

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS NATIONAL REPORT

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FOR MEMBERS ONLY---FOR MEMBERS ONLY ---FOR MEMBERS ONLY

200 of NAM's 700 members were present at its national convention. In addition, 150 non-members attended. The latter was the group that was most interested in us, and which we were most interested in. It included some collectives who have become friendly to us in the last few months. They are moving in a very progressive direction: beginning to understand the necessity for a national organization, and overcoming their previous local, parochial perspectives. They were attracted to NAM because of this and because they heard the same rumors that we did: that NAM was discussing (and possibly becoming an axis for) the need for a revolutionary party, while at the same time discussing work place organizing and the relationship between socialism and feminism. They were first checking NAM out as their possible national organization since it is looser and requires less commitment and agreement than the IS. Finding NAM to be sterile and a dead end, they were moved much closer to the IS.

NAM lacks most of the criteria for a successful organization: political definition, principles, agreement, tradition, leadership, direction, commitment or discipline. It is a social democratic organization of half a dozen different tendencies who are mutually suspicious if not hostile. They are openly contemptuous of each other and their organization, to which they have little loyalty. As a result, there cannot be any real democratic debate of politics. To do so would fragment the organization since it is not held together by principled agreement and commitment. Therefore NAM is inevitably drawn to compromises, spurious consensus and back room manoeuvres, to avoid disputes which would rip the group apart.

NAM is a collection point, or railroad station, of political types who are coming and going. The right wing, the National Strategy Caucus, led by John Judis (a collaborator of James Weinstein, absent in Europe) is based in DeKalb, Ill. and the Bay Area. This tendency has Weinstein's theory of a social democratic electoral machine, of what the old socialist movement used to charge Victor Berger (Weinstein's hero) with as socialist Tammanys. Electoral organizations not much different in content from bourgeois electoral machines, but calling themselves socialist. The Weinstein group makes a big point of their electoral combinations being explicitly socialist, as the decisive demarcation line from bourgeois politics. They have few other dividing lines. The Judis-Weinstein group have many similarities with Harrington's Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, and very likely may wind up there. The DeKalb group has much of it already worked out, having the politics of apprentice flunkys for the union bureaucracy. In the discussions on workplace organizing their spokesman argued for a political approach above the parochialism of the local workplace which could not solve workers' problems. When spalled out they called for organizing the workplace for... a veto-proof Congress, and controlling the investments of the multinationals to protect jobs--the same program as Meany, Abel & Co. They did however point up the weaknesses of a "work-place organizing strategy" which has no perspective of what the goals, aims and program of what it's organizing the workplace for.

The Weinstein right shaded off into the Boyte-Ackerman center. Boyte, of North Carolina NAM, is a new left gloss on left social democracy. Politically eclectic, strong on socialist feminism, for "work-place organizing", project orientation on health and safety, oriented to the "progressive unions" like UE and the UMW. For Boyte the unions are identified by their bureaucracies, whether

they are progressive or not. Boyte's against making electoralism the main thing but is even softer than the Weinsteinites on the Democratic Party. Boyte is for a positive approach to liberals, with the accent on the positive. He is for support to Democrats on the local level, and so is embarrassed by calls for "explicitly socialist" electoralism. Many of Boyte's documents could have been written by Harrington. With more left wing rhetoric, Boyte represents the same direction as Weinstein. He is the bridge whereby NAM's left and right can compromise behind the scenes.

Ackerman of the Middlesex groups is a more left wing variant of Boyte. Although closely associated, if Ackerman were to realize Boyte's direction he would probably be horrified. Ackerman is not disingenuous or dishonest, he's just a genuinely confused new left.

Left Center was occupied by two variants of party-building. The spokesman for the first was Mogelescu of Minneapolis. The 2nd is led by Dorothy Healy, ex South California CP, presently of 40 Socialists in Search of a Party. Mogelescu proposed a more "party-like" development for NAM and unity negotiations with other groups (Klanoy's, People's Party) to form a party. Mogelescu, a chemically pure centrist, proposed a confused centrist conception of a party, which was thought to be the "Leninist thrust and direction" of NAM. Mogelescu found it impossible to make present a simple formulation with the obligatory addition of "but on the other hand". The syndicalists exposed him. They took the floor to say that people might be surprised but there was a lot in Mogelescu's proposal that they could agree with. But then there was a lot that anyone could agree with. It has something for everybody in it, and it came down smack in the middle of the fence on every question. The syndicalist may have been wrong on every other question, but their judgement on Mogelescu was perfectly correct.

