

1. Salt Lake City

Betsey reported that a comrade's apartment had been broken into, and a dangerous booby trap set up for anyone entering apartment. Police have taken no action. Comrades are continuing campaign against intimidation and violence against political activists in Salt Lake City, and consider this latest incidence as an escalation in attacks against our comrades.

2. Garza Letter

Agreed that Doug would draft letter in response. (See attached.)

3. Subscription Mobilization in New York City and Newark

Agreed that Al will find out details in order to organize maximum participation of nationally assigned comrades.

4. Organization of International Work

Doug explained that Gus and Natalie would now be working out of fifth floor National Office, and that a committee including Mary-Alice, Jack, Gus, Natalie, and maybe others will meet to administer and coordinate international work.

5. Personnel

Discussion continued from previous meeting.
Mike Alewitz from New Orleans is transferring to Boston.
Chris Gavreau from New Orleans is transferring to Birmingham.

over

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
February 13, 1979

Catarino Garza
Oakland

Dear Catarino,

We received your letter of February 7 and made it available to the Political Committee and our newly established Organization Committee.

I would like to just make a couple of comments on the questions you raise.

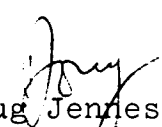
First on the question of whether comrades have a right to accept or decline nominations for election to an executive committee or convention delegation. I think you are right in assuming that comrades have this democratic right. This has been our tradition. We don't believe that it serves the party to coerce or to attempt to coerce comrades to run for offices that they personally or politically don't want to. Of course, comrades who decline nominations have a responsibility to explain why they are doing so, and other comrades have a right to urge them to reconsider.

You also refer to a "slate" being presented to the district convention. I think that it's an error to refer to the nominations brought into a party convention by a nominations commission as a "slate." As you know, we've discussed this before at national conventions. You might take a look back at the nominating commission reports to the last couple of conventions.

The nominations made by a nominations commission are just that--nominations. We should reject the concept that the nominations from the nominations commission have greater weight than those made from the floor. And we should reject the idea that someone who makes a nomination from the floor is attempting to "break the slate." Pressure to support the "slate" undermines the idea that the delegates, as a whole, are freely deciding the composition of the body they are electing.

The question of bullet balloting is not so simple, and as you observe there's been a lot of discussion in the party on this over the years. Perhaps at some point we can clarify it. The main thing for branches to avoid is getting bogged down in big ideological debates on the question. The key to real democratic discussions and functioning in a branch doesn't rest on whether bullet balloting is permitted or not.

Comradely,


Doug Jenness