

Addition/Correction to NC Slate Motivation

Motivation for NC Slate

The EC believes we made an error in the motivation for our NC slate. It was wrong to group together in one paragraph, and with one motivation, BH, SF, and DM. Our thinking and evaluation on each of the three is radically different.

DM, we do not believe agrees with the new direction of the organization and basically wishes to maintain a discussion group atmosphere in the IS. We think he is skeptical that a mass revolutionary workers' organization can be built in the coming period. His desire to maintain the discussion group atmosphere is based on his widespread political differences with not just the present IS leadership but with several of the majority positions of the organization. He does not want to see the political consolidation of a strong IS leadership with firm politics and opposes moving away from the discussion group atmosphere because these are a limitation on the role he wants to play in the organization.

SF we believe is generally sympathetic to the new direction. He is, without a doubt, one of the most politically experienced members of the IS. Removing him from the NC lowers its overall theoretical and intellectual depth. We will seek every way to use and to increase the use of SF's theoretical talents for the organization. He has been removed because, while generally favoring the new direction, he has not yet been capable of providing the type of leadership the new direction requires.

There is no doubt that the very fact that we have a branch in LA at present is due to the good work of SF. But in the past year, the new direction has created new problems in leading branch work and industrial work in LA. SF has been unable to get on top of the situation and find a way to use his political talents to politically cut through and move branch and industrial work forward.

In the main we believe that SF's problem has been his overall conception of the organization which he has consistently maintained and is best seen in his document on democratic centralism. SF's emphasis on discussion and intellectual debate often came into conflict with the need to effectively organize our work around industry. His approach has tended to disorganize the LA branch. We recognize SF to be an extremely responsible comrade. It is his political conception of organization that has created disorganization and not any personal failing.

BH, we believe, wants to move the IS toward becoming a mass revolutionary workers' organization without qualification. His work is based in industry and he has shown total devotion and dedication to his work. He has been organizationally efficient and responsible in carrying out tasks for the auto fraction.

He has been weak, however, in giving clear political guidance and direction to the work. More so than other leading members of the auto fraction, he has had an overly cautious and hesitant approach to new problems. His contribution toward charting the political direction of the national fraction has been weak, and in particular over the past six months BH has not provided overall political direction in the local fraction.

The responsibility of being both a National Committee member and National Fraction Coordinator has been a heavy burden for BH. He has driven himself to live up to the responsibility of both tasks, and in doing so, he has won the respect of the fraction membership/ But a high level of political and organizational responsibility, coupled with a difficulty in giving clear, self-confident political guidance to the work of the fraction, creates problems. In fact, we believe it sets up a dynamic that thwarts BH's ability to strengthen his political self-confidence--and also sets up a dynamic that lowers the political self-confidence and decisiveness of the fraction as a whole.

Over the next year, we would like to see BH put a greater amount of his energy in local caucus and shop work while continuing to be an influential member of the fraction and branch, and while continuing as a member of the Network Editorial Board. We believe that BH will politically develop most quickly where his prime political responsibility is giving a lead to other workers--rather than being overly pressed into organizational and internal IS responsibilities.

Motivation for alternate slate

HK is a younger comrade who has most thoroughly proved himself in industrial work--he has produced impressive results in both his branch and caucus.

MW -- We originally decided not to have her on the slate because of the cost of at least \$1,000 per year to fly her from the west coast to all NC meetings. On reconsideration we decided we were wrong. Based on her industrial work and her organizational work, she is a woman who is a leading IS political cadre.

SK He is a national leader in IBT work, and though he has sometimes lacked consistency he has been indispensable in creating a national fraction.

BR He remains the person in the Northwest who most consistently carries the area for the national IS policy. He carries out important branch and industrial work, giving important leadership in these areas.

JL He has made a turn toward serious industrial work and is the choice of both the EC and the Bay area comrades as the branch member in that area most capable of fighting for and carrying national IS policy in the Bay area.

ML He is an important IS leader in our UNC work, and is the working IS UAW member who has most shown the potential of emerging as a national figure in UAW work.

Three general points which should be clear: Firstly, we would like to reiterate that it was an error on our part to keep a proven woman leader off the slate for financial reasons. But we believe we should not recommend any woman for the slate simply in order to have another woman. The IS is now developing an impressive woman leadership which is capable of contending with the male leadership on a basis of equality.

Secondly, comrades should be fully aware that in choosing industrialized members to act as alternates, alternates who will now attend every meeting and be full members of the NC committees, we are making an important political statement as to the direction we believe we should be moving in the future changes of national leadership in the organization.

Thirdly, it should be clear by now that given the development of the organization and its cadre it is no longer possible to include all our major leaders on the NC. It is also a simple fact of life that new NC members cannot be brought on unless old ones are removed.

Executive Committee