The other party-builder, Dorothy Healy, spoke to the lack of political definition, leadership, and commitment in NAM, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and overcoming it as basic to the development of an organization. People responded to Healy very positively, they want a more serious group, but the cadres to carry it out aren't there. Healy's solution is to bring in a cadre from the outside, probably ex-CPers, to make NAM capable of being what it's supposed to be, a more coherent centrist type organization. She approached the Hammerquists of Sojourner Truth to enter NAM on that basis--threatening that if they didn't help her take over NAM, the IS would. The Hammerquists told her that the IS was the only worthwhile group at the convention. If the IS took over NAM, it might be worth joining, otherwise they weren't interested. Healy recognized that NAM as a group isn't going anywhere, but she politely refused our invitation to discuss NAM's future. Her 40 Socialists recently joined NAM as did Aronowitz, which has tended to give the illusion of motion and dynamic where none exists.

The left wing was the work-place organizing caucus, which was cobbled together from 2 incompatible parts on the basis of hopeless compromise, politically paralyzing both wings. The first part, New Orleans-Austin NAM, are syndicalists, anti-party, anti-leadership, who find any step toward organizational cohesion to be the original sin of Bolshevism. They have no perspective, or strategy, and fought openly on the platform that NAM should have none--the time isn't right. They despise NAM but so long as it lacks definition or consistency they find it a habitable marsh. The other axis of work place organizers included the Philadelphia NAM sympathetic to Labor Committee ideas, of vintage

4-5 years ago (impending monetary collapse, programmatic unity of the class, class-wide formations as opposed to rank and file caucuses), groups of people sympathetic to the IS political orientation. This second grouping, while the best at the convention, were so politically paralyzed by their compromise with syndicalists that they were a big zero at the convention, without practically no independent specific weight.

There were 3 main convention discussions: party building, work place organizing, socialist feminism. Unfortunately I missed the latter. The work-place organizing was formless. NAM is thoroughly petty-bourgeois. Most of its tendencies have new working class theories. None of the discussion on work-place organizing could discuss any concrete factory, shop or union. Rank and file caucuses in opposition to the bureaucracy were barely mentioned. Nonetheless throughout the convention every other word was the working class. It was a recognition even on the part of this social strata so isolated from the working class, that the next wave of radicalism is going to be a working class movement or its not going to happen. They-- and other radicals--are attracted to organizations on the basis of their ability to provide a working class strategy, ~~roots~~ roots, and any successes in working class struggle. The respect that we gained during the conference came out of our ability to discuss the real work we are doing in industry and the unions. Our success in this milieu comes not primarily through direct participation in it, but from the outside, from our ability to place in front of it the work that we are doing in industry.

The discussion on party-building extended to a discussion on uniting with a number of other groups to create a party, in particular with Kinoy's Mass Party of the People, the People's Party-Peace and Freedom axis, and to a lesser extent with the SP, which most people involved in the unity negotiation thought was peculiar and difficult to tie down to any political positions. Also included in these talks are the Fight Back group (NY black workers), and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. I don't believe the latter are all that serious about unity. The PSP, although its only impressions, seemed more interested in finding allies to cooperate with its independence campaign this fall, than desirous of unity with this heterogeneous group. The main group involved in unity negotiations with NAM is Kinoy's Mass Party. It seems to be more of an idea than an organization, but it may create some hook-up with NAM. To achieve unity Kinoy is prepared to accept an explicitly socialist statement, NAM's only real condition for unity. So is the People's-Party--Peace and Freedom Party, which is more reticent to accept a socialist label, but has little alternative. It has no perspectives and seems to be the leftover dregs of the apolitical life-style movement. Kinoy tried to find a theoretical bridge to NAM on the basis of socialist-feminism, and the construction of a party based on that concept, and more broadly, on the "union of the personal ~~with~~ and the political". Kinoy maintained the bridge was the writings of Sheila Rowbotham, whom he stated was the common theoretician of both groups. There was also some loose talk of unifying with, or cooperating ~~with~~ and working with, the "new communist forces", or Marxist-Leninist groups. What was probably meant was the October League, but some NAM people would probably think of it as meaning the IS as well.

