

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
September 13, 1973

John Barman
Houston

Dear Comrade Barman,

This is in response to your letter of August 30, 1973, to the Political Committee.

Your long list of questions which "naturally" came to mind seem to be predicated upon an erroneous conclusion as to what the convention decided.

The following is the motion adopted by the convention under the point on the world movement:

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Committee report, including the following:

1. a.) To reaffirm the organizational principles of the SWP as adopted at its 1965 convention and their application to every single member without exception.
b.) To instruct every party unit to apply these principles.
c. All transfers in the post-convention period must be approved by the National Committee until it decides otherwise.
2. To end the literary and branch discussion and refer any reopening to the National Committee to be decided in light of the implementation of the unanimous April United Secretariat statement defining the conditions for a democratic and authoritative world congress.
3. To continue in an uninterrupted way all international responsibilities including translating and publishing the English-language International Internal Discussion Bulletin for the information of SWP and IBA members as a fraternal courtesy to the United Secretariat of the Fourth International.
4. The convention proposes to the Leninist-Trotskyist Tendency that in the light of the new developments it discuss converting itself from a tendency to a faction.
5. The convention instructs and empowers the incoming National Committee to use all the forces and resources at its command to struggle for a democratic world congress and a Trotskyist Fourth International.

The convention voted neither to affiliate the party to an international faction or tendency nor to require any comrade to support any faction or tendency in the world movement.

The majority caucus consists of those comrades who support the platform which defined the majority caucus in the election of delegates prior to the party convention. That platform consisted of the Leninist-Trotskyist Tendency Declaration and the Political Committee Draft Political Resolution.

In answer to a letter from Bill Massey prior to the convention which raised some of the same questions I wrote:

The national office of the party does not "bear the expense" of any tendencies, factions or other groups. The national office of the party finances the activities of the party as decided by its elected bodies. The expenses of any tendencies or factions are borne by themselves.

The constitution of the party explains the financial responsibility of membership in Article VII, Section 2.

The resolution on the Organizational Character of the Socialist Workers Party adopted by the 1965 party convention delimits membership responsibilities in a broader framework.

This appears in SWP Discussion Bulletin, Vol. 51, No. 27, page 60. I'm sure the branch has a copy of this bulletin for sale if you are not familiar with it.

Cordially,

Jack Barnes
National Secretary

cc: Nelson Blackstock
United Secretariat