

Weds eve
Feb 2, 1977

Marianne,

I have been trying day and night for the last three days to get in touch with you on a matter of considerable importance. I have left innumerable notes at your house, hoping you would contact me to set up a date to meet. I have had no reply. In addition Mike H. relayed to me your intent to "take a leave of absence" in regard to Gerard. (Ray has contacted Gerard and, as per your wish, urged him not to call you) As you have not contacted me, I can only assume that you are on leave- if this is not true, then all the more reason to contact me immediately and set a time for us to meet as soon as is convenient. If you consider yourself to be on leave, then I must remind you that this is a consideration that the branch organizer, with consultation from the Exec, must make. Members can not simply consider themselves on leave-even with good reasons-but must operate under the discipline of the organization as to clearing up problems, the extent of the leave, whether it is advisable, etc.

Certainly, you can take a leave. We feel, however, that there are much deeper problems than those surrounding your relations w/ Gerard. We must discuss these, and soon.

I am forced to write to you precisely because you have left things so vague. We consider you on a leave of absence pending your informing us otherwise and setting a meeting to discuss and firm up your overall relationship to the branch. I realize you've been through some stress-this is precisely why you must meet with me-we think all this can be easily worked out.

Rob

In my discussion with Rob, I proposed several items for the agenda at this Sunday's branch meeting. Though he did not consider them appropriate items, I reiterate my request here.

1. To threaten a member with suspension is a serious matter, whether or not it is acted upon, and, given the context of the present faction fight, deserves discussion in the branch. Therefore, I would propose this as an item for the agenda.
2. The manner in which the factional debate has been carried out in the branch is not satisfactory, and is in violation of the basic principles of democratic centralism. Some discussion of how the debate should be carried out is necessary if the branch is to be united and able to move forward in the future.
3. I wish to propose that the branch discuss at the next meeting or as soon as possible the Left Faction's documents on women's liberation and steel work. In view of the serious problems in these areas of our work and the majority position of most members, some discussion of the political questions involved should be presented at this time. This is my concluding proposal.

Discussion of these items is imperative to the health of this branch, and I urge that they be placed on Sunday's agenda.

Marianne

February 9, 1977

Marianne,

I am writing you this letter in response to your request to put in writing the substance of our meeting of last week.

In reviewing the events of the past several months in relation to your status with the Boston branch, the exec finds that it made a mistake in not asking you to remain on the leave which you had requested to take in December. While the event- an extremely serious and personal tragedy which, in part, led to your request for a leave- was in itself a justifiable reason to take such a leave, the exec also finds in your recent behavior and actions a consistent pattern which leads us to recommend that you return to your on-leave status. The exec wishes to make it clear to you that this request is not motivated by any factional considerations. Be clear about this; it is rather based on a concern for your health and its effects on your functioning within this branch. In response to your question on convention representation; as the sole member of the L.F. in a branch of 10, your position would not be represented from this branch at the convention, whether you are an active member or not.

In addition to the above personal tragedy suffered by yourself, we wish to cite four examples of your behavior which we believe show the extreme pressure that you are under and the resulting inability of you to carry out normal branch functioning at this time:

- 1) The breach of security concerning a possible black recruit. The security measures surrounding this individual were of the strictest nature. Yet

you broke that security and related many of the details to another branch member.

(2) The passing of a ridiculous and unfounded rumor to another branch member that a member of this exec had called a comrade with whom you had a relationship and told that comrade that you were sleeping with another comrade; all in order to break up the relationship that you had with that comrade.

(3) The manner in which you handled the extremely serious personal matter of another branch member resulted in mass confusion, fear, and anger throughout this branch, another East Coast branch, and the N.C. The comrade to whom you first relayed the information- not a member of the local exec- was so upset(because, as she put it, you were so upset) that she started a chain of events which unnecessarily involved other members of this branch, another branch, and the N.C.

(4) Finally, your recent statement to the Organizer of this branch that you and another member of this branch were incompatible, and that if the other comrade did not leave then you would take a leave. As I said before, that other comrade is not leaving.

Branch work assigned to you over the past several months has not been satisfactorily carried out owing to the extreme personal and time pressures that you have been under. The local exec, with the concurrence from the International Co-ordinator, found it necessary to ask you to step-down as Black Co-ordinator. It was necessary to do this since no initiatives had come from you since the writing of the original proposal, and as you stated to me at a meeting on Jan. 26, you would not be able to carry out such an assignment because of personal and time problems.

(3)

When I asked whether you would accept substantive work around Nine-To-Five(& Local 925) you again stated that it would not be possible for those same personal reasons. Further, you did not attend the Pre-Term Demo on Feb. 5(a branch activity and an activity in which you had previously expressed great interest).

In conclusion, the exec concludes that the pattern of actions and behavior that you have displayed over the past several months, and not all listed here, indicates personal problems which result in your being incapable of carrying out normal branch functions. For this reason, the exec again requests that you take a leave-of-absence for a period of three months.

Robert T.
Robert T.
For the Exec.

TO THE BOSTON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Yesterday I received a letter from Robert T., speaking for the exec, in which he states that it is the opinion of the exec that I am "incapable of carrying out normal branch functions" and that the exec requests that I take a leave-of-absence for three months. In fact, I have been carrying out normal branch functions--I have been attending meetings, paying dues, selling the paper. I have also written up a black perspectives document, a talk for a women's caucus dinner, and a leaflet--to cite some examples of other work I have done^{this year}. I have also contributed to the initiation of new work in the branch. In short, there is no substance to the charge that I am "incapable" of carrying out normal branch functions, and I am not requesting a leave-of-absence.