If NAM is able to unify with Kinoy's group and People's Party, and the prospects for this are fairly good, it may make some initial splash. However

the combined group would not be much more quantitatively or qualitatively than what NAM is now and would not have much greater prospects. The groups would not be able to agree on anything beyond a generality, and probably would not be able to hold together at its first serious test.

NAM is a multi-tendenced sect without activism. It has no future since it lacks, any of the basis for existence: distinctive ideas, or numbers and activity. It may survive for a while until there is some other alternative, or as a first way station for people to go through as they look for a socialist organization. Its most likely course of development will be collapse or crack-up with its component tendencies having the greatest chance to go in 3 different directions. The first would be toward Harrington's Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, if it proves to be a more dynamic version of what NAM's right wing is trying to accomplish.

The second would be towards the October League. Of the other groups at the convention, those that people were interested in were us and the OL. The OL has a certain attraction to many of the NAM people whose politics are a cross between social democracy and stalinoidism. The OL takes a soft attitude to those sorts of politics. It tries to work with and incorporate such political types by organizing from group activity. The OL generally has a good reputation in the broad left as being non-sectarian and easy to work with. This is contrasted to the RU which now has the reputation of being heavy-handed, manipulative, sectarian, and generally fuck-ups. The RUsers were quite disliked by this milieu and no one seemed willing to talk with them at the convention. While there may be some basis for these reputations--the RUsers were much more political and the OLers are much more opportunist--what has really occurred is that the Guardian has thoroughly moved the broad left periphery into sympathizers for the OL's politics and to being antagonistic to the RU. Davidson and Silber use the Guardian as an OL front and recruiting ground, even though the Guardian still parades itself as an independent radical paper. Guardian readership is growing, and was read by practically all at NAM. Even those who hate the Guardian and consider it a sectarian rag read it. It's where you get news about the movement and its the connection point for what going on in the movement and what's up in the Maoist Left. Even though the OL probably doesn't have more than 300 members, it has been turned into a force by the Guardian which has given it a mass periphery from which to recruit. Even though the RU is much (3x) bigger, more politically coherent, with a better cadre, it is now in crisis--probably because its broad left periphery was stolen from it when the Guardian moved to the OL last fall, and has systematically moved the soggy left to the OL.

The third direction would be towards the IS. Among the younger people, particularly those looking for a workplace ~~xxx~~ organizing strategy, there was a certain sympathy for us. Many of them are new radicals, Unlike the right wing which is left over from the 60's, they are radicalized by the 70's. They have good instincts, but primitive ideas. NAM is their first political experience. They have had little experience in mass struggle a la the 60's and so are more confused and not as radical as movement people of the 60's, but they are much more open to working class politics and a revolutionary organization than were 60's radicals. There will be many people like that coming in and seeping out of NAM, which will be a revolving door for such political types.

They won't organize a fight in NAM because they lack political cohesion and leadership, and as a group they won't ~~fight~~ find NAM attractive enough to fight in. When they get discouraged they will drop out, as has already similar groups in Washington DC and NY. Because radicals like this will continue to run through NAM we should continue to be around its periphery. We can recruit some of them without entering NAM, and given NAM's small size and not very promising forces, we should not enter. If however, it should momentarily grow, or for awhile become the focus point for radical forces moving towards national organization, we should then reevaluate whether to enter NAM. At this point our best approach is to remain in touch with NAM developments and these people, as there should be a general drift out, some ~~ix~~ of it towards us.

One of the most gratifying things at the convention was the large reputation and respect which Workers Power has acquired. WP was one the things that gave us a presence and credibility as an alternative. Having a pamphlet for free distribution, on Building a REvolutionary Party, was also quite helpful in developing a presence for ourselves. The NAM^M speaker on CLUW, who many thought gave the best speech of the conference, was friendly to the IS and the speech she gave was the IS line on CLUW, much of it similar to the WP coverage on CLUW.

While many people were open or sympathetic to our ideas, they were initially stand-offish. The IS is not a strong pole of attraction, is not well known, or is still known for its reputation as a Berkeley student group, and one that has had some splits. People wanted to know not just or primarily whether they agreed with us on the nature of socialism or questions that seemed abstract, but whether we had a strategy and more importantly were we a group that was growing and going any place. They, the independent observers and the NAM members, are exploring national organizations, and what they really wanted to know was whether the IS can make it, not just whether they agree with us.

