NATIONAL REPORT

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REPORT OF DETROIT BRANCH COMMISSION Attention of Members Only.

The original motivation behind the creation of the commission was a general feeling that the branch needed reorganising in order to do its work more effectively. There was also need for a clarifiaation of political perppectives in the branch that would put an end to the drifting that had characterised the past period. During the life of the commission however it became obvious that these problems were largely symptoms of an objective change that was begginning to appear in the US economy and consequently in sections of the working class. The key task of the commission thus became to prepare the branch for its role in what is essentially a new period.

THE TURN TO AGITATION.

In ecomomic terms this period is defined by the return of deep crisis to the capitalist economy, but for an aspiring revolutionary workers group the defination must focus on the fact that for the first time for decades there is now the real possibility of bringing relatively large numbers of workers into the revolutionary movement. The role of the commission was therefor twofold. One, to solve some of the obvious problems of what is basically the healthiest branch in the organisation. Two, to prepare the branch politically and organisationally for the new period of growth and development of I.S. which for the first time will be in and of the working class rather than for the working class.

In this situation the whole history of the movement internationally makes one thing abundantly clear. It is agitational work which will bring about our development. Real progress will be dependent on making a turn away from "commentary" politics masquerading as propaganda which has been our predominant and unavoidable role in the past and consciously striving to intervene in the concrete struggles of the working class on the agitational level.

Our goal is to intiate and lead mass work in those areas where our painstaking work of the previous years puts us in a position to play a leading role. We must be clear that at this stage mass work may only mean the involvement of tens rather than thousands ofworkers fighting under our leadership, after all the "new period" is in its infancy and we are still a young organization in political terms. It is none-the-less the case the struggle to lead mass work around limited issues such as the auto lay-offs is the prerequisite for demonstrating the relevance of our politics to the working class and the only way we will be able to undertake meaningful propaganda for the whole range of our politics in a milieu that is proletarian rather than petit-bourgeois. The job of a revolutionary is to start from the real level of class consciousness, however low, and take it forward. To break with the sectarianism of the post-war years which has insisted that any intervention in the class struggle must involve the projection of our total world view and therefor ensure the isolation of the revolutionary groups from the working class, long after the objective reasons for that isolation are past.

Our perspective of class struggle unionism, our view that it is thru the intervention of revolutionaries in the working class today that a revolutionary workers movement and the I.S. will be built...is now being born out by the developing economic and polit cal situation in the US. The situation today is one in which there will be the growth of a x class struggle wing in the labor movement and growth of the I.S. Our job is to build the party and mass movement and it is agitation and organisation which will acheive this. The political and organisational conclusions of this report are aimed at creating a combat group which will be more effective in fulfilling this historic role.

COMBAT CONSERVATISM.

It has often been the XXX case that revolutionary organisations are the last to see the opportunities that arise in a new period. There was a certain element of this in the Detroit branch when the auto layoffs hit the town. The response of our auto comrades was somewhat timid, their assesment of the possibilities was somewhat conservative and in

practice their reactions were extremely slow, their energy and enthusiasm limited. There might be some argument in the branch about whether this reaction was anything more than a minor and not very damaging episode, but all will agree that it existed and that for a short time we remained locked in the routines of our past practice, became demoralised and proved incapable of seizing the initiative.

It is crucial that we understand why this occurred, because it won't be the last time we face this situation. It happened in the auto fraction only because that was the first place to be hit by the crisis. Any section of our members would have reacted in the same way. Indeed, we sould be pleased that it was our strongest area that bore the brunt of the problem because they were able to solve it faster than virtually any other section of the membership would have been able to. In the last three weeks or so a programme has been developed for our work in this area which in a very realistic way somes to terms with the opportunities in the situation. It also happened because of what we are, a group of industrialized non-workers who are striving for acceptance in the plants. In this situation there is a real problem. An indigenous worker who doesn't have to prove him/herself can stand out against the prevailing mood in the plant in a way that someone still struggling to gain acceptance, still learning to be a workers' leader cannot. In short, the whole problem is reduced to one of lack of roots in the working class, the lack of a solid base in the plants and the smalll number of workers who are ready to take our lead. That is why our work over the next period must focus to the exclusion of virtually everything else, on expanding our base. This expansion will take place, particularly in auto, precisely because industrialisation has given us the beginnings of this base and the growing level of struggle will help expand it, given the high level of competance we have amongst auto comrades.

We are in a transitonal situation. Our roots are not so shallow, our members not so isolated, that they therefore have no fear of cutting themselves off from their fellow workers in the plants; this is great because it means we are no longer just a bunch of sectarians crying to the wind. However, our roots in the plant are not yet deep enough that we can alwys take the workers consciousness forward tail behind a prevailing if temporarily low level of consciousness. Our program, particulary in auto, is aimed in an obvious way thru the circles, caucuses, UNC, Network and IS classes at making the second step towards a solid working class base. We are already well protected against the danger of sectarian irrelevancy in the plants, for a little time yet we must be aware that we will face the danger of conservatism and lack of audacity in our agitational work. We must develop leadership that will be aware of this danger and deal with it with some sensitivity rather than opting out of the problem as has tended to happen in the past. The commission has tried to create the framework within which that leadership can operate.

STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP

The question of how leadership functions in the branch came up during the course of the commission on many occasions and in relation to many different items. The problem, as it exists at the moment is not very great, there is a general acceptance by the membership of the theory of democratic centralism and this has worked quite well in practice in the past period. Difficulties arise however once the branch moves into a period of greater intervention, more externally orientated work and the recruitment of numbers of workers.

The essence of these difficulties is the general lack of self confidence among comrades. This leads to a general lack of confidence in virtually any comrade playing a leading role. This is manifested in many ways. The branch exec. wants absolute control over the organizer, the branch absolute control ov er the exec. No-one has any real confidence that the circles or work groups will take the right line and therefore comrades insist on either discussing in great detail every action of the sub-groups or totally ignore the work and render it irrelevant to the development of the branch. The national E.C. doesn't appear to place full confidence in the branch leadership because of the relative lack of political experience, the branch leadership insists that the E.C. doesn't intervene in the branch because the E.C. has no first hand knowledge of how to build branches in this period and rarely intervenes decisively in any other branch around the country. Members resent being directed by other comrades whether or not the direction is from the leading bodies on political issues or individuals who are trying to organize specific activities such as Workers' Power sales, etc.,etc.

The difficulty manifests itself at every level of the organization. One could document countless examples but the real point is that there is in the branch an element of individualism. Of constantly questioning decisions that is useful in a period political clarification and general propaganda work but can be severely disfunctional in a period when one action speaks louder than a thousand words, however carefully weighed those words have been. The concept of democratic centralism is a unified whole, it is an essential method of operation for a revolutionary combat group and for all members of that group. There are not two elements to it, one for the leadership which is constantly pushing centralism and efficiency and one for the rest of the member s who have to defend democracy and protect accountability. There is no democracy without centralism, an elected leadership must be allowed to do its job. There is no effective centralisation without true democracy in which the leadership has the confidence and respect of those who elect it. Once an organisation has more than a handful of members there is physically no way that every member can be aware of everything that is going on. There is no way that every decision can be taken from the top, no way every decision can be reviewed from the bottom. Those are the facts of life for a serious revolutionary organisation, they are the facts of life for the Detroit branch. Unless we accept that, we will remain a sect constantly involved in internal wrangles, wasting vast amounts of time and energy on constantly recurring discussions and thereby missing opportunities that arise in the real world.

