

March 2, 1966
New York, N.Y.

TO ALL LOCALS AND BRANCHES:

Dear Comrades,

Attached are 1) a report from Chicago comrades on the conference held in January of the Committee for Independent Political Action, and 2) the text of a call for a similar meeting on the Lower East Side of New York which is to be sent out this month by Irving Beinin.

We are sending this material for the information of party members throughout the country. It is clear that this type of political formation -- under the label "independent" but still within the framework of capitalist politics and with a reform perspective -- will be proposed more and more by the left wing coalitionists of the Beinin-Lens type. It is important that the party as a whole keep up with these developments.

All branches should be prepared to send reports of similar developments in their area to the national office. We will make them available to the branches. The report from Chicago is a good example of the type required.

A continuing educational process on our concept of independent political action will be a necessary part of branch activity in this period. As part of their pre-convention discussion the youth have just reprinted two speeches Comrade Cannon made in 1948 on the political character of the Progressive Party (Wallace campaign). This movement was similar in some aspects to the "independent" campaigns that we may see in the next period as a result of the growing anti-war movement. The two speeches by Cannon are excellent educational material from the history of our party. The Political Committee is planning to select more material from previous internal bulletins as a contribution to this educational process and branches will be informed as they become available.

Comradely,

Ed Shaw
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Organization Secretary