The role we played there was to point out why NAM couldn't make it, why it couldn't deliver ~~what~~ on what they wanted--a road to a revolutionary party based in the working class--and why the IS could. We showed that while as a group 4 years ago we were not all that different in social composition, background (and even style of organization, and work engaged in) than groups like NAM, SDS, or PFP, we have been successful in making the turn to a national organization deeply involved in industrial and union work. Such a change, which we have accomplished, would destroy NAM (and most other groups) if it tried to do it. Unfortunately the process required a turn that could not be consummated without splits. We explained that the process required overcoming many of the preconceptions and assumptions which we had when we entered the working class, abstractions which came out of our student past, not working class practice. IN doing so, we have created a politically coherent national organization and press with a strategy for building rank and file national opposition caucus in the unions and integrated ~~in~~ this into our strategy for building a revolutionary party out of this activity. We were able to show that we were the only group that had such a coherent strategy, and that was putting it into practice in the unions--not just talking about it. For the first time in years, really since the PFP in 68, we were armed with a well worked out ~~ix~~ and integrated political line and strategy, and one which found a very favorable response. It was that which armed us, enabled us to have an impact on people, which put us ahead of most of the competing tendencies, and which made us a more formidable alternative pole of attraction.

Of the other tendencies, not previously mentioned, the SWP, SL, and Sojourner Truth group were there. They were pretty universally ignored. No one reads the Militant anymore, and the SWP is treated as irrelevant. Its as if it has missed out on the current debate on the left on party building, and seems to be missing the boat on what the coming radical movement is going to be about. Sojourner Truth seems also to have lost its attraction for independent collectives of industrialized radicals, and is pushed out of the current direction towards national organization. They are quite demoralized.

The outcome of our intervention at NAM was quite good. Although we were not able to speak at the plenaries, we could in the workshops. We also did a lot of individual contact work. Our general position in a small sector of the left was improved. People heard and read our views, could see the quality of our membership. We are not that well known, and this helped our position in the broad left. Not qualitatively because NAM isn't the place where it could be--but it was clear that we are starting to intervene once again in the left, and are becoming one of the axes around the current drive to party-building.

The groups we were in contact with prior to the convention--Akron Breaking the Ice, Washington ex NAM, Cleveland Modern Times, Pittsburgh indep NAM periphery--were all solidified. In coming to NAM, finding it wanting, seeing that we had more of an alternative strategy, they were moved closer to us. In rejecting NAM, they also continue to move closer to the need for a national organization. Even NAM as pathetic as it is has more to offer, and puts groups in touch with the activities and debates in the rest of the left, than local organizing does. The Philadelphia NAM was the only group who we knew before the convention who didn't move closer, but rather away from us. They were allied to the New Orleans syndicalists who recognize that because of our emphasis on workers democracy and revolution, which they share, coupled to our view on organization and leadership, and party, we are the biggest political threat to them in the long run. The New Orleans people were successful in moving them away from us, but this is probably only temporary because in reality they have more in common with us than with the syndicalists. The solidified contacts was our most important work but we also made contacts with new people and 3 additional groups, NAM student chapter in East Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Harvard. The Ann Arbor group in particular, which previously we had some loose touch with 1 person in it, will be willing to collaborate with us on joint activity and possibly on proposals for NAM if we so decide.

In summation the NAM conference was a first test in terms of the perspective discussed at the NC on recruiting independent collectives and intervening in the Maoist milieu. It was a successful test, and has given us confidence in the perspective we have been developing. For the first time in years there are small groups, not just individuals who are moving in our direction politically and are open to discussions and recruitment, if we are prepared to aggressively seek them out and win them to our politics and the I.S.

REPORT ON THE 36TH ANNUAL CWA CONVENTION

[We were unable to send anyone to Kansas City for the CWA Convention, so the following report is based on "Daily Labor Reports" of the Bureau of National Affairs and on what various telephone workers have heard]

CWA Conventions are generally routine, lackluster affairs and this years' was no real exception in spite of the fact that major events were formalized there.