The branch will be deciding who should be the organiser, the exec, the educ ctee, branch secretary, leaders of work units, etc, etc. Once those decisions have been taken, once those who are presumably the best fitted to lead in the areas for which they have been chosen start doing the job, they should only be chalenged when the absence of a challenge would do real damage to the organisation. They must also be aware that if they are incompetant they will be replaced, they are recallable and sentiment has no place in the creation of a trusted leadership of a revolutionary organisation. None of our leaders will ever be perfect, indeed at this stage in the development of the group they are bound to be far from perfect, but members who insist on a perfect leadership before accepting direction have no place in the organisation. As soon as the branch agrees in practise with this attitude, the difficulties in relation to leadership in the branch will be at a minimum. The assumption behind every recommendation of the commission is that this attitude will prevail because unless we break with the time-wasting, destructive and tension raising practise of permanent discussion and re-discussion, we will not keep the workers we are about to bring into I.S.

In most ways this section is the least specific of the whole report. It calls for a change of attitude without being able to make much in the way of recommendations that will gaurantee the change takes place. We are saying that the nervousness and lack of confidence which creates these difficulties has no objective base and that when comrades are totally open about their work and not frightened they will be attacked for any mistake they might make, when between individual and groupd of comrades there is a mutual and mature acceptance of critism and self critism then the approach we have outlined above to the workings of democratic centralism can be operational and will help take the branch forward.

I.S. TO THE FORE.

While we are dealing with the need for a shift of emphasis and changes in ~~the~~ attitudes, it should be noted that another element of the turn we are proposing involves bringing the group out into the open to a greater extent than in the past and maintaining a strong public presence for the group. This is particularly important in a period of great stress on agitational work around partial demands, because this approach carries with it the danger of submerging our general politics in a drive for a mass following at the level of the trade union struggle.

We must be clear. The only reason we want the mass following on the level of trade union struggle is so we can bring a section of that following over to revolutionary politics Fortunately, making sure this happens is not just a question of appealing to our comrades for a more political attitude. It involves specific proposals. Proposals like hoding regularly, every month, public forums where the leadership ensures that all members bring their contacts. Like expanding and developing the distribution of our paper in all areas of work and having a mechanism for overseeing that process. It means putting into practise the commission recommendations on the organisation of our contact work and having a branch leadership that is broad enough to oversee all areas of work, yet small enough to be a working body. It means a leadership that does not focus on auto to the virtual exclusion of all other fields.

SWIMMING WITH THE TIDE

We have already stated that we have entered a new period as far as the economic situation is concerned, the period is new but the prevailing level of consciousness in the class isn't, at least not yet. We should not be surprised by this lag in consciousness, on the contrary, any investigation of previous periods of capitalist crisis will show that such a lag is inevitable. It is important, however, that we have confidence that the lag will not last forever. We can be sure that our politics are correct and that the class is capable of creating socialism. We can be equally sure that the conscious reaction of the class to the crisis will soon change; indeed, there are small signs of it already in Detroit. This situation puts a high premium on our own confidence in the future of our organization and our ability to give a lead to the working class. We must get used to the fact that for the first time in decades we are swimming with the tide, that as I.S. members we will prove ourselves in the actual struggle in the coming period. There is no good reason for any lack of confidence in ourselves, we are well prepared as revolutionaries to seize the opportunities that will arise.

The whole approach of the commission to the various problems facing the branch was a unanimous view that we had the resources, the expertise to solve them all. It is our view that only our own nervousness will prevent us from being succssful in solving the problems of the next period. But if problems are to be solved, they must first be faced and in the past there has been a tendency in the branch, in the organization as a whole, and even in the commission to sidestep problems that mya cause trouble. In future we must face up to our problems head on, realizing that only the problems that

are left to fester, only the problems that we don't deal with in an open and fraternal way...only lthose problems can damage us.

THREE JOBS IN ONE

One of the crucial problems facing any revolutionary group in any part of the world in this period is that of finding an arena in which to operate. There is no ready-made rank and file movement which we can operate upon (unless you count the embryonic caucuses in various places) so we are forced into the position of creating this movement at the same time as we are trying to build, out of that movement, a workers' revolutionary group. On top of this there is the fact that as we enter a period in which numbers of workers join the group we will have to be ready to assimilate new experience from them at a fast rate. This is absolutely vital if we are to make our theory operational in the real conditions of class struggle in the seventies.

The threefold nature of the tasks facing us causes no problems if we are aware of them. In truth this has been the real positon of any revolutionary group seeking to get a base in the working class movement and given the high level of commitment in the organization we can cope with this positon as well as any other group in the world. But being aware of the tasks is not sufficient because something else follows from this. The period we are now in requires that the branch and indeed the organization as a whole attain a high level of flexibility and an ability to make quick turns within the frame work of our general political position. The existence of this flexibility has not been vital in the past, it is not yet a total necessity, but it willbecome just that as our role as a combat organization increases. We will need the ability to react quickly to events in the class and of necessity that will mean downgrading other things. We will have to have perids in which all the stress goes on one particular caucus, other periods where the independent organization of IS is the key question,etc. There will be times when we will be required to initiate totally new political campaigns, times when we force worker members into the leadership of the organization with all the risks of having politically inexperienced leadership. These shifts must be made with the minimum of internal dissension and the maximum commitment of the membership if they are to be effective.

CONCLUSION

Taken together the minutes of the nine sessions of the commission give a fairly clear picture of branch perspectives. These perspectives have to be understood in the context of the broader view of the commission about how I.S. as a whole must develop in the next year. We are committed to a faster growth of membership than we have had for several years. Such a growth is vital if we are to measure up to the tasks that face us. It is also the case that the recruitment of workers on a level we have never before achieved is an integral part of this perspective. The emphasis of our work must be on agitation, the aim of the branch must be the development of a combat group which is deeply involved in the struggles of the working class in Detroit. We are committed to the expansion of the branch into new areas politically and the development of a broader strata of leadership in the branch and a higher level of involvement in the membership as a whole. The specific perspectives in each area and the recommendations on organization represent our view of the most effective way to achieve these aims.

In a very real sense, the turn that the commission is proposing is merely the speeding up and codification of that which was already taking place in the branch. The commission has been useful, in that by examining the branch indetail it has been able to render this process more conscious and insure that the changes that were already developing were more thoroughgoing. If the outcome of the commission means that branch members have a general understanding of the way forward over the next year then the work will have

been worthwhile. If the commission report is taken at the next meeting as a unified political document and if it is applied as such over the coming months, then the commission will also have played a valuable role inthe general process of educating and training ourselves as revolutionaries.

Finally, we should be aware that the Detroit branch is the leading branch in the organization and if we can make this approach work here there will be trememdous advantages for other branches as they arrive at our stage of development. Other branches will be able to follow the lead which we have not only written down but proved in practice. This fact lies at the base of transforming the organization as a whole into a revolutionary workers group.

In this period only a totally unfounded lack of confidence in our ability to measure up to the tasks before us can preventus making the reorganizaion of the branch along the lines suggested below a real step forward for the organization as a whole. If we can overcome our tendency to turn victories into defeats we will be successful.

OUTLINE OF SPECIFIC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. AUTO. On the organizational side the commission decided to produce a clear division of labor and responsibilities between the circle/caucus/UNC work and the Network/IS classes/new plants work. ~~Exx~~ The exact operatin of this outline will have to be worked out in practice, but they will operate under two leaders, one the editor of Network, the other Fraction Convenor. The steering ctte of the fraction will cease to exist under this pattern, thus removing one formal, internal meeting and giving our members more time for more operational activity. During the life of the commission the circles have started to work again and the other work on that side of the division is now showing some results. In terms of the new areas little has been achieved yet and this has become an urgent matter, but insofar as the reorganization of auto work has gone a long way to free Jack W of his traditional responsibilities, there is now the opportunity for progress. As of this point opening up new plants is the number one priority.

2. TEACHERS. A fairly clear perspective for this work was laid down and can be checked in the minutes. The commission felt that the branch as a whole must be more aware of this area of work and provide ongoing guidance through the branch and exec for Steph. Steph will also write a report for the information of the branch on the work so far. Possibilities for a qualitative development of this work are dependent on either recruitment or more IS teachers coming into Detroit. There is the possibility of one recruit in the near future. Marilyn and Steph will be the branch fraction. This is an extremely functional unit given the present state of the work and it is wise to avoid larger fractions when extra people could play no real role.

3. CLUW. The main problem in this area has been that the machinery that existed for organizing our intervention has not worked well in the recent past. Steps have been taken to rectify this and may have to be further strengthened by the nex exec. Also the new national position taken by the last NC should take care of the problem of lack of clear political direction in the work.

4. FARMWORKER SUPPORT. This has been another area which hasn't received enough attention in the branch. Virtually no time has been spent on giving guidance in this work. This will cease to be the case under the new organization of the branch if it is successfully carried through. As with teacher work the comrades involved should produce a full written report. There havebeen some changes of personnel made and our general approach at the moment is low profile, waiting for a renewed upsurge in support work. The commission felt that there should be no slackening of activity in this field even though the immediate possibilities for us were not good.

5. TELEPHONE. The major problem in this field has been the alck of well-placedd comrades in telephone. This is now changing as one additional comrade has already got a job there. The telephone fraction will be resurrected by Bill and Gay will play a part with the comades working there. Effort will be put into strengthening the links with contacts made at second hand during the last strike. It is vital that Detroit develop its work in a second priority industry.

6. YOUTH. This is an exciting area of new work which must have all necessary support from the branch in the next year. A youth fraction has been set up of three comrades and the commission feels that we can buildk particularly around the high schools, on the successes of the West Coast comrades. From the internal point of view the importance of our initiative in this area is that it opens up new possibilities for us without taking much in the way of scarce resources from other areas of work.

7. BLACK STRUGGLES. Decisions have been taken which do not involve an over grand concept of what we can achieve in this area but will, if successful, give us the real possibility of intervention in black struggles in the future. The initiatives involve taking steps to get IS better known and respected in the black community and doing concrete work in Hamtramck. As with youth work there is very little interference with resources from other areas of work as have new comrades in the area. It needs to be stressed however that the commission has maintained the line that this is not an area of work which should involve only black members and the new branch leadership will need to continue this line.

8. EDUCATION AND TRAINING. A new committee has been set up and it will be vital, given our past laxity in this area, that the comrades on the committee should see that carrying out the terms of reference laid down by the commission is the main political task for them. There has been a shift of emphasis in this area, firstly towards training and not just education and secondly towards developing education which starts from the specific and works towards generalization.. It is clear that with the comng recruitment of workers we cannot afford to maintain oureducation on the abstract level of the past.

9. CONTACTS AND RECRUITMENT. This will be the main responsibility of a single organizer and following the lead of that organizer should be a requirement for all our members. Every area of work must relate to this area; otherwise our possibilities for growth will be severely limited. We now have the correct cnncept of how this question should be approached, we have the person who can make it work. It only needs the branch to accept that this question must enter the mainstream of branch activity because this clearly hasn't been the case in the past.

10. WORKERS POWER. Everything that has been written about contacts and recruitment is valid for the question of Wokkers Power distribution. Our record in this area has been poor and this is a political as well as organizational failing. We have put forward in the minutes a clear machinery for rectifying this position but every single member will have to play their part if we are to be successful.

11. BRANCH MEETINGS. We are totally commited to organizing public forums at least once a month. This is curcial if our independent work as iS is to be really effective. The new exec will need to ensure tha these forums/conferences/etc. are well prepared and well run. But taken in collaboration with Workers Power, contact work and the extension of our areas of work, this position will do much to combat the previous one-sidedness of the branch. We are also committed to more disciplined and outward looking membership meetings as well. The details will be found in the minutes.

12. BRANCH EXEC AND ORGANIZER. There has been unanimous agreement on the role of the exec and organizer in the discussions of the commission but there have been some real difficulties in coming up with recommendations of personnel for these positions. This

is something which will have to be finally decided by the branch but once that decision is taken all the comrades will have to stick to it for a reasonable period so that the leadership which is elected can prove itself in practice. In future the role of the branch leadership must be more directive than it has been in the past and they must insure that they accept responsibility for all our areas of work. If they are unable to turn the recommendations of the report into concrete reality in all fields they will have rendered the last month a total waste of time and proved themselves unfit for any position of general political leadership. We have plenty of comrades who are capable of doing this job; that in a very real sense is the essence of the difficulties we had in putting forward personnel recommendations. They will now have to take their responsibilities as leaders of the branch much more seriously to guarantee that the job is done properly.

13. BRANCH ADMINISTRATION. The commission decided that the time had come for a new approach to this problem. FIrstly technical and administrative work must be accepted by the membership as equally important as the other tasks on which we expend time and energy. Secondly, a serious and workable admin machine, which is in no sense an optional extra to a revolutionary group, can only be created with some clear division of labor. The general turn the commission is proposing is the turn away from the propaganda sect and that must involve a break with past liberal attitudes about administrative work. Administrative assignments must now be regarded as of equal importance as other assignments and be fulfilled with the same seriousness.

14. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES. This whole commission package involves every single member in eithernew responsibilities or a new responsible attitude to old assignments. It involves most of our members actually being leaders at some level in the work of the branch. The following list is of leaders who are primarily responsible for the various areas of work. They and everyone else should be aware that this list is where the buck stops.

Black Community	Woody	Youth	Merry
UNC	Mark & Sara	Hamtramck	Connie
CLUW	Steph & MaryAnne	Network	Jack W
Jefferson Circle	Jack B	Auto Fraction	Bill
Mack Circle	Sara	Training Ctte	Rick
Dodge Circle	Marilyn	Recruitment	Marilyn
Lynch Circle	Rick	Workers Power	Bob
Chevy Circle	Wendy	Branch Secretary	Kay
Telephone	Bill	Publicity Officer	Steve
Teachers	Steph	Treasurer	Steph
Farmworkersq	Jim	Branch Organizer	Bill & Mark(joint)
Branch Exec	Bill, Jack W, Mark, Woody, Jane		

Within each working unit there will have to be a further breakdown of responsibilities so that we arrive at the situation where all members are clearly responsible for something. The commission has already started the process as can be seen from the commission minutes which have been issued to all members over the last months and which should be regarded as an integral part of this report. It will be necessary for the new exec to continue this process and to insure through documents (see above AFT and UFW) and discussion that all our different areas of work are well managed, going forward on a clear political perspective and critically assessed periodically.

