

ORGANISATIONAL REPORT  
FROM THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

1. FINANCE

S\* and

We have worked out a rough budget for the fused organisation. The figures, of course, are not precise, but the budget allows for the following major items of regular expenditure:

- \* production and printing of the paper,
- \* a moderate loss on the magazine,
- \* rent, rates, electricity, phone, etc. for the central office (and a margin to spare to allow us to get larger and more expensive premises),
- \* wages for full-timers (the existing full-timers of the 2 pre-fusion organisations, plus a new Industrial Organiser, plus a subsidy to enable an unemployed comrade to act as Scottish Organiser).
- \* fares, meetings, leaflets, posters, subsidies to F and to youth work.

We need the following input from the membership:

a) Dues

One of the pre-fusion organisations has a flat-rate dues system (75p per week) supplemented by variable fund pledges; the other has a sliding scale for minimum dues. (Examples: £48.80 a month if you take home £100 a week; £12.80 a month if you take home £60 a week; 80p a month if you take home £40 a week; but £15.80 a month if you take home £100 a week and have two dependent children).

For the fused organisation we propose to set minimum dues rates roughly compatible with the minimum presently expected on the flat-rate dues plus fund.

Rates: 25p per week, or £1 a month minimum; plus 5p in the £ for every £ of take-home pay above £200 a month after allowances, and less than £400 a month; and 25p in the £ for every £ above £400 a month.

Allowances: adult dependent £140, dependent child £70, car £70, telephone £15. (Comrades married to non-members have the option of calculating on two-thirds the combined income of self and spouse, without the £140 deduction).

See separate forms for more precise details.

A sliding scale is better in principle than a flat-rate system because it makes the point that a revolutionary organisation is not like a trade union or the Labour Party which demands only a set minimum from members. The revolutionary organisation demands from us as much as we are able to give. And the organisation should set minimum standards as to what is required from better-off comrades, rather than just leaving it to their individual initiative or the pressure the branch is able to put on them.

But we will still need comrades paying voluntarily 'over the odds'. We are expecting all comrades to maintain their present rate of contribution when it is above the new minimum. If you do not, our budget will be thrown out of balance.

b) Paper sales

Every member will be required to sell and pay for a minimum of 10 papers a week. (The minimum for the broad-groups supporters is 6 papers a week).

c) S\* contributions

S\* supporters pay a minimum contribution of £1 a month or 20p for wageless.

All members of the League should also be S\* supporters and pay the minimum contribution. This applies to comrades who are not members of the LP, too.

League comrades who are active in the S\* groups will be required to pay a minimum S\* contribution of £3 a month (60p for wageless). This is so that we can give a lead in fighting for higher contributions from the other S\* supporters.

d) Fund-raising

The fund target in the paper will be about £2,000 a month. Most of this will be made up by contributions and a part of our dues. But a substantial part - £300 a month, at least - must be raised from non-members and non-supporters.

## 2. FINANCE: LEAGUE AND S\*

S\* has a separate structure, a membership which is much broader than the League, and separate finances. The League's influence is based on politics and activity, not any formal administrative arrangements.

League dues on the one hand, and S\* contributions and paper money on the other, must therefore be processed quite separately. They go into separate bank accounts, and separate accounts are kept.

League branch treasurers are responsible for seeing that comrades pay League dues.

Paper money and S\* contributions are collected by S\* group paper organisers and treasurers, who may not be League members. The League branch organiser has a responsibility for keeping an eye on this and seeing that the League members are exemplary in meeting their commitments.

Paper money and contributions for League members who are not active in a S\* group will have to be collected through our branches.

## 3. METHODS OF PAYMENT

Late or irregular payment of dues, paper money and contributions damages our activity, and means that scarce time and effort is used in chasing up money.

To tackle this problem:

a) All members are expected to pay their dues through bank standing orders, and if necessary to open a bank account specially for this purpose. If it is impossible for you to open a bank account, you should open a Giro account at the Post Office and pay through a standing order on that.

b) We will fight in the broad groups for them to pay their money for contributions and minimum pledged paper sales by a group standing order (on a group bank account). This means that the pressure to collect this money promptly is put on the local group treasurer.

Several groups already do this.

c) Members who are not active in the broad groups should pay their S\* contribution by standing order.

