

To: Western Region
From : DF Regional Coordinator

February 20th, 1980

Dear Comrades of the Western Region,

This is a follow up letter to the Monday Feb. 11th letter on the agenda for the March 22, 23. In that letter I explained that our two main discussions would be on regional work, and the Local Centers Conference proposal. These two discussions will take up all of Saturday. In addition I said that I would do more thinking about the specific agenda points for the second day. That is what this letter is about.

In thinking about the various topics which could be taken up (Racism, NNMLC, Draft Plan, Labor Day conference, Local Centers) I have decided that the most pressing topics at this time are going deeper into criticisms of the Labor Day Conference, and discussion local centers, and the present views of SOC, and TMLC on these issues. We definitely need to deepen regional discussion on Racism, NNMLC, Draft Plan, but I think that this will be most effectively done when we have basic National documents to prepare around. At this time the summation of the national Minority Conference is not out, nor the NSC position on the NNMLC, nor the study plans for the Draft Plan (nor the rewritten draft plan). These discussions could be taken up much more in depth with these tools to study.

On the other hand we have begun a very fruitful struggle over the national labor day conference. The TMLC comrades who have major criticisms did not attend last regional meeting and so we did not take up many of their criticisms. I think that this should be the focus of part of the second day. In addition, I have asked TMLC to respond to the letter KD sent out, so that we can discuss their reasons for missing the last meeting.

Secondly, I think that we should deepen our discussion around local centers. This includes a number of points. First, it would be good to get updated reports from the localities on any further progress or problems in local center building. Secondly, we have a concrete organizational question regarding local centers affecting our region. The SOC comrades are not participating in the SCALC but still consider themselves OC members. On the other hand the NSC believes that OC members must participate in Local OC forms, local centers where they exist in order to be active members of the OC. See enclosed letter to SOC.

Therefore, I would propose that we focus on deepening our discussion of the National Conference, and continue with local centers discussion. It is important to note that we should discuss questions of racism, NNMLC, draft plan etc. in the context of these two discussions. In other words I am not proposing that any deeper discussion of the National Conference doesn't speak directly to these issues. It should. But these issues should be struggled over in the context of the main two topics. We will not be going into extensively each of these areas separately.

In addition, to these two points we will take the first 1/2 hour to discuss why regional notes didn't get out, and how we can improve our regional work in the future. At the end of the meeting we will plan a rough regional agenda for the future and do C-SC. Concretely this means that localities have to prepare to do the following things:

1. read and prepare for discussion on second day, study guide enclosed.
2. prepare to report on local center work in their area.
3. prepare to explain why you didn't get out your regional notes, if you didn't, and make appropriate self-criticism.

In closing I also want to add a fourth point for preparation which I mentioned last letter, but I want to highlight. And that is the importance of each locality figuring out concretely what their commitment to regional work and the Local Centers conference will be. This means not just coming to discuss the political points embodied in the various proposals, but also making our unity concrete by being able to contribute to the local centers conference and the regional work. This is also crucial in making an objective assessment for our capabilities at the present time.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon,

Comradely Greetings,

Dave

Agenda and Preparation Suggstions for Second Day:

1. Meeting 9am to 1pm.

Agenda:

1. Discussion of Labor day confernce: fosusing on TMLC criticisms
2. Discussion of TMLC's Letter, and regional letter
- .. break...
3. Local Center Reports (important updates)
4. Discussion of SC policy on Local center membership and particular situation of SOC.
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5. Agenda and S-SC

First two discussions 9 to 11

Second discussinns 11:15 to 12:30

Preparation

- Readings: røquired:
1. Forge the Party Spirit
 2. Exchange between TMLC and NSC on Labor Day onfernce
 3. Regional Letter to TMLC, and TMLC response (not written presntly)
 4. SOC Minority position papers from Local Centers packet, and most recent paper done in Dec.
 5. NSC reprot on Southern California, particularly last section.
 6. DF's letter to SOC (enclosed)

* Reading Forge the Party Spirit carefully will be crucial for both discussions on the second day. Much of the criticisms of the Labor day Conference, NSC, and of TMLC, and SOC minority relate to methods of struggle, and organizational rules. This paper adresses indirectly many of these points. All members of the regional meeting should ome prepared to raise any dif-fernces they have with the paper's perspective, particularly in relationship to the various discussions we will have.

Study Questions:

1. Prepare your own views on the points which both the TMLC and the NSC raise in their exchanged. In particular develop you positions around:
 - A. errors of the NSC in organizing the ideological debate
 - B. The charge of burecratic retaliation and intimidation etc.
 - c. Discussion on the NNMLC, Minority Confernce Resolu-tion.
 - D. criticisms of Phil, and of TMLC/RSBG/ Kansas city folks
 - E. view of the main devatons from correct method s of ideological struggle made by the NSC, TMLC, and other OCIC com-rades at the conference.

2. Prepare your thoughts on the exchange between the region and TMLC.
3. Do you agree or disagree with the NSC's view that OC members must be members of their local center? Why or why not?
4. What is your view of the SOC's reasons for not participating in the SCALC? Do you think their reasons are valid, or do you agree with the NSC criticisms. What other views do you have.?
5. ^Do you agree with the basic prinipals layed out in Forging the Party Spirit. In particular the points on: relationship between local organizations and local centers, need for rules, responsibility for criticism, No circle discipline, Freedom of organizational form, local and regional centers, external relatins.