

August 19, 1975

TO ALL DELEGATES

Dear Comrades,

Attached is correspondence with Ralph
Levitt concerning his appeal to the convention.

Comradely,

Doug Jenness

Doug Jenness
SWP National Office

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Ohio
August 16, 1975

Ralph Levitt
[address in original]
Walnut Creek, Calif.
Air-Mail; Special Delivery

Dear Comrade Levitt,

This is to confirm my telephone call this evening informing you that the National Committee had just met and referred your appeal to the convention. As I indicated it will be taken up at the session of the convention this coming Thursday, August 21, and the National Committee will recommend to the delegates that you be given time to orally present your appeal to the convention.

If you are unable to attend, I will write you following the session concerning the decision of the delegates.

Thank you for your address.

Comradely,

/s/

Doug Jenness
for the National Committee
Socialist Workers Party

cc. SWP Organizer
Oakland-Berkeley Branch

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Ralph Levitt
Walnut Creek, Calif.
August 7, 1975

Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party

Comrades:

This is to appeal my expulsion from the Party. This supplements my appeal to the Oakland-Berkeley branch which you have.

Fraternally,

/s/ Ralph Levitt

cc: United Secretariat

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Oct. 15, 1974

SWP National Office
New York

Dear Comrades:

Enclosed please find copies of letters to Ralph L., Ted D., and Bob M., informing them of the branch's motion that they be dropped from membership because of inactivity.

Comradely,
/s/Jeff Powers
Oakland-Berkeley Organizer

* * *

October 15, 1974

Dear Ralph,

This letter is to inform you that the Oakland-Berkeley branch voted at its Oct. 14th meeting to write you a letter informing you that you will be dropped from membership in the SWP at our Oct. 21 branch meeting because of inactivity.

Comradely,
/s/Jeff Powers
Oakland-Berkeley
Branch Organizer

* * *

Oct. 22, 1974

Dear Barry,

Enclosed is a copy of Ralph's letter. We will have the other information for you shortly.

Comradely,
/s/Jeff Powers

October 18, 1974

Executive Committee
Berkeley Branch

Dear Comrades:

I have received a letter from Jeff Powers notifying me of my expulsion from the Socialist Workers Party. Since this is obviously a political expulsion, I am writing to request a trial and that the trial take place at the branch meeting of Nov. 11.

Powers, in his letter cynically refers to the reason of "inactivity" while he is certainly aware of the fact that minority comrades in the Party have for years been denied assignments and responsibilities of any kind. In my own case, it has been over three years since I have been offered an assignment. Moreover, Powers never offered such an assignment and he is well aware of this fact.

In point of fact, I have been quite active for many years in the most pressing area of work for the Party: the struggle against the present petty-bourgeois, anti-Trotskyist leadership of the Party and the effort to restore the Party to the proletarian road of Trotskyism.

I will cite a little from my so-called record of inactivity to convince the comrades that a trial should be held before my expulsion.

My membership in our movement goes back 13 years, including several as a prominent civil liberties defendant facing six years in prison for my "inactivity." I am a former National Committee and National Executive Committee member of the YSA and a member of the local Party branch executive committee. I have taken several national speaking tours for our movement, written articles for our press and participated in the life of three branches. Most honorably, I was the political reporter for the Proletarian Orientation tendency at the 1971 Convention of the Party. I believe that the above would entitle a comrade to a trial before the Party ranks.

Let me mention two points here:

- 1) I am ready now and in the future to accept a responsible Party assignment, including and especially a full-time assignment.
- 2) If I am expelled I intend to vigorously appeal my expulsion to the highest body of Trotskyism, the Fourth International.

Fraternally,
/s/Ralph Levitt

October 22, 1974

Barry Sheppard
New York, N.Y.

Dear Barry,

At our branch meeting of Oct. 21 we dropped three comrades-- Bob M., Ralph L. and Ted D.--from the party for inactivity. Two of the comrades, Ted and Bob, expressed agreement with the desire of the branch and requested that they be placed in sympathizer status. They indicated that they would continue to make a financial contribution to the party and help us in any way they could, but they felt that they could not be active at this time. Ralph wrote us a letter a copy of which I sent to you earlier.

The following is a report on the activity of the comrades in question over the past year.

Attendance at branch meetings

Bob 6 out of 40
Ralph 2 out of 40
Ted 7 out of 40

Attendance at forums

Bob 1 out of 31
Ralph 1 out of 31
Ted 0 out of 31

Finances

Bob \$15/mo. sustainer, arrears \$15
Ralph \$1/week sustainer, arrears \$67 (no payment over past year)
Ted \$3/week sustainer, arrears \$24

Militant sales

Spring sales drive, 15 weeks
Bob 0, average per week 0
Ralph 8, average per week .53
Ted 45, average per week 3

Summer
Bob 0, average per week 0
Ralph 0, average per week 0
Ted 4, average per week .66

Fall sales drive, 6 weeks
Bob 0, average per week 0
Ralph 0, average per week 0
Ted 4, average per week .66

Militant and ISR subs, past year

Bob 0
Ralph 0
Ted 0

Bob, Ralph and Ted did not attend any of the sessions of our spring educational series or any of the classes in our summer school. They have not attended any of the '74 campaign functions or contributed any money to the campaign. They have not participated in any branch mobilizations over the past year for: 1) support of the Sears workers, 2) in solidarity with the Chilean workers, peasants and students, and 3) for our subscription drives. None of the three attended the summer educational conference in Oberlin and none of the three came to the Cannon tribute we jointly sponsored with the San Francisco branch this past September.

None of the three had a branch assignment during the past year. Ralph claims in his letter that he had not been offered one. That simply is not true. Since he came to almost no branch meetings I found it difficult to discuss any proposed assignment with him. After numerous attempts to reach him on the phone I managed to leave a message with his wife on one occasion for him to call me about assignments. He never responded.

Comradely,
/s/Jeff Powers
Oakland/Berkeley Organizer