Alyn C., Marilyn D., Bill H., Woody T., Jack W.

Detroit Branch Commission
Thursday, 12th December, 1974

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REMEMBER THAT THE BRANCH MEETING IS SUNDAY 15TH. STARTING TIME 5-00 PM IN THE OFFICE.

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE NC, NOV. 29, DEC. 1

Present: Marilyn D., Mike P., Mike S., Bill H., Michelle S., Bill R.,

Nov. 29:

1. Report on purpose of the committee by MD, discussion of report.
2. Discussion of problems of developing branch leadership, specifically, role of organizers, exec, relationship to membership, integration of new members and groups. All motions tabled to meeting on Dec. 1.
3. Constitution; presentation of changes, discussion tabled to Dec. 1.
4. Proposal to put out a national organizers handbook: genreal discussion, handbook to be looseleaf, branches can add their own specifics, include sections on the following: relationship of execs to fractions, rules for members (drugs, employers, TU positions), constitution, responsibilities of members and duties, organization of branch meetings, general security, national responsibilities and functions, discussion of democratic centralism in arenas, how to use Roberts Rules of Order. MD & BH to be editors, every members to have a copy, date for going out--middle of january. All for the above being included, in addition to sections on contact work and recruitment from the LA handbook. Sections assigned as follows:

Bill R: Relationship of exec to fraction, organization of branch meetings, functioning in mass arenas.

Mike P.: How to use Roberts Rules of Order.

Mike S.: Responsibilities and duties of members, democratic centralism in context of the IS.

Michelle S: Rules for members

Marilyn D: Press conferences, contact work.

5. Discussion of security; agreement with MP general outlines with exception of section on candidate membership. To be submitted to the EC for action, and then to be included in handbook.

DEC. 1:

1. Security: See above, also against Lutte Ouvriere type of security; every branch must discuss security.
2. Branch Leadership, Functioning: Motions: IS work in the black movement is the responsibility of the whole organizaton, not just of black comrades. PASSED UNAN. EC and all branch execs to discuss this motion. ~~XXX~~ Execs to discuss this motion. Execs should be elected according to majority/minority ration of the branch, and exec decisions to be reported to branch (exeept in case of security matters, etc.) PASSED UNAN. That national convention size be reduced and resources saved be used to hold mid year national "active workers con ferences" and a national school for organizers. PASSED UNAN. With sense that convention be large enough to allow for adequate participation. Motions submitted to committee by David M.: Bi-annual conventions, intervening year being educational and active workers conferences. FAILED - ALL AGAINST. Manner of selecting the NC be changed -- committed opposed, did not vote on it.

3. Constitution: All but article XI, para 2 & 3, sub para 1 agreed to, to be published, including 2 proposals for each of above, other comrades to submit additional changes in constitution to NC organizational committee prior to February meeting.
ADJOURNED.

PROPOSED CHANGES OF CONSTITUTION (MP) 11/20/74

General: Change NAC to EC throughout
Change chapters to branches throughout
Desex any language where necessary (e.g. Section XI Par. 3, Sub para 1
Section XI Par 4, Sub para 4)

Article III para 3: CHANGE FIRST SENTENCE TO "A BRANCH MAY ACCEPT INTO MEMBERSHIP ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES ESTAB ISHED BY THE NATIONAL O CANIZATION AND BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BRANCH AN APPLICANT MEETING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS."

ARTICLE IV PARA 6 DELETE LAST SENTENCE "OR, W AT AMOUNTS ..."

ARTICLE V PARA 1 DELETE LAST SENTENCE "NO MORE THAN 1/3..."
PARA 3 DELETE WORD "WRITTEN"
PARA 6 CORRECT TYPO CHANGE NO TO NC

ARTICLE VIII PARA 4 CHANGE LAST SENTENCE TO: "THIS DISTRICT ORGANIZATION WILL BE STRUCTURED BY A DISTRICT CONVENTION."
PARA 5 ADD TO SECOND SENTENCE; "UNLESS OTHER PROCEDURES ARE DETERMINED BY THE NC OR EC."

ARTICLE IX PARA 4 DELETE LAST SENTENCE AND ADD TO PREVIOUS SENTENCE MAY BE CONSIDERED AS 'HAVING RESIGNED' BY ACTION OF THE APPROPRIATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE XI:
2 PROPOSALS FOR ARTICLE XI, PARA 2:
1. TO KEEP ORIGINAL IN CONSTITUTION.
2. SUGGESTED CHANGE: CHANGE TO "THERE SHALL BE NO SECRET BALLOTING ON ANY COMMITTEE OF THE IS. ALL VOTES OF ELECTED BODIES SHALL BE RECORDED AND THE MINUTES OF PORTIONS OF THE MEETINGS INVOLVING POLITICAL LINE QUESTIONS (I.E. NOT PERSONAL, PERSONNEL, AND SECURITY) SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS WHO REQUEST THEM. ELECTED BODIES MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (WITH NO RECORDED MINUTES) BY A VOTE OF TWO THIRDS, WITH THE VOTE AND GENERAL PURPOSE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORDED IN THE MINUTES.

2 PROPOSALS FOR ARTICLE XI, PARA 3, SUB. PARA 1:
PARA 3 SUB PARA 1 DLETE PHRASE "WHICH HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY DETERMINED..." AND REPLACE WITH "UNLESS SPECIFIC PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE IN ADVANCE BY THE APPROPRIATE BODY." ADD TO END OF LAST SENTENCE "ALTHOUGH IN GENERAL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT THE MAJORITY VIEWPOINT."

2. DELETE SENTENCE "IF A MEMBER DISAGREES WITH A DECISION... ON THAT QUESTION."

PROPOSALS FOR ARTICLE XI, PARA 4:
PARA 4, SUB PARA 1, ADD " EXCEPT THAT SUCH CAUCUSES MAY NOT DISRUPT THE FUNCTIONING AND WORK OF THE ORGANIZATON AND MAY NOT HAVE A PERSPECTIVE OF SPLITTING THE ORGANIZATION.

PARA 4, SUB PARA 3, REPLACE WITH "MINORITIES MAY EXPRESS THEIR POINTS OF VIEW OUTSIDE THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING WRITING FOR NON-IS PUBLICATIONS, WHEN IT DOES NOT IN A SUBSTANTIAL WAY UNDERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORGNAIZATION'S PROGRAM. THIS DECISION SHALL BE MADE BY THE APPROPRIATE GROUP, FRACTION, OR LEADING BODY AND MAY BE APPEALED TO THE EC OR NC.

PARA 4, SUB PARA 4 ADD AT END OF SECOND SENTENCE "OR ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION.
DELETE NOTE ON RECALLING NC.

ARTICLE VI PARA 3, DELETE " WITHIN...ACTION" AND SUBSTITUTE: WITHIN 5 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION.

