

7/2/76

To: The Tucson Marxist-Leninist Collective

From: The August Twenty-Ninth Movement (Marxist-Leninist)

Comrades,

We have received your Program and a follow up letter. We are glad to learn of your existence and of your basic views on socialism.

While we unite with the thrust of your Program we have the following criticisms offered in the spirit of unity-criticism-unity:

1. It makes no mention of Soviet social-imperialism -- this is an extremely important question for all Marxist-Leninists; crucial from both the theoretical and practical standpoint to our revolutionary struggle.
2. It is not clear from reading your program whether or not you uphold the armed seizure of power by the proletariat. You refer to the revolutionary seizure of power, but that term has been distorted and misused by the revisionists such that an explicit statement of views on this question is necessary.
3. We disagree that housework by women can be called "unpaid labor". The implication is that this is a source of capitalist profit; that we should call for payment for housework. We believe that this is incorrect and can feed the "back-to-the-home" ideology being pushed by various reactionary forces. This work (housework) is in fact "paid" for by the capitalists -- every worker is paid his value, that is, enough to sustain himself and to produce a new generation of workers for the capitalists. A part of this is the work of the man's wife to maintain the home and to care for the new generation of wage slaves. This is our understanding of Marx's theory of value in regard to the wages paid to proletarians.
4. Finally, the paper suffered from a lack of current analysis -- that is your views on the current objective situation -- the present political and economic crisis of capitalism, the increasing attacks on the working class and oppressed nationalities, the danger of war, etc. We understand that you are developing positions on a number of these questions, but we felt that a brief characterization of your line on these issues would be helpful in making a judgement of you.

We also wonder about making a general call for people to join your collective. There could be very definite security problems involved.

To clarify a few points: Yes we are active in parts of the southwest and we would be glad to discuss this work with you. We are not however actively organizing around the issue of deportations in the southwest. We have done work in California on this question, although not systematically and extensively enough by any means. We are planning on unfolding a general campaign around this in all of our factories, trade unions and mass organizations where we work. We are glad to learn of your work on this important question.

We would like to meet with you at some future date. We would propose that we discuss: our histories, our political line on important questions, our current practice in the working class and national movements. Please let us know how you view such a meeting and agenda.

Comradely Yours,  
ATM (M-L)