

RWL

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NOV 28 1979

Political Committee Minutes of November 15, 1979

Agenda: 1) World Congress and the Internal Situation, Reports by - Connolly, Foco, and Bouffard

2) Common Front Struggle

Attendance

Present: Connolly, Talon, Herman, Mackenzie, Foco, Bessiere

Absent: Paquette, Lachance, Tyson, Samuels, Anders, Riviere, Saindon, Dubois

Late: Bouffard, Corbiere, Brock, Klement

Seated: Stein, W.B. - for item 2, all comrades of the Montreal Common Front Fraction

Chair: Talon

Secretary: Stein

1) World Congress and Internal Situation-

Connolly- reported on phone conversations with comrades at the world congress and on the internal situation.

Foco- read recently drafted text for the platform of the Tendency for an Organization which is Proletarian in Composition and Proletarian in Line, which covered their position on the split and the internal situation.

Bouffard- reported on the November 10 meeting of the NB majority and the GST. He also announced his intentions to recommend to the NB a moratorium on meetings with the GST until the delegation returns from the World Congress and his intentions to propose that the section in the Montreal DV Majority tasks report on relations with the GST should be withdrawn.

Motion: by Corbiere

That the discussion on this item be extended by 45 minutes.

Unanimous

Carried

The report and discussion on the Common Front Struggle was dropped from the agenda.

Discussion

Motion: by Mackenzie

The motion adopted by the PC immediately following the LTT - BF split stated that the PC would act to "inform" the branches about what had happened.

Normally, such "information" is transmitted through circulars, accessible to all comrades. This permits accountability concerning the dissemination of "information" and enables the necessary distinction to be maintained between "information", gossip, factional organizing, etc.

The PC considers it most regrettable that, under the conditions of extraordinary factional tension which currently exist, these normal procedures were not followed. Instead, "phonings" were made by one member of a grouping inside the PC to "other comrades".

The PC does not condemn the contents of these telephone discussions which remain unknown to it. By the same token, the PC takes no responsibility for the contents of these discussions.

The PC motion will therefore be implemented through a written circular restricted to facts. This circular will be approved by the parity commission to ensure that it does not become another source of factional tensions.

Motion: by Klement

That the PC refer Mackenzie's motion.

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For: Klement, Connolly, Bessiere, Talon

Against: Bouffard, Herman, Mackenzie, Foco, Corbiere

Defeated

Vote on the Mackenzie Motion-

For: Corbiere, Bouffard, Herman, Mackenzie, Foco

Against: Brock, Connolly, Bessiere

Abstention: Klement, Talon

Adjournment: 9:20 pm

Appendix to PC Minutes of November 15, 1979

Statement by Connolly on the motion by Mackenzie at the November 15, PC Meeting

The motion by Mackenzie was put to an unrepresentative meeting of the Political Committee despite agreement before hand with both Mackenzie and Bouffard that in light of the tension in the organization and the absence of leading comrades attending the World Congress, that no motions would be put to the political committee on the internal situation.

The motion by Mackenzie serves no other purpose than to obscure with organizational questions a badly needed discussion in the political questions underlying the split dynamic in the Canadian Section. The effects of such motions are to raise factioaal heat.

It should be noted that the motion is based on innuendo. No information is provided to back up the suggestion in the motion that comrades acting on behalf of the Political Committee have been carrying out their assignments in an irresponsible fashion.

The facts are as follows:

1) At a meeting of the Political Committee on November 2, 1979 attended by 12 out of 18 PC members a motion was adopted dealing with the split in the Fourth International. Portions of the motion read as follows: "That reports be given to branches across the country as soon as possible on the developments in the world Movement. We will publish in the internal bulletin as quickly as possible the report on the last convention of the GST, their letter to us and our greetings to their convention."

2) In line with the decision of the Political Committee comrades Connolly and Stein who were responsible for implementing these decisions proceeded to send to the branch organizers and executives the material on the split sent to the section by the United Secretariat Bureau.

An accompanying letter dated November 5, 1979 under the signature of John Steele stated: "Enclosed find a recent mailing from the United Secretariat Bureau dealing with recent important developments in the World Movement. This material should be made available to branch executive and central committee members. An informational report based on the material in the mailing should be given to the branch as soon as possible. The Political Committee had one discussion on these developments and passed a motion dealing with relations with the GST in Canada in the period between now and the return of our delegation from the World Congress. You will receive this in the mail shortly. In the meantime we will be in touch with you by phone to help you prepare your report to the branch."

3) The minutes of the November 2 PC meeting dealing with relations with the GST as well as other minutes were mailed out to central Committee members as quickly as they could be produced.

4) Phone calls were made to branch organizers November 12 and 13 to ensure they had the facts on the latest developments. Comrades were informed in this way of the November 10 meeting of a majority of the Quebec National Bureau with the GST. Comrades were also urged to organize discussions in the branches on the United Secretariat Resolution on Nicaragua as a result of the importance of this question in our internal crisis following the report of Bouffard to the November 11 Montreal branch meeting which dealt with this question in relation to the internal crisis.

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5) A special bulletin was published on November 16 containing the report on the GST convention, the RWL greetings to it, excerpts from minutes of the PC dealing with relations to the GST, RWL correspondence with the GST, the October 30 United Secretariat Bureau statement on the international split and the French ICR motion on the split.

Correction to the Political Committee Minutes of November 8, 1979-

Addition- item 5) should be the following:

5) PC Schedule-

Thursday, November 15, 7pm

- 1) PQ White Paper- Brock, Mackenzie and Corbiere to prepare reports

Saturday, November 17, 10 pm

- 1) Federal NDP Convention
- 2) FTQ Convention
- 3) Common Front Struggle

Future discussions- proposed on the closing of the Saskatoon branch.

Discussion

For: Connolly, Bessiere, Brock, Klement, Talon, Mackenzie, Herman

Against: 0

Abstention: Bouffard

Item 5) of the original minutes should read 6).