

EC MINUTES 4/26/77

1. NAT. SEC. REPORT- Harold has resigned from the organization on the basis that he no longer believes that it is possible to build a workers combat organization in this period. He had been on a leave of absence throughout the faction fight, as he had been personally demoralized after the collapse of Louisville US. He is also going to graduate school this fall and would not be prepared to ~~start~~ start a new branch on his own in Bloomington.

The Detroit district held a highly successful political/social event 4/24. An ~~informal~~ informal discussion was held on politics and religion. It was open to members and friends and not mandatory for anyone to attend. All were invited to bring their ~~own~~ own wine, beer, etc. Several contacts of the both the IS and the RT came and discussed a revolutionary perspective on religion until way past midnight. What is important about this event is not the number of contacts (yet) ~~but~~ but the format. The attempt was to provide a place, on a regular basis (every two weeks is the plan) where members of the district can come, ~~and~~ bring contacts, and count on an interesting lively political discussion on questions that are broader than the discussions that generally flow from the work. It is an attempt to provide a more political milieu in the district. Also, as it is low key, and social, there is little pressure on those involved. The idea is ~~to~~ for these meetings to be as good for the members as they are for our friends. These political/social events are to provide ~~the~~ the kind of political atmosphere for our new members that ~~the~~ radical student hangouts provided for those who went through the student movement and ~~that~~ ~~political~~ political discussion in pubs provided for the British IS. The success of the evening proved that our ~~newer~~ newer members and friends are eager for the broader political ideas and the method that underly those ideas. Other branches should consider setting up similar events.

May Day events are planned (to my knowledge) for the following cities: Detroit, Cleveland/Pitts., NYC, Chi./Gary. Organizers should inform Gay and Marilyn as to the success or failure of these events.

2. EC functioning and perspective- Over the last period the EC has not yet begun to function as a cohesive body. In part this is due to the fact that virtually all EC members are undertaking new tasks and it is taking longer than expected. In addition, over the period of the faction fight, the collectivity of the EC broke down and has not yet been rebuilt. This has meant that although specific areas of work are going more or less well, the EC as a body has not yet begun to lead the group. There is within the organization a sense of being all over the place. There is not a clear sense of focus, priorities or direction. It was felt that it is important that the EC develop a 3 month perspective for itself and the organization. An initial discussion was ~~held~~ held around focusing the organization sharply around 3 points: building the ~~black~~ black work, building the group and the continuation of the industrial work. Gay to develop the perspective for final passage at the next EC meeting and to be presented to the CC 5/8.

3. CC Agenda: The following CC agenda was passed: National Secretaries report to include the above perspectives, discussion on the TDU as mandated by the last CC meeting, Carter first 100 days. (Documents will be sent out next week. CC members are requested to begin ~~thinking~~

thinking about the following questions concerning Carter: What do people think about Carter? What do they think about his energy program? The rebates (or lack of them)? What do they think of his scheme for a price ~~xxxx~~ ceiling on hospital costs? Do they generally believe him? ~~For~~ Example people in Local 51 think that there is no real oil shortage but they think it is only the companies that are ripping off the public and that Carter and the government have no role in it. They think that, of course Carter is a politician like all the rest of them, but that at ~~xxx~~ least he is shaking things up.

4. The place for the conference is up in the air again. We had found a place for 8/19 that seemed ideal however when we actually saw it it was too pretentious and too small. In general the changes for it turning into a real uptight weekend were too great and we decided to not take the chance and cancel the reservations. Since then we have about 5-6 more places to check ~~xxx~~ out and will chose the best of them by May 1.

5. EC/WP relationship. Now that Kim has begun to get on top of the job as Editor, the next step is to develop more of a relationship between the paper and the ~~EE~~ EC. It was decded that ~~Kxxxxxx~~ the EC would begin discussing the paper each week from the point of view of what was ~~successful~~ an unsuccessful in terms of the specific areas of work each EC member is responsible for.

6. WP circulation: The overall proposal of the circulation committee for rebuilding WP circulation was endorsed by the EC. (See the last bulleting) In addition it was decided to push a limited sub drive amongst our periphery to formalize their relationship with us. The details of this drive are to be worked out by the circulation committee. The other emphasis ~~xxxxx~~ for WP sales should be in plant sales and developing sales in the black community.

7. Black Commission Report: There are now 20 blacks in the IS nationally. There is also a small but growing number of contacts coming around us through the S, Africa work. The biggest problems that face us is recruiting out of our industrial work and training and developing our new members. The black commission is planning a WORKING CONFERENCE ON BLACK LIBERATION in June in Pitts. The concetion behind this conference is to bring together black IS members, contacts and selected whites for a working conference on the poltcal and organizational questions that immediately face our work. We want as ~~xxxxx~~ much participation from the new black members as possible. We want to draw on their and others experiences in doing community work and we want to begin to come to grips with what the political problems with community work are and attempts at solutions. We also want comrades to leave the confrence with the feeling that they have developed their understanding of where to go in concrete terms and will have ideas to take back into their work. The ~~xxxxx~~ agenda is as follows:
1. Building the SALC's: our experinece so far and where to go from here
2. Southern Africa and Permanent Revolution,
3. Panel on community organizaing (possibly to be accompanied by a film on the Panther - so that we can discuss the Panthers, their success and ~~xx~~ their failures.
4. Panel on raising the questions of racism in our industrial work,
5. Black liberation and the class struggle
6. Party building: black recruitment - training and developing a black cadre, WP - use,

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black coverage, writing for WP, the black cauccus. There will also be a party and a black caucus meeting.

NOTES TO ORGANIZERS: The center has still not gotten branch perspectives and froms from many of the organizers. It is really important that I have these figures. They should be sent to me immediately

Gay