

National Committee Report

by Mark L.

The I.S. National Committee meeting was held in Detroit September 15 and 16. A summary of the discussions and a brief evaluation follows. Copies of the resolutions that were voted on at the NC are included in this mailing. Amendments and votes are noted below.

The first session was on Regroupment. Mark made a presentation outlining where we are at in the regroupment process. Key to our perspective is the relationship between the Left and the working class movement. Mark pointed out that the movement was not yet strong enough to serve as a catalyst for left unity. As a result, we should not expect any big breakthroughs nationally very soon. Our task now is to develop local perspectives for common work and dialogue and to promote "Changes" as our voice in the debates of the left.

Discussion centered on how were doing more and different kinds of work with other left forces but that regroupment was not yet a question of the day.

The second half of the session on regroupment took up local work. Mark detailed our plans for creating a Detroit Socialist Forum as a discussion center. Mel described our relations with the New York left in particular the Center for Marxist Education, NAM, and MPOC. Mike H. outlined our plans for developing a study group with subscribers to In These Times as a way to organize discussion between socialists in the Gary area. Delegates from Pittsburgh and Cleveland spoke on the round about the left in their cities. Most of the round centered on how to organize dialogue within the left.

Dave F. presented a resolution on a modest sub drive for Changes. See resolutions. Passed; one abstention.

The second session was on work in Chrysler. Enid critiqued the recently announced UAW/GM agreement especially in the areas of pensions and short work week. Jim B. analyzed Chrysler's financial situation, pointing out that the reports of its demise have been greatly exaggerated. Bill described our approach to organizing against Chrysler's effort to obtain a substandard agreement and to rationalize its operations through cutbacks. Our emphasis will be on preventing a substandard contract and to demand that any federal aid be tied to job guarantees.

The third session was on anti-nuke perspectives and the energy crisis. Discussion focused on two areas. One, how do we build links between groups opposed to nukes and organizations fighting the high price of energy. Secondly, the NC debated how we relate to the anti-nuke movement adopting anti-nuclear weapons positions. Everyone agreed that being anti-nuclear weapon was a logical extension of being anti-nuke and that we would never oppose the movement adopting such a position. Disagreement centered on how such positions effected the ability of the anti-nuke movement to reach out to new constituencies and how much emphasis the anti-weapon position should receive.

Mike P. presented an amendment to replace point 4 of the resolution. A second substitute amendment was put forward by Dave McC. Both the original Mike P. amendment and the Dave McC. substitute were eventually withdrawn in favor of a new wording suggested by Jane S. This read: "The anti-nuke movement should develop its politics to include opposition to nuclear weapons. ISers should encourage this development which the main thrust must be the movements working in coalition with the anti-oil industry groups." However, this amendment failed 5-6.

Mark moved that the two sentences of point 4 in the resolution

itself be divided. The first sentence of point 4 passed, all for; 2 abstaining. The second sentence of point 4 failed with 4 in favor, all others opposed. Enid made an amendment to add to sub-point 4, in point 8: "We push (educationally) for nationalization of all energy resources." Passed, all for, one abstention.

The final session was on the Citizens' Party. Mike P. presented an educational talk on our attitude towards independent political action. Joel G. presented the PC majority position, and Steve K. presented an amendment (this is incorrectly identified as a counter-resolution on the enclosure with resolutions). Discussion centered on three questions: the impact of the Kennedy campaign on the effort to create a new party, how building the Citizens' Party would effect our local work and its impact on the left.

Mark made an amendment: "Initially we will urge movement activists to get involved as individuals. We will also urge the socialist left to get involved. We should motivate involvement based on a frank assessment of its potential." Mark's amendment passed 5-4-6. Steve's amendment failed 4 for, 2 abstaining. Resolution as amended passed 12-2-2.

Evaluation: The NC went about its business without any surprises or any of the acrimony we have experienced at past gatherings. Generally, however, the discussions were lifeless. Given our federation of the group, the NC lacked a sense of import or meaning of the decisions it was making. Probably the valuable aspect of the weekend was that people from the different branches were able to talk to each other and exchange reports on local developments or general political ideas.

