

February 7, 1966
Seattle, Washington

To the Plenum of the National Committee

Dear Comrades,

I believe that a very important mass political development of the present period in the North will be the election campaign of Dick Gregory for mayor of Chicago.

By virtue of our associations in the Negro community in Seattle, I was able to organize two important functions involving him as the central figure during his current professional engagement here, and I have had an opportunity to have some political discussions with him.

Since Watts, Gregory has become increasingly radical and uncompromising. His campaign, which will begin publically in a few months, will be a clearly independent political campaign designed to secure 95% of the Negro vote in Chicago. He plans a direct assault on the Establishment, and hopes to develop a permanent political organization expressing this program which will enter into politics on a national scale, for the purpose of destroying the Democratic political machine in the ghetto.

He is thus embarking upon an unambiguously independent and implicitly revolutionary course with an apparatus which he has already been able to build. His campaign will be a factor to be reckoned with in national politics; it will essentially constitute Black political action, for his primary objective is to unite the Negro community around a program of struggle. The campaign could provide a likely foundation for the realization of Trotsky's prediction that the militant Negroes will become a vanguard of the working class.

I urge you to prepare to mobilize the entire SWP for all-out support of this development.

Comradely,
S/ R. Kirk