

CONTINUATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1978

The three main topics discussed were: 1) Proposals for the forums; 2) Expenses and dues; and 3) Security.

FORUMS: There had been two separate forums proposed, one would focus on people's past experiences in other groups, what they learned, why they left, why they stayed, what mistakes were made. The second forum would involve speakers from various other organizations (NCA, Guardian Club, and someone close to PWOC), and possibly one or two people from the study groups. The focus of this forum would be party building and topics could include: is there a need for an ML organization; what are its objectives; what are its main tasks at this time; etc.

After much discussion, two committees were formed to begin working on the two forums. The first is projected to be held sometime around the middle of March, the second in May. We did not reach agreement on whether or not someone from the study groups should speak at the second forum.

EXPENSES AND DUES: We are incurring expenses and there are more on the way, although the newsletter is the only major expense at this time. To meet expenses, two main proposals were made for a dues-like assessment, one giving a percentage of salary each month (1% of the net or take home) or the equivalent of one or two hours pay, the other was for a flat donation of \$1-\$10 a month. The meeting decided that the flat \$1-\$10 donation a month would work best right now and it is to be purely voluntary. A provisional treasurer was appointed. There will be people in study groups who will help facilitate the collecting of donations. At this point, there is no necessity to keep track of any names, or for much involved paperwork--simply what is spent and what is taken in.

SECURITY: The two main positions were: 1) nobody seems to be thinking about security and we have to start realizing who we are, what we are advocating in the long run (this position extended from those who believed we should speak to most people on a strictly "need to know basis" about anything involving the process we're involved in to those who were mostly worried about job security or related personal issues); and 2) since we are living in relatively "freer" times, we should take advantage of the liberal bourgeois democracy and have very little security, although a little might be good, mostly based on individuals' wishes; further, that if we had operated on a "need to know" basis, we couldn't possibly be as big as we are now; and also that in terms of security our main task is to tell anyone we can, to spread the word, because it is important that as many people as possible know about ML ideas and are ready to defend them, and that is the best security. We did not resolve this issue, and expanded minutes of the CC meeting which include more of the discussion will be available at the next CC meeting.

NEXT CONTINUATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: The next CC meeting will be Sunday, February 26, at 1:00 p.m., at the same place, 3384 Piedmont Avenue in Oakland.

The agenda was decided at the last meeting and will include: 1) A discussion of the roles and functions of the Continuations and the Organizational Committees; also, whether they should be elected, who should take part in the meetings, who should vote (see proposal on the next page). 2) Progress report on the forums. 3) Proposal for Mayday. 4) A proposal for a questionnaire. 5) Possibly a discussion for a group name (even if only because people might want to write checks to donate and it would be easier for some people if they could mail them).

To facilitate the discussion at the next CC meeting about the Organization and Continuation Committees, the following Summary and Recommendation have been prepared by the Organization Committee (5 people).

#### A. History of the Continuations Committee

The CC was put together at one of the first general meetings late last summer. Approximately 20 people, mostly suggested by the two main organizers of those first meetings, the others nominated by the meeting members. The idea was to have these people meet between general meetings to do ongoing necessary organizational work--organize study groups, discuss possible directions, discuss suggestions to bring back to general meeting concerning principles of unity, etc.

The CC established two committees: 1) An Organization Committee to do basic organizational tasks such as mailings, agendas for larger meetings, etc.; and 2) Study group leaders' committee to coordinate the work of the study groups. Further, the principle was established that the CC meetings would be open to all membership.

What has happened in practice is that CC meetings have in fact become once monthly general meetings where all are equal participants. Many of the original CC are no longer involved, while others have been taking on more responsibility. The Organization Committee has been doing the ongoing, between meetings tasks, including the newsletter and forming agendas for the meetings.

#### B. Recommendations

The OC has discussed the situation at length, and generally feels that things have progressed to the point where the group as a whole could use a larger committee with a clearer mandate to coordinate all the things that are happening (study groups, forums, newsletter, planning monthly meetings, finances, etc.). Therefore, to facilitate the discussion at the next meeting, we propose the following to the general body:

1. Recognition that there is at present no Continuations Committee, that the Organization Committee has been doing the ongoing tasks and that the Continuations Committee meetings have in fact been general body meetings.
2. Elections to be held as quickly as possible, preferably this next meeting, for a Continuations (Coordinating?) Committee of 12 members.
3. This newly elected committee to take charge of ongoing organizational work such as the newsletter, coordination of forums, agendas for general meetings, liaison with study groups leaders committee and such other tasks as they might be delegated by the general meetings.
4. General meetings to continue once a month. CC meetings as necessary, probably at least one monthly, to deal primarily with organizational matters, with political discussions reserved as much as possible for general meetings.
5. CC meetings open to all, and all may speak, but CC members only voting members.



Here are a couple of important announcements about upcoming events. There was a little controversy whether we should be including these kinds of items in the newsletter among the OC, but one member mentioned that one of the purposes of the newsletter was to give information about mass work that people are involved in or might want to know about. We should discuss this at a future general meeting to set guidelines for what kinds of announcements we generally want to give the space (and postage too, no small item), particularly so we don't get stuck giving people liberal "equal time" for stuff we don't care to hear about.

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THERE IS A FIERCELY CONTESTED ELECTION COMING UP FOR THE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS THIS YEAR--IT'S THEIR FIRST ELECTION IN EIGHT YEARS!!! THESE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING THE BELARDI MACHINE AND NEED OUR SUPPORT!! THEY ARE HOLDING A HOT BENEFIT ON MARCH 4 AT CALIFORNIA HALL, WITH:

THE SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE  
MICHAEL BLOOMFIELD  
RICK & RUBY  
MARK NAFTALIN  
SALSA DE BERKELEY

WE CAN GIVE THESE PEOPLE A LOT OF MUCH NEEDED MATERIAL SUPPORT THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY ASKING FOR IN THIS IMPORTANT FIGHT BY BUYING TICKETS AND URGING OUR FRIENDS TO COME TO THE BENEFIT. IT COSTS A TON OF MONEY IN THE STRUGGLE TO COMPETE WITH THE UNION MACHINE PROPOGANDA. TICKETS ARE BEING SOLD AT ALL BASS OUTLETS FOR \$5.75, AT THE DOOR ON MARCH 4 FOR \$6.00, OR YOU CAN CALL 626-5883 FOR INFORMATION ON WHO TO BUY THEM FROM FOR \$5.00.

REMEMBER, THAT'S MARCH 4, AT 8:30 P.M., IN CALIFORNIA HALL, 625 POLK STREET, A DAZZLING BENEFIT, SPONSORED BY A.R.F., THE ALLIANCE OF THE RANK AND FILE OF THE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS. BUY YOUR TICKETS, COME TO THE BENEFIT, TELL YOUR FRIENDS, AND HELP THEM WIN!!!

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THERE IS A COMMITTEE FORMING TO SUPPORT CURRENT MINERS' STRUGGLES. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, AT 8:30 P.M., AT THE PLUMBERS' UNION HALL, 1621 MARKET STREET. THERE WILL BE RANK AND FILE MINERS WHO ARE PERSONALLY ACTIVE IN THE STRUGGLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT'S COMING DOWN. THE MEETING IS TO KICK OFF A LOCAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE AN ONGOING COMMITTEE. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING FOR SOME OF US TO WORK TOGETHER ON. ALSO, WE COULD BE RAISING THIS ISSUE IN OUR OWN UNIONS AND GETTING SUPPORT FOR THIS STRUGGLE FROM OUR CO-WORKERS.