When the PC Steering Committee discussed the NC we looked for ways to have more productive national meetings. We agreed that we should move toward more of a conference format, with more educational content and more time for informal discussion.



by Gay S.

The campaign to Save Sun Press is going extremely well. A broad committee, "SAVE SUN PRESS: Committee to Build a Movement Media Coop", has been formed. It has about 15-20 people active in some way and a sponsors list of over 45 names. The sponsors list includes individuals from all the non-sectarian left groups, community groups, movement groups, rank and file groups, well-known individual activists, progressive artists and musicians, etc.

The Committee has been set up to raise funds to pay off some of Sun's back debt, to set up a separate fund to complete the recapitalization process and to come up with a plan to turn Sun continued page 3

Branch Reports

NEWYORKNEWYORKNEWYORKNEWYORKNEWYORKNE

Branch members are participating in a group called POWER (People Outraged With Energy Rates). It plans a demonstration at Exxon in October. Different left groups have been working together well in it, including DSOC, NAM, the Shad Alliance and the Communist Party.

We were involved in helping CETA workers in their struggle, which they lost. They will be getting laid off. However, the work put us in good shape to be knowledgeable about and work with District 37 of AFSCME.

There are several avenues for regroupment work. The branch has held two joint meetings with NAM, which were quite friendly, on reproductive rights and regroupment. Both MPOC (Mass Party Organizing Committee) and Black Economic Survival (a part of the People's Alliance) are getting involved in the Citizen's Party. The Center for Marxist Education has split into two groups, one of which is interested in regroupment. Bob Fitch is writing a document which he will try to group people around.

The branch meetings every 2-3 weeks and holds political discussions and hears reports on members' work.

CLEVELANDCLEVELANDCLEVELANDCLEVELANDCLEVEL

The wildcat strike at the phone company lasted a week and a half and WON! The company violated its policy of never talking to wildcatters, because the union leadership could not get the people back to work, and signed an agreement on scheduling of breaks. Our member will likely be appointed steward. The local leadership is thoroughly discredited.

Before school opened, WELCOME, a pro-integration group, held a symbolic "bridge walk" which was attended by 2500. We played a central role in helping to organize this event. Because it was so successful, WELCOME became an important issue in itself and was pointed to by politicians, etc. as one of the reasons why busing went peacefully. The walk also helped to build a network for WELCOME, and got white and Black activists working together. WELCOME is supporting a candidate for school board. Her campaign will be the group's next project.

The anti-nuke group North Shore Alert is holding a day-long workshop and conference Oct. 14.

Members are active in organizing for the gay march in Washington, also Oct. 14. A Cleveland gay group is organizing buses. Robin (Gary) and Kathy (Pitts) will be coming to Cleveland to address a meeting on gay liberation. They will also speak at a branch meeting.

Ford Brook Park Unemployed Committee has been very active. They most recently held a demonstration outside a meeting of Cleveland business honchos. The demonstration was to protest energy ripoffs. 50-75 attended. The Unemployed Committee has regularly drawn 2-500 to its meetings.

The Pro-Choice Action Committee held a counter-demonstration against a "Right to Life" march. Happily, we were not outnumbered as badly as we expected. The "Lifers" drew only 150 to their march and rally. PCAC leafletted the parade route, and picketed their rally with 75 supporters. PCAC is in the process of reorganization to build a stronger, more of an on-going group, and is planning events for Abortion Rights Action Week.

The weekend of Sept. 29-30 we are sponsoring a meeting on the Teamsters movement.

