

JAN 29 1973

Los Angeles, Calif.

Jan. 26, 1973.

Barry Sheppard

Dear Barry,

I propose that the Political Committee, in the name of the party, formally make a statement on the "peace agreement." This, of course, should contain all the necessary qualifications going even beyond the description that it is "fragile," as some have said.

However, the main point should be that to the extent that this agreement compels the U. S. to withdraw forces from Vietnam and even if the halt in fighting is only temporary, this is due to the widespread opposition to the war that exists here at home and among the troops. This, in turn, is the product of the long struggle of the anti-war movement.

The actual role played in this movement by the SWP should be explained, even briefly if necessary, in the statement. The purpose I have in mind is to call to the attention of those who will read the statement, such as readers of The Militant, to the party's activities in this field. This is not always clear as news is carried in the paper and elsewhere.

Another statement should be issued on the Supreme Court decision on abortion. This is the most significant victory of the women since 1920. It is due to the work of the Women's Liberation Movement, especially of that part of it that made this question one of first priority. This statement should also be a formal one by the P.C. and should say what the role of the SWP has been.

I don't think the coming tribunal should be carried out in low key. On the contrary, it should be used as a springboard to advance the women's movement and to build it.

The overall purpose I have in mind is that the actual record of the work of the SWP in both fields should be publicized so that we can get the maximum results from it. We are entitled to blow our horn a bit and should not hesitate to do so. At the same time we can give proper credits to those who collaborated with us in these fields and to deal a few blows to those who did not.

I think the work the party has done in the mass movements is a model of how to be most effective in areas where huge numbers of people are involved and where the main ideas are supplied by a relatively small number. But it is incontestable that we have not yet received the dividends that should be ours as a result. We have to publicize our own role more and in that way make the party more attractive to those who should be recruited to our ranks.

Comradely,

*Milt*

Milton A}vin