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3861 Montevista Road  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121  
March 16, 1971

Jack Barnes  
New York, New York

Dear Comrade Barnes,

We understand that the SWP 1971 Convention will begin on August 8. We would like to know the following things regarding pre-convention discussion:

1) Assuming that May 8 will be the first day of pre-convention discussion, if we submit our document to the National Office by April 26, will the document be printed and distributed to the branches by May 8? (The document will be about 50 single-spaced pages.)

If this is not sufficient time for the N.O. to print and distribute the document by May 8, when should we submit the document in order to have it out for the full 90-day discussion period?

If pre-convention discussion opens earlier than May 8, please let us know when it opens and when we should have the document in.

2) We feel that our document, which will call for the SWP to send comrades into the industrial trade unions, is a clear alternative to present party policy. For that reason, we would like to submit our document for a vote by the Convention. Is this correct procedure?

Comradely,  
s/Barbara Gregorich

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14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
March 22, 1971

CLEVELAND

Dear Comrade Gregorich,

In response to the two points in your letter of March 16.

1) The March 13-16 plenum of the National Committee decided to open the pre-convention discussion on May 1.

The national office staff is already at work preparing four initial resolutions and several plenum reports to submit to the pre-convention discussion. The comrades responsible for preparing these items for printing and mailing inform me that if your document arrives here by April 2, they are confident it can be fully prepared, submitted to the printers and mailed out to the branches for circulation with the National Committee resolutions.

2) It might be useful to the pre-convention discussion for you to indicate at the beginning of your document your intention, if I understand your letter correctly, to submit this document as a line resolution to the party. The proposal for a convention vote on the general line of a document can be made to the convention by any delegate supporting such a document.

Comradely,  
s/Jack Barnes  
Organization Secretary

David Keil  
3523 Hennepin Ave. S.  
Mpls., Minn. 55408  
Feb. 25, 1971

To the P.C.:

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of my article, "The European Sections' Activity in the Working Class and our Trade Union Work." I submitted it to the Party Builder before Oberlin, and it was rejected because "it deals in part with policy and line questions that are not now under discussion."

I am considering resubmitting it for the pre-convention discussion coming up, together perhaps with an article explaining better what I think should be done and why.

(I still, by the way, don't consider these articles to be raising immediate political differences in the party, only organizational and policy questions.)

I have shown my July article to a number of comrades who I thought might be interested in it or agree with it. I also showed it to Ken S., after we got into an informal discussion on our orientation to the working class. He told me that, since it is not a pre-convention discussion period, it might be best for me not to show the article to comrades, since the other side has had no chance to answer it. Since then, I haven't been showing the article to people.

I would like to ask you, do I have the right or permission to show this article to comrades before the pre-convention discussion starts? In any case, I would not distribute it to any and all comrades, just those I think might agree with it or to better show my position to comrades with whom I get into a discussion.

I also have another question. I have heard that some other comrades have asked the P.C. a related question. From one source, I heard that they asked for permission to form a faction and were refused, and from another I have heard that they asked for permission or whether they had the right to co-author a document even though they lived in different cities, and were refused.

(I hope that neither version is true: I hope nobody in the party is trying to form a faction, and on the other hand I hope that comrades have the right to co-author documents freely.)

So I would like to ask, does one have the right or permission to co-author a discussion article (or even a resolution, for that matter), with anybody one pleases, and if so, when? Before a pre-convention period, or during, or when?

The matter isn't urgent, but I hope you will reply soon so that my confusion will be ended.

Comradely,  
s/David Keil

Copy to Ken S., Charles S.

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14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
March 22, 1971

TWIN CITIES

David Keil

Dear David,

In re: your letter of February 25, concerning proper procedure governing internal discussion within the party, I call your attention to the resolution adopted by the 1965 convention on "The Organizational Character of the SWP." This document is available to all members and I'm sure copies are available in the branch.

I call your attention especially to the section of "Factionalism and Party Unity" which deals with the problem of selective discussions prior to our regular pre-convention discussion period.

I would commend this official compendium of our organizational principles and practices as a more reliable and authentic source than the anonymous authorities cited in your letter on the question of our alleged refusal to grant "permission to form a faction," and the "right to co-author" discussion documents.

We are about to enter our pre-convention discussion period. The opening date of the discussion will be made known to all party members through official action of the National Committee. You may, at that time, submit whatever material you wish for publication in the internal discussion bulletin, whether singly authored or co-authored by multiple signers, for circulation to the entire membership.

I trust that neither corridor gossip nor malicious rumors to the contrary will deter you from fully exercising your right to submit your views and opinions, not to just a select few, but to the entire membership for free and full discussion.

Comradely  
s/Jack Barnes  
Organization Secretary

cc: C. Scheer  
H. Scheer  
K. Shilman