REPORT FROM THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Barbara W.

The women's commission met Tuesday, December 17, and made a number of recomendations proposals etc.

1. The Cleveland conference. BW proposed that the Cleveland branch sponsor a conference on Working Women and women's liberation. The Cleveland exec passed this idea and suggested that BW go ahead with planning. The WC met and discussed aspects of the conference, how to build it etc. BW will be sending out a letter to organizers execs and women's commissions about the conference.

2. International Women's Day. IWD falls on a Saturday this year. The WC will submit a document to the EC outlining a proposal for public forums rallies etc on IWD. Once again, we would like all branches to have public events, us this to work with our worker contacts, CLUW contacts as well as the independant left. There will be a reissue of the Kollontai pamphlet, and Workers Power will help build the forums.

3. Industrial strategy for a working women's movement. At the Thanksgiving NC a motion to have a discussion on a strategy for building a working women's movement at an NC and then at the convention was tabled favorably to the EC. The EC passed that the WC draft a document available in early February to be discussed at the April NC. The WC will be drafting the document which will be a further elaboration of Kim's industrialization document.

4. Following the discussion at the convention women's caucus meeting, a letter to the industrial and AFT fractions about relating our CLUW work to our industrial work, as well as a discussion on raising women's rights issue has been drafted and sent out. We are asking that we have the discussion written up for the April NC, so that the women's caucus can discuss some of the issues.

5. Evaluation of the Thanksgiving NC women's caucus: The WC
The women's caucus that met at the Thanksgiving NC was small, although we expected it to be. However, the discussion on the industrialization and hospitals documents was quite good, with everyone making good contributions. The discussion on the women's caucus leadership was somewhat confused. (more on that below).

While the women's caucus was small, and unrepresentative, mainly women from Detroit, Cleveland, and one from Chicago attended, we wish to continue having them at each NC, unless there is majority sentiment against this policy.

The second item of discussion on the women's caucus agenda was that of caucus leadership. To sum the arguement: As of now, the women's commission, Barbara W. Marilyn and Gay have been acting as the 'leadership' of the national women's caucus. This has been done because one of the functions of the commission has been, to reestablish the national women's caucus as a functioning body. The women's caucus is an offical body of the IS, in that we encourage the formation of a women's caucus, both on the local and national level. The women's caucus can discuss anything it wishes, and take votes on its discussions etc.

The women's commission is also an official body of the IS. It is more or less a sub committee of the EC, and its task is to oversee, implement, and work out proposals covering all the work involving women in the organization.

The women's commission serves a different function from that of the caucus, and we feel that there exists a confused relationship of sorts between the two. Therefore the women's commission would like all the women's caucuses to begin a discussion on leadership and the women's caucus - looking at the women's caucus electing its own steering committee to oversee its work, plan and prepare national caucus meetings etc. We will be reprinting a document by Laurie Landy on the functions of the women's caucus and the proposal by Celia Emerson which created the women's commission. The women's commission will help organize this discussion and hopes to meet with the women's caucuses in the branches to discuss this.

One of the topics for discussion at the NC which will be meeting February 15, 16, and 17, will be the women's conference in Cleveland, All women comrades are urged to come!

6. The pamphlet by Laurie Landy, which we hoped would be rewritten has met an unforseen snag. After the April NC, we hope to have the article rewritten and incorporated into a larger pamphlet on Marxism and women's liberation.

Editors Depott

A proposal to build WP was submitted to the Thanksgiving NC. The proposal(attached) passed with 6 members abstaining and one voting against. Because many NC mebers were not convinced, the proposal was feferred back to the EC for discussion.

In general the EC felt that a major problem had been the scheduling of the proposal. The discussion was included among many other organizational questions at the end of the NC. Therefore not enough time was allowed for political discussionand motivation. Therefore another - political discussion of the role of the paper - is planned for the February NC.

It was also felt that it is important that we push ahead on the circulation campaign although in a somewhat altered form. Firstly much of the leadership and many of the barnches are already convinced of the need to build the paper as a way to build the organization. The Cleveland branch takes 20 copies per member and members sell twice an issue. As partof the re-organization of the Detroit branch, a new and serious commitment was made to build the paepr. Bob M. was put in charge and he has worked out a plan that should boost Detroit sales at least 500% shortly. A new exec has just been elected in NY. One of its first self-appointed tasks is to re-organize the use of the paper. The St Louis brandh has pioneered the development of paper routes in which each member is responsible for bringing the paper to a route of contacts. The branch sells almost 10 papers per member that way. The ST. Louis branch also distributes most of their papers within 36 hours after WP arrives.

The Bay Area and Louisville branches are also in the process of re-organizing the use of WP. As is the Bllomington branch.

It is important that the enthusiasm already generated around use of the paper be encouraged.

What has been decided by the Editorial Board and the EC is to divide the oragnization into three didfferent groups and run the campaign consecutively rather than concurrently. In this way lessons learned by the most enthusiastic branches can be applied to the branches that follow, etc. Also I will be able to work with each branch more intensely in developing and carrying out a plan for increased distribution if it is spread out.

The first group will go through Feb. and March, the second - March and April, the third - April and May.

We are tentatively proposing that each branch aim for selling 20 copies per member. This not an absolute. We are far more interested in quality than quantity. That means that we do not want to jack up the sales to llok good but get little out of it. A route of 3 contacts - where the comrade is able to regularly discuss poltics with the contacts - is farr more valuable than indescriminate selling even if 10 times the numbers are sold.

For that reason we want to push the development of paper routes as the highest priority in expanding the use of the paper. In Detroit, comrades in the shops have been assigned routes of contacts from their plant. The route is their most important selling assignment.

We also want to push the idea of double selling. Because we are still a bi-wekly and can sell once a week, double selling should not be tremendous hardship. The Cleveland branch already does it and the Detroit branch is beginning to. Double selling is part of the preperation for going to a weekly.

Editors' Reoprt 2

Factory gate sales are our second priority. Some comrades have argued that we have been doing factory gate sales for years with no return. Unfortunately that is a myth. Few branches have ever sold the paper on a regulare basis at thesame place. What has been the case is that for an issue or two the paper is sold, then skipped an issue or two, then started again. Often the day of selling changes as do the sellers. So each time the paper was sold it was really the same as selling for the first time.

Also, until recently (the last nine months) the paper was not very good for the audience we were trying to build. Buying the paper in the first place was often enoouragement not to buy it a secondtime.

But even more important, things are moving much more rapidly now. Working class militants are beginning to llok for alternative explanations for what is happening around them. Our newspaper is our best way of reaching militants beyond thevery limited numbers we can meet through direct work.

The fact that more workers are willing to buy a radical newspaper is indicated by the increased numbers sold when comrades do sell at factory gates. A newlevel of interest is indicated by the fact that whenever the paper is sold regularly, a small of number of regular buyers is developed. The fact that WP has become a socialist newspaper that working people can enjoy and learn from is evidenced by the feedback from militants who read the paper regularly, subscribe to it and are beginning to distribute it themselves.

Attached is a list of branches, divided up itno the threee groups, the number in each bracnh, what each branch takes now and a tentative final goal. The final goal is based on 20 copies per member. This is also based on my having very little knowledge of the specific problems of each branch.

