

#### ADDITION ON ROLE OF N.C. TO DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM DOCUMENT

As IS has developed over the last year, much has been said or written about the changing role of the EC in response to these developments. In fact much has been done to change the role of the EC and it is accepted by everyone that some of the concrete changes in IS could not have been made without such a transition.

On the question of the role of the NC there has been a similar amount of discussion but very little positive change. In truth the organization is in transition and the NC as an operational body has yet to reflect that transition. The discussions on the question have been largely negative. This amendment is designed merely as the first step along the road of defining and creating the correct role for the NC. We do not believe that in the event of this being passed by convention the process will be complete. We will still have to learn as we go along.

Given the physical limitations on the frequency on NC meetings there is no way that the NC can lead the organization on a day to day or even month to month basis. This does not mean that the NC can play no general leadership role in the organization, there are mechanisms by which the NC members can have an input between meetings. There are issues that have to be decided by the organization which can (and should, given the greater expertise of the whole NC over the smaller EC) held back for consideration by the NC and the NC has the power (and undoubtedly in some instances the duty) to veto EC initiatives or change the EC line on specific questions.

Above and beyond these functions the NC represents a fantastic weight of combined experience which must be collectively tapped if the organization is to develop in the right direction. This means that working sessions, of the kind held at the last NC on the subject of the worker recruitment campaign, will become a regular feature of the work of the body.

The NC has already decided to institute a system of written NC debate which will significantly increase the overall political clarity of the National leadership. The assessment of the past year's experience of NC subcommittees and the creation of a more effective system which includes alternates as full members and gives the committees ongoing responsibilities between meetings will further strengthen this process. Finally the implementation with the new NC of the already agreed two way system for consultation between the EC and NC will take us even further along the road to creating a broader, more collaborative national leadership of the kind that can lead us into combat and not just organize discussion.

This overall concept of the role of the NC can only be viewed as the first step towards creating an authoritative leadership for a workers combat organization. Future steps will have to speak to the development of national fraction leadership, branch execs and other bodies which will include non NC leaders of the organization. All these areas of leadership will have the same responsibilities that the EC now carries, that of bringing their collective line into the rest of the organization, fighting for it and ensuring its implementation. As yet we can only claim to be in the process of transition to this position, the EC (which must be the organizer of the rest of the leadership) must be judged on its ability to make this transition complete and successful.