

# Black Internal Bulletin

The Political Voice of  
**THE NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS**  
of the International Socialists

#1 June—Ju



**“Labor in the white skin  
cannot be emancipated  
while in the black skin  
it is branded.”**

**Karl Marx**

**This page is blank in the original.**

## Black Internal Bulletin #1

### I. Conference Evaluation

Comrades,

It goes without saying that the conference was a success!

Aside from the fact that we were able to recruit vitally needed new members, a sense of unity has been nourished among the older members. The purpose of the conference, which was to develop confidence in ourselves as leaders and as a caucus, to develop organizational and speaking skills, and most important, attracting a periphery from which we can recruit, were all achieved. Our conference was a milestone in the history of the I.S.

Our commitments and actions in the area of Black Liberation have won us the complements of the former foreign representative of Z.A.N.U. The IS is now being seriously considered by Z.A.N.U. as the "Official Fraternal link-up in the U.S." This means that from our beginning, the NBC has made an impact on uniting the International Proletariat.

Ideas and suggestions for a campaign around the struggles of Southern Africa should now be developed and submitted by all black members. Suggestions such as public clothing or fund drives should reflect some creativity.

### II. NBC Steering Committee Elected

The permanent (1 year) steering committee for the National Black Caucus has been elected, and their tasks are immediate. This leadership body will consist of Fred H., Larry S., Bobbie H., Lisa and John W.

This body will serve for a one-year period, be governed by the recently adopted by-laws of the NBC, and disciplined by the NBC membership.

Larry S. of New York will begin to function as the full-time National Black Organizer. A document for discussion and criticism concerning the role and scope of the Black Organizers' responsibilities is enclosed! Please read and respond.

### III. Tasks and Perspectives of the Local Black Caucus

This document was democratically passed by the N.B.C. and all members are now expected to carry out its guidelines in practice.

#### LOCAL BLACK CAUCUS OF THE I.S.

##### I. Purpose

The primary purpose of the black caucus is to develop black members as general political leaders of the organization and of the class. In addition to specific fractions, the caucus is to involve its members in the activities of the organization

and ensure a smooth transition from being a contact to a member.

The caucus also exists for the purpose of stimulating the organization as a whole toward greater contributions to the liberation struggles of Black Americans. That is, the caucus will provide the organization with relevant information concerning racism and its effects so that as the I.S. transforms itself, in turn, it enhances the possibility of transforming the working class to a heightened level of class (instead of race) consciousness. Also, the caucus will provide sufficient data to ensure that charges of racism are investigated when necessary.

The caucus exists to provide an atmosphere conducive for uninhibited discussion concerning any and all matters deemed relevant by its black members. The caucus is not however a social club, nor gossip spa! The caucus should provide black members with an understanding of the problems and opportunities facing blacks inside the organization, the class, or the world generally.

The caucus will make recommendations to the local exec concerning all activities that it wishes to carry out, and it will obtain the sanction of the branch leadership prior to execution. In cases of veto, appeals are made to the NBC.

All allegations of racism are to be reported to the District Committee and the NBC. The caucus finally exists to ensure the total growth of the organization on a multi-racial basis. That is, the caucus will engage in the efforts to recruit Third World people to the organization, and work with them around the caucus until such time as these comrades feel a need to establish their own caucus.

## II. Structure

The caucus will consist of three or more blacks who are members of the I.S. and who are willing to participate in the process of leadership building.

Less than three members are encouraged to recruit so that the caucus does not become a monolith for individual opinions. Isolated, or less than three blacks in a branch will receive the support of the National Black Caucus more regularly than others in matters of external work, e.g. ideas for forums, speakers, strategies for recruitment, newspaper sales, and all other requested and relevant areas.

Where possible, in the case of 5 members or more, a leadership body should be elected democratically and be recallable. Their duties should be

- A. schedule regularly planned caucus meetings and agenda
- B. plan caucus educationals (which can be combined with caucus meetings)
- C. ensure that all political lines of the organization are adhered to in the theory building process, as well as the actions of the caucus.

- D. to ensure that participation in the black caucus is voluntary, and that all workers are recruited to the organization based on its political principles and performance, rather than the exclusive work or impressions of the caucus.
- E. to communicate regularly with the designated person on the Steering Committee of the NBC, concerning matters of importance to all blacks in the organization. This includes regular written reports to be included in the Black Internal Bulletin.