I am requesting that several weeks prior to the branches starting date a campaign coordinator be appointed. The coordiantor, alsong with the branch exec should then work out a detailed plan for selling and submit it to me. If 20 per member is impossible, because of specific problems of the branch, the final goal can be adjusted. But it will only be adjusted when a serious proposal is submitted to me.

The proposal should include routes, factory gate sales and double selling. Contacts should also be encouraged to distribute the paper. Bookstore and newspaper stands should aslo be pursued. We also want comrades in the shops to begin selling in the shops, security permitting. We also want comrades to do their first assignment within a day or two after getting the paper.

The second issue in January, coming out 1/29/75, will have an additional sheet in the middle. It will be a poster for WP, without any printing on the reverse side. We will print 5,000 extra so that branches will be able to plaster the poster all over the place.

In addition, in the first few weeks of the branchs starting date we will attempt to hold a meeting with the branch on the role of the paper and developing its use. We will aslo run workshops on writing for the paer for those branches interested.

We will begin this with the Cleveland brach on2/1/75, where we will be holding an all day conference on WP, including discussion on the papers role, developing distribution and writing for WP. A short pamphlet will be prepared on both topics to be used in the meetings.

We are dropping the idea of publishing results of the campaign in WP for the following two reasons: the campaign will be run concurrently in all branches so it would be administratively difficult fand because a scoreboard might create the impression that we are interested solely in numbers.

A few lat points: As members of the Red Tide are slo responsible for distributing that paper we suggest that they sellt he Red Tide one week and WP the other.
2. Cost: Branches are now charged 15¢ per copy, based on lo copies per member. The price for papers over lo a member will be cut in half to 71/2¢. When

Editors Report 3

When branches get up to 20 papers per member the cost of the papers will be cut to 10¢ per copy. This means that the more sold the cheaper the paper gets.
3. I am including the Detroit branch proposal so that comrades can get an idea of how to develop their own branch plans.
4. Branches who will like to begin the campaign prior to the dates they are scheduled for a more than welcome to do so. Please just contact me so that it can be worked out.

CIRCULATION CAMPAIGN DATES AND FIGRURES

BRANCH	#MEMBERS	BUNDLE	GOAL
	GROUP I		
Dleveland	15	300	300
Detroit	34	310	550-600
St Louis	8	100	160
New York	25	250	500
	Group II		
Chicago	13	250	260
Bay Area	36	410	720
Seattle	18	150	360
Louisville	10	75	200
Los Angeles	30	200	600
	Ctoup III		
Bloomington	11	75	220
Boston	3	75	75
Portland	5	50	100
Pittsburgh	4	5	80
Madison	2	10	40

*The branch figures are not precise because most branches have not yet sent back the questionnaire I sent out. Also in some branches the figures do not take into account the fact of the Leaving of the SC comrades.

DETROIT PLAN

All Detroit comrades are expected to sell twice per issue. They are expected to do their first assignment the Thursday or Friday immediately after the paper comes out.

One of the problems the branch has is the amount of time EC members are out of town. Therefore BM has no permanent assignment but will fill in for comrades out of town. This is extremely important because in the past when one partner of a selling team was unavaialble what normally happened is that no one sold.

The branch plan includes 60 different times comrades will be selling the paper, including paper routes. Sales in Detroit average from 3 to around 25 per person. Unfortunately there have not been enough regular sales to accurately estimate what the branch will be able to average. We figure that if we average 5 papers per sale for starters we will be slightly underestimating what actual sales will average out to initially. However this would bring us to 300 papers at the start of the campaign. In addition we distribute 75 papers to a radical distributor called Big Rapids Trucking Company, which brings us to 375. With that as a basis we think we can get from 375 to 550 by the end of the campaign, including special assignments and increases gained from regular selling.

ASSIGNMENTS ----------

BM - sells for people out of town
DT - Cadillac, Mich. Ave MESC
NC - Warren, MESC
SB - AFT mtg, MESC and route
MT - Warren, Dodge and route
EC - 6-mile MESC (twice)
~~JX~~ JaW - MESC, travellers' route
ML - Mack and route
EE - Dodge and route
RE - Cadillac, Mich Ave MESC
WW - telephone and route
SY - Mound Road and route
DM - Eldon and route
KM - telephone (downtown) and ~~xxxxx~~ MESC
MD - Mack, MESC
KS - exempt for physical reasons

MB - MESC (twice)
Steph - Jefferson and HP Comm. Coll.
JT - Lynch, MESC
JG - Mound Rd., telephone (downtown)
JiW - Chevy and Woodward MESC
BH - 6-mile MESC and route
KK - Chevy, MESC
DF - HP telephone, MESC
MM - ~~xxx~~ yet to be determined
GS - telephone twice with HS
SP - Lynch, Red Tide
MP - MESC, Red Tide
RB - MESC twice
JS - Jefferson (Freud, AM), Mack (AM)
SS - " " " " "
KL - status still to be determined

EC MINUTES 1/3 Present: All except JT

1. FUND DRIVE. The drive has gohe over the top for the fourth straight year. A statement and political assessment by the EC is attached to the minutes.

2. GLYN. The EC is for accepting Glyn's proposal that he return to work with the IS as a national organizer for a year. NATSEC to handle whatever communications are necessary in this connection.

3. NYC. Report by JW and doscussion on NY branch and the role played by the EC in helping develop branch leadership and our proposed slate for branch exec.

4. MEMBERSHIP. A letter has been received fro m Los Angeles signed by four comrades formerly of theSocialist Collective. It announces the resignation of these four comrades from the IS, stating that the position of the IS fighting for the SUB fund is the same as the politics of the Communist Party begging for welfare. The letter also states that the signers politically support the statement of the Socialist Caucus but that they do not expect it to succeed. It was suggested by Lil Joe that he write a letter of reply on behalf of the EC. Suggestion APPROVED ALL FOR.

5. WORKERS POWER DISTRIBUTION. New, modified WP distribution campaign presented by GS, discussed and PASSED ALL FOR. See editor's report in this issue of National Report with these minutes.

6. LOS ANGELES. Report by MD and discussion on proposal to be submitted by EC to LA exec and branch, dealing with issues of the branch's perspective, center of activity, internal life and leadership. Proposal will be based on ideas worked out by KM and Mike P. in visiss to the branch. Proposals to be re-drafted to clarify the EC's views on the political issues in dispute, e.g. centrality of industrialization and re-focussing of branch activities in this direction. Proposal will also include adpated sectikns from Detroit branch commission report on (1)democratic centralism and (2)propaganda and agitation, plus the important role of education and justification of youth group and its work.

EC MINUTES 1/8 Present: All (except Joe for points 0-4)

0.CHINA. Discussion of Kevin Bradley document TABLED due to pressure of urgent business.

1. UAW. Lengthy report by JW on possible splits in UAW bureaucracy around plans for march on Washington (to be announced publically later this week), and preliminary discussion on how the IS should orient toward this march and build it through our work.
MOTION: Give as much coverage as possible to the march thiss issue of WP - make it major theme of following one which will be distributed there. EC subcommittee of JW, JB and KM will work in conjunction with auto fraction given the national character of this work and will consult with members of the fraction prior to important meeting this Sunday at which some opposition forces will be planning their strategy.

