

1345 E. St., NW  
Fourth Floor  
Washington D.C. 20004

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

Dear Comrades,

The enclosed remarks by Comrades Tom Q. and Les B. were made at the Sept. 16 D.C. Branch meeting in the discussion on Chile under the E.C. report. Following are the facts around the discussion.

On Saturday, Sept. 15 when I arrived at the assembly point of the Chile demonstration Comrades from the Party: Marilyn L., Tom Q., Les B. and YSA Comrades: Ugo, Starr and Lee all had signs they had made themselves with out the knowledge of myself. They had 5 or 6 signs. The specific contents of the signs were:

1. DOWN WITH THE JUNTA (signed "Fourth International" along with a hammer and sickle and a 4)
2. WORKERS TO POWER (signed the Fourth International along with a hammer and sickle and a 4)
3. NOT 1¢ FOR THE JUNTA-WORKERS AND PEASANTS TO POWER (with a cartoon of workers (I guess) with hammers and sickles)

and there were two other signs without the Fourth International on them.

When I stated on the branch floor that it appeared that non-party YSAers were involved in the sign making, Comrade Les nodded his head yes. When I said that his nodding his head indicated that party comrades were working with non-party comrades in the Internationalist Tendency intervention he did not challenge that.

Comradely,

s/Bitsy Myers  
Branch Organizer

Internationalist Tendency during the branch meeting of 9/16  
Tom Quinn page 1

....what has been the response of the Washington DC branch of the Socialist Workers Party to the recent developments in Chile of World Historical importance? the result of the balance sheet that we draw is purely negative. The branch leadership has responded to these events of WHI (world historical importance) in an outrageously routinist and blase manner. The Chilean workers and fighting peasants are fighting it out for their very existence. But it's business as usual for the DC branch of the Socialist Workers Party....

....When a group of comrades found about this demonstration late Friday night and showed up at the demonstration the next day with their own signs they were told by the branch organizer that they could not carry the signs, that they should of instead reported to the hall to be assigned to one of several areas of work that needed them and was being carried out that day. In spite of the organizers admonitions these comrades were acting in the best spirit of Trotskyism striving to fulfill their revolutionary responsibilities. As these comrades found out about the demonstration less than 24 hours before and since to their knowledge the party had done nothing to build it and had not even informed most of the comrades it could only be assumed that the branch leadership did not know about the demonstration or did not consider it important enough to warrant any attention. Friday night at the forum I and others asked a number of comrades about upcoming Chile actions and were told by these comrades that they knew nothing. So there was a real basis for these comrades thinking that the branch knew nothing when they found out about the demonstration. The fact that the leadership knew about the demonstration and even sat in on one of the planning meetings at the Community Bookstore make their refusal to seriously build the demonstration even more inexcusable. In light of the problem of non-intervention by the branch these comrades felt that it was important that a Trotskyist intervention take place around revolutionary slogans. Upon arriving at the demonstration the comrades were told to put down and not carry the signs by the branch organizer. The reason initially given was that some of the signs had the Fourth International written on them. To this the comrades responded that they would cross out any references to the Fourth International on their signs. Although, it's really beyond me why the branch leadership is afraid of having the comrades identified as Fourth Internationalists. This it seems was not good enough for the organizer who stated that the political content of the slogans was unacceptable. The organizer also rebuked the comrades for not working through party channels to build the branch intervention, since the branch leadership had kept the comrades in the dark about the demonstration up until the last moment these comrades had no way of knowing that a branch intervention was going to take place in the first place.

These comrades realizing unlike the branch leadership the overriding political importance of the demonstration decided to organize an intervention. Upon seeing that the branch had

organized a somewhat half-hearted intervention and upon being told to put down their signs they did so and participated in the branch organized intervention.

....concretely we propose the following:

- 1) that the branch go on a mobilization footing to defend the Chilean revolution, and I think that the Chilean revolution and the situation in Chile is much more important than mobilizing for sub drives at this conjuncture.
- 2) that the party activity in this regard be centered around the following slogans: "WORKERS AND PEASANTS TO POWER," "FOR WORKERS AND PEASANTS MILITIAS," "FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS," "HANDS OFF CHILE"

And we're open to changes in formulation as long as the political content remains the same....

To: Political Committee  
From: Bitsy Myers, Branch Organizer, D.C.

