

IMPORTANT

TO ALL IBT FRACTIONS AND BRANCH ORGANIZERS

Due to the success of our TDC and UPSurge work a campaign of red baiting has begun. In UPS it is sponsored by both the company and The IBT. In freight (TDC) THE IBT is the prime mover, but they have been joined, probably unwittingly by Arthur Fox, director of PROD. Fox sent out a six page letter to PROD members, which includes a good number of TDC activists, in which the IS is baited. Clearly the IBT bureaucracy has a pretty good idea of our operations. Knowing how to respond to this sort of campaign is key to overcoming it and turning it to our advantage.

First, do not panic or run and hide. Self confidence is 50% of the game. For example, do not provide our opponents with information. Do not name our members unless they do. On the other hand don't act as though TDC or UPSurge are conspiratorial organizations. Both are above board R&F movements, whose leaders hold public press conferences, etc. Ken Paff, Anne Mackie, Mel Packer, Dave Gaibis, Joe Nabach, Dan La botz, Bob Grant, Pete Camarata, Loyd Bareantine, Frank Brewer, and others are known as leaders of TDC and Upsurge. There is no reason to deny knowledge of these people, as TDC or UPSurge leaders.

Second, do not let red baiting attacks go unanswered. In general a successful formula for answering them is that used by Mel Packer. His leaflet is enclosed and recommended as the pattern to follow. Remember, it is important to get nonIS militants to sign such a cover letter. A leaflet that said what the Pittsburgh leaflet says, but did not have the signatures of known IBTers, would be useless. It is also a mistake to push aside the red issue itself. That is do not write leaflets that say whether there are reds in the TDC or UPSurge is irrelevant, most people do not believe it is irrelevant, and to us it is a point of pride. A personal statement like Mel's is a good idea if anyone is named. If no one is named, then a general statement to the effect that, yes, there are socialists in the TDC, but Tdc is not socialists, is in line.

In drafting a personal statement, however, keep in mind the IBT has an anti red clause in its constitution, This means it is best not to say in print that you are a member of the IS. Rather say that you are a socialist, that your politics helps you to be a more effective fighter, that more and more workers are becoming socialists as the economy falls apart and compares attack us, that the IBT was organized in the mid west by a coalition of militants and socialists, etc While it is crucial to answer personally, most of our members are not aware of the fact that they command personal loyalty, but they do and must take principal use of it. However most such statements should put less emphasis on personal history and more on your political ideas. First, many of our histories are not as proletarian as Mel's. More important however, red baiting is actually an opportunity for us to explain our ideas and how they relate to the rank and file movement. We must use this opportunity to our advantage. Red baiting can hurt our work, but it can also help us recruit to the IS, don't lose sight of that fact.

There will be a national leaflet from UPSure and probably a statement from TDC. In addition there will be articles in Teamster Network (Jan) and UPSurge. WP will carry a column on this which will attempt to help get out the arguments against red baiting and why socialists are the best militants, etc. You may want to pattern an article in your local paper after the national statements.

The Industrial Dept. will be sending you a directive on fraction organization and IBT recruitment. The red baiting should be used to enhance the recruitment drive.

Particularly where are people have a good personal reputation and followi we can use the red baiting to build sympathy, and the sympathy to make political points, educate people, and recruit some of them.

A systematic red baiting campaign can hurt us, TDC, and UPSure, but it will not wreck any of these. Both TDC and UPSure have attracted large and attractive forces around the country. The kind of people who are coming arou these 2 movements are not easily scared off. Futhermore, they generally like our leading people very much and in some cases the level of personal loyalty is intense. These forces are our cards and we have to play them. That means we must be aggressive in asking people to support us against red baiting publically quiet verbal statements of support are useless, get it in writing and publish it. To repeat above all be aggressive and self confident. No one will support you if they think you are going to chicken out later.

Branch Organizers: People who come under such attacks are going to be under enormous personal stress. Be sensitive to that fact and make sure th the entire branch is sensitive as well. Personal contact work by IBTers and the individual under attack will take priority and other members will have to pick up the slack. If neccessary, IBTers under attack should be relieved of normal IS duties for a while. People under attack must get sleep etc.; WE don't want any nervous breakdowns.

Questions or particular advise may be obtained by calling, if nec essary, or writing the Industrial Dept. or the IBT fraction streeing committee members in Cleveland

IS INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT