

## AMENDMENTS TO THE PLATFORM FOR THE ELECTION OF THE EC

Presented here are amendments to the most objectionable sections of the EC's Platform; Points 1,2, and a section of 9. Added also are five positive points A.to.E which would constitute a mandate for a different leadership if agreed to by the majority of the convention.

1. Replace Points 1,2, and this sentence of point 9 "The older middle class cadre who are not industrialized and who are unwilling to put their lives and careers at the service of the party cannot be permitted to compete with the organizer for leadership of the branch or district." (emphasis added)
2. Add: At present the membership of the IS is still primarily middle class. Only 11% of our members have been recruited out of industrial struggles. We are working to become a democratic revolutionary workers organization and do not concern ourselves with middle class problems.. Our organization exists to do working class, black, women's and youth therefore the resources of the organization must be put at the disposal of this work. We expect members, whether middle class people who are - industrialized, on the EC, doing industrial backup work in the fractions, or other work, e.g., South Africa, to be acting under the guidance of the organization. It is the mutual responsibility of the individual member and the organization to involve every member in ongoing systematic work.

A major problem is the low level of political development of much of the organization..As a result there are organizers or comrades involved in leading the turn who are often incapable of dealing politically with ~~new~~ more experienced cadre who may come into conflict over various tactics along the way. The only solution to this problem is to raise the political level of the cadre and the membership so they can simply convince or out-vote any more experienced comrades whose ideas are holding things back. As our cadres and members become more political they may well find that many of the ideas of the older, more experienced political cadre are right and in turn, these more experienced cadre will be more useful to our industrial work as the real political dialogue heightens.

This Convention totally rejects the idea of removing or making comrades sympathizers because their political ideas can not be defeated. We ~~still~~ stand by the activity requirements in the Constitution; every comrade must take on responsibilities. That cannot be codified into hours per week because people have different family sizes, jobs, talents, etc. To throw out a person in one city for a level of activity that isn't required in many other cities is a violation of democratic centralism e.g., unified practice and socialist equality. The activity requirement can and must be enforced.

On the other hand, activity can not be used as a smokescreen to oust a member. Once a Convention decision is made, or between Conventions a legitimate EC, CC, NC, fraction, Branch Exec or Branch decision is made, all comrades must carry it out. If anyone is accused of obstructing this process and the local Exec or other body feels they should be made a sympathiser or disciplined, they must be given a full disciplinary trial.

3. Delete from page 2 point 5 "The key task" Add: Although the politicization and democratization of the organization are central, a key task"
4. Delete from page 3 of the EC's proposed platform: "Many comrades still understand the work only from an abstract, outsider, intellectualist viewpoint.. This was revealed, not only by the convulsion generated by the Left Faction, but also in the positions of the Third force." motivation: Many comrades may believe this statement to be true, but it should not be part of the platform of a new EC and its mandate. Those who oppose what they consider to be abstract intellectualist and sectarian ideas have a duty to object to them and combat them throughout the year.

We present the following points as our shared common platform to advance the organization forward:

**A. RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN OUR LEADERSHIP AND OUR MEMBERSHIP.**

The job of the new leadership is to restore confidence in the leadership of the IS. It is not simply a question that the old EC was isolated or disliked, but over half of the organization, including an important section of the Majority Caucus, thought the EC was undemocratic, basically failed to lead, and bears responsibility for the current crisis in the organization. The old EC asked to be judged collectively, and we think they failed and should not be returned as a group to lead the organization. We need a new leadership that has solid majority support to carry the organization forward. We don't intend to get rid of all of the old EC as a lot, because we don't share their method of winner takes all, but will retain some of them ~~whom~~ who we judge are individually valuable to the organization..

**B. RESTORE MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN SECTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The only basis for the survival of a small revolutionary group is its ideas and the mutual respect and acceptance of different ideas within the organization. This may seem like a truism, but there is a serious crisis in this respect in the IS today. Mutual dislike and contempt characterize the relations between the remaining sections of the organization. We feel it imperative that the new leadership of the IS attempt to harmonize relations with the PSC just as the EC has tried to do with the fraction leaders. Since the PSC represents almost the entire West Coast members and half of both Chicago and New York, the new leadership for the sake of the IS's survival, must see this situation as one of the foremost problems to be resolved in the coming months.

C. Today in the IS it is a common practice for people to be attacked behind their backs. People are called conservative, petty-bourgeois, undemocratic, fuck-offs, workerists, hacks, etc. for months and even years ~~and~~ without ever being told to ~~kick~~ their face. It is the accepted practice in the organization and has even been theoretically defended by the old EC that people will always gossip and nothing can be done about it. In a healthy organization, if someone has such a criticism about a comrade, they tell them to their face. If they're not willing to do that they are told to shut up. Failure to put such charges in writing while spreading

them is a breach of discipline. This applies first to the leadership Anyone who feels any comrade on the EC has behaved in a high-handed manner, spreading false stories, been intimidating or arrogant, made personal attacks threatening expulsion, etc. must put it in ~~writ~~ writing. We hold our leadership highly responsible for such behavior if it occurs; and we will not tolerate anyone in the leadership who engages in it. On the other hand, we will not tolerate anyone who accuses the leadership of such practices without being specific and putting it in writing so the accused can answer. From this Convention on all such practices will stop. Only the majority consciousness and desire for change can guarantee this, but some disciplinary trials with resulting censure, suspension or expulsion may be necessary to restore us to a healthy internal climate.

D. Leadership and Differences. We believe the job of the leadership is to lead, to fight for its political ideas, to move the organization forward to a workers combat group, to advance our industrial, Black and other interventions. Our leadership must fight for its ideas, but we must be clear about what this doesn't mean. It does not mean treating all ideas different from its own as heresies to be stamped out. Or when a branch raises a criticism that someone has to be sent in to put out the brush fire. We do not believe that all the basic ideas needed to bring the organization forward will originate in the EC or the NC or the CC or industrial fraction leadership bodies. We consider differences over strategy, tactics, and even program inevitable and desirable in a workers combat group. Although we strive to put our best, most sophisticated and developed leadership on the EC, we do not pretend that the comrades have a monopoly on the best political wisdom in the organization.

Up to now the EC has tended to view different opposing ideas as something to be smashed rather than politically answered. It tended to treat different ideas with contempt and, in reality, the comrades who hold them with contempt. We are all revolutionary socialists. We believe a real majority is strengthened by its debate with a minority to intervene in the outside world. It sharpens its views. And a minority which is listened to seriously will be better able to loyally carry out the position.

E. The basis of membership in the IS is agreement with the program in brief, paying dues, obeying discipline, selling the paper, and taking assignments. Within this framework political differences can develop and membership can organize to fight to become a majority as long as they carry out the majority position in the meantime. Disloyalty, i.e., attempting to split the IS or destroy it as an organization will not be tolerated. A disloyal minority has no rights, will be represented on nothing and will not be allowed as members. Anyone in the majority who attempts to split the organization, i.e., drive out members of a minority, will be treated in the same way. Working for a split shall be shown by actions, i.e. disruption, speeches, letters, and not be logical deduction, e.g., "Having such ideas will lead them to want to split." The charge of working for a split must be proved in our formal disciplinary manner, not by unwritten accusation, smear campaigns or simple motions of expulsion. The specifics must be written up and the accused have adequate time to defend themselves.