

New York, N.Y.
Sept. 17, 1973

TO: MAJORITY CAUCUS CORRESPONDENTS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are two items for your information:

1. A draft statement of the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction,
"The New Situation in the Fourth International." IIDB

The August conference of the Leninist-Trotskyist Tendency decided to convert the tendency into a faction. This statement is a draft. It has been submitted to the United Secretariat of the FI and is being circulated to those who signed the LTT Declaration of March 1973. The final statement, which will include the names of the steering committee members, will be published shortly in the International Internal Discussion Bulletin. At present this information is to be made available to Majority Caucus supporters only.

2. Copies of a letter to the Political Committee from John Barzman and a reply by Jack Barnes. This is also for the information of Majority Caucus supporters only.

Comradely,



Ed Shaw

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John Barzman
6811 Rustic Lane, #162
Houston, Texas 77017

August 30, 1973

Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party
14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Comrades,

In the course of his summary of the discussion on the Tasks and Perspectives of the Houston branch, given at the August 29, 1973 meeting, Comrade Nelson B., the organizer, and a National Committee alternate member, made the following statements. He referred to the political body which had been known as the Leninist Trotskyist Tendency as the Leninist Trotskyist Faction. He furthermore stated that the SWP was funding this faction from regular party funds, and that this was the sense of the report adopted at the party convention. This requires some clarification, since the convention only voted to recommend to the LTT that it become a faction, (not being empowered to make that decision for the LTT), and made no specific mention of how this faction would be funded. The report mentioned mobilization of party resources to postpone the world congress, not the specific channels through which this would be done.

The following questions naturally come to mind:

- 1) Is the SWP as a party now part of an international faction? When did this occur? When will the membership of the party be informed of this development? Are local "majority caucuses", such as the one which has met in Houston, to be considered caucuses of this faction?
- 2) Is the SWP as a party financially contributing to this tendency or faction? When did it begin to financially support this tendency or faction? What bodies of the party authorized this expenditure? Are other institutions which are dependent upon the party, such as newspapers and publishing houses, also supporting this tendency or faction? What share of the party budget is allocated to this purpose? What share of the resources which the party can influence is allocated to this purpose?
- 3) Can other tendencies or factions be funded by the party? Are members of the party which contribute politically and financially to the party thereby automatically members of this tendency or faction? What are the channels through which they can contribute their political opinions to the running of this tendency or faction of which they have become a part? If they are not considered members of this tendency or faction, are members of the party expected to financially contribute to this tendency or faction? Are there any channels through which financial contributions to the party by party members who are not members of this tendency or faction, can be earmarked for non-factional usage?

In the hope of a prompt reply,

Comradely,

s/John B.

cc: Bill Massey, IMT; United Secretariat; Files.

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
September 13, 1973

John Barzman
Houston

Dear Comrade Barzman,

This is in response to your letter of August 30, 1973, to the Political Committee.

Your long list of questions which "naturally" came to mind seem to be predicated upon an erroneous conclusion as to what the convention decided.

The following is the motion adopted by the convention under the point on the world movement:

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Committee report, including the following:

1. a.) To reaffirm the organizational principles of the SWP as adopted at its 1965 convention and their application to every single member without exception.
- b.) To instruct every party unit to apply these principles.
- c.) All transfers in the post-convention period must be approved by the National Committee until it decides otherwise.
2. To end the literary and branch discussion and refer any reopening to the National Committee to be decided in light of the implementation of the unanimous April United Secretariat statement defining the conditions for a democratic and authoritative world congress.
3. To continue in an uninterrupted way all international responsibilities including translating and publishing the English-language International Internal Discussion Bulletin for the information of SWP and YSA members as a fraternal courtesy to the United Secretariat of the Fourth International.
4. The convention proposes to the Leninist-Trotskyist Tendency that in the light of the new developments it discuss converting itself from a tendency to a faction.
5. The convention instructs and empowers the incoming National Committee to use all the forces and resources at its command to struggle for a democratic world congress and a Trotskyist Fourth International.

The convention voted neither to affiliate the party to an international faction or tendency nor to require any comrade to support any faction or tendency in the world movement.

The majority caucus consists of those comrades who support the platform which defined the majority caucus in the election of delegates prior to the party convention. That platform consisted of the Leninist-Trotskyist Tendency Declaration and the Political Committee Draft Political Resolution.

In answer to a letter from Bill Massey prior to the convention which raised some of the same questions I wrote:

The national office of the party does not "bear the expenses" of any tendencies, factions or other groups. The national office of the party finances the activities of the party as decided by its elected bodies. The expenses of any tendencies or factions are borne by themselves.

The constitution of the party explains the financial responsibility of membership in Article VII, Section 2.

The resolution on the Organizational Character of the Socialist Workers Party adopted by the 1965 party convention delimits membership responsibilities in a broader framework.

This appears in SWP Discussion Bulletin, Vol. 31, No. 27, page 60. I'm sure the branch has a copy of this bulletin for sale if you are not familiar with it.

Comradely,

Jack Barnes
National Secretary

cc: Nelson Blackstock
United Secretariat