One major event was the formalization of the contract ratification procedure for national bargaining. This was already sent out separately and will not be repeated here. It is worth noting, however, that the "new" procedure differs only from the old one in that 1) it made it explicit that the International Executive Board can call of a strike even before the agreement is ratified, and 2) it allows no means for any level of the union - ranks or local leaders - other than the Exec. Board to propose changes or modifications of the bargaining teams position. The membership can accept or reject a contract but it cannot propose, even through its local officers, what is acceptable or what the basis for rejection is. The Exec. Board and the bargaining team have a total free hand.

The other major event, of course, was the replacement of Joe Beirne with Glenn Watts as CWA President. There was no contest. Two unheard of local leaders from the south ran against Watts, but did not get significant support. Long-time anti-Beirne local leader Ed Dempsey, from NY Local 1101, seconded Watts' nomination in a show of "unity."

With one unimportant exception, the Watts' "unity" slate swept the elections for Executive Board and top officers. The exception was Dist. 3, the South east, where Allen Willis, Jr. an area director for Florida and Georgia beat the incumbent district director (an Exec. Board post) R.B. Porch by little more than 200 votes. [Votes are cast in blocks by locals according to the size of the local] The only ~~xxx~~ other offices seriously contested were the Sec-Treas., Western Installation, ~~and~~ the new Executive Vice Pres. position, and Dist. 9 vice pres.

Watts' candidate for Sec-Treas., Lois Knecht (a man) was opposed by Clara Allen the director for New Jersey. The vote was 299,651 for Knecht and 160,034 for Allen. In the Western Installation election, Watts' man, Patrick Morgan won by less than 200 votes against Jerry Fernandez, Pres. of New Orleans local 10490 (12,780 to 12,887). In the election for Executive Vice President John Renck, from Queens local 1106, got 173,156 votes to Watts' candidate George Miller's 236,761. - with a couple of other candidates getting about 60,000 between them. In Dist. 9, northern California Watts' man James Booe Hung defeated oppositionist Bernie Chiaravalle by a vote of 25,817 to 9,742.

Renck is, in fact, the leader of the New York bureaucratic oppositionists. He is generally credited with having lead the New York State local presidents into the 1971-72 strike. His running for Exec. Vice Pres., a union-wide office, was generally regarded as a way not to confront Watts. Had Renck and the other NY presidents wanted

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to confront Watts, they would have run Renck for Dist. 1 Vice Pres. - and International Exec. Board post voted on only by delegates from NY, NJ and New England. They have often talked of doing this particularly because incumbent Dist. 1 Director Morty Bahr so adamantly fought the 1971 NY strike. This year, however, they decided not to take on Bahr, who they could have defeated, and to run Renck as a token for the new post of ~~XXX~~ Executive Vice Pres.

Bernie Chiaravalle, who opposed the much hated James Bose Hung from Dist. 9 in California, was an international rep. who went against the wishes of Beirne by defending Stephan Charter in a case concerning company eaves-dropping. Thanks to Chiaravalle the case was won. Now, it should be noted, Watts is all hot about fighting the monitoring system, whereby the company listens in on operators and other employees to check their work.

There were both black and women's caucuses at the Convention. Both are semi-official bodies. The black caucus has been around for a couple of years. It is led by Dennis Serrette from NY Local 1101. Serrette was once a militant who has long since made his peace with the powers that be - all of them. Additionally, Serrette is a national leader of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. He has organized branches of CBTU in NY, including in the CWA, though they don't seem to have any real life to them. Serrette has opted for a high post in the international and is expected to get it - something along the lines of chief troubleshooter or administrator for ethnic problems and affairs. The black caucus supported the Watts' "unity" slate down the line.

We know less about the women's caucus. However, it is clearly not an independent body or a fighting group. There is to be only one woman on the Exec. Board, and that is only because she, Dina Beaumont, just brought her southern California traffic union, the Federation of Women Telephone Workers (12,000 members) into CWA as is. FWTW was founded in 1937 as a company union. Watts told the women's caucus that he was somewhat embarrassed that there was only one woman on the Exec. Board and so few women in high staff positions, but promised to do better in the future. He later reassured the convention that he would only appoint qualified women to high jobs. We do not know whether the women's caucus voted for Clara Allen, from NJ, or not, but it is doubtful.