PITTSBURGHPITTSBURGHPITTSBURGHPITTSBURGHPITTS

In general, the steel work is "plodding and methodical, bearing small fruit—but fruit." (DS) We are developing a periphery, people who caucus with us. At the Duquesne local, a special union meeting was held on the subject of energy and jobs, the first of its kind, with our members playing a big role in getting it to happen. Ed Mann from Youngstown spoke on what happens when a mill closes down. Greg Klink who is the Homestead local's intervenor in the Environmental Protection Agency's consent decree for U.S. Steel in the Mon Valley, spoke about environmental issues and jobs.

Women of Steel is negotiating for the women's conference in

District 15, and getting local groups started.

I.S. members are leaders on the local, state and national levels in organizing for the gay rights march October 14. All the conservative gay organizations have endorsed the march. Angela Davis will be one of the speakers, as will Barbara Jordan and Midge Constanza. Public estimates of size are 150-200,000. At the N.C., the I.S. voted to endorse the march and members are encouraged to try to attend.

Teamsters: IBT Local 800 (steelhauers) is threatened with trusteeship by the International because of things that happened during the wildcat. TDU members are organizing against it.

An important strike is going on among tank drivers for Arco, Amoco and Gulf for a new contract. TDU members have been visiting the picket line. The Joint Council has called a mass picket for Sept. 22, but are not organizing for it. A news cameraman was killed when he was run over by a scab.

TDU is making a priority of getting people to the convention in November. People are in favor of merger with PROD.

The women drivers continue to meet, and the group has had some success in getting them into school. They are supported by both Hard-Hatted Women and TDU.

DETROITDETROITDETROITDETROITDETROITDETROITDET

Teamsters: A by-laws campaign is underway in Local 299. The elections held over two years ago in which the two Petes were defeated, are in court, due to a suit brought by the Concerned Members. The Labor Dept. may overturn the election or agree to supervise the next one. TDU members are also involved in the grocery strike in Local 337.

Work around Abortion Rights Action Week is going well. One idea for a project we had, a conference on reproductive rights in the workplace was scratched because some union officials refused to get active in something so closely connected to abortion. The conference will probably be held in November instead. Along with the Red Tide, we are working on a project for a Women's Fair during the week of action that will be aimed towards high school women. It will include films and workshops on various issues related to reproductive rights, particularly as they affect young women. A variety of groups will be invited to have tables at the fair, and we are thinking about a couple of speakers, and maybe a theater group at the end of the afternoon.

A myriad of events are scheduled during Abortion Rights Action Week. We are playing a key role in pulling things together, publishing a calendar, helping to get publicity for the week as a whole.

On Sept. 29-30 we are hosting, along with NAM and the Lawyer's Guild, a meeting of the Reproductive Rights National Network.

On Sept. 30 Harriet Barlow, co-chairperson of the Citizens' Party will be in Detroit. We are helping to organize a meeting of interested activists in the city.

Anti-nuke activities coming up include a fundraiser on Oct. 7 and a big state-wide rally in Lansing on Oct. 21. Organizers hope that 30,000 will demonstrate.

UAW members have been quite busy lately. The recent tentative settlement at GM (see last *Labor Notes*) has led to a number of meetings to organize a rejection movement. Although the contract will most likely pass, there is now expected to be a sizeable 'no' vote. The ISTC (Independent Skilled Trades Council) has held three meetings in the Detroit area for this purpose.

What has been most exciting is that many militants at GM who have been laying low for a few years are springing into action around this offer. Had we sustained an organization over the last three years, we would be in much better shape. As it is now, we'll have to use this new activism to build for the future.

Meanwhile at Chrysler, there is increased sentiment for parity. In fact, there is fear among some Chrysler workers that Fraser might not recognize the GM agreement as being sub-standard and still believe UAW members at Chrysler should accept less. The current word now is that Fraser is determined to win profit-sharing at Chrysler this year.

The Detroit Auto Unit is sponsoring a discussion with friends



on new technology for October 7. All members of the Detroit district are invited. It will be the first public meeting for the Unit in several months. For more information on the new technology, you may wish to read the Special Report in the current issue of In These Times.

[Auto report by Bill P.]

