

PO Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

March 1, 1967

To Majority NCers and Organizers:

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed you will find a minority antiwar resolution submitted by Steve Chase, Linda Sherrill, John Barzman, and Eloise Meseke. Even though the document is about the antiwar movement it contains a general line in opposition to the general line we discussed and passed at the last plenum and contained in the NEC draft resolutions on the antiwar movement, the political situation, and the Negro struggle.

It is important that comrades, particularly newer members, understand the concept of discussing and voting on the counterposing general political lines held by the majority and minority. Majority NCers and organizers should make efforts to make this political tradition clear to each local.

The resolution has been submitted late in the pre-convention discussion, making an adequate and thorough discussion of the counterposing lines difficult. Moreover, many of you, I know, have quite heavy responsibilities, as do the locals generally in the preparations for April 15. Nonetheless, it is now incumbent to make the necessary efforts, first, to have the opposing lines thoroughly discussed and clarified, so that the convention can have a fruitful and decisive interchange.

Compounding the difficulties of an adequate discussion is the procedure utilized by the authors. To this point none of them had raised a criticism of our political orientation in correspondence, at the plenum, or at any national antiwar fraction meetings. Consequently their suddenly prepared resolution will surprise some YSAers. This surprise factor necessitates on our part a thorough and patient rebuttal.

The minority resolution is being sent to you now in the light of the above considerations, so that you can study it and begin your preparations for answering it.

As you read the document you will no doubt find that the line is somewhat obscured by numerous factually incorrect horror stories of the mis-direction by the leadership and our activity in the antiwar movement. We should not become primarily involved, however, in a discussion of what happened at this or that conference. We should be interested in a discussion that will clarify the contending general lines and orientation for the YSA.

The minority resolution will reach the locals in a week or so. We here are now drafting an answer to it, which will accompany the resolution. Please read the minority resolution and if you have any comments you feel should go into the answer, please dispatch them here immediately by air mail.

Proclaimed supporters of the minority position are only known to be in Boston. Let me know if supporters of the minority position show up in your local.

The coming discussion should be a valuable one for education on our strategy, tactics, and procedures.

Comradely,

Lew Jones

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