As usual, the officers voted themselves a pay raise. They are as follows: Pres. from \$47,414 to 51,250; XX Sec-Treas. from \$39,880 to \$42,990; Exec. Vice Pres. \$36,878 to \$39,830; Vice Pres. (Dist. Directors) \$30,439 to \$32,874; National Directors (AT&T, Western) \$29,268 to \$31,614. Those are 3% increases.

The union has 477,426 dues paying members and 11,115 people who pay dues under the modified agency shop. The 1974-75 budget will be \$19,073,014, some interesting sub-points on the budget are: \$225,000 for CWA News (can you believe that?); \$130,000 for "foreign affairs"; \$175,000 for publicity and public relations. The defense fund now has \$7,065,589 (as of March 31) - hardly enough to support a long strike, huh?

Editor's Report 7/25

1. Notes on sending articles to WP know
 - a. ~~XXXXX~~ comrades on the West Coast should ~~xxx~~ that air mail, special delivery takes two days (sometimes three) from the West Coast. Articles due on Tues. cannot be ~~xx~~ mailed out on Monday and be expected to get there on time.
 - b. deadlines are important - We have a fairly complicated schedule and when things miss the deadline they usually mean a great deal of extra work for every one on the newspaper staff.
 - c. NEVER NEVER send things registered mail to a pen name. Registered mail is delivered to addressee only and they must have ID. None of us have ID for our pen names and things can end up sitting in the post office or returned to you. If you send something registered mail you can send it to me, or Joel Geier.
 - d. please send articles typed, and triple spaced if you can.
2. We are beginning to get some excellent feedback from worker contacts. M Members should actively encourage your contacts to send letters to WP. Many comrades say that they read "Feedback ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ first and for good reason - the feedback section reflects a real readership and gives the paper a sense of life and connection to the real world. ~~XXX~~ Socialist Workers" feedback section is extremely successful and has been expanded to two pages. Contacts should be encouraged to write about conditions and problems at work as well what they think about WP.
3. We will attempt to write to comrades much more about why articles were edited and how. However this will put an additional strain on the staff which is already stretched thin - so these notes will be brief and not as full as anyone would wish.
4. In this issue #102 we are attempting a ~~XXXXX~~ Footprints type column. We are undecided however whether to keep all these short pieces clumped together as ~~x~~ is done with Footprints or to scatter them throughout the issue. Feedback on what people think of this (page 2) ~~xxxxx~~ will be welcomed.
5. We are planning to have more IS news in future issues. Marilyn and I will be discussing how to go about doing this.
6. Additional columns in the planning stages are: A discussion of Socialist ideas and a column by Joel on problems of building the revolutionary movement.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT July 24, 1974

1. NO: Three cheers for us: we have found an air conditioned place for the convention - so those of you who have been urging, ~~has~~ threatening, etc me about this can now relax! The stalinism reprint will be ready in about one week. Also, branches should order from the Book Service additional copies of JG's pamphlet, The Task for Socialists: Building the Revolutionary Party, and the pamphlet on CLUW which is the articles in WP reprinted. They both are 25¢ each. We hope in the future to put out more small pamphlets such as these, since we have found that it takes relatively little work and can be done quickly.
2. NAC: Aside from preparations for the convention, we have been discussing and planning further our intervention in the Maoist milieu - and the working ~~or~~ class collectives throughout the midwest and east. ~~is~~ JF (Detroit) is making his second trip (the first was to the Pittsburgh-Youngstown, Akron area), going first to that area and also to Boston, Albany, NYC, Philadelphia, Washington and back to Pitt-Youngstown-Akron. ML and BM (Detroit) will also be ~~be~~ making short trips during the changeover period to Boston and the Pittsburgh, Akron, Youngstown area. JF's first trip and as JG's NAM report show, this milieu is quite open to us. In each of the places listed there are small groups and individuals who are in varying degrees friendly, and politically close to us. At minimum they are potentially close collaborators with us in our industrial work in those area. Over time we should be able to both establish a solid political periphery and begin to recruit.
3. St. Louis: The St. Louis Branch has a new member, she is their first woman member.
4. Los Angeles: Comrades should read carefully our statement and that of the Socialist Collective in the latest issue of WP. It is about the vicious attack on them engineered by the CP. We are working quite closely with the SC on this, in attempting to publicize the attack and politically what it represents. We will also be attempting to raise this with SCEF in Louisville which has been embroiled in a fight with the CP. Also from LA: Bob Avakian spoke for the RU on the question of the party. There was a lot of Trotskyist baiting, and he called both the CL and the OL "Trotskyites". From reliable sources we've learned that they have gone from 900 to ~~7~~ 600 members over the past 6 months, apparently losing ~~a~~ many to the CL.