#### 4. SPECIAL FUND

We will be launching in the paper a Special Fund drive of £10,000 by Christmas for:

a) Fitting out and if necessary paying a premium on new premises.

b) Buying an A3 printing press.

c) Buying some smaller items of machinery to help with the paper.

#### 5. CONSTITUTION

A draft Constitution is being presented separately.

Additional points:

a) One of the pre-fusion organisations had a much longer average period of candidate membership than the other. To ensure uniformity, as of the fusion conference all comrades who were members of either pre-fusion organisation before July 6th should be declared full members of the fused League.

b) At the fusion conference we will elect a Standing Orders Committee for the 1982 conference. For the special circumstances of the fusion conference, however, we propose that the Standing Orders Committee should be the incoming Organising Committee.

c) The method of electing the NC is not set out in detail in the Constitution. We propose that the following procedure is adopted as a separate resolution, to apply as from the 1982 conference.

Conference, early in its proceedings, should elect a Nominations Commission, normally of non-NC members. The outgoing EC will nominate one of its members to join the Commission without a vote.

The Commission announces the time and place of its sessions, during the conference period, and members or groups of members make proposals to the Commission. These may be nominations for individuals, nominations for a whole slate, recommendations about the general balance and character of the new NC, etc.

The size of the new NC is decided by the conference before the Nominations Commission begins its sessions.

Some time near the end of Conference, the Nominations Commission reports back, submitting to the Conference, (a) a list of all nominations received, (b) the Commission's recommended slate. The Conference is then open for comrades to make any comments (to recommend individuals, to oppose individuals, to make points about the general balance of the NC, etc.)

Voting then takes place, and the comrades with the greatest

of votes are elected.

d) At all levels in the organisation, the rule should prevail that where there is a tied vote, status quo prevails.

## 6. STRUCTURE AND OFFICERS

The fused League will have three leading committees:

- The NC, with 52 members (being a 'fusion' of the two previous NCs);
- The EC, with 12 members (being a 'fusion' of the previous EC and SC, respectively);
- The Organising Committee, with 6 members.

There will be two leading officers of the EC, a chairperson and a secretary.

The other main functionaries will be the comrades responsible for the paper; the 2 editors of the magazine; the three National Organisers; and the Business Manager/Treasurer.

There will be NC sub-committees covering various areas of work, etc., each with a responsible secretary. These may co-opt non-NC members, but voting rights on them will be limited to NC members. They will have to report to the EC and OC as well as the NC. Roughly, they correspond to the previous 'commissions' of one of the pre-fusion organisations.

Precise details of these sub-committees will be worked out by the incoming NC.

There will be area committees, made up from one delegate from each branch in the area (or more if the branch wants). Each area committee will elect a secretary/organiser. Provisional secretaries/organisers have been nominated by the liaison committee; their job is to convene the first area committee meeting.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Secretary/organiser</u>
Scotland	Cale
North East (Sunderland, Durham, Teesside)	TS
Yorkshire (Bradford, Leeds, Hull, Sheffield)	GF
North West (Merseyside, Manchester, Runcorn, Winsford, Stoke)	Appleyard
West Midlands (Birmingham, Coventry)	Armstrong
East Midlands (Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton)	PF
South Wales and South West (Cardiff, Bristol)	Lewis
Oxford-Southampton*(including also Basingstoke)	TH
London (incl. also Cambridge, Welwyn, Chelmsford, Brighton, etc.)	Macaulay**

(Notes: \* - subject to discussion by existing Oxford area ctee;  
\*\* - subject to detailed allocation of work among National Organisers).

Area committees must also be responsible for developing work and recruitment in new localities, especially where we already have S\*, NLWYM, or F supporters.

#### 7. PARTY NAMES

For the sake of security in relation to the reformist bureaucracy, all comrades should have party names and use them whenever names are needed in writing inside the organisation (minutes, letters, circulars, Internal Bulletin, etc.)

#### 8. INTERNAL EDUCATION

Arrangements for internal education, reading lists, etc. remain to be discussed in the committees of the fused organisation.

GS: Oct School

EEC: Jan

AFGLN: March

Ann: Pract: Wk. women's acc.

Rpt-backs.

Fighting for dev. of comm.

Garth: We idug. element in commissions. Involve whole mem. in int. wk. Dev. people via them.

Not just anti-ship positions

NC meetings: rpt-backs take up whole meeting.

Practical work.

Serious theoretical contribution.

Each comm. have SC consisting of members  
of the NC.

## OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

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### 1. As James P Cannon argued:

"For the proletarian revolutionist the party is the concentrated expression of his life purpose, and he is bound to it for life and death. He preaches and practises party patriotism, because he knows that his socialist ideal cannot be realised without the party. In his eyes the crime of crimes is disloyalty or irresponsibility toward the party. The proletarian revolutionist is proud of his party. He defends it before the world on all occasions. The proletarian revolutionist is a disciplined man, since the party cannot exist as a combat organisation without discipline. When he finds himself in the minority, he loyally submits to the decision of the party and carries out its decisions, while he awaits new events to verify the disputes or new opportunities to discuss them again".\*

Slow-moving, bureaucratic, social-democratic organisations require - and depend on - only a token level of activity from their members. A revolutionary organisation must be the opposite. To have the strength for the hard struggles it must wage, and to have the political sharpness and clarity it needs, it must have a high minimum level of activity and commitment from all its members.

### 2. At the same time, our perspective is not an all-out six-month dash from now to the revolution. And if we are to build a workers' organisation, our pace of activity must not be such as to pull comrades away from all normal social contacts.

Thus, activity is organised so that its normal pace can be kept up without exhaustion and overstrain, and (so far as is possible) to accommodate comrades' difficulties, special interests, etc. We do not demand superhuman energy from comrades, still less superhuman abilities, but only a basic commitment and sense of responsibility to revolutionary politics.

### 3. The basic minimum activity required of all members is:

#### \* Regular attendance at and participation in:

- your League branch and any League committees you belong to,
- (unless there are exceptional circumstances decided as such by your League branch); the local broad group,
- your union branch and workplace union activity,
- your Labour Party and/or YS.

You should not miss any meetings or activities of these unless the branch or branch organiser has agreed to it.

Where there is a clash of meetings, League meetings have priority unless your branch or committee decides otherwise.

\* Regular sales of the paper at work, to individual contacts, and at your labour movement meetings. Every comrade is required to sell a minimum of 10 papers a week.

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\* Where it reads 'he', 'his', etc., 'she', 'her' , etc. would equally apply.

\* Basic financial commitments (dues and contributions).

\* Conscientious fulfilment of all obligations to the labour movement. If you take on a delegacy or an officership in your union branch, or if you promise your League branch you will do a particular task, you must do it conscientiously.

4. You are also expected to abide by majority decisions, and decisions of elected leading committees, in the League, even if you think they are unreasonable or wrong. (You also have the right to argue to change the decisions).

You must be willing to discuss all your political activity in the League branch and committees, and accept the majority decisions. No freelancing!

5. Comrades from middle-class backgrounds have a special responsibility in our fight to build a revolutionary workers' organisation. They must adapt themselves to a working-class orientation. Our branch meetings should be meetings that workers feel comfortable in, and comrades from middle-class backgrounds should contribute to that by disciplined behaviour and by being willing to learn from workers rather than lecture them.

6. All revolutionary activity depends on convincing people. In every area of work, comrades should seek out people who are interested in the paper or willing to discuss with us - and try to develop discussions, cooperation in practical work, etc. Without this, routine labour movement activity can become an empty formality.

7. A revolutionary must try to educate those around him or her; s/he must also educate himself/herself.

Much of revolutionary politics cannot be learnt from books, but only by activity in the class struggle. Book-learning is, however, important too. Studying Marxism should be as important a regular activity as attending your union branch.

8. For the League to do what it needs to do, many activities are necessary over and above the bedrock work laid out in points 3 to 7. But such activities (taking on elected offices within the League or within the labour movement, extra paper sales, special campaigns, etc.) are discussed and allocated by the branches and committees on the basis of who is available, willing and able to do them. It is unusual for such extra activities to be made a matter of discipline, rather than done voluntarily out of commitment.

However:

a) It is a basic matter of revolutionary responsibility that once you have volunteered to do a job, you do it.

b) Full national mobilisations of all members may be required as a matter of discipline for certain demonstrations, etc.

c) It is an essential part of being a revolutionary that you are willing to make an extra effort when a major struggle is on, e.g. a big strike in your area.

9. Members are obliged to consult the organisation about any changes of job or place of residence, or about taking on a job when leaving school or college.