(this is the transcript of the remarks made by Les B., a member of the Internationalist Tendency at the branch meeting of 9/16. The details around this discussion are listed separately.)

Les:

First of all, the question of the line put forth in the slogans. What we're being told in effect, is that in a revolutionary crisis in Chile when the question of power is posed, when approx 5,000 workers are dead in Santiago, it's against the line of the party to raise the question of socialism. I don't believe that the line of the Socialist Workers Party, and if it was I would leave the party, I mean I would, I don't believe that is the line of the party.

In The Militant article that Bitsy refers to, now I can't quote but I can give a pretty close approximation: that failure to point out the lessons of the defeat will pave the way for similar defeats in the future, and in other words a two-sided intervention is posed.

First around the question of political prisoners, what it says is the lessons of the defeat have to be drawn. The lessons were drawn in these slogans. Now, I was at the branch meeting on Friday night and I did not know anything about the demonstration on Chile, I wasn't called, I wasn't informed by anyone. I found out through second-hand knowledge, by listening to a conversation that Comrade Bitsy was having with someone else about the demonstration. Okay, I went up and asked four different comrades about the demonstration, no one knew about the demonstration on Saturday.

Now it was on that basis, on Saturday morning, I called several comrades asking them to come over to my apartment and make signs. And that's exactly what we did. And I don't think there's anything to be ashamed of. One of the whole questions here is the horror of, the horror that the leadership raises about comrades actually making signs in their own apartment, as if you know as if it was somehow tainted. That there wasn't the ever-present eye here to check off every slogan according to the political content.

Now, the content of the slogans that we carried in the Saturday demonstration were exactly the same as the content of the slogans that were carried in the USLA demonstration about the Brazilian political prisoners. Now that is just, now that is just wrong. The situation is completely different than in Brazil. Now for example, we're for socialism in Brazil of course but we don't think that in that demonstration, in the context of that demonstration two weeks ago that it would of been to carry signs calling for the Brazilian workers and peasants to take power for a workers govt. No, that isn't the question here. The question in Chile is exactly that. If the masses can succeed in creating in the midst of battle a revolutionary leadership the whole thrust of this mobiliza-

tion will go beyond the reformist leadership, the popular front leadership of the workers' organizations and parties and go forward to a socialist revolution. Now that's how we put our line forth concretely and I don't believe its against the line of the Trotskyist movement to in the context of a revolutionary crisis in Chile, where the question of power is placed, where fighting threatens to break out into civil war at any moment, that it's against the line of the party to carry slogans calling for the workers and peasants to take power. I don't believe that's the Trotskyist position.

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Dear Comrades,

At the D.C. Branch meeting of September 16th remarks were made by Tom Quinn of the Internationalist Tendency which you should be aware of. The attached remarks were under the financial part of the Branch Tasks and Perspectives discussion. The tape in its entirety is available.

Comradely,

s/Bitsy Myers  
Branch Organizer

encl.

I just want to respond briefly to the remarks that Ove made about the financial responsibility of the Internationalist Tendency. First of all, there is a difference between boycott and dues, it's a very, very real difference. I don't think that a comrade that pays six dollars a week to the party is boycotting the party at all.

The reason, the reason that certain comrades in the Internationalist Tendency have been forced to reduce their sustainers is that like most political people they give virtually the entire surplus in their personal budget to the party as they did in the past. Now in order to finance the work of the tendency in the pre-convention, pre-congress period it's just for a number of comrades it's necessary for a temporary reduction in the sustainer to take place, it's not a question of disloyalty, it's a question of the tendency's right to exist. If we did not do this we could not function, we don't get any big grants from Brussels or Paris, that's the reality. After the world congress those comrades who've reduced their sustainer will raise it.

Now as far as there is one comrade from the Internationalist Tendency who has a large debt, that large debt stems from the fact that this person is in extremely bad financial situation, this person has to borrow dimes from me to use the phone, it had nothing to do with his political situation. And another factor is that, I mean it should be mentioned since Ove brought up this whole thing is that not all the money that goes to the national party is being used merely to finance the party's public activity, a certain percentage of it is being used to finance the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction. The Leninist-Trotskyist Faction in the United States as I understand does not have separate finances, separate books, it all goes through the party. And that means members of the Internationalist Tendency are financing a political organization they are opposed to.