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Harowitz

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
June 18, 1971

LOWER MANHATTAN BRANCH

Susan LaMont

Dear Comrade LaMont,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we received today from Hedda Garza. We have not yet received the minutes of the branch executive committee meeting to which she refers. We would like your comments on the facts of the matters Comrade Garza raises.

Comradely,

s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

cc: Lew Jones - New York local organizer

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
June 18, 1971

LOWER MANHATTAN BRANCH

Hedda Garza

Dear Comrade Garza,

This is to acknowledge receipt today of your letter dated June 15.

I have sent a copy of your letter to the Lower Manhattan branch organizer and have requested from her the minutes of the executive committee meeting you describe and her comments on the facts of the matters you raise.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the May 25, 1971, Political Committee resolution concerning our probe of the gay liberation movement.

You will note Section 4 of the Political Committee motion of May 25, 1971 reads "This probe will be carried out in collaboration with the YSA, which has initiated similar action. It is to be conducted under the supervision of the Administrative Committee. All reports, results and questions concerning this probe should be addressed to the Administrative Committee."

The Administrative Committee has asked Barry Sheppard to coordinate the probe of the gay liberation movement. I will call this correspondence to his attention when he returns from vacation this Monday.

Comradely,

s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

cc: Susan Lamont - Lower Manhattan branch organizer
Lew Jones - New York local organizer

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5 Evans Avenue
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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

June 15, 1971

Dear Jack:

I would like to have clarification by the P.C. on an issue that has cropped up in the Downtown New York Branch Executive Committee. This particular issue seems to be important since it has come up in many forms and appears to be something policy will have to be clearly set in relation to.

Last Monday, June 14, Laura E., the comrade giving the forum report, projected a forum for the coming period -- a Gay Liberation panel. We had only recently heard the PC memorandum outlining our "probe" into Gay Liberation. From comments and discussions around the hall, as well as coverage in the Militant, it was fairly apparent that we had already begun to go a bit past the "probe" stage and that it would be necessary to draw back a little from our previous attitude toward this movement.

I questioned the organizer as to whether we intended to have a comrade speak on that panel, and the answer was "yes." I stated that it appeared to me this would put the comrade in a most difficult position; other than being able to state our support for the liberties of homosexuals, we had no line on this subject -- at least as of now -- and if the other gay panelists raised political points as to the future of the movement, our comrade might set the party on record in areas where we have not determined policy.

In other branch discussions, it has become quite clear that there are varied interpretations of what a "probe" means. Some comrades think it means that we have already decided to intervene wholeheartedly in the building and leadership of the Gay Movement and are simply probing to decide what our line will be. Others (including myself) believe that a probe is exactly what the PC outlined -- an effort to collect information to first determine whether the movement is worth intervening in, and, if so, to what extent and with what line. This does not preclude the possibility that the party leadership will decide that, although we continue to support the rights of Gay people, we do not at this time see any movement worth our intervention.

Would you please clarify both points: (1) the correctness of our comrades appearing on Gay panels, and (2) the actual meaning of a "probe." This will be crucial in deciding what kind of banners our comrades will carry during the Gay Pride Week demonstrations, how far their participation in the "events," including a "gay-in" will be, etc.

Comradely,
s/Hedda Garza

Horowitz

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
June 24, 1971

DETROIT

Rudie Austin

Dear Rudie,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 19, 1971. Thank you for clarifying the matters I raised.

I will place your appeal and our correspondence before the Political Committee at its next meeting.

Comradely,
s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary