

INTERNAL BULLETIN 3

National Committee Minutes 17-18 October 1981

National Committee Minutes 19-20 December 1981

Material for the next IB to Kinnell at the centre, please, by March 1, preferably typed A4 on Roneo stencils. Please write with some care for security.

10p

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NATIONAL COMMITTEE. OCTOBER 17-18.

Present: Smith, Jones, Brooks, Keith, Macaulay, Brown, Foster, O'Keefe, Noonan, Lewis, Reynolds, Pilkington, Riel, Daly, Swing, Kendall, Glover, Lamarre, Madiox, Todd, Spilling, Eliot, Booth, Grassac, Harrison, Johnson; Connolly, Morrow.
Late: O'Toole, Appleyard, Fraser, James, Whetling, Armstrong, Oliver, Hunt, Piggot
Apologies: Heywood, Matthews, Hotchkiss, Ramsey, Harding, Landis, Alain-Fournier, O'Malley, Gunther, McVicar, Gunther.

POLITICAL REPORT

Report from Pilkington. Discussion followed on Polish nationalism (O'Keefe, Jones, Booth, Keith, Reynolds, Harrison) and on the crisis in the Tory party (Jones, Booth, Keith).

B.L. and FOUR PER CENT LIMIT

Introduction from Smith, and discussion on forthcoming strike.

Agreed unanimously: motion from Pilkington, summarising discussion:

1. OC to meet regularly to direct work, coopting extra members as necessary.
2. Reallocate resources - material resources and personnel - to requirements of strike. Full timers and available cds from other areas: one cd in Oxford and B'ham to be released from other work to focus on strike.
3. LAC to issue financial appeal, take initiative for support committees (labour movement based). Local pickets of BL showrooms.
4. Into Labour Parties - resolutions demanding LP support - focus on left MPs etc - public meetings.
5. Resolutions to be raised for a TGWU and AUEW (and other unions) national strike in the event of the sackings, linked to call for a general strike.
6. Intervene in UWM conference to press for active support to the strike.
7. Women's Fightback groups to be urged in relevant areas to develop links with BL women workers and with strikers' wives. Coverage in F and the paper to stress women's involvement and support.
8. Campaign to extend strike into car industry and public sector. Work for local labour movement conferences drawing in other groups against the four per cent.

LABOUR PARTY

O'Keefe presented a report on the situation after the Brighton conference. Discussion. Resolution passed as communicated in circulars on: - broad LL conference
- TU democracy conference

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- Labour Left group
- recruitment to LF
- building broad groups
- people joining IGC and CLPD.

FULL-TIMERS

Grassac proposed a discussion on this. Jones proposed that the EC discuss it and prepare a written report for next NC. This was agreed.

FINANCE

Reynolds reported. Discussion. Resolution agreed unanimously:

- This NC instructs all branch leaderships to:
1. Collect outstanding broad group dues; issue new cards, and establish such groups where necessary;
 2. Draw up a list and approach appropriate members and contacts in the next 2 weeks for large donations - specifically arguing the necessity for large sums to support the BL work and new premises.
 3. All branches to discuss and report on fund-raising in the next 2 weeks.

RALLY

Macaulay reported. We thought rally was a success, though mobilisation was uneven. Publicity was not very good; ticket was too cheap. The rally cemented the fusion and showed the potential for recruitment. However, the NC did not act sufficiently as a driving