

656 1975

December 4, 1975

Doug Jenness  
National Office

Dear Doug,


Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter that was sent to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee by Alan Fogelquist, indicating he is resigning from that organization.

Alan is about 30 years old, a social service worker at Albert Einstein Medical Center in the Bronx and a member of 1199. He has been reading The Militant for several months and has bought about \$40.00 of our literature on a number of different topics. He has read the political resolution in the ISR and indicated his general agreement with it.

He is interested in joining the Socialist Workers Party and will be attending Branch meetings on the Upper West Side for several weeks.

Depending on his decision, he may be willing to give an interview to The Militant.

Comradely,



Janice Lynn  
Upper West Side SWP Organizer

Manhattan, N.Y.

December 3, 1975

National Board

Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee

853 Broadway

New York, New York

Dear Board Members,

This is to inform you of my resignation from DSOC because of some essential differences between some of my views and what I perceive to be the views of the mainstream of the DSOC leadership regarding the following points.

First of all I have doubts about the advisability of working within the Democratic Party and with the middle and upper level leadership of many of the unions because I believe the commitment to socialism on the part of most Democratic Party leaders however "leftish" some may appear as well as that of the union bureaucrats to be highly dubious.

I also believe that the definition of socialism of many DSOC Board members does not give sufficient emphasis to issues of social and economic equality and tends to equate socialism mainly with formal political democracy. Although I personally attach great value to genuine political democracy which includes due emphasis to civil rights, the right to associate, the right

to convince others of ones political ideas and freedom of the press, I believe that true political democracy will never exist under conditions of social and economic inequality and injustice.

Also I find myself in disagreement with the virulent anti-communism of a number of important OSOC members. While I am completely opposed to the kind of bureaucratic degeneration of socialism which has occurred in the Soviet Union since the beginning of the Stalin period, I do not believe that all people who call themselves communists or marxist-leninists can be lumped together in one category. Anti-communist paranoia was one of the factors leading to the disastrous and inhuman intervention in the Viet Nam war supported in the beginning by people who claimed to be democrats or socialists. Anticommunism throughout its history has led to the erosion of civil liberties which has affected even non-communists.

Finally I believe that much of the OSOC leadership is far too closely identified with the present social-democratic parties of the Second International which with a few possible exceptions (as perhaps to some extent in Sweden) have to my mind been complete failures in bringing about anything even approaching a truly socialist society. I believe the record of most of these parties is especially poor in their lack

of principled opposition to colonialism, imperialism and military intervention in Third World countries as well as the failure to bring about any meaningful social and economic transformation in these same countries.

Although I have met a number of members of DSOC who share my views, I believe these views are not shared by the top leadership and many of the members. I have the impression that these views are not even particularly welcome to some important leaders of DSOC.

For the above reasons I believe it is best for me to relinquish my formal membership to DSOC though I would like to continue to subscribe to the Newsletter of the Democratic Left and in the name of democracy continue to respect the opinion of those I disagree with. I am presently giving consideration to joining the Socialist Workers Party where I find views more compatible to my own.

Sincerely

Alan F. Fogelquist