

**JUL 7 1973**

July 4, 1973

Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Comrades:

In my letter, dated June 27, 1973, I apprised the Political Committee of three serious violations of internal party democracy in the Los Angeles branch. To date, I have received no acknowledgement that this letter has been received.

Further violations are occurring, which not only need to be protested, but might have been avoided, had the Political Committee responded, if not actually intervened, at the appropriate time.

In the June 27 letter, I protested the branch leadership's refusal to make tapes of a trial proceeding available to members of the trial body. I further pointed out that this refusal led one to suspect that these tapes were damaging, or at least, extremely compromising, and were being withheld in order to protect a National Committee member, while, at the same time, were being used to punish two rank and file dissidents.

Unfortunately, my suspicions were all too clearly confirmed. On Sunday, July 1, 1973, the majority of the trial body:

- 1) voted to expel Comrades S. & D.;
- 2) voted to destroy the tapes;
- 3) challenged anyone to bring charges against the National Committee member, and, as one comrade warned, "if you do, it will be handled in five minutes!"

It is worth noting, at this time, that the above mentioned "challenge" is circumventive logic, since destruction of the tapes means destruction of any and all evidence, which obviously precludes any comrade from bringing charges, if she or he so intended. The point is not moot, however, since it is a clear indication of the kind of atmosphere that has been perpetrated by the branch organizer and certain comrades in the leadership.

The fourth decision of the trial body involved the question of procedure. The majority comrades on that body voted:

- 1) to call a special branch meeting on Sunday, July 8;
- 2) to allow forty-five minutes for the majority report from the trial body;  
thirty minutes apiece for comrades S. & D.;  
fifteen minutes each for summaries;  
and five minute time limits for speakers from the floor.

SJ  
JUL 7 1973

3120 Fairmount Av.  
San Diego, Ca, 92105  
July 4, 1973

Wendy Reisner, Organizer  
Socialist Workers Party  
1107 1/2 N. Western Av.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90029

Dear Comrades:

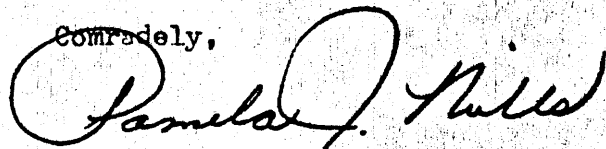
I wish to register my protest in regard to the violation of the basic democratic rights in the case of the proceedings against Sudie Tripett and David Chamberlin of the Los Angeles Branch. The destruction of the tapes of interviews intended for use as evidence severely jeopardizes these comrades ability to receive a fair trial. In fact, their basic democratic rights as members of the Socialist Workers Party are being threatened in an unprecedented manner. This matter concerns all members of our Party in that if one comrades' rights are cast aside so might others be.

Comrades Tripett and Chamberlin have admitted their breach of party discipline and as in other cases I feel that censure is in order - not expulsion.

In all matters it is of the utmost importance that the proceedings be conducted with the democracy inherently characteristic of Trotskyism. In this case I see little evidence of this.

cc: Political Committee, SWP  
M. Zimmermann, S.D. Branch

Comradely,



Pamela J. Mills

3122 Fairmount Av.  
San Diego, Ca. 92105  
July 5, 1973

JUL 7 1973

Wendy Reisner, Organizer  
Socialist Workers Party  
1107 1/2 North Western Av.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90029

Dear Comrade:

I strongly protest the upcoming trial of David Chamberlin and Sudie Trippett, both of the Los Angeles Branch, and recommend that the proceedings be stopped. I wish to register my protest both against the matter for which they are being put on trial, as it is on a question that has never been fully and democratically discussed by the membership of the Socialist Workers Party, and also against the flagrant violations of these comrades basic democratic rights that have been performed in the handling of this case.

The evidence used to bring Comrades Chamberlin and Trippett to trial were taped discussions held by the sub-committee that questioned them. These tapes have been destroyed. This completely jeopardizes their right to a fair trial - although I think they should not even be on trial - and also totally jeopardizes their ability to present an appeal should one be necessary.

Destruction of evidence, violation of democratic rights, is something we expect of the bourgeoisie courts, not of the Socialist Workers Party. If democracy within the Party is real rather than fictional - if it is indeed for all and not selective - this trial will be stopped. That Chamberlin's and Trippett's rights are being ignored, trampled on, is a threat to every member of the Socialist Workers Party and to the Party itself. The treatment of this case calls up very serious questions.

These Comrades have admitted the incorrectness of what they did and have agreed not to violate discipline again. As in so many other cases of this nature, only disciplinary action is in order - some sort of reasonable censure - but not expulsion.

