

November 18, 1974

Helen Schiff
Brooklyn LTF

Dear Helen:

This is to inform you that after several months of serious thought, I have decided to resign from the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction as of today. Please inform me of the back dues I owe.

I remain in agreement with the political line expressed in the LTF's world political resolution, and am in agreement with the general positions of the LTF in the international discussion.

However, I find that a whole series of new positions, on which there has been no discussion in the faction, are being incorporated into the framework of the faction's platform. On some of these I have not yet made up my mind, and on others I disagree with the positions and the tone of comments made by leading faction members.

I believe that at this point the existence of the faction is counterproductive. There is an atmosphere of a "hunt" for "mandelista deviations" coupled with a voluntary blindness to differences that exist within the LTF. I have noted, for example, that Mandel's articles are subjected to the harshest, and I believe often nitpicking, criticisms (such as the comments about Mandel's "disgraceful" article on the Arab states and petrodollars at last week's forum, and the critique of Mandel's Lisbon speech) while there is an unwillingness to make any criticism of the PST's positions, despite the fact that some of them are at least as questionable as Mandel's "disgraceful" article. I think that this situation exists because of the existence of the faction and the PST's membership in it.

I also feel that most comrades in the LTF, some of whom have used these very words, do not "pay any attention" to the subtleties of the discussion as it is unfolding and developing. They are in the faction on the basis of their agreement with the general questions under debate, but pay no attention to the new issues that are continually being raised. In this way they are giving a blank check to the LTF leadership to continue to expand the faction's platform without any prior discussion. Therefore I have decided that since I do not agree with some of the new positions, the best thing for me to do is to disassociate myself from them in this way.

In closing, I hope that you will bear in mind that one can be a loyal member of the SWP without being a member of the LTF.

Will Reissner

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