GARYGARYGARYGARYGARYGARYGARYGARYGARYGARY

Elections were held in April and August for executive board, grievors and stewards. In Locals 1014, 1066 and 6787 right-wing or McBride forces won the elections. In both 1066 and 6787, however, two of our members were appointed assistant grievors. In 6787, the women's committee elected officers who are members of the Rank and File Caucus. In 1010, the Rank and File kept control of the executive board and won 15 out of 30 grievor positions. Our members held two elected and two appointed positions. Local 1010 is holding a demonstration Sept. 21st against stricter apprenticeship rules. It will be a test of the administration to see how many people they can turn out for it.

The District 31 Women's Caucus has slacked off in activity because its activists have become active in their local women's committees or in other union activity. It will be trying to do something about the companies' continued unfair treatment of pregnant women.

Local 1066 will hear a presentation by Nader on nuclear power, possibly in a debate with a utility company spokesman.

The Basic Steel conference is at the beginning of December. As yet there has been a lack of leadership from local presidents on the right to ratify question.

Some branch members are involved in an informal study group of In These Times subscribers. It was initiated by a leftist who has been in Gary for a long time. The group plans to send a letter to all ITT subscribers in the South Chicago, northern Indiana area inviting them to a party Sept. 28. At the party there will be a proposal for a public forum with Commoner speaking on the Citizen's Party. Commoner will be coming to Gary to talk to interested people in any case.

REDTIDEREDTIDEREDTIDEREDTIDEREDTIDEREDTIDETR

The Red Tide has been involved in a tremendous amount of activity recently which includes several areas of work: stop the draft, Rock Against Racism, National Abortion Rights Action Week, as well as the continuing struggle to develop our membership and to survive as an organization.

In case you weren't aware, the bills calling for the reinstatement of registration and draft have failed in Congress! This is a great victory for young people. Plans for a high school conference sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the Coalition Against Registration and Draft (CARD) have been called off. But the Chicago CARD is continuing with its plans to hold a mid-west conference on the draft at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. on October 19-21. The conference will discuss the National Youth Service Act. Also, the Red Tide's crack organizer and ace reporter Retha will be speaking at a YSA forum on the draft Sept. 23.

The September 29 Rock Against Racism concert here in Detroit is really shaping up. Despite earlier problems with the sectarian "Revolutionary" Communist Party fuck-ups, plans for the carnival are taking off. The concert is all day (1:00-8:00) and will feature over eight bands and theater groups. Red Tide members are slowly overcoming the ageist prejudice directed at our group by members of the RAR. We have proved to be more than leaflet passer-outers. Listen for Red Tiders on WABX and WDET.

Recently members of the Red Tide, RAR and the RSL went to Fort Wayne, Indiana to march against the Klan. The odds were in our favor 500-20, and the crowd was anti-Klan but not willing to take them on. Unfortunately, we no longer have to go out of town to fight the Klan. Former Nazi leader Bill Russell has started a Klan right here in Detroit. Look out for more info on that or call the Red Tide (313) 868-2932 or 843-6035.

In the struggle,
Retha, for the Red Tide

Citizens' Party Steering Committee

by Mark L.

Mark, Jane and Mike U. attended the September 20 steering committee of the "National Citizens' Organizing Committee" in New York. The meeting gave us a first hand look at where the Citizens' Party is at.

The steering committee is made up of a combination of foundation radicals, people from Washington based alternative policy groups, notables like Barry Commoner and a few Black activists like Bob Brown of Black Economic Development. The meeting was also attended by observers.

The Citizens' Party is still more of an idea than a party. As of the meeting, only 250 people had actually joined and signed membership cards. The process of finding state convenors and setting up local committees is still in its infancy. What has been accomplished is the August announcement of the effort to create the new party, the issuing of the working paper, the setting up of an office in Washington and some fund-raising. One new notable has joined the effort, Julian Bond.

The steering committee meeting was not well attended nor was it well organized. Discussions and presentations were unfocused. There was no systematic analysis of what Kennedy's campaign would mean.

In spite of this, the steering committee did make a number of important political decisions. Each of them correct. Most importantly, they made a commitment to run a national campaign in 1980. In the context of a Kennedy campaign this was essential. Secondly, they decided against running Citizens' Party candidates in Democratic or Republican primaries.

The steering committee adopted a timetable. A Platform Convention will be held this spring followed by a nominating convention in the summer. The primary season will be used to get the party on the ballot in as many states as possible. One good idea which has yet to be formally adopted was to have a committee of prominent Citizens' Party spokespersons shadow the major party candidates during the primaries to critique their positions and offer the Citizens' Party alternative.

Finally, the meeting convinced us that the party was open to participation by the left. We were welcome to participate in the meeting. Afterward Jane and Mark were asked to be Michigan convenors.

Sun Report continued

into a movement cooperative.

Two fundraising events are planned. The first on October 13 is a film showing and party. The film "Red Menace," an early 50's rabidly anti-communist film, will be shown. The idea is to provide Detroit's left community with its own version of Reefer Madness, while promoting the Save Sun Press project.

The second event on November 10 will be much bigger. A "Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Crash of 29" party, dance, concert will be held. Thus far plans include Marcus Belgrave (Detroit's top jazz musician), a rock and roll band, a contest for the best 20's costume, a people's auction, plus more.

The Committee is also helping to set up a capital investment fund of sorts. This is progressing well—details to follow.

The Committee is also helping to promote Sun and bring in more business.

An "Open Letter to the Movement" explaining the situation and asking for support is being sent out to the broad left community in Detroit. It includes the list of sponsors. It also includes bookmarks to help promote business.

More details of all of this will be reported in future issues of this newsletter.

Nationally, I.S. members can help as well. Sun is able to ship work quite easily. Sun is also probably the cheapest union printer you will find anywhere. Help find work. The best types of jobs are regular newsletters that can have a definite time slot set up and one shot important pieces of literature that need to be done in quantity such as brochures, pamphlets, etc.

Palestine Human Rights Campaign

by Dave F.

Last weekend (Sept. 20-22) the Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC) held a national conference in Washington D.C., which I attended as a member of the local Detroit working group of the PHRC. The PHRC was established a couple of years ago, with three basic goals:

- To publicize particular cases of human rights violations inside Israel and the occupied territories, especially cases of collective punishment, administrative detention and torture requiring emergency appeals for support;

- To bring the general issue of Palestinian human rights and self-determination to a new American constituency, beyond the traditional support base of Arab-Americans and the radical left.

- To do this in a way that clearly makes Palestinian rights the central and unconditional focus, that is, not to allow the issue to be co-opted by liberal Zionists who might criticize Israeli "excesses" but who would keep the debate within the framework of the need for Israeli "security".

The conference was a major, unqualified success and in my opinion put the PHRC on the map as probably the national organization which can become a vehicle for a broad-based grass-roots pro-Palestinian campaign in this country. This is true despite various internal organizational difficulties and political contradictions facing PHRC as it enters a qualitatively new period brought on by the resignation of Andrew Young.

While I do not have an accurate count of the size of the conference, the number attending was certainly close to 500. SCLC President Joseph Lowery made his first public statement on his return from heading an SCLC delegation to the Middle East at the Saturday noon session of the conference. The PHRC is actually in a position to be a central part of a coalition of forces on the Palestinian rights issue. Obviously the PHRC has nowhere near the size or influence of SCLC or other major Black organizations (PUSH, etc.) who are taking up this issue; however, the PHRC's work in the past couple of years, its growth as an organization and its close relations with pro-human rights forces in Israel/Palestine including the Israeli Human and Civil

Rights League, Palestinian West Bank mayors (two of whom spoke at the conference) etc., mean that the PHRC will be a partner in such a coalition. In other words, it is not just a small sect-like group hanging onto the SCLC's coattails. In addition to Lowery, Congressman Fauntroy's name was associated with the conference although he didn't return in time to speak; Conyers also put in an appearance and spoke briefly at an afternoon panel session. Jesse Jackson was a featured speaker at a Saturday night dinner session, before leaving on his Mideast trip.