2. NC AGENDA. Agenda for February NC adopted (see NATSEC REPORT).

3. THEORETICAL JOURNAL. Pursuant to NC motion mandating EC to have a proposal on the theoretical journal for the next NC meeting, the EC took up this question and after lengthy discussion adopted the following proposal to be presentedto the NC.

MOTION: (1)Today the highest political priority for the organization is to continue to make the turn from propaganda to agitation, to play a significant role in actively building a workers' movement and to recruit workers to the IS. As a part of the perspective, we are beginning two of the industry journals (CLUW and the UAW) and we have concentrated our energy into making Workers Power into a major tool in this work. The next concrete step in this process is to make WP a weekly newspaper, which can further enhance its use in our industrial work and begin to make it the central organizer of IS work in general. This is today the highest priority in terms of publications in continuing the process we began over a year ago.
(2)The publication of a theoretical journal is something we all want, and of course is not a question of principle but one of political priorities. Since it is clear that we do not have the resources to do both the TJ and move toward weekly paper at this time, we must make difficult choices based upon a political evaluation of the organization and its immediate needs, in view of the current crisis and our ability to take the greatest advantage of it.
(3)The turn which the organization is making is placing increasing demands upon the leadership, who would be providing the bulk of the material for the TJ and who will be responsible for putting it out. The EC is turning increasingly to intervention in the branches and playing a major role in moving them, giving them leadership in perspectives and assimilating new members, etc. At present given these new activities, undertaken systematically this year for the first time, we do not believe we can responsibly undertake the TJ as well. When we feel that these tasks are in hand we are for turning to the TJ, which we consider quite important, We would hope to do so by the end of 1975.
(4)For the next year the theoretical work which would have been channelled through a journal should be used to expand the publication of more pamphlets. The good beginning we jave made in the last year and a half indicate this to be a proper form for what we can actually accomplish in theoretical publications.
(5)All members are encouraged to read regularly the IS journal with the same responsibility with which they rrad Workers Power. It should be treated as a basic and necessary educational tool.

4. EC IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS MOTION SUBMITTED BY GLYN. In line with the motion presented to the EC by Glyn (see minutes 12/190 and passed unanimously by the EC, the EC endorses the following proposal (presented by MD):

In passing the Carver motion theEC made a commitment to becoming much more active in the branch life of the organization. By this is meant concretely much more travelling, not just to speak although that must be continued, but also to attempt to give much more real leadership to the branches both in their ongoing work and in terms of political problems, questions and discussions. Spending more time being involved in this kind of leadership is essential if theEC is to continue to develop as a real leadership body that is taken seriously and respected by the organization because it is actually involved in dealing with the hitty-gritty questions of building a revolutionary organization.

Among other things this means that a higher priority must be given to such travel and work, and in general longer stays in branches will probably be necessary. Iy also means that when an EC member goes to a branch he/she

should probably not try to do everything, but should concentrate on one or two questions (based on the main responsibilities of that EC member generally), .e. with qll EC members travelling to the branches it should be possible tp specialize somewhat.

This perspective will have to be worked out more concretely as we begin to implement it. Also it will probably be necessary to delegate some of the more administrative work of the EC and reorder individual work; a this time however such detail is not really possible until we begin to carry out the new activity itself.

5. RESPONSE TO LA LETTER (All present at this point). Joe's response to the letter of resignation from four former Socialist Collective members in Los Angeles not yet drafted.

5. RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND PERMANENT REVOLUTION. DIscussion of section of Socialist Caucus statement dealing with the Russian Revolution, i.e. that the Russian Revolution introduced state monopoly capitalism to Russia. A presentation was given by Joe, and following one round of disdussion there was a period of questions on the meaning of some of the terms and ideas that came up in the document and discussion. We have now discussed on the EC the sections of the SC statement dealing with labor and Russia.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 1/13/75

1. EC: THE EC SPEND THE MAJORITY OF ITS TIME WORKING ON THE NC AGENDA. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION WE ARRIVED AT THE DECSSION TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE CRISIS IN THE US(JG) AND A POLITICAL DISCUSSION ON THE CONCEPTION, ROLE AND USE OF WP, INCLUDING THE PERSPECTIVE OF GOING WEEKLY NEXT FALL OR EARLY WINTER (GS). IN ADDITION, WE HOPE TO HAVE A WORKING SESSSION ON NATIONAL UNEMPLOYED WORK IF THERE IS ENOUGH TO REPORT ON AND DISCUSS OUTSIDE OF THE DETROIT WORK. THAT WILL BE DETERMINED IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION, WE WILL TAKE UP THE THEORETICAL JOURNAL AND THE CONVENTION AGENDA, IN ADDITION TO NC COMMITTEE REPORTS WHICH WILL BE BETTER STRUCTURED. THE NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT WILL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF PAST CAMPAIGNS AS WELL AS GENERAL PROBLEMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. A ROUGH DRAFT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE EC MEETING OF 1/15 SINCE THE NAT.SEC. IS LEAVING FOR THE WEST COAST ON TOUR ON L/18 AND WON'T BE BACK UNTIL ABOUT A WEEK PRIOR TO THE NC. ADDITIONS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE INTERVENING WEEKS.

NC DOCUMENTS WILL BE OUT A LITTLE LATER DUE TO THE RECENT CRISIS OVER THE SPLIT OF ~~XME~~ SOME OF THE ~~SBXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ SC'ERS, WHICH TOOK UP APPROXIMATELY 4 FULL DAYS OF OUR WORK IN TERMS OF DISCUSSIONS, NATIONAL PHONE CALLS, ETC. THIS WAS SIMPLY UNAVOIDABLE.

AS SOON AS WE HAVE THEIR LETTER OF RESIGNATION, WE WILL PUT IT OUT WITH OUR ANSWER. CLOSE CONTAACTS(WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS) CAN BE SHOWN THEIR "PRELIMINARY CAUCUS STATEMENT" IN NATIONAL REPORT, VOL III, #7. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING OUR ANSWER TO THEIR STATEMENT, AND IT SHOULD BE OUT WITHIN 2 WEEKS, WHICH WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED CONTACTS.

2. BAY AREA: THE COMRADES HELD A VERY SUCCESSFUL RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE WITH APPROXIMATELY 80 ATTENDING, GOOD DISCUSSION, NEW CONTACTS MADE AND OTHERS BROUGHT CLOSER.

3. DETROIT: A LONG TIME FRIEND AND UAW MEMBER JOINED. THE BRANCH ALSO HELD A SUCCESSFUL INFORMAL GATHERING IN THE PLACE OF THE POSTPONED FORUM (AT WHICH THE SC WAS GOING TO ANNOUNCE THEIR QUITTING). APPROXIMATELY 14 CONTACTS ATTENDED, INCLUDING SOME FROM A GROUP WE RECENTLY GOT IN CONTACT WITH IN ANN ARBOR WHO SEEM QUITE GOOD, AND TEACHER CONTACTS MADE IN RECENT TEACHER STRUGGLES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE DETROIT AREA.