### III. Primary Tasks of the Local Black Caucus

#### A. RECRUITMENT

The caucus should at all times be concerned with opportunities to recruit black members to the organization. Workshops, forums, dinner-presentations, films, etc. should be used to attract a recruitable periphery. This group should be encouraged to participate in caucus discussions but as non-members of the organization, they cannot vote.

#### B. INTEGRATION

The problems of recruiting black workers are perhaps only matched by the problems of integrating them into the organization. The caucus should play a responsible and leading role in helping new black worker members to adjust. Caucus members should discuss with new members exactly what is involved in being a member of the caucus and the IS, and the foreseeable problems. The caucus has the responsibility of assisting the fraction to which new members belong. It should be pointed out that every member is expected to develop the skills and practice of leadership in the class struggle and that the caucus exist to ensure the absence of all social and psychological obstacles due to race.

#### C. WORKERS POWER DISTRIBUTION AND WRITING FOR IT

It should become the task of the black caucus to assist the WP branch distributor in the selection of cities to sell WP in the black community. The newspaper is the best recruiter we have and the black community must be seen as important for sales as the factory gate. More importantly, WP must reflect the real questions which people have concerning the day-to-day struggle for liberation. Therefore, all members must write for the paper to ensure that feature.

#### D. THEORY BUILDING AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Caucus members may also be required to play a disproportionately large role in the vital tasks of developing the political understanding of black liberation amongst the membership. This means that the caucus must discuss the particular political circumstances in their cities, from busing to racism in the shop floor, and develop ways to intervene. Sufficient

time should be spent on poli-intellectual questions like "Nationalism and Socialism," "The New Muslim Strategies," and "The Right to National Self-Determination," etc. The priorities should be seen always as discussions which further the work of the organization and assist in the struggle for workers

It is helpful to have a knowledge of black history in preparing for black freedom. The caucus should conduct internal forums and/or educationals, write documents for general circulation, and engage in internal debates concerning relevant questions of black survival and liberation. Knowledge debates produce successful strategies.

Theories are tested and reborn in practice, however the political practices of any fraction, group or individual becomes the total responsibility of the branch. Therefore, no external political action can be taken by this caucus, or nay caucus for that matter, prior to getting the approval of the branch executive officially. In cases of veto, appeals are made to the NBV.

The Black Caucus exists inside the organization, and all political sections of the organization are accountable to the national leadership body, and the body of the organization as a whole. The black caucus self-governing autonomous, but it is not independent---we are all committed to the same Party, politics and discipline.

If there is a local disciplinary problem concerning a LBC member, the local black convenor should be notified to intervene rather than a national black leader.

#### **MMBX AMENDMENTS**

(AMENDMENT) PASSED. Where there are 3 to 4 members, a convenor should be elected.

(AMENDMENT) PASSED Where possible, regional meetings should be held.

IV. SUGGESTED RESOLUTIONS TO THE E.C. DOCUMENT ON BLACK LIBERATION page 5

The following suggested resolutions should be discussed, accepted, or amended by all members of the N.B.C.

These suggestions represent the changes that the steering committee would like to have adopted, and all black emmbers should submit any additional resolutions relevant to the E.C.'s document.

In all cases, members must submit in writing their views on the Steering Committees suggested resolutions and additional ones deemed necessary.

AMENDMENTS OR RESOLUTIONS TO THE EC DOCUMENT ON BLACK LIBERATION

(Yellow doc., section on black liberation) Last page #11 1st para., 4<sup>th</sup> sentence & 5th 2nd para., 1st sentence and 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

- a) Over the next year black emmebers of the IS will be placed on the leading political bodies of the IS, and share the leadership in advancing the theory and the practice of the IS on this question. This will be done on both the national and local leading bodies.
- b) It is a process that comes none too soon and must receive the democratic and disciplined application of the entire organization.
- c) It is clear that blacks have begun to respond, and correctly, to the racist offensive.
- d) The effects of the collapse of the black movemnet are ~~XXXXX~~ receding. More and more in the black community there is an increased willingness to fight back in self--defense, to begin to build a movement to fight for black liberation. Our future as a revloutionary organization depends on our ability to build and help lead this movement correctly and successfully.
- e) (page 10, para 4--to follow last sentence) Understanding this, the proper political education and trainning of our industrial cadre will assisst them in carrying this line. I In practice this means that we must acquaint white trade unionists with the issues surr--ounding the Gary Tyler campaign, educate them, and mobilize them against the racist practices of this system. This type of multi--racial industrial activity lays the basis for a principled coalition among black and white workers, built on common struggle, renewing their sense of interdependency.

