

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S LETTER ON FEB. 13TH. EC MEETING.

The outline plan for who should be moved when to start the new branches was discussed and approved. The sequence will be Indy and Cincinnati first starting immediately and into march. Atlanta second in May and the two other new branches (Baltimore and Buffalo) in the summer. We have real contacts and recruitment (worker) possibilities already in the first places and their chance of making a speedy breakthrough is dependant on the ibt work to a certain extent. Opening up those branches has thus become a matter of some urgency. As the least easy comrades to move are the establish cadre, it means that these branches will have less of a cadre than the other new ones, which will pose distinct political problems which should be alleviated by Cals activity around those branches.

The tdc/ups report revealed an incredibly high level of activity in the Cleveland centre, which is both physically impossible to sustain and has the byproduct of depoliticizing our members there as they get more and more bogged down in admin work. Decisions were taken to add resources to the operation in terms of work teams occasionally from Detroit to catch up on building the office and non urgent admin work. Also technical staff for Convoy will be provided from Detroit. Steps are now being taken to put both the internal and external to tdc financing on a more professional basis. It has also become clear that another member of the full-time political leadership must be assigned to Cleveland (Joe) in order to assist the steering committee in carrying out its political as well as admin functions in relation to the tdc and ups.

The political theme of the next period is becoming much clearer now in terms of team organising in the tdc and strike preparation in the ups, and it was felt that convoy would have to go weekly after the next edition to help with that development. It is also clear that some of the holes in our teamster operation will have to be filled quickly, i.e. there are key areas like Chicago that have been unable to put anything together yet. Special emphasis will go to these areas in the next few weeks..

The fact that the I.S. teamster conference set-up for this weekend had to be cancelled is an indication of our major political weakness at the moment. There were real objective factors which lead to this in terms of "another out of town meeting" but the subjective factor of our comrades consistently sacrificing the political dimension of their work is present too. The solution to this problem will not arise out of the present body of cadre operating in the teamster work, the pressure on them is too great. This means that the leadership resources of the organisation must be organised from Cleveland to go to branches, talk with contacts, do small meetings, etc. There can be no concession to the growing idea that we can do all the recruiting at the end. Initially special meetings are being set up in Cincinnati (hopefully with Louisville and Charleston participation) and Detroit.

There was also a discussion on the WP coverage of teamsters, from the point of view of bridging the political gap between the economic agitation and our full socialist politics. This problem exists not just in the WP or teamsters but in all our work. It is clear that the paper is now getting on top of it, but in this period it is a problem which we must be constantly on top of and which must be constantly generalised and improved if we are to successfully build out of the mass movements that are developing, from our thrust, in the class. A summary document on what we are doing so far in these respects was discussed and passed, the EB and IBTSC are also to receive copies for discussion.

A report on the development of Red Tide in Detroit was taken and welcomed. Since

the arrival of the other comrades from the west coast, progress has been faster than anticipated and it is clear there can now be a very real Red Tide here. Only this development, assuming it continues, will allow us to move back to a serious perspective for a national red tide.

It was decided that around the Mayday weekend, give or take a week, we will have a series of membership rallies, all on the same weekend with the aim of recruiting 50 more members nationally. The details will not be worked out for another couple of weeks so that we can get a clearer idea as to whether Mayday itself is a possible time, despite the UPS expiration. Preliminary discussion also took place at this meeting on a document of Angola that is designed for educating our members in our line and the politics which underpin the line. Full discussion will take place next week on a version that is both shorter and has more emphasis on the impact of MPLA victory on the whole of southern Africa.

GLENN WOLFE.

PRP FUND RAISING

The solidarity work for the Portuguese revolution has been consciously wound down in this period because of the focussing of our work around the contract campaigns. All branch execs should remember however that we did commit ourselves to continuing to raise cash for them. Their need for cash has never been greater than it is today. Consequently each branch has to have one fund raising function (party, for example) in the next two months on behalf of the PRP. You have been aware of this for some time but so far there is no progress. Inform Barbara W immediately of your plans and send in the money to her as soon as you have it.

GW.