I feel that it would be a grave error on the part of the exec to take steps towards suspending me. Until the faction fight began, I was considered by this exec a hard worker and a member in good standing who had made some valuable contributions. In view of this and the above considerations, I call upon the exec to withdraw their request that I take a leave of absence.

Marianne
Cambridge

February 25, 1977

To the Boston Executive Committee

Let me begin by pointing out that most of the three-page letter you delivered to me February 23 is filled with gross exaggerations and outright falsehoods regarding my work within the branch, not to mention the slanders against my character alleged especially in the last few paragraphs. The IS traditions are those of democratic and principled political behavior, and are not ones to be lightly discarded.

On what basis do you claim validity for the suspension you have allegedly imposed upon me? The constitution states that disciplinary measures are to be acted on at a branch meeting called for this purpose at which the concerned member has full rights to defend herself. Up to the present this has been interpreted to mean that suspension will not be imposed until after this hearing and this has been the IS practice. I call upon branch members to safeguard this democratic tradition of the IS and to support my right to a hearing before suspension takes effect, and not to permit this procedure to be subject to factional manipulation.

As to your questions: I will contest your decision to suspend me in the branch. I will make full use of my constitutional rights including that stating that disciplinary proceedings against an individual require a minimum of two weeks prior notification. After this two week period--which starts after all branch members and the NC have been notified--I request a branch meeting to act upon the discipline. Time structure is negotiable except that the order of presentation should be "prosecution--defense--prosecution--defense", with the defense given the final summary. (One suggestion would be 20 minutes--20 minutes--10 minutes--15 minutes.) I assert my right to a full record of the meeting.

In order to present a full defense, I require the option of having present to call upon, all those who are able to testify as to the veracity of the charges against me. This would include persons from another branch to whom I allegedly stated that I felt stifled in Boston.

As to the person I wish to be present to advise me in procedural matters with the right to speak in my defense as well, I choose Ahmed S.

I would suggest that you cease pursuing your present course heedless of its implications, and that you re-examine what the political principles are that make the existence of a democratic revolutionary organization possible. Again, I call upon you to drop your unwarranted charges against me and I seek the support of all branch members in this matter.

Marianne
Boston

Proposed Perspective for Black Work in Boston

Our politics is the key to drawing blacks to our organization--our analysis of oppression of blacks and our strategy and work in building the revolutionary party are primary in our efforts to recruit blacks and to draw them into our periphery. Given the present crisis of capitalism and the growing attacks on the weaker sections of the workingclass, we can expect that levels of racism will not diminish, and that the present, largely unco-ordinated attacks against blacks will gradually assume more cohesion as the crisis advances.

Blacks in Boston, being a smaller proportion of the population than in other major cities (about 20% of the population) are^a particularly vulnerable section of the population and have been hit hard, both by the economic crunch and by racist attacks surrounding busing and housing issues. It is imperative that the IS become equipped to intervene in the struggle in Boston against racism--and this means a continuing involvement with the local fights against racism.

Local groups mobilizing around the issues of busing and physical attacks against blacks are dealing with a problem that is both concrete and general. Our work in the local community could very well be focussed here and groups such as Racial Unity Now and SEPEPAC should be checked out with this in mind. A serious commitment to this work may very well involve a decrease in involvement in such areas as Teamster work, and a shift in the focus of some of our newspaper selling and contact work.

As to black contacts made through our Gary Tyler, South Africa, ~~and~~ Red Tide and industrial work, the fraction leaders should (or have) map out strategies for getting contacts, involving them in our work and convincing them of our politics, and should also map out immediate goals in the struggle against racism.

In addition, the branch as a whole must be continually advancing its politics of black liberation and has a responsibility to lead or support as it can (given its resources) the struggles of the black community. It must also provide the necessary support for the work of the members with black contacts.

To do this effectively requires work in several areas. ~~It is to be done by the~~

1. There should be continuing pressure on the N.O. to provide more relevant literature. The educational co-ordinator should draw up some suggested pamphlets and writings, and make certain they are available.
2. Fractions need to address the question of recruiting blacks and have strategies for recruitment of blacks and for fighting racism in their places of ~~pa~~ work. There should be familiarity with problems of the black liberation struggle and with the local situation in particular.
3. There is a need for educationals on the history of blacks within our country--particularly in the '60's--and on the causes and effects of racism. Members should be able to address political questions such as black nationalism and Muslim strategies for liberation.
4. Worker's Power and Internal Bullétins should be effectively utilized.
5. There should be occasional forums and speakers on racism and other events to draw contacts as would be fruitful.
6. The position of black co-ordinator should be created with the following responsibilities:
 - a. To ensure that the above are carried through.
 - b. To keep abreast of what is happening within the city and with particular groups advancing the local struggle of the black community; and to keep the branch informed in this area.
 - c. To regularly evaluate black work. The Black Caucus should be regularly informed of the state of affairs both in the city and within our work as regards blacks. Some form of co-ordination with the Black Caucus should be worked out.
 - d. To ~~xxxxxxx~~ work out, with others as needed, positions on issues within the city involving racism e.g. busing, and to regularly evaluate the extent to which we can intervene in both the short- and longer-runs.