V. NATIONAL CONVENTION OF '76

All members are encouraged and expected to attend the gathering of the highest political body of the organization, which is the convention. Contact work to get our friends and work-mates to this meeting should be given priority status in as much as their desire to goin could be stimulated by this tremendous event.

Furthermore, the steering committee of the NEC is putting forward the folloing candidates for the National Committee. Our candidates, which will hopefully be included in the EC's slate are;

- John W. 1. Auto worker 9 years
2. Member opposition caucus Local 51 UAW
3. Member NBC steering committee

- Larry S. 1. telephone worker 5 years  
 2. oppositionist in CWA Local 1101  
 3. member black communications workers  
 4. Convenor N.B.C.

- Fred Hobby 1. member National Committee  
 2. NBC Steering Committee  
 3. founder, Workers for Collective Progress  
 4. Experienced community organizer

#### VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF 3rd NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEETING JULY 3-4.

We are expecting to hold a national caucus mtg. during the Convention weekend. All blacks should try to attend, as well as, putting ourselves forward as convention delegates. Delegates' transportation is subsidized by the N.O.

#### VII. THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF THE BLACK INTERNAL BULLETIN

The Black Internal Bulletin (BIB) is the official organ of the IS Black Caucus. It was decided at our 1st National Conference that the BIB would be circulated once a month produced in Detroit, and the Steering Committee of the NBC would have final editorial prerogatives.

All members are encouraged to raise questions for debate in the BIB, or to announce new developments. All steering committee members are required to submit monthly reports to BIB which would be of interest to all caucus members. The National Black Organizer is to submit into in the BIB as well as the organizations traditional internal bulletin.

The main purpose of BIB therefore is to keep us in communication with other and circulate information concerning developments of interest to all black members of the I.S.

Because this bulletin's contents depends primarily on the comrades submitting information, we hope that everyone will see their opportunities to articulate their feelings and experiences that others can learn from.

#### VII NEXT ISSUE

- a) The 2nd issue will contain a document entitled, "The Role of Black Revolutionary Workers in the Party." Again, discussion, and criticism will be circulated through the BIB and all members are encouraged to submit their ideas and opinions.
- b) The South African Support Proposal of the NBC
- c) Convention and Summer school assesment

#### IX ROLE AND SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL BLACK ORGANIZATION Commentary on the Role of the N.B.O.

This year has seen the creation of an office, national Black organizer in the International Socialist. While there is general agreement of the need for a Black organizer for the organization, the scope and relationships of the job have not been spelled out. Therefore, what follows is an attempt to address that problem.



COMMENTARY ON THE ROLE OF THE NBO con't. page 7

While the Black organizer in execution will define the job, some basic traits are expected. The organizer will participate in all matters concerning Blacks in the organization. The organizer should keep the issue of Black liberation an alive topic at the highest levels of the IS. Because the organizer is working out of the national office, this task falls on his shoulders as equally as it falls on the shoulders of the National Black Caucus. The organizer's job is one of execution. This means seeing that things get done. The planning of forums on racism and the liberation of Africa should take up a large part of his time. Seeing that the paper, WP, carries articles on the white question and a space is reserved for his use are important. Questions on education and integration of Blacks in the organization should be a vital part of his job.

The Black organizer is a paid full time position of the International Socialists. The job flows from the consent of the entire organization within the ground rules of democratic centralism. This means that the NC and EC will exert influence on the job of Black organizer. It is those two bodies where the power of execution are in our organization. Since the NBO will be working out of the NO, he will be subject to the discipline of the EC.

There must be a special connection between the NBO and the NBC. To insure harmony between the NBO and NBC, the NBO must be a member of the Steering Committee of the National Black Caucus. The job is outside the discipline of the NBC. Therefore the change of conflict is great.