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April 15, 1971

Dear Comrade Barnes,

At last week's Branch meeting, Comrade Wulp gave a summary of your report to the Plenum. Since there was considerable discussion and the hour was quite late, I did not conclude my remarks. I decided that since Plenum reports were to continue the following week, I could finish my remarks then. This procedure had already been followed for the International report given at a previous meeting.

When I informed Comrade Wulp of my intentions before this week's report, he informed me that it was out of order and that I would have to put a specific motion before the Branch requesting a re-opening of the discussion on the political report. I might point out here that there was never a formal closing of discussion at the previous meeting. Not even a motion to accept or approve. The majority voted against my motion, apparently on Comrade Wulp's advice that preconvention discussion would be opening soon and I could say what I wanted then.

It didn't seem to matter to him that I felt it was important to say what I had to say before preconvention. Neither did it seem to matter that this was 180° departure from previous procedure. I think it should be pointed out that the discussion which had taken place at past meetings, while there were disagreements, was calm and deliberate. The discussion was not heated and in no way contributed to any disharmony in the Branch. Quite the contrary, I think the recommendation of the Branch leadership and the decision on the part of a majority to follow it, has done more harm than any serious thoughtful discussion could.

Last winter, on the advice of Comrades Wulp and Camejo, a similar mistake was made by the Branch. These two comrades said that the Plenum reports were non-discussable. We were told only questions of information could be asked. That decision was reversed by the NO. I think this decision should be also. What I wanted to say at the Branch meeting becomes insignificant at this point. The issue now, which is vastly more important, is whether or not discussion can be arbitrarily cut off.

The "discussion" of Plenum reports which the NO ruled permissable last winter becomes a joke if it must be confined to the few minutes between the business meeting and adjournment.

I hope I will hear from you before next Tuesday's meeting.

Comradely,

s/ John McCann

cc to Farrell Dobbs

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

April 19, 1971

BOSTON
John McCann

Dear Comrade McCann,

This is to acknowledge receipt today of your letter dated April 15, 1971.

I have sent a copy of your letter to the Boston branch organizer and have requested from him the minutes of the meeting you describe and his comments on the facts of the matters you raise.

Comradely,

s/ Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

cc: Peter Camejo
Larry Trainor
Dave Wulp

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

April 19, 1971

BOSTON
Dave Wulp

Dear Comrade Wulp,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we received today from John McCann. We have not yet received the minutes of the branch meetings to which he refers. We would like your comments on the facts of the matters Comrade McCann raises.

Comradely,

s/ Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

cc: Peter Camejo
Larry Trainor