

February 28, 1969

LETTER TO: Comrade Don Hamerquist

FROM: National Committee

(Approved on February 23, 1969, to be made available to the entire membership)

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Dear Comrade Hamerquist:

On January 5, 1969, on your own initiative you tendered your resignation from the National Committee.

The National Committee of the Communist Party accepts your resignation from this body. You have demonstrated through your actions over the past few years that you do not belong on the highest political body of our Party and your resignation accords with the best interests of our Party.

You have shown a consistent disregard for the collective norms of our Party and you have continued to operate without a proper sense of your responsibilities as a leader of this Party. You have, in fact, persisted in divisive and factional methods of work, placing your own judgments and ends over those of your co-workers and of the collective as a whole.

On a number of different occasions you travelled to various districts, and without the knowledge of the duly elected district leadership, you held "rump" caucuses to discuss your differences with Party policy. By not using proper Party channels, you have failed to bring such discussions to our entire membership, and these discussions, therefore, contributed neither to the enrichment of our internal ideological life nor to the strengthening of our unity.

You also took it upon yourself to carry on your criticism of the Party outside of our ranks in such a way as to distort and vulgarize the situation in the Party. As a result, a misleading picture has been given others as to the internal developments and ideology of the Party.

You have persisted, in violation of the pre-convention discussion rules, in the publication of a lengthy document written by you. A year ago the National Secretariat discussed with you the first 35 page draft of this document and unanimously asked you to cut its length so that it could be printed in Political Affairs. You never saw fit to prepare it in such a form that the membership could consider your views. While you openly claim that the present document contains a critique of the underlying premises of present Party policies and directly criticizes our main strategic line, you have not seen fit to follow the norms of democratic centralism and are proceeding on your own to distribute it inside and outside the Party. You have refused to conform to the regulations on length established by the National Committee, and you have even spurned an offer to print your views in an article

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twice as long as that allowed for any other comrade. Such petty bourgeois individualist methods are destructive of Party collectivity.

On the basis of the foregoing, we accept your resignation. However, we must warn you at this time that leaving your position of leadership does not exempt you from the discipline and standards required of all Party members. Indeed, any persistence in these un-communist methods of behavior will place your continued membership in our Party in jeopardy.

In closing, we wish to call to your attention that the practice of democratic centralism in our Party guarantees the fullest democratic opportunities for exchange of thoughts and discussion that can be found anywhere. The standards that we have come to collectively, that apply to all members for the constructive probing of questions make completely unnecessary such methods as you have used. Since we are here in no way dealing with the content of your views, and we wish your views to be a part of our pre-convention discussion, we also strongly urge that you submit an article or shortened version of your 160 page document for publication in the pre-convention discussion. Such a presentation of your views can be up to 6,000 words, twice the normal limit.

We feel that you owe the Party membership at least the respect of considering them as an audience worthy of your ideas.

Comradely,

National Committee, CP, USA