Besides a strong theme of identifying the Palestinian cause with the Black community, the conference had several other important themes: a) breaking the curtain of silence on the Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon. An evening session was devoted to this issue in which David Dellinger, Don Luce of Clergy and Laity Concerned, Ramsey Clark and Representative Paul Findlay (R-Ill., the conservative Republican who is pro-PLO and on very friendly terms with Arafat) spoke. The Israeli bombing of Lebanon at this point is massive, indiscriminate pulverization of the entire civilian Moslem and Palestinian population. It is exactly analogous in its methods and intent to the US bombing of North Vietnam circa 1966. There are strong signs that the cover-up of these atrocities is now crumbling, somewhat in the same way that Harrison Salisbury's articles in the NYT 13 years ago revealed the truth about the bombing of Vietnam. b) Stepping up support of the particular defense cases, not only inside Palestine but also cases involving U.S. government harassment of Palestinians in this country. These include: the case of Elias Ayoub (see most recent article in Changes) and a new case, a 19-year-old Palestinian named Zaid Abu Ein who is being held in Chicago for extradition to Israel, on the sole evidence of a confession by another Palestinian in Israel linking him to a bombing attack. The significance of this case is that it could bring into an American court the whole issue of confessions extracted through torture in Israeli prisons. c) Identification of the Palestinian cause with other liberation struggles. There was a brief speech by a representative of the American Indian Movement, a concert performance by a Nicaraguan folk music group, and a solidarity message from supporters of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc in El Salvador. While some of these links are mainly symbolic they give the entire PHRC somewhat more of a "movement" than "special interest" character. d) The potential of turning to a more political focus, possibly to include a campaign against US aid to Israel (part of the handle on this being the illegal use of U.S. supplied military aid in the bombing of Lebanon). e) Building the PHRC. The organization has shown real potential for growth, even before the recent chance for a qualitative breakthrough into the Black community, among church groups (a very important constituency in this context because of the Zionist stranglehold over the policy-making of the church establishment), on campus and in communities where so far as I know there has been no previous activity on Middle East questions. There is also a clear consolidation of support for the PHRC among Arab-American organizations.

Any I.S. members who are interested in PHRC material should contact Dave F.

Nicaragua

by Joel G.

On Nov. 16, 17, 18 the second national conference of the network of Nicaragua Support Committees will held. The purpose will be to reorient the perspectives and work of the solidarity groups in the light of victory of the revolution. The conference will be held in Detroit, and it is expected that members of the revolutionary government will come up to participate in it. The rapid unfolding of the revolutionary process in Nicaragua (although ignored in the U.S. press) by increased nationalizations, anti-imperialism, and most importantly the growth of mass organizations and popular power—as well as the situation quickly coming to a head in El Salvador—means that there should be a large, spirited conference leading to a new wave of solidarity activities. Those interested should contact Candy or Joel.



The movement grows! On September 23, 200,000 demonstrated in New York City against nuclear energy. Among the featured speakers was Barry Commoner.

RESOLUTIONS

N.C. Meeting, September 15-16, 1979

Resolution on the Anti-nuke Movement

1. The issue of nuclear power is part of the larger issue of energy policy. The anti-nuclear movement must begin to address the general issue of energy in a political fashion. In particular, the movement must educate itself and the American people to the role of the energy (oil) monopolies in determining American energy policy.

2. The movement must develop a workable alternative energy policy to the recent Carter administration emphasis on non-renewable synfuels which will only raise the price of energy, create serious pollution problems and threaten drought to the western states.

3. The anti-nuclear movement must become a proponent of true conservation methods such as co-generation, home insulation, improved gas mileage of cars; while opposing many of the Carter administration attempts to lower the standard of living of working people through "conservation" devices like raising the price of gasoline, mandatory lowering of thermostats, etc. The movement must also drop its "less is better" attitude toward technology.

