

IS IN THE CLASS STRUGGLE

Resolution A1 -- The Employers Offensive

Add as point 8:

8. The employers' offensive is one of the most important reasons that revolutionaries are able to lead struggles around industrial and trade union issues. But the inability of the trade union bureaucrats to deliver generates growing dissatisfaction with the existing union leadership and also lays the basis for another, alternative, set of politics for changing the unions. That alternative political view is trade union reformism. Trade union reformism fails to identify the basic conflict as one between the worker and the employer -- and fails to see corruption and anti-democratic practices as a reflection of the ability of the employers to politically penetrate and dominate the union. Instead, it sees the problem in terms of "good people" and "bad people." Therefore, trade union reformism proposes to reform the union, change the relationship between union membership and leadership in terms of democracy. But it does not question the basic relationship between the union and the employer. While reformers generally favor a more militant stance toward the employers, they do not question the idea that the employer health, i.e. profits, are the basis for the workers' well-being. Because of this, they are unable to carry out a consistent or long-term struggle against the employers in the interests of the workers. Trade union reformism naturally arises among workers who feel the effects of the employers offensive, but who are not ready to break with bourgeois ideology. It represents the bourgeois political alternative to our class struggle politics and it doesn't work. But movements led by reformists can open up the political atmosphere of the unions and undermine cynicism. Under these circumstances, we will often give critical support to trade union reformists. Union reform movements in today's conditions try to tap class struggle sentiment into a reform strategy. We want to channel trade union reform sentiment into the approach of a class struggle rank and file movement to fight the employers' offensive.

Resolution A4 -- The Fights to Come

Add as point 8:

8. One of the most important tasks in the coming year will be the solidifying of the national fractions and the development of fraction leadership. While fractions are no substitute for the full life of a revolutionary organization, they must have a certain life of their own to professionally guide the industrial and trade union work. Fractions, locally and nationally, will also be instrumental in building a political periphery for the IS and recruiting. Much of the work of training our own industrial cadre, as well as training non-socialist rank-and-file leaders, will fall on the fractions. Beginning with this convention, national fractions will have regular national meetings. These meetings will occur not only at the convention but as often as is possible between conventions. If necessary, national fraction meetings will be delegated, although for educational purposes we want to encourage as many people to go to them as possible. In this way a broader

section of our industrial leadership can have more input to the implementation and formulation of our perspectives. This process itself is part of training political leadership. The fraction leadership will develop educational and training programs to help speed up this process in coordination with the National Education Department. This is no substitute for political discussion and education in the branches which declined during the IBT campaigns. Fraction training will be on industry/union lines, with branch training in other areas. In addition, each fraction should have a leading member in charge of WP coverage for that industry. This person would work with the WP staff to develop on-going coverage. Fraction steering committees are politically responsible to the EC. The EC will appoint at least one member of the EC to be on each of the fraction steering committees, to establish political collaboration and liason between the two bodies.

Resolution B6 -- Internal Life of the Organization.

1. It has become clear that the emphasis in the past year on external work, while correct, has seriously impaired the internal functioning and communications of the organization. Therefore, a number of steps, not all of them new, must be taken, to rebuild and improve our internal functioning.
2. The News of the Month will be altered in its conception. Branches will be told to submit their own report of no more than one page (i.e. one stencil). Of course the EC must have the right to edit for security and it is even conceivable that there could be political reasons for not printing a report. Additionally, the EC will comment on, tie together, and provide direction for the problems reflected in the reports. The News of the Month will also contain fraction reports from the main areas of work. The Natsec section will attempt to bring together the whole thing, so as to be the basis of regular branch discussion on the state of the organization.
3. An internal bulletin will be produced by the Education Dept. every two months. Its publication will alternate with the external political magazine. The bulletin is to be a platform for all members and not just the EC and contributions should be solicited on the key issues of the time.
4. The key list mailings to NC members and organizers will be published every week. This mailing should provide the basis for regular reports to branch execs. The practice of mandating branch discussions which was begun this year will be expanded. Main documents for the new NC meetings particularly will be discussed by all members.
5. The national fractions will establish bulletins for fraction members. Given the unevenness of the fractions, their exact form and regularity will be decided by the first fraction SC meeting.

after the convention. Local fractions will nominate one member to keep contact with the fraction center.

6. The EC/NC buddy system will be re-established. Each NC member will be assigned an EC member to maintain contact with the political center. The responsibility for making this work will not rest solely with the EC member.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES

Resolution C4 -- Gary Tyler

1. Gary Tyler is a 17 year old black youth on death row in Louisiana. He has been framed with the murder of a 13 year old white youth. The shooting took place while a racist white mob attacked a bus of black students returning home from a recently integrated school. Tyler was arrested and brutally beaten because he protested the brutal treatment of the black students by the police. He is innocent; there is no evidence against him, and witnesses have since confessed they had been tortured into fingering Gary and had thus lied.

2. As the system breaks down, the ruling class more aggressively pushes racism as a way of dividing the working class. The attack on the Destrehan school bus by a racist mob, and the thus far successful frame--up of Gary Tyler are part of the rise of racist activity and violence across the country.

3. Because Tyler is so young and facing death, and because of the specifics of the case, the Gary Tyler case has had a tremendous and immediate impact on those who hear about it. People, especially young blacks and black parents are immediately angry. Gary Tyler could be any black youth. For this reason, building a movement to free Gary Tyler can be an important step in building a new anti-racist movement. Freeing GT can be a symbol for fighting back.

4. It will take a movement to free him. The courts are part of the racist system.

5. The IS has played an important role in building a national movement to free GT. We have begun GT activity in about 12 cities. In most of these cities we have called demonstrations that have mobilized important numbers of young people, never before politically involved.

6. We want to build a mass movement, much larger than ourselves and our immediate periphery. The IS is committed to working on the case until Gary is freed.

7. Through our work on the case, we will also be building the

Red Tide, mainly in the Midwest, which is most easily serviced from the center. But the possibility also exists to build the Red Tide in other cities where interest is strong. Our commitment to that work is serious and non-sectarian, however many young people involved in the work will rapidly learn important political lessons about racist justice and the nature of the system. They will want to do more. They will want to tear the system down and that is what the Red Tide is about. Helping to build the RT out of Gary Tyler work will also help to build the mass movement, because, unless a revolutionary movement is built, there will be many, many, more Gary Tylers.

8. The Gary Tyler case is not just for black youth. We will try to involve IS branches in this concrete manifestation of the struggle for black liberation. We will try to find the bridge to bring this into our trade union work. We will attempt to involve whites as well as blacks in this struggle.