NAC MINUTES 7/16-24/74

O. NATSEC REPORT. See National Report.

1. NAM. Report on convention by JG. (Attached). The NAC thanks the comrades who attended the NAM convention for the valuable work they did there. Our assessment is that in the coming period there will be seepages out of NAM as it becomes more clearly social-democratic and non-functional, and that we can recruit out of this process. CW to send regular reports and maintain contact, especially in Pittsburgh area.

A report was also presented by JF on meetings with people from Pittsburgh.

2. CONVENTION -- Women's document. Following a preliminary document, MD was assigned to write draft. It was agreed that the scope of the document should be ~~political analysis~~ and strategy, not local tactics, etc. On 7/24 this draft was presented, and is included in the next Bulletin as ~~xxxxx~~ rewritten following the discussion.

Bureaucratic collectivism. An amendment was submitted (7/24) by DF to substitute for chapter II of Mike P's document. To be included in the next bulletin. The amendment was ~~ad~~ PASSED 3-0-1 as a NAC amendment (MD abstaining; JW and JT could not be present for this meeting).

Speaking rights. The NAC has voted that the Cleveland branch will be exempt from the rule ~~passed by the NC~~ that NC delegates must stand for convention delegates in their branches. The reason is that the proportional situation that exists in Detroit also exists in Cleveland in terms of the large number of NC members in the branch. If NC members in Cleveland all ran for delegates ~~there would be~~ the whole slate would be exhausted. Therefore, for the same reason that we are not requiring NAC members to run for delegate in Detroit we will not require NC members to run in Cleveland. (It is worth noting once again that this is not a general rule; in larger branches we would be for such a requirement).

3. UFW. The NAC recommends to the UFW fraction that a national steering committee be constituted consisting of MP, DW and KB. The steering committee would be in charge of communications with the NAC and so forth similar to the role of other fraction steering committees.

4. PRISONS. Discussion of the question of prisons and prison revolts, based on the attempt of two black prisoners in Washington, DC to escape through seizure of hostages, etc. (These two prisoners, who eventually surrendered, were leaders of a prison revolt in 1971). A draft of a resolution by DF was submitted to the WP editorial board for guidance in terms of taking an editorial position on this issue - support prisoners' right to resist, explain why we demand abolition of prison system, point out who the real criminals are, etc. A fuller statement on the issue of prisons and crime is to be drawn up when time permits for a more thorough discussion, as has been requested in the past, by the E.B.

5. SOCIALIST COLLECTIVE. Report on beating of Socialist Collective by thugs organized by CP. Discussion of draft of statement by IS to appear in next issue of WORKERS POWER.

MOTION: The NAC will help to organize a campaign for several weeks in LA, Louisville and possible other branches around the beating-up of the comrades of the Socialist Collective by CP thugs and their allies. We will make aggressive use of this incident to expose the CP wherever possible (Louisville is relevant

here because of SCEF), solidify working relations with the SC and publicize the fact that we will fight for the political rights of the revolutionary left to present its views in the movement. ALL FOR.

6. PORTLAND. The following recommendation was received from Bill R.:

I suggest that the NAC take the following steps: ~~of~~ (a) Discuss the formation of an IS branch in Portland, although it cannot be provided fulltime leadership of an experienced ISer. (b) Send a NAC representative to the Seattle Educational Conference Aug. 3 ~~xxxxxxx~~ at which time a formal meeting will be held with Portland. (c) Formally commit to assist Portland in whatever way is feasible, such as regular travel between the Bay Area and Portland. (d) Formally appoint someone (it should probably be BR) from Seattle to work with Portland over the next year.

Recommendation ~~xxxx~~ PASSED ALL FOR.

7. CWA. Report by Kim on progress of contract bargaining and possibilities of national strike. UA leaflet is getting national distribution wherever possible.

8. CYPRUS-GREECE. Report by JG and DF summarizing developments of the last few days regarding US-backed overthrow of the Greek dictatorship and its replacement by right-wing civilian regime. We do not expect that this maneuver can head off the explosion from below that has been building up in Greece. WP coverage is in preparation.