

I.S. National Report

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FOR MEMBERS ONLY

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NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT September 24, 1974

1. **EC:** ~~Exx~~ The EC has been involved in perspectives discussions for the organization between now and the first of the year. The perspective will attempt to draw up and have proposals for the major work of the EC during that time. Of major importance ~~ix~~ in any perspective is developing a method for integrating and assimilating new members as quickly as possible. This includes education, and the development of a more complete educational program, and industrialization. Also involved is the development of national fractions in our priority unions. Another priority area is the development of the NC into a working leadership body. This will be done primarily through the setting up of NC subcommittees that will meet during NC meetings in addition to the general sessions. Involved in the perspective is also the questions of what political questions the organization should concentrate on, as well as perspectives for a youth group, overseeing the Maoism campaign, and develop- ing perspectives for intervening in the black movement. This perspectives discussion should be completed in the next week or so, and will be included in the next national report.

We also discussed how to help build the Bloomington ~~x~~ rank and file conference, and the Detroit and New York ones.

2. **Socialist Collective:** The SC comrades have now formally joined the IS, by joining the LA branch. They will continue to meet separately for awhile (as well as with the branch) in order to go through the discussions that 4 of their 5 central committee members ~~sk~~ had with comrades in Detroit. There will be a public meeting in LA on October 6 on building the revolutionary party where ~~Ek~~ Joel G and Lil Joe will speak, which will publicize their joining. The majority will be moving to Detroit and Chicago in one to two months. Lil Joe will be on the EC (to be ratified by the NC). A Joint statement ~~sk~~ to the membership is being prepared by the EC and the SC comrades delinbating the discussions and areas of political agreement, that is, the basis of their joining. We will also put out a special bulletin with all of their position paperx, leaflets, documents and a brief history, so that all comrades will be informed about their development. In addition there will be a statement for Workers Power, and later on a pamphlet outlining their development and why they joined IS for outside use. We all feel that the SC's joining is an historic breakthrough for our tendency, and will qualitatively change the IS in the direction of building a revolutionary workers organization.

3. **NO:** We now have a full time printer, ~~some~~ and hope to have more and better pamphlets out soon. ;The reprint, The Chinese Revolution, is now in print again.

4. **DUES:** ~~f~~ As all comrades know, payment of dues is a requirement of membership. The majority pay their regularly and on time, but some don't. Comrades, payment of dues should be considered on the level of paying the rent, utilities, etc. Just because the organiza- tion won't cut off your gas or electricity, doesn't mean it's not just as important. Some comrades - the NO staff, Workers Power staff and branch organizers - depend for their entire living on dues, and if some don't pay, then some of the staff might not eat. So, comrades, pay your dues regularly and on time, and organizerx, send in your national dues, ~~xxxx~~ now \$7.50/month/member on time. This is as important as any other aspect of your revolutionary ~~comrx~~ commitment.

5. **Fund Drive:** The Fund Drive begins October 1st. It is very high, but we can do it, because it is necessary to raise the money in order to move ahead with our new potential. Dig deep and get your friends, parents, relatives, workmates, etc to do so also. It's important to get the ~~knif~~ drive off to a good start. All branches have now accepted their quotas. Merry Fallbin in the NO is the National Director; branches and MALs will be heading from here regularly.

6. Bloomington: Sixty peopel attended the rank and file conference in Bloomington last week. Speaking at it were JG, KM, JT, GS from Detroit. Most of the audience was students, and there were almost no industrialized radicals or workers, which made it different than the Cleveland and Seattle Conferences. Comrades from Louisville, and St. Louis also attended the conference.

7. Los Angeles: Four people put their name forward last week for membership.

8. Bay Area: One in San Francisco and one in the East Bay put their names forward for membership

9. Louisville: One person joined last week.

O. NATSEC REPORT. Attached.

1. COLLECTIVES CAMPAIGN. report by JG. We are involved in regular ~~the~~ discussions with independent radical collectives in several cities, including Louisville. Discussions are in the process of being set up with the Independent Socialist Union in Albany NY. The issue of WP containing the statement by ex-members of Modern Times is being sent to the MT mailing list.

The process of setting up a Pittsburgh IS branch, which is now in progress, will be approached under the guidance of the EC. Travel from Cleveland to Pittsburgh is being arranged by the Cleveland exec with consultation with the NAC. MD will make a trip to Pittsburgh in a couple of weeks.

Conferences are clearly playing an increasingly important role in attracting a periphery to the IS from the collectives milieu. The NO will try to assign one person to do travelling before each conference in order to build them and increase their turnout and impact.

Some comrades have been in touch with a group called the Philadelphia Workers Organizing Committee (FWOC). This group is interesting in that its labor perspectives and practice appear similar to ours, and much more effective than that of most other radicals. However, the FWOC has hard Stalinist politics and ideology and is hostile to Trotskyism (not necessarily attached to any particular Stalinist country). We wish to maintain independent contact with FWOC; however, they should be considered an opponent tendency and not as collaborators. Therefore, we will not ask the FWOC to collaborate in our educational conferences and other projects.

Attempts are being made to keep up contacts with the remnants of STO. A trip to Chicago by JW and DF was not too productive in this regard, as many of the individuals we wished to speak to were unavailable. However, JW spoke with Don H. about the latter's new views on the importance and role of unions.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. The IS received an invitation to attend the fifth International Conference sponsored by LO in November. We have replied that because of the strain on our resources at this point, we cannot afford to make the trip. However, we expect to participate in the conference next year.

We have also informed the ISGB with regret that we will be unable to send a fraternal delegate to the ISGB conference.

The IS-USA sent greetings and solidarity to both the ISGB conference and the LO International Conference.

3. WP STATEMENT. Discussion of draft revised statement of principles for WP. See ~~your~~ your next WP. (~~Revisions~~ Following EC discussion, a few stylistic revisions were made by the editorial board for space reasons).

4. UMW. Report by KM. Discussion of prospects for strike and developing literature (a pamphlet on the strike by KM) and strike support.

5. YOUTH GROUP. MOTION: The EC reaffirms its position on the desirability and feasibility of moving towards an IS youth group. Recent events - the start of more rapid recruitment, the joining of the Socialist Collective, the joining of more comrades from Red Tide and Contra Costa Socialist Coalition - convinces us that the tempo towards the formation of an IS youth group can and should be speeded up. The EC requests that the meeting of IS youth to

be held with MD and JG commission a document on the conception of the group, its perspectives and activities, and its organizational relationship with the IS.

6. SOCIALIST COLLECTIVE. Discussion of relocation of comrades from the SC, bringing them into leadership bodies, and tours to be undertaken to assist in this process. JW and DF went to Chicago to discuss perspectives for bringing some SC members to Chicago.

7. AUTO JOURNAL. Report by JW on departments and division of responsibility for the journal.