

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

November 24, 1979

TO ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed for your information only is a letter regarding the recent resignation from the party of Bob Pearlman.

Comradely,



Dave Prince
National Office

SWP

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
510 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MA. 02215
617/262-4620

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November 1, 1979

SWP N.O.
New York, N.Y.

Dear comrades:

Bob Pearlman, a member of the Boston branch, asked to resign from membership in the SWP on October 14. The branch meeting of October 21 voted unanimously to accept his resignation.

Bob has been inactive for nearly a year, but because of the special circumstances surrounding his recruitment and the questions involved in his resignation, the Boston branch executive committee felt it would be useful to communicate some of the background to his resignation to the national office.

For over a year Bob's participation in branch life has been sporadic, at best. He rarely attended branch meetings, and then only when some dispute had arisen in the branch, and usually only for the point on the agenda that covered the dispute. He has not participated in Militant sales or other propagandist functions of the branch at all during this period, attended only one session of preconvention discussion, and did not participate with any regularity in branch discussions of local activities. He has not participated in branch-called mobilizations, did not pay his convention assessment, and has made no financial contribution to the party for over a year. He has frequently been far in arrears on dues.

This was not a result of the branch's unwillingness to involve Bob on any level of branch activity. In fact, he was elected to the branch executive committee in the Fall of 1978 precisely for the purpose of promoting such involvement, but did not participate in the work of the executive committee. While he headed up the teachers fraction during this period, his consultations with the branch generally consisted of "take it or leave it" demands for approval of his perspective in the union.

In our opinion, this situation did not arise as the result of misunderstandings, but as the result of a fundamental lack of political confidence in the party, and even more basically, from a lack of interest in the construction of a revolutionary party.

Through the course of many discussions with Bob he expressed a number of serious reservations about the party's turn to industry. He feels the party is "unsophisticated" in its perception of politics today. For him the union leaders (albeit low-level) are to the left of the ranks and more politically astute. He disagrees with our emphasis on the labor party slogan, which he believes is not a real question for the unions today. It is too abstract.

He became particularly agitated and decided to resign when it became clear that the teachers fraction and branch would not

go along with his desire to be on the union negotiating committee, a position which had been offered to him by the union president.

Bob explained that he and the party just didn't seem to agree on any mutually satisfactory projects. And, that as long as he didn't have any confidence that the party was going anywhere, it was difficult for him to sustain any of its institutions. He made it clear that his boycott of party functions and failure to sustain the party was quite deliberate on his part, not a question of time or money.

The branch agreed with Bob that it was best that he resign under such conditions, but that any time we could, we would work on particular campaigns together.

Comradely,



Anne Chase
for Boston e.c.