pay dues during a period of intense internal struggle; 3. failure to search for creative and more permanent methods to raise funds; 4. failure to go beyond the letter of the law and to contribute more than is "officially" required; 5. failure to take advantage of every possible program of the state, (i.e., food stamps, welfare, etc.), thus at times living in self-induced misery. The Right tendency is reflected here in the fear of the state. The "left" tendency is reflected here also, in the "go-it-alone", super-revolutionary outlook of some Comrades; 6. making a separation between one's personal life and one's political life, thus maintaining private treasures of personal wealth while the rest of the organization and individual cadres are experiencing great material difficulty. Hence, opting to maintain privilege while giving lip service to the "desire to sacrifice all for the revolution." 7. pessimism expressed by the maintenance of "private" funds to be used just in case "BWC doesn't make it." These are simply a few of the ways in which the Right tendency raises its ugly head in the BWC.

From this partial assessment, it becomes perfectly clear that both the "left" and Right tendencies have led us to the same end---that of financial ruin. What more clear examples do we need to understand why we must smash "left" opportunism while maintaining vigilance against the Right.

Below Comrades, are the statistics which will give you a fairly good idea of the current economic state of the organization:

MONTHLY EXPENSES (minimum needed)

\$ 130.00	telephone (average)
97.50	rent
18.00	electric bill (average)
220.00	**airline bill (average)
90.00	food
400.00	newspaper
200.00	travel, office supplies, petty cash, etc.

\$ 1,145.50

*National Center has yet to receive a gas or water bill.

It will be quite high when it does come.

**Our total debt for airline tickets which were paid for by credit card is \$1,700.00.

In order to solve our economic problems as well as to have the necessary resources to meet ever growing demands (i.e., increased political work, holding an organizational Congress, publish an organizational newsletter, publish an internal journal, purchase a copy machine, etc.), we feel the following three objectives must be immediately accomplished:

- A) we must liquidate our debts
- B) we must establish an economic reserve of at least \$1,500.00
- C) we must change our dues policy and make it more reflective of the organization's needs and the differences in income of the cadres.

In an effort to meet these three objectives the following changes in policy are being made:

1. The minimum dues for all cadre who are working or receiving any type of social benefits (e.g., welfare, unemployment, supplementary pay, social security, veteran's benefits, disability checks, money to attend school, etc.) and who make less than \$200.00 per week is one (1) day's salary per month. For persons falling in the above categories but make \$200.00 or more per week, two (2) day's salary per month must be contributed. These dues should be computed on the basis of a persons NET (i.e., after taxes) income.
2. All cadres having savings accounts, trust funds, stocks, bonds, and the like must contribute the full interest, dividends, etc. to the organization on a quarterly basis.
3. The above represents the minimum amount of dues to be contributed. Upon examination of a cadre's budget, he or she may be assessed more by the District Committee.
4. 60% of all dues and any other money raised must be sent to the National Center. The other 40% remains in the district. Districts should also establish cash reserves based on their particular requirements. The national share (60%) of all money collected should be sent to the National Center before extracting money for local needs.
5. For the present time, dues should be sent in the form of money orders made payable to the Black Workers Freedom Convention. All dues should be mailed to the P.O. box. Dues are due in Detroit by the 8th of every month.
6. Every district must submit a report by 3/28/75, of their dues payment for the last six months. If you missed paying dues or paid only partial dues

during this period, please explain why. All districts are required to keep two sets of financial records.

7. Every district must submit by 3/28/75 a report on the income and economic situation of every cadre within the district or National Center. At the minimum these reports should show such things as:
- yearly income
 - monthly income
 - monthly expenses
 - state of indebtedness and to whom
 - debts are owed
 - projection of length of time it will take to pay off debts
 - monthly expenses should include laundry, food, day care, entertainment, auto maintenance, etc.

If a cadre is not working or receiving any kind of financial aid from the state, then a report should be made explaining the situation.

- No purchase (i.e., for clothes, cars, T.V.s, houses, rent, etc.) over \$100.00 can be made by any cadre without consulting with and getting the approval of the District committee.
- All districts as well as individuals within the National Center who are not current in their dues from March 1, 1975 onward will not be allowed to attend the organizational Congress.
- All districts should submit a report by 3/28/75 of all District as well as individual debts which have been incurred on the request of the National organization. Please state how much is owed on these bills.

11. Finally Comrades, in light of the critical nature of our current situation we are asking that if all possible, fundraising activities be taken up that will bring us some immediate return. D.C.s should exercise their discretion and creativity in carrying out these activities. Some things that have proved successful in other districts are:

- dances or selling parties held after political events (Atlanta has achieved great success with this)
- selling African prints, leather bags and other items from door to door and at institutions (Nashville has been successful at this. They can provide more detail information)
- speaking engagements
- solicitation of contributions from private individuals.

friends, and contacts

f) film series (National center has the latest catalogue)

These are just a few steps that must be taken in order to BEGIN to rectify our situation. More must be done and suggestions will be coming forward in the future. In closing we would like to say that the most stalwart region in the country in terms of financially supporting the organization has been the southern region. The Birmingham district deserves special attention here. Though plagued by probably some of the lowest wages, worse working conditions, and lowest standard of living of any district in the organization, they have consistently contributed more than their assessed dues. When unable to meet their assessment they have always reported this before the money was due. Their example can serve as a model for the rest of the organization. Thus we say that in matters of finance - LEARN FROM BIRMINGHAM!!!!

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All districts as well as individuals within the National Center who are not current in their dues from March 1, 1975 onward will not be allowed to attend the organizational Congress. All districts should submit a report by 3/30/75 of all districts as well as individual debts which have been incurred on the request of the national organization. Please state how much is owed on these bills.

REPORT

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- a) dances or selling parties held after political events (Atlanta has achieved great success with this)
- b) selling African prints, leather bags and other items from door to door and at institutions (Ashville has been successful at this. They can provide more detail information)
- c) social engagements
- d) solicitation of contributions from private individuals