

WHOLLY CONFIDENTIAL.

NATSECS LETTER TO NC MEMBERS AND ORGANISERS.

E.C. Meeting, Friday 12th, Mar

State of preparations for the demonstrations of TDC on the 13th were reported. We have long known that if these demos flop we are in grave trouble. Signs are that although TDC is in no sense strong enough to lead a successful strike movement, it can make enough impact in the union with the demos to take another step forward. Also decided to have maximum WP presence at demos. Steps are now being taken to organise the Eastern states UPS on the same lines as the central states. The red-baiting of our members grows daily and continues to have an effect. So far they are a long way from destroying us with this tactic, though they have been most effective where we have been most timid about our politics. Luckily there is not one centralised, International run campaign so the baiting is not as effective as it might be. As the red-baiting tips the scale against us things are brought back into balance for us by the increasing possibility that the International will have to sanction or condone some forms of job action on the first. With the only communications network in the industry this will be a perfect situation for us to work in. Recruitment of teamsters continues to hover between insignificant and zero. Decided that Natsecs office would take over from Cleveland in chasing this.

The final schedule for the pledge system which goes along with the new \$10 standard dues structure was agreed. All the necessary documentation will be out in the branches by beginning of April, new system will start May 1st. It should be absolutely clear that as far as the cadre is concerned there is no sense in which the pledge part of the dues is voluntary. Repeat, no way! Local leaderships should also try to ensure that no-one reduces their dues as a result of the new system.

A program for a five day summer school after convention was presented and agreed. EX Copies will be mailed out with the new organisers handbook on education and in the next news of the month. The basic idea is to have a relatively long list of optional, small classes. Because many comrades cannot come to a summer school we will attempt to run regional weekend schools in the summer as well.

In the discussion of the impact of the primaries so far the following key points became clear. Despite decreasing support for Wallace it is very clear that our prediction about a general shift to the right is being born out. It is also the case that labor remains basically uncommitted using several different routes to get delegates which can be swung to Humphrey if the convention falls out that way. Our assessment of the Republican race was wrong however, although we were not absolutely certain and actually hedged our bets somewhat, our estimate was that Reagan would beat out Ford, that Ford's strategy of running to the right would fail. It didn't, it worked, at least when coupled with his use of the recovery and hiring EX some real professionals to run his campaign. To date, the main northern industrial states haven't had primaries so it is too early to make many very sweeping assessments but already have to recognise both Ford and Carter's strength and what the later might mean to Humphrey and the labor strategy. More later.

There has finally been the beginnings of the working classX upsurge we have long expected in Portugal. It is not yet large or co-ordinated but it is clearly there and moving forward. The incidence of isolated strikes and occupations particularly in construction, metals, health, textiles and teaching has gone up and it is no accident that the PRP has some strength in these areas of the working class. It is also now clear that the PRP, while making no progress in breaking any sections off the CP, has managed to win a respect and support from many militants of the party which will stand it in good stead when these first stirrings become a more generalised movement. The first clear signs of the ~~post~~ inevitable post-Nov 25th split in the ruling class ~~is~~ are now beginning to show in Lisbon. The revival of the traditional right and the continued CP commitment to the government leaves the SP tightly squeezed and increasingly uneasy. Finally it should be noted that the slow return to workers activity after the set-backs of November are very closely related to the lack of a revolutionary party, the lack of any centralised direction for the class, indeed only after CLARP began to make progress in the class did the other manifestations of opposition to the government begin to jell.

E.C.P. Meeting, Thurs. 18th Mar.

The natsec reported on the results of latest census in the organisation. Major points of interest were the facts that the losses from the WMC which we estimated would be around a third now look like they will be more than half and the level of recruitment over the last few months has been very low. This picture is true for virtually all sections of the organisation. On the brighter side two new branches have now been established in Cincinnati and Indianapolis and discussions are proceeding on the viability of a New Jersey branch and whether the NY (IBT) branch could survive such an initiative. Also there was a healthy response in several places to the new PO paper, the second edition will be out next week.

On the IBT, a big Michigan UPSurge rally is due this weekend and a Central States steering cte will be held at the same time. The crucial question of ups reaction to freight strike will be decided, our line is that ups must come out for the first couple of days while it negotiates exemption from established local strike ctes. In freight strike sentiment is growing and next week there will be vital union meetings all over the country with reports on negotiations. There will be a common TDC reaction/leaflet for these meetings. The demos of the 13th helped us significantly and demonstrated that the tdc activists are extremely willing to take our lead even in minor organisational points. ~~The red-baiting continues to take a toll, the proposed pamphlet on this will now come out next week as a four page tabloid give-away. The Cleveland steering cte will be having early discussion of the question of building the ongoing ibt r&f movement.~~

Within the formula already agreed and reported for the convention, a specific agenda was worked out. A copy of which is attached to this letter.

There was the first discussion of a draft interim perspectives document, this discussion will be completed, and an interim perspective published, next week. The need for this interim perspective arises out of the failure of parts of our new year perspective adopted by the January NC. The process of integration and teamster recruitment has not proceeded as we had plannedX and although very little can be done between now and the expiration of the MFA, it is clear that we will need some new initiatives in April and they must be planned now. More later.

The agenda for the May NC was agreed. Four sessions, one on the post WMC record and the interim perspectives. ~~EXEM~~ One on the Convention session on our work. One on the convention session an Party Building. One on the role and function of the 76 convention and the tasks of the leadership in the convention and discussion period prior to convention. Remember that the May NC will be closed except for certain EC-invited organisers etc.

CONVENTION AGENDA

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT A... "A New Era of World Revolution"... Joel G.

Resolution A1... On world-wide revolutionary potential.
Resolution A2... On the revolution in Spain and Portugal.
Resolution A3... On the struggle in southern Africa.
Resolution A4... On the state of the world revolutionary movement and the development of our tendency.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT B... "The Domestic Political Situation"... Gay S.

Resolution B1... On the state of the economy and economic perspectives.
Resolution B2... On the political impact of the election on the class.
Resolution B3... On post election political perspectives.
Resolution B4... On busing and the fight against racism.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT C... "I.S. in the Class Struggle"... Kim M.

Resolution C1... On the present employers offensive.
Resolution C2... On the lessons of the struggles in the teamsters.
Resolution C3... On the potential of the rest of the bargaining round.
Resolution C4... On the functioning of revolutionaries in the R&F movement.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT D... "Steps Towards Building the Party"... Glenn W.

Resolution D1... On mass work and recruitment to the party.
Resolution D2... On the integration of new members and the development of new leadership in the party.
Resolution D3... On the role of paper in building the party.
Resolution D4... On the creation of a youth section of the party.

PLEASE NOTE.....The documents which accompany each session are for discussion only, there will be no votes on these or any counter documents which may arise in the pre-convention discussion. Votes will be on the resolutions only. All these documents and resolutions will be circulated to the NC two weeks before the May meeting along with the rules and regulations for the convention. Pre-convention discussion will start in the branches one week after the NC meeting on May 8th. The documents will be between 4 and six pages in length. The resolutions no more than one page long.

Glenn Wolfe.