Comrades Chamberlin and Trippett are valuable comrades - valuable to the Party, valuable to the larger Movement. - who, in my opinion, have only the best interests of the Socialist Workers Party and the building of the Socialist Workers Party at root. Nothing I have read from either of these Comrades, and nothing I have heard in direct conversations with either of them leads me to think anything but this.

I repeat - these Comrades should not be expelled. The trial should be stopped.

cc: Political Committee, SWP  
M. Zimmermann, S.D. Branch

In comradeship,

*Helen S. Hollander*  
Helen S. Hollander  
San Diego Branch

JUL 7 1975


Arthur Maglin  
371 Fort Washington Ave. 6F  
New York, New York 10033

Wendy Reissner, Organizer  
SWP, LA Branch  
1107 1/2 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, California 90029

Dear Comrade,

It has come to my attention that members of your branch are up for expulsion on charges of violating the membership policy concerning marijuana, that the tapes of interviews where the evidence was gathered have been destroyed thus disposing of essential evidence, and that the charges have been brought against comrades whose political views are known to be critical of those of the national leadership. Under the circumstances I am forced to lodge my protest against this action of expulsion. The party as a whole has never discussed this question out freely and fully. Are we to repeat all over again the injustices committed under the anti-gay-membership rule of the 1960's which was also never discussed out freely and fully before the membership and passed upon by a party convention? Before such a discussion has taken place expulsions are, to say the least, unwarranted and extreme. We cannot afford to weaken the democratic tradition in our party for reasons of panic and fear.

Comradely,

  
Arthur Maglin

A copy of this letter is being sent to the NO for their information.

In light of the fact that I cast the only minority votes within the trial body, plus the fact that I offered a counter-motion concerning what action should be taken against comrades S. & D., I proposed that equal time be allotted for a minority report, including a fifteen minute summary. This motion was defeated, and the majority motion was amended to read:

"A five minute extension will be accorded comrade J. as a speaker from the floor. Hence, she will have ten minutes, instead of five, with no summary."

The motivation around this amendment stemmed from the misconception that since I agreed with the majority on the truth of the charges, my disagreements over the actions to be taken constituted only a minor "difference of opinion." In strongly protesting such a violation of minority rights, I admonished the comrades on the trial body that they would find it difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to justify such an undemocratic procedure to the membership.

My predictions were undeniably confirmed at the following night's branch meeting. Only after a long and heated floor fight, accompanied by an impassioned rebuke, from a local National Committee member, were comrades forced to admit that "differences of opinion" were precisely the basis on which minority reports are given. Hence, the leadership gave me the same ten minutes as before, but accorded this insufficient time the official title of "minority report." They later accepted a "friendly amendment" that I be given a five minute summary, as well. "This", the leadership magnanimously proclaimed, "only proves that we are bending over backwards to allow for the fullest democracy."

I would like to return, now, to the most severe violation of internal democracy, namely, destruction of the tapes from the investigation. I totally reject, deny and condemn, as demagogic slander, the charge that I, or anyone else, would use the evidence contained in those tapes, for purposes of "scandal", "mud-slinging", or "factional gains". Furthermore, I suggest that comrades who are engaging in such accusations, are doing so only as a futile attempt to defend and justify an indefensible and unjustifiable act, i.e., the destruction of evidence, which violates, and is incompatible with, any form of democracy or justice - be it bourgeois or proletarian.

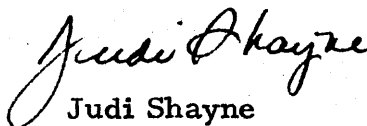
Secondly, I wish to state here and now, as I unequivocally and emphatically stated in the trial body, that I do not desire - in fact, I am unalterably opposed - to adding one more victim to the existing list. Instead, I wish to prevent further victimization.

As I stated in my letter of June 27, I refuse to take any responsibility for cover-ups and witch hunts, to which, I might add, neither, do I believe, will other comrades, upon hearing of such measures, voice approval for or stand idly by while serious violations of proletarian democracy, including selective enforcement of discipline, are shamelessly being committed by leading comrades in the Los Angeles branch.

In view of the serious nature of, and with a sincere desire to avoid any consequences arising from, the foregoing violations, I strongly urge the comrades on the Political Committee to intervene in, and call a halt to, the entire procedure. While I have political differences with comrades S. & D. on the question of the policy itself, I wholeheartedly agree with them that no action beyond censure should occur, until such time as a full and democratic discussion on the policy, as a whole, has taken place.

I would like to request, once again, that an immediate response from the Political Committee be sent, in order to preserve the democratic heritage of our party.

Comradely,



Judi Shayne  
Los Angeles Branch  
Socialist Workers Party

cc: USFI  
Los Angeles branch organizer  
Comrade S.  
Comrade D.