THE DETROIT YOUTH GROUP IS NOW AN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF 3 AND HAS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN AROUND COPS IN THE SCHOOLS (WHICH RECENTLY AROSE HERE DUE TO SEVERAL KILLINGS IN THE SHICH SCHOOLS HERE). THEY'VE ALREADY GOTTEN BETWEEN 5 & 10 CONTACTS FROM DISTRIBUTING A LEAFLET TO THE MAJOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE DETROIT, AND ARE IN THE MIDST OF STRYING TO SET UP A MEETING WITH SOME OF THEM.

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<u>NC AGENDA</u>

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
PPOLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE C4ISIS IN THE US ~~XXX~~ (JG)
WORKERS POWER (GS)
UNEMPLOYMENT NATIONALLY - A WORKING SESSION) IF POSSIBLE
COMMITTEE MEETINGS (APPROXIMATELY 6 HRS WORTH)
WOMEN'S CAUCUS
IBT AND ~~MX~~ USW FRACTION MEETINGS
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION(COMM. REPORTS, THEORETICAL JOURNAL, CONVENTION AGENDA)

FINAL REPORT ON FUND DRIVE by JG for the E.C.

The fund drive has now come to a successful conclusion. This is the fourth fund drive the IS has run, and all four of them have been successful. The first had a goal of $10,000, the second a goal of $15,000. These two drives occurred when our membership was approximately 300. The third drive occurred after the split when our membership was 200, and the goal was still $15,000. This year our membership was about 200 when the drive began and grew to 250 during the drive, so that it was about 225 during the drive and the g al was $22,500. Per member the progression of the drives has thus been: $35 in 1971; $50 in 1972; $75 in 1973; $100 in 1974. These figures indicate the success of the drives and the changes inside the organization. With fewer members we now raise more than double what we did four years ago. During our first drive we raised the idea that comrades would contribute one week's salary. In reality while the cadres did this, most members contributed the equivalent of one or two days' salary. At the present throughout the organization, the ideal which we first strove for has now become the norm. This is a reflection of the cadre nature of the IS, but it also indicates that we will not be able to increasefund drives in the future without growth. We have always set high but realistic targets and met them, but we are now reaching the limits of what those targets can be even in a cadre organization of serious, committed and professional revolutionaries. More money requires more members.

A second aspect of the success of this drive is that it was accomplished without inordinate strain, but as part of our normal activities. At the present time many of the branches have fund drives down to a normal routine. They occur without extraordinary measures, the comrades are committed enough and disciplinedenough to make their quotas without seriously shifting the work of the organization during the drive. They also represent the greater development of an IS organizational machine, professionally competent to carry out its assigned tasks.

Lastly, the drive was a success in that not only did the established older branches make their usually High quotas, but that branches like Louisville, St. Louis and Bloomington were given and made comparable quotas, helping both to expand the financial base and therefore the work of the IS, and politically demonstrating that these branches are fully sharing in the building of the organization and the sacrifices necessary to construct a revolutionary workers party. The drive was also successful (for the first time) in raising a considerable amount from MALs.

The drive was not universally successful. The Boston and Portland branches could not make their quotas, and a number of MALs did not make any, or more than minimal, contributions. Financial responsibility is never separate from political commitment and seriousness. When individuals and branches can't mee t their financial obligations (except for emergency conditions), it is an indication of deeper political and organizational problems.

The Executive Committee wishes to thank and also congratulate all of the comrades for a job well done, and in particular extends its thanks to comrade Merry P. the director of the national drive, and to all of the local directors who worked hard to make this a successful drive.

ORGANIZING RANK AND FILE CONFERENCES

-- Bay Area Comrades

This is a check list for the organizer of a conference which grows out of an evaluation of the Bay Area conference "Building the Rank and File Movement," January 5, 1975.

I. Political Goals (Questions the exec should address itself to)

A. What central political ideas do we want to be developed at a conference? (i.e., role of bureaucracy, necessity of caucus building, state of the economy, strategy for dealing with unemployment, layoffs, etc.)

B. What do we want organizationally to come out of the conference? -- To bring contacts close so that they want to work with us, it is important to have definite plans on what to present for future joint work. (i.e., Plans for future conferences and/or workshops, formation of strike support committees, formation of unemployment committees.)

II. Political preparation.

1) Determination of speakers, roughly what they are expected to cover.
2) Assignment of chairpersons who should have responsibility for obtaining introductions, setting friendly tone emphasizing goal of exchange of ideas and experience and encouraging participation from the floor, also responsibility for providing general links between speakers and goals of the conference.)
3) Assignment of members to speak or ask questions on various topics or ask specific questions from the floor. Chair should have a list of these and be able to use discretion. Members, obviously should be flexible and not be tied to prepared statement if other remarks are more appropriate.
4) Assignment of floor leadership.
Responsible for changes in scheduling, should decide who and when SL or specific question or challenge should be answered so it does not dominate the conference.

III. Conference Program

1) Check that scheduling is reasonable allowing adequate time for floor discussion and breaks.
2) Check on use of names and organizational affiliations.
3) Include reservation form and WP sub blank on back.
4) Arrange for printing a week in advance and stick to tight schedule for production.
5) Have available as agenda for all at meeting.

IV. Contacting friends and contacts -- getting them there (recruitment person in charge)

1) Each member should be contacted about additions to regular mailing list.
2) All contacts should be mailed conference program with cover letter asking them to save day(s).
3) Each member should also obtain programs to give to people, every contact should receive call by their contact person getting definite reservation.
4) Members should encourage payment in advance, carpools, etc., in effort to assure attendance. People don't always should even after definite committment.
5) Members should convey importance of event.

A. Other Publicity

1. Assignment of groups to contact e.g. -- CLUW, WAGE, UFW -- suggest they put up tables.

V. Physical Arrangements.

1. Meeting Place

A. Double check meeting place a few days before. Get home phone # of person responsible for opening up place.
B. Check list for meeting place.
1. Adequate seating
2. P.A. System (should be used for meeting over 70 people unless unusually good accoustics.
3. Tape recording (Bring 2 functioning tape recorder in case one breaks down, is faulty, etc.)
4. Extension cords for tape recording and PA
5. Tables for speakers and literature, registration
6. Podium
7. Room for childcare including facilities i.e., toys, crayons, paper, mats, pillows, t.v.
8. Facilities for preparation of food. Coffee and tea urns (we needed 3 for conference of 90)
9. Physical aspects relevant to security.

VI. Assignment of teams responsible for
A. Decorations for room, ie, banners, posters (bring masking tape)
B. Setting up -- chairs -- tables, etc.
C. Clean-up
D. Security

VII. Food
1 1/2 sandwiches per person -- should figure approx, 3 oz. filling per sandwhich (ham and cheese) 2 oz. ham for straight ham.
People ate less fruit and cookies proportionally.

VIII. Registration checklist
A. Prepared forms for registration
B. Name tags
C. Change

IX. Literature
A. I.S. literature table
B. Table for rank and file publications
C. Tables for invited groups.

X. Policies on other sects
A) May only distribute literature, outside
B) Not to be admitted (this question should be dealt with)

XI. Party afterwards -- someone in charge. Important for carrying on informal Discussion.

XII. MISC.
1. Song sheets available (e.g. Solidary, Internationale with someone ready to lead)
2. Members must notify conference organizers of #'s expected 3 days in advance for food and childcare arrangements.