

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY

- 1:00-6:00 Set-up/play time
- 6:00-8:00 Dinner
- 8:30-10:30 Workshop Session I
1. Waiting for Teddy
  2. Anti-nuke Movement
  3. LERP slide shows (slide show only/no workshop/for those who will not attend LERP workshop)

SATURDAY

- 9:30-10:30 Breakfast
- 10:30-12:30 Opening Session: This session will lay out an overall assessment of the period and the tasks for revolutionaries
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-3:30 Play time
- 3:30-5:30 Workshop Session II
1. Anti-nuke Movement
  2. Reproductive Rights
  3. LERP: Workshop and slide shows
- 5:30-7:30 Workshop Session III
1. Waiting for Teddy
  2. Social Democracy Today
  3. The Steelhaul strike
  4. How Revolutionaries fight in a period of reforms - How reformists "fight"
- 7:30-9:00 Dinner
- 9:00-10:30 Discussion and Resolution on the Citizens Party: A new party is being formed, called the Citizens Party. It is an extremely new formation and we still have a great deal to learn about it. However, it also holds a great deal of potential. This discussion will lay out what we already know and attempt to come to agreement on tentative steps toward the Citizens Party (See EC resolution).
- 10:30---- Movie "Controlling Interest" if wanted, followed by party

SUNDAY

- 9:00-10:00 Breakfast
- 10:00-2:00 Organizational resolutions (timing to be worked out)
- 2:00 Box lunches

(NOTE: WE MUST BE OUT BY 2:45 ON SUNDAY. THE RANGER WILL BEGIN CHECKING AT 2:30. THIS IS A FIXED TIME.)



## WORKSHOPS

1. **WAITING FOR TEDDY** Find out the latest in labor's political strategy. After 8 years of Republican rule, labor looked forward to a liberal Democratic president. Full employment, labor law reform, national health insurance, etc., etc.s were back on the legislative agenda. Labor's hopes have been betrayed. Now it is counting on a new savior, Teddy. "And I just said 'good luck!'"
2. **STEELHAULERS WILDCAT** In April TDU led a wildcat strike of steelhaulers. The strike won official recognition, and major contract concessions. Further it established TUD as the leading force in this section of the IBT. Find out how it was done.
3. **REVOLUTIONARIES IN A REFORM PERIOD** This is not a revolutionary period. General strikes, workers' councils, and insurrection are not words on the lips of millions. Rather we are faced with the task of organizing the struggle for immediate reforms-agitation. Reformist forces are also engaged in these struggles as well. How is our approach different from theirs? How do we cooperate and compete with reformist strategies for immediate demands? Our experience in TDU will be used to illustrate our political method.
4. **ANTI-NUKE MOVEMENT** We will review our general position on the energy crisis and the issue of nuclear power. There will then be a discussion of the political questions facing the movement and our attitude toward them. Some of the issues are: x the relationship of nuclear weapons to nuclear power; how to build labor involvement in the movement, how to build an national organization, what alternatives do we put forward to the current energy program
5. **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS** This workshop will go through why reproductive rights is a fundamental issue to the struggle for women's liberation and why and how the right to abortion is under ~~mtt~~ attack from the growing right wing. It will also discuss the politics of the movement and the questions it faces.
6. **SOCIAL DEMOCRACY** This workshop will focus on the city of Cleveland. Here a political coalition consisting of the Kucinich administration, the UAW and the Ohio Public Interest Campaign has formed a new political force in city and regional politics. It shares an anti-corporate analysis and has an activist orientation. It is one manifestation of the rise of a social democratic current in American politics. This workshop will focus on how this force operates on a day to day level, x who and how it organizes, where it is likely to go in the future and how it relates to national politics. Finally we will take up the question of how we relate to this new current in politics.
7. **LERP** This workshop will discuss what the Labor Education and Research Project is, where it is going and how it can be used to help build the rank and file and reform movements. It will also discuss the conception behind KE LABOR NOTES. The LERP slideshows will also be shown: "Your job or your life," and "Should Energy Cost ~~mtt~~ an Arm and a Leg" Both slide shows ~~are~~ a combination of cartoons and photos. They are quite witty and political. They are aimed at a working class audience.



## RESOLUTION ON ORGANIZATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We propose that the IS be defined as a national organization based on the following program in brief.

1. For workers' revolution from below to establish workers' power and workers' democracy internationally.
2. For workers' control of the trade unions, to build the rank and file reform movement in the unions.
3. For labor independent political action. Opposition to the capitalist parties, to the corporatist liberalism of the Kennedys and its social democratic variant of the DSOC strategy.
4. For unity on the left--for political dialogue and united efforts in building movements and activity in the context of building a mass revolutionary organization.
5. For women's liberation, for Black liberation, for the liberation of all oppressed groups. For building the independent movements of the oppressed.

### THE SPECIFICS

#### 1. The Center

The role of the center will be to put out Changes, develop pamphlets and educational material, facilitate communication and traveling, lead on the question of regroupment, continue to develop LERP and continue SUN.

The Center will no longer set the line on all questions and administer over fraction and branch problems or attempt to determine local perspectives..

#### 2. Political Committee

As regroupment becomes a more central part of our overall perspective and as new questions of American politics, such as the third party questions arise, the danger of a severe political division of labor appears: between full-timers who "deal with the Left" and other social movements and the industrial cadre who lead the day to day trade union work. Full timers have tended to become isolated from the industrial leaders have taken little responsibility for the overall direction of the group.

This problem must be addressed in the next period if we are to move ahead as a whole.

We propose the election of a Political Committee that would combine the talents of the full time political and organizational leadership in the center with the leadership of the industrial work. The Political Committee will be resident in Detroit and will meet bi-weekly.

The Political Committee would, of necessity, be a fairly large body and would thus need to have fairly specific tasks assigned to it if it is to succeed:

1. To lead in the development of the group's politics and to develop a public fact for those politics. (i.e. questions of the 1980 elections and the presentation of these ideas--articles in Changes, the debate with DSOC, etc.)

2. To lead in moving the groups as a whole forward.

3. Regroupment, specifically, to develop a campaign around that question.



Leadership of specific areas of the groups work would come from within the fractions. From time to time joint meetings of the PC and the leadership of a specific fraction would be held to discuss broad political questions pertaining to that work and/or perspectives.

The Political Committee would have a steering committee elected by the P.C. It would meet on intervening weeks. Its tasks would be to set agendas and organize the P.C. It would deal with emergencies and maintain contact with the branches. It would make sure decisions which do not fall under other bodies purview (fractions, commissions) are implemented. It would attempt not to duplicate discussions held by the P.C.. The Steering Committee will also deal with staff questions.

### 3. CHANGES

Changes is the voice of the whole organization. The general line of much of the magazine will be guided by the PC. Changes, however, will have room for differences in the group. A special section of the magazine on perspectives for revolutionaries will be organized around debate. Minorities in the IS will be able to present their views, as minorities, in this section. Topics and organization of this section will be guided by the editorial board. Articles for this section will be serious and not polemical against other positions in the group.

### 4. BRANCHES

The local branch will determine its own priorities and perspectives. This will often mean hammering out a line as well (although help could be gotten from experts in either the center or other branches..)

Branches would also determine their own level of functioning and level of discipline in external work. It is recommended that branches/districts hold at least one meeting per month. The agenda should revolve around politics not administration. One substantial political discussion should be scheduled and contacts invited. This is part of the process of rebuilding a sense of organization and recruiting.

Branches would also be responsible for national dues per member. The remainder would be used to pay local organizers, branch needs, etc. National dues will be \$20 per month for members with good jobs, \$10 for jobs under \$7000 and \$5 for unemployed. Members will receive Changes, the IS newsletter and the Internal Bulletin directly.

### 5. MEMBERSHIP

Members must pay dues and be active in the organization's work either externally or internally. The external political work of all members will be carried out in the framework of the Program in Brief.

Members would be members of branches or at large.

### 6..National Fractions

National fractions would exist where relevant. Their function be to determine the line for their area of work.

They would establish, internally, the level of discipline that fits



their needs. Obviously the level of discipline needed in the national Teamster fraction would be much higher than would be needed in the national steel fraction, as the steel work is much more local in character.

#### 7. Discipline

Discipline will have to be relearned in the group growing out of the needs of the work. We are proposing that levels of discipline be worked out by the units that carry out common work: branches, national fractions, etc. Discipline will concern questions of ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ external work.

#### 8. National Committee

An NC will meet every 2-3 months. It would be delegated by branch and elected each time. The ratio would be one delegate per every 5 members or major fraction thereof.

The NC would take up broad political questions facing the group and its work ~~xxxx~~ and would be open to all members.

The role of the NC will be communication and discussion, including the dissemination of political discussion throughout the organization.

#### 9. National Convention

A national convention must be held at least every 2 years. The NC will be empowered to call a convention earlier if the situation changes.

#### 10. Rights of Minorities

Minorities within the group will have the right to recruit to the group on the basis of their politics.

Minorities will have the right to publish their own material ~~xxxx~~ externally, as long ~~xx~~ as it is clearly stated what it is. These materials ~~we~~ will be circulated by the center.

Minorities will have access to the pages of CHANGES as stated under CHANGES editorial policy.

Minorities will have the right to circulate material internally either ~~at~~ through an internal bulletin or a ~~separate xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ separate ~~file~~ document sent out as part of a regular mailing.

#### 11. National Staff

Sufficient national staff will be hired to produce CHANGES and administer the national organization.

(SUN and LERP are separate staffs.)



Amendment on NC Mike P., Marilyn D.

A National Committee will meet every 2 ~~xxxxx~~ months. Meetings will be open to all members. National Committee meetings ~~1~~ will be mainly focussed ~~1~~ toward particular political questions. Delegates to the National Committee will be elected for each NC by branches after the main topic is determined. The delegate/member ratio will be determined by the PC for each meeting.

Motivation:

1. Since the same delegates would not be elected to every meeting and since not all PC members would be ~~xxxx~~ elected to each NC, the meetings every two months would not be an impossible drain on NC members.

2. This would be a way for branches to be more involved in setting the polity of the group. Here is an example of how it would work: The August/September meeting would be called to discuss Anti-nuke work and the Citizens party. Following branch discussions delegates would be elected.



1. In the United States, revolutionary Marxists have always stood for an independent working class party. In the absence of a mass revolutionary party, we have held that the formation of a workers party, even on a reformist basis, would be part of the process of developing class consciousness.

Within the labor movement, we fight for a class struggle policy against the employers at the bargaining table and on the shop floor. Likewise we are for the trade unions breaking with the employers' political parties and forming a labor party based on the unions in alliance with oppressed minorities and women.

2. Today there is modest but growing sentiment for a new political party. It grows out of the collapse of the liberal consensus. The capitalist crisis of the seventies has created a profound shift in class relations. The employers are now rejecting the welfare state in favor of a program of austerity. Leberalism, loyal to the profit system, is unable to offer a dynamic alternative to the economic "realism" of conservatism. It has betrayed the hopes of American labor. Within the labor movement, the labor party idea has again become relevant to the recent experience of many activists.

3. At the same time the anti-nuke movement has blossomed from a local to a national force. It has been faced immediately with the issue of political action. Here too sentiment for a new party is growing.

4. In this context a small group of social activists have taken the initiative in forming a new "Citizens Party". The initial base for this party appears to be limited. It is not yet the direct expression of third party sentiment in either the labor or anti-nuke movements. On the other hand, the formation of the party and its first programmatic statement mark a break from liberalism toward radicalism. The initial program is anti-corporate, if not anti-capitalist. It has the potential of appealing to movement activists as the champions of their demands, a clear alternative to liberal terperizing.

5. The Citizens Party will not become a labor party. It is quite unlikely it will be a mass party, even if it achieves a stable existence. If Teddy Kennedy runs for president, his campaign will, for now, capture much of the potential base for the new party. Its potential lies in the fact that its very existence will give ourselves and others a means to (1) "politicise" the anti-nuke movement; (2) argue for a new party based on the mass power of the trade unions; and (3) bring together sections of the left in a common project.

6. At this time our attitude is provisional support. A number of IS members should become active in this initial organizing period of the party. Our early involvement will give us credibility and could be important in broadening its appeal, base, and program. Our aim will be to push the Citizens Party in a direction that will make it attractive to workers and a possible viable alternative to left-wing trade unionists. We are not interested in a stalking horse effort, but a credible effort at a break with the Democratic Party. We will adjust our commitment to the party as our understanding of its potential develops.



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS NEWSLETTER

June 15, 1979

### WOMEN OF COAL

A conference for women miners was held June 8-10 in West Virginia, sponsored by the Coal Employment Project. CEP, which gets foundation money, has brought successful suits to get women into the mines. It formed a steering committee of women miners to plan the June conference.

The women's movement in the mines is clearly only in its infancy, but the conference was a big step in getting it going. There are about 2600 mining women now, up from 1000 in 1977. The issues which the women agreed were the most pressing were: getting jobs in the first place, moving up to the more skilled and better paying jobs, and harassment (both sexual and otherwise) primarily from management and also from fellow workers.

