

APPEAL TO "TURNING POINT" COMRADES TO RECONSIDER THEIR COURSE

(Reprint from "Towards Socialism", Editor: Francis Franklin)
Issue No. 6, August 15, 1948

In July, the publishers of Spark, Fore 'n' Aft, and Vanguard, viz the P.R. Club (Expelled), the N.Y. Maritime Committee for a C.P., and a Trade Union Group, issued a joint declaration in a new publication called Turning Point (P.O. Box 24, Times Square Sta., N.Y. 18). A few weeks thereafter, Turning Point began circulating an Open Letter to the Communist Information Bureau.

We sharply criticised the Declaration of Turning Point when first requested to endorse it for two reasons: (1) We considered the issuance of a "perspective" for a "new Party" in the middle of the pre-convention discussion by groups who had previously resisted this N.C.P. "perspective" a rash and irresponsible action. (2) We objected to the appeal of Turning Point to comrades in the Party to work with them in a factional manner. Turning Point, under the influence primarily of Spark, apparently considers its role to be that of the leader of a faction. To that we are unalterably opposed.

In its Open Letter to the CIB, the Turning Point comrades for no good reason have accepted the opportunist leadership's distortion of an utterly non-committal "book review" in the June 1st issue of the CIB organ, have presented a false and distorted conception of the anti-opportunist movement to the Communist Information Bureau comrades, and have used insolent language in addressing the leaders of the world proletariat, thus making it easier for our opportunist misleadership to misrepresent and slander all expelled comrades. Here again, Turning Point has acted in a rash and irresponsible manner.

The Turning Point comrades are moving in a dangerous direction. We appeal to them to practice some criticism and self-criticism within their own ranks. It is demagoguery for comrades to demand criticism and self-criticism in the Party while refusing to practice it in their own ranks.

LETTER FROM THE FRONTIER CLUB
Dear Comrades: September 1, 1948

The members of the Frontier Club of San Diego Co., California have read with great interest your "Declaration of Turning Point" and found it interesting and in the main constructive. We are amazed, however, at your reference to a NEW C.P., since we feel that there can be but one C.P., that which is founded on the teachings of Marx, Lenin and Stalin, and that we are trying to work for the restoration of "The Party" to its original concept as an Independent Political Party of the Working Class.

We feel that your perspective of A NEW C.P. is in many respects comparable with the position of the German Leftists who advocated leaving the reactionary trade unions, as Lenin said "to create an absolutely brand-new immaculate 'Workers' Union' ". Lenin says, "We can (and must)

begin to build Socialism not with imaginary human material, not with human material invented by us, but with the human material bequeathed to us by Capitalism." And so with us of the Revolutionary Left-Wing of the Party, we have to take the Party as it is, for a starting point, and proceed to restore the Party so that it may be cleansed of its rotten opportunist leadership. A correct approach to the "human material bequeathed to us" by the present leadership will inevitably win many more good elements to the position of the Left-Wing and thus restore the Party to its original aims and concepts.

The Cominform did not appeal to the Yugoslavian members to form a NEW Party. Their appeal was to the "healthy Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist elements to restore their Party." Recent events confirm the correctness of this position, and it is becoming increasingly apparent that the Party of Yugoslavia will be restored despite the temporary deviations caused by its mis-leaders.

We agree that a National Organ and Center with elected National leaders must be established, but only after and as a result of a legally held convention. Such a Convention should proceed openly and publicly as THE PARTY CONVENTION. It should in the main:

Present the traitorous record of the present leadership and vote their expulsion.

Proceed to establish a clear perspective of aims.

Establish a National Organ with a sound and clearly enunciated Marxist-Leninist Editorial Policy.

Elect a National Board and Committee.

Affirm our belief in the principles of Democratic-Centralism and agree that these principles will be lived up to, etc.

In the meanwhile, pending the calling of such a Convention, we of the Left-Wing should carefully evaluate the overall picture, i. e., how really widespread is the opposition movement? Is now the time for any kind of organizational leap? Would it be premature at this time for these steps? We must guard against premature actions in setting up a National organization, since an improper estimate of the degree of support for our position could lead to failure, defeatism and despair.

The members of the Frontier Club wish, in closing, to commend the Comrades of Turning Point for the very fine work they have been doing in exposing the corruption of the present CPUSA leadership. It was through the help of your bulletins that a sizeable section of the San Diego membership have had their eyes opened for the first time. None of us of the Frontier Club lays claim to being long time veterans in this fight against Revisionism. Your bulletins opened our eyes, but our own experience was the best teacher. We conclude that if it can happen to us, then certainly there are many essentially good Comrades who are still misled, but who will come around to our position, providing we proceed correctly.

We should like to hear from all clubs affiliated with Turning Point after they have had a discussion of the contents of this letter.

Comradely yours,
Frontier Club, San Diego