

COPY

COPY

COPY

20 Elmont Street  
Dorchester, Massachusetts 02121  
June 18, 1969

Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party  
873 Broadway  
New York City, New York 10003

Dear Comrades:

I am writing you for clarification on an issue which I raised at our party branch meeting held Tuesday, June 3. You will find, in the minutes of this meeting, that I made a motion for the disbanding of the party-youth fraction which exists within the local SWP-YSA branches.

I made this motion as a result of a number of occurrences. Originally, a similar motion had been made a year ago, at the time of our last branch election. At that time I was not aware of the party procedure towards the YSA, and voted with the majority of the branch against this motion. Since that time, however, I have discussed this question with the youth National Secretary; and a rereading of various party and YSA documents has led me to the conclusion that the existence of this fraction is not in line with national party policy towards the YSA.

The existence of this fraction appears particularly out of order since it is used in a manipulative manner. For example, the party-youth fraction meets and decides who will be the youth representative from the YSA to the party branch executive committee, who the fraction will recommend as candidates for party membership, and who the fraction will attempt to have elected as YSA organizer and as YSA executive committee members.

In making this motion, I cited the document written by Charles Bolduc entitled "The YSA's Attitude Toward the SWP", written for the last youth convention, and I quoted from the last three paragraphs on page 1 of SWP Discussion Bulletin, Vol. 26, No. 12, Tom Kerry's document entitled "Some Comments on Party Policy, etc", written for the last party convention. I quoted from this document particularly since the statement was made by a number of comrades that the party youth should function inside the YSA in the same manner they would function inside any other outside organization.

As the minutes will show, this motion to disband the fraction was defeated. I have since spoken with the branch organizer as I feel that the issue really is not debatable. He informs me that the chief function of this fraction is to insure that the party youth do not dominate the YSA, and to make room on the YSA executive committee for non-party YSAers with leadership potential.

COPY

COPY

COPY

page 2

My feeling is that such potential will express itself in a more natural and healthy manner in this period if the party does not attempt to manipulate the choice of the YSA leadership, and that the present attitude expressed by the local party branch is strongly paternalistic. I thought it particularly ironic that at the conclusion of this particular party branch meeting an announcement was made of a meeting of the party youth to discuss the selection of candidates for the recent local YSA election.

I have informed the party organizer of my intention of writing to the Political Committee for clarification on this issue, since I would not wish to persist in an erroneous attitude myself, nor see the branch behave likewise. I trust I have provided you with all the relevant information, and I look forward to hearing from you with regard to this clarification.

Comradely,

s/Gloria Goodman

cc: Boston SWP Executive Committee