A good many of the women miners were leftists, from the SWP, CP, TUEL, NLOC, RCP. The SWP was most able to carry its point of view--it was against any resolutions coming out of the conference, and discouraged any talk of a women's caucus or other independent rank and file activity with the bugaboo of "anti-union." Since the women were so new to the union, the idea of a women's caucus was too advanced to get anywhere. Their attitude toward the union and the International depended heavily on their own local experiences. Issues such as organizing the unorganized and the pullout of Consol from the BCOA were successfully kept out of the conference.

The women miners are different from women in other industries in that they have become active in the union much sooner. We can only speculate that this is because of the much greater importance of the union in the mines than in other industries. Quite a few women had won office with only a couple of years' seniority--including one president.

Arnold Miller has appointed a woman on his staff to be liaison to women members. She stressed her lack of power but said Miller was sympathetic and she would relay their concerns to him. She did not play a role in the conference, which called on the International to call a women's conference itself.

Many left groups had tables at the conference; the number of journalists, leftists, and other hangers-on made the conference at least half non-miners. Anti-women forces in the union may use this fact to try to red-bait the fledgling women's movement.

Overall: the conference was a success and the women miners are a tough bunch. EC, EE, MP and JS (Detroit) and SD, SK and DK (Pittsburgh) attended.

### DSOC DEBATE

The Detroit IS has challenged DSOC to a debate on the question "Should Socialists Be Democrats?" on June 29. The debate has sparked a great deal of interest in the Detroit left, with a NAM leader acting as moderator. The debate will help us to establish ourselves more than ever as an important pole in the left in the city, and thus aid in building regroupment. The debate will appear in the July-August issue of Changes. We encourage other branches to try to set up similar debates in their cities.

### GAY MARCH

Momentum is building, as some more conservative gay organizations that did not previously endorse the march on Washington October 14 now look as if they will. AC and RB are Pittsburgh's representatives to the national steering committee meeting July 6-8.

### PRO-CHOICE DEMO IN CINCINNATI

Momentum is also building for the June 23 demonstration against the "Right-to-Lifers." Planners expect at least 2000 people, maybe more, from Milwaukee, Madison, Buffalo, Chicago, Gary, Detroit, and Ohio. This is the first reproductive rights regional demonstration held in the Midwest. At the same time support demos will be held in Boston, New York and on the West Coast.

Men are encouraged to attend. All marchers are asked to bring a coat hanger--a truckload of them will be dumped on the lawn of the Right-to-Life's conference. The march itself will be through Cincinnati.



## AUTOWORKERS FOR A BETTER CONTRACT

The IS has withdrawn from active participation or material support for the ABC. Influential independents in several cities have also withdrawn. IS participants evaluated the ABC as incapable of organizing a broad contract coalition able to influence 1979 ratification and bargaining or strike tactics.

The ABC was unable to overcome its internally-oriented program mangering, which externally was a propagandistic approach to the unorganized rank and file through mass leafleting. The ABC increasingly became a coalition of the revolutionary left in the UAW rather than a coalition of recognized rank and file leaders and groups. The Michigan ABC is left with an OL-Tread leadership without a base.

We continue working with the ISTC, the Pension COLA people, and independents; maintain a nonsectarian attitude toward the ABC, and are trying to develop coordination among militants at Chrysler.

## NICARAGUA

Nicaragua is in a situation of all-out war between its people and dictator Somoza. The reading of forces is far more optimistic than during last September's insurrection. For one thing, the three separate tendencies of the FSLN (Sandinista guerillas) have united politically as well as tactically. They are better armed than last year. The popular organizations, the Committees of Civil Defense that are organizing the uprisings in the cities, are stronger.

The FSLN is in control of most of the north of the country and/of the capital, Managua. A provisional government is expected to be declared soon. Somoza has been forced to bomb Managua, an act of utter desperation.

But Somoza's salvation may lie in rescue from abroad. The struggle has taken on international dimensions very rapidly, politically and militarily, with military weapons and/or personnel arriving for Somoza from several Latin countries, Israel, and the U.S. One coup with U.S. involvement, to save somoza-ism without Somoza, has already aborted. The State Department is firming up a clear, anti-FSLN-at-all-costs strategy. Actions of solidarity with and fundraising for the Nicaraguan people are taking place in many US cities--with urgency.

