

DEC 11 1972

Dec.19, 1972
3125 Albion Rd
Shaker Heights, O. 44120

S.W.P. Political Committee
14 Charles Lane
New York City

Dear Comrades,

When the plant I worked in for 23 years was sold and moved out of this city, I chose unemployment for 18 months. Working full time for CAPAC and the SWP Campaign was a welcome relief to the many ~~the~~ years of drudgery and enforced non-political activity in the plant. The workers were up in years and leery of radicals. However, when called upon to defend their union and standard of living, they rose to the occasion every time (including a 6 month strike). Nevertheless these old workers politically retained the fears and prejudices of the 1950's.

Last September, I started at a small factory at a much lower wage in my skill. The plant is newly organized into the I.U.E. and the workers much younger even tho they are highly skilled machinests.

I want to share with you the ~~marked~~ contrast between these two work places.

Although I was warned by management to refrain from discussing socialist politics, as an SWP candidate for Congress, my political beliefs were a topic for discussion within one week of starting work. In one month two subs to the Militant were sold. Up to this date \$16 in Pathfinder literature has been sold. In addition, one young black has attended a Debs Hall Forum. He intends to attend regularly. ~~xxxx~~ Another worker, one who has bought Pathfinder literature, has shown interest in the classes the branch will begin this Saturday.

What I find truly remarkable is the interest in our revolutionalry politics from many of these workers and the COMPLETE ABSENCE OF RED_BAITING. I've even been asked to run for union office!

This is not a bad record for three months of work. My guess is that similar opportunities exist in many workplaces and should be taken advantage of.

Comradely,

Herman Kirsch

Herman Kirsch

cc; Frank Lovell