4. While the anti-nuclear power movement also opposes nuclear weapons, this should not become a major focus for the movement. To debate the issues of foreign policy would be divisive at a time when we need to build a stronger and more cohesive movement.

5. The anti-nuclear movement must seriously attempt to forge alliances with the labor movement. Inside the labor movement several international unions and various locals have taken stands against the use of nuclear power. Others have organized against the power of the energy monopolies. Effectively carrying out this policy means adopting progressive stands on conservation, jobs, and energy in general.

6. The anti-nuclear movement must build on the current rallies and demonstrations, and direct them against not only nuclear reactors, but also the oil companies who in large part determine energy policy. Because of the amount of capital invested in the current forms of energy, the capitalist class as a whole generally supports this policy and has a vested interest in throwing more money into these forms. We have a vested interest in changing this policy. To do so will mean taking the energy industry out of the hands of private corporations. The anti-nuclear movement must consider the demand to nationalize the oil industry.

7. Finally, in becoming a political force to be reckoned with, the movement must remain independent of the many politicians who would like to woo it with campaign promises and desert it after they're comfortably in office. The anti-nuclear movement must continue its focus on demonstrations, rallies, and other activities that maximize strength. The movement does not have the money to compete with the large corporations and other special interests in the lobbying arena.

8. We propose the following program to the anti-nuclear movement:

1. Educate itself and the American people about the role of the oil industry, its relationship to nuclear power, and how energy policy is determined.

2. Develop a workable alternative energy policy based on true conservation and solar derived techniques.

3. Reach out to labor and increase the involvement of union leaders and militants in building this movement.

4. Link up with the anti-utility, anti-oil industry coalitions to forge a stronger and broader movement.

5. Continue to build the movement as a mass, direct action, militant force independent of the politicians.

RESOLUTIONS

N.C. Meeting; September 15-16, 1979

Resolution for Endorsing the Citizen's Party (PC Majority Position)

We endorse the Citizens Party. We will encourage our collaborators, friends, periphery, and other sections of the Left and progressive trade unionists and other movement activists to take a sympathetic attitude or active involvement in the formation of a new party. Within the Citizens Party we will encourage an orientation to the labor and social movements, to the Citizens Party championing their aims and goals, including programmatic demands. We will work to make this a movement party, not just one confined to electoralism.

Counter-Resolution on the Citizen's Party (Steve K.)

The Citizen's Party holds the potential of breaking open the existing non-debate on national energy policy and weakening the stranglehold on American politics by the capitalist controlled Republican and Democratic Parties. Therefore, we endorse the effort to organize this party.

We believe this potential can be developed, not by attracting disconnected, disillusioned voters and "citizens", but by involving activists from the energy, labor, minority and social movements.

We do not believe that initiatives by the IS or IS activists can determine or substantially effect whether these movements gather behind the Citizens' Party.

Therefore, our initial role in and resources devoted to the Citizens' Party should be a limited one, designed to learn more, establish a foothold for future activity, and give us some credibility. Our participation should be concentrated where it directly augments our existing work. We should step up our activity if we see increased participation by other movement activists.

Resolution on Changes (To be presented during session 2.)

The Changes staff will carry out a public campaign through advertising, promotional mailings, etc. to boost circulation. In addition, we ask the NC to endorse the following proposals:

- 1) Make sure that all members who haven't taken subs yet do so.
- 2) Each member should attempt to sell three subs to the magazine--to political contacts and fellow workers, or relatives, or friends. This will give circulation a boost, modest in absolute numbers but quite significant to us. (NOTE: We will informally poll people to see if there is a feeling that six-month introductory subs for \$5.00 would be significantly easier to sell than full-year \$10.00 subs. If so, we will offer them.)
- 3) Each branch should assign one member to be in charge of getting Changes into local bookstores. This would involve one trip per month to pick up unsold copies of the last issue and collect for copies sold.