## STATEMENT ON PERSPECTIVES FROM THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

At the 1978 convention, the Women's Commission laid out a perspective for building the working women's movement and for prioritizing arenas of activity. Six months later, it is necessary to reevaluate and update. We were wrong about some proposals and would like to say so before the Women's School so discussion there can be based on a realistic assessment of where our work is at and what we can expect to accomplish.

Part of the problem has been in the way that the women's movement has developed this year. The other part is that members have been voting with their feet on perspectives for a long time. It is both the unfolding of events in the women's movement and our own organizational changes that necessitate a reevaluation at this point.

In the document we laid out the following perspectives:

1. Build our work in the unions. Continue to build on the success of other work we were already involved in, including CARASA work in NY, the beginnings of abortion work in Cleveland, and some gay liberation work.
2. Build the movement to ratify the ERA.
3. Build the working women's movement. We expected to be able to reach beyond our own unions through the union caucuses we were in and through the NOW labor task forces.

First, the good news. Our biggest accomplishment over the last six months has been to expand the work in the unions. The beginning of Women of Steel is the most significant step forward. In addition, more UAW local women's committees are forming, making up the basis of a core of women activists. A local women's committee is forming in USJ in Cleveland. At the same time, we have unfortunately played less of a role in the UAW Region 1 Women's Council, as we have only one person in this region.



In addition, the reproductive rights work has expanded, most dramatically in Cleveland, and in Detroit. We have been able to have some productive relationships with NAM through this issue, and there are opportunities to expand in other cities through the June 23 Cincinnati demonstration and through the fall week of action for abortion rights. The issue of forced sterilization in the workplace is beginning to get some working women involved in reproductive rights, an issue some members are active in in New York. Through the split, we lost the work we were doing in CARASA.

Now for the bad news. There has been absolutely no action around the ERA that we could relate to. NOW's failure to capitalize on the momentum built by July 9 has been the greatest blow to the women's movement this year. We still believe that the ERA will generate action, and that we should be involved in it, but we were probably a year or 18 months too soon in proposing this. Probably there will be little or no mobilization until the ERA is again down to the wire.

Most important, our attempt to work through the NOW labor task forces has been a failure overall, with the exception of Cleveland. In most places they did not exist and we did not or could not get them going. Although we believe the LTF's could have been right for us politically, we see no opportunity to carry this perspective out now.

On the Women's Commission, there is no agreement about why the labor task forces did not work for us. Some feel that it is a question of NOW's politics: that to them an alliance with labor means Ellie Smeal talking to Doug Fraser, not real activity on the local level. They simply weren't interested. Others feel that despite NOW's limitations as an organization, we could have been more successful with this proposal if we had had more resources ourselves. In some branches, members valiantly attempted to carry it out, but found it looked like a slow, difficult task and did not have the resources to invest. In other cities, members simply decided that it was unfeasible and did not make any attempt. Whatever the reason, it is time for us to admit defeat. (The only exception is Cleveland, where the LTF already existed and our members were welcomed to play leading roles.)

Although we are not for investing any more resources in trying to build these task forces, we do feel that members should retain their membership in NOW and keep in touch with local chapters. NOW has the franchise on ERA as an issue, and when that heats up, we should be in a position to work with NOW.

We expect that there will be general agreement with this analysis. We are now looking ahead to the Women's School July 20-22. It will be our first opportunity to really sit down and share our experiences in a serious, unhurried way. We feel that it will be an opportunity to develop perspectives collectively. As an organization, we have an impressive amount of experience and a lot to learn from each other.

Everyone should feel free to invite friends to the School, but it is by invitation only and will be pitched at our members. Please plan to arrive in Detroit on Friday evening, July 20, or you will miss an important part of the school.



RESOLUTION ON CHANGES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

With the adoption of a perspective centered on revolutionary regroupment, and a looser organizational structure, the specific tasks for Changes are put into a clearer focus.

These tasks are two-fold: to provide a means for debate and dialogue on the crisis and prospects for the left in this period, and to serve as a vehicle for the political education and political development of the organization. These related tasks - for we cannot seriously consider a regroupment perspective without also ensuring the necessary political development of our own members - provide a serious role for the magazine.

The key political question facing the left and the reform movement in this period is political action and what form it takes - the Democratic Party, Teddy Kennedy and the 1980 elections, the tiny but visible sentiment for a third party. In all these movements in which we are active this issue is arising or will arise in the near future: the reform movement in steel, auto, teamsters, the anti-nuke movement, the lesbian and gay movement, the women's movement. And the major force we are fighting politically in the task of revolutionary regroupment is social democracy and its strategy toward the Democratic Party.

An important related task is to develop our labor coverage, which despite the sophistication of our work, is of the poorest quality. Rather than the "show and tell" character of most of it to date, we will aim toward articles that analyze the problems of the movement and provide possible solutions. With the above perspective articles in the magazine will focus primarily on American politics and labor. There will be relatively fewer articles on international questions. These articles will focus on questions relating to US imperialism and its foreign policy (eg, US policy and southern Africa), and questions of political importance for the broad left (eg, the Vietnam-China war, the international revolutionary left.)

It follows from this perspective that the audience for Changes will be our membership, the relevant sections of the left and close contacts from the industrial and social movements that we work in. It will not necessarily be appropriate for new contacts from our industrial arenas. We recognize that this perspective for Changes leaves a hole in the organization's tools to raise revolutionary ideas with working class contacts who are new to politics. We will try to come up with solutions to this problem, either through popular pamphlets, discussion notes for social/political events or other forms. Further suggestions on how to deal with this problem are welcomed and encouraged.

The magazine will encourage controversy and dialogue. We will print and reprint relevant points of view that we may disagree with if they contribute to a serious discussion of the problems faced by the movements in which we are involved and the left in general. Controversy and debate will make the magazine more lively and interesting to our readership both in and outside the organization.

For the magazine to be successful - and today, more than ever, Changes will be the centerpiece of the IS - it means that more comrades will have to begin writing for it. This is especially true when it comes to local questions affecting the work. Indeed, a looser organization with more varied work requires that initiative come from the branches. We can't write articles about problems and issues that we don't know even exist. Finally, but not lastly, we must develop circulation. We are beginning to exchange ads with other relevant publications (Radical America and Moving On), and we are considering purchasing ads in other left publications



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such as The Guardian and In These Times. But expanding circulation also rests on branches using the magazine and making it available through literature at political events and bookstores that the left frequents.

Below are some of the major articles planned for future issues of Changes. Other ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

- Reprint of Staunton Lynd's article on teamsters from Radical America and our answer
- Reproductive rights movement - where's it going
- Analysis of the political problems facing the anti-nuke movement and a way forward.
- IS/DSOC debate on the Democratic Party
- Analysis of the economic crisis in the steel industry
- Reprint of Chris Harman's crisis of the revolutionary left in Europe
- Discussion of imperialism relating to debate in the TREND over which imperialism is the most reactionary - USSR or US
- Discussion of Trotskyism, its contributions, its mistakes
- Detroit - rebirth or decay
- A series of articles on Kennedy's politics
- The UAW: a political portrait



## RESOLUTION ON REGROUPMENT

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At our last convention, the IS adopted a perspective toward uniting with the healthiest sections of the left in a broader revolutionary socialist organization. The left is small and relegated to the fringes of working class politics. Its fragmentation only reinforces its inability to present itself as a credible force. Obviously, unity would be a good thing. The question we dealt with at the convention was whether regroupment was a viable perspective. We looked at two processes; first, the sense of self appraisal developing within sections of the left, and secondly, the development of motion within the working class - the dynamic around which regroupment could occur. We concluded that indeed regroupment was viable.

Since the convention the EC has pursued this perspective with the assumption that the IS by itself could not be the focus for a regroupment process, that we would have to convince some other organization(s) of our perspective before we could "go public" with a bold campaign. Our experience with this approach has been that while nearly everyone agrees with much of our analysis of the current crisis of the revolutionary left, it has been independent leftists who have been the most receptive to the idea that regroupment is part of the solution.

We believe that the next step for us it to move more boldly and publically toward independent leftists. We want to focus our discussions with individuals, collectives and possibly organizations toward a broad socialist conference, called by a number of prominent individuals, to be held in the late fall.

The purpose of this conference would be to discuss and to the extent possible reach agreement on an analysis of where American society, the working class, and the left were at and the practical tasks which flow from that analysis. Regroupment would be posed as a means by which a small, fragmented left could better move ahead. Hopefully, the conference would issue a manifesto or a series of position papers as a vehicle for further discussion. The size, scope and level of unity at the conference would determine the nature of the follow up.

On a local level our approach will have to be flexible, experimental and suited to local conditions. We should continue to seek out opportunities for joint work and dialogue with other left forces. Coalition work, joint public meetings, debates and private discussions are all necessary. We can use the conference to further this process. Prior to it we should try where possible to establish committees to build the conference and organize pre-conference discussions. Whatever the means our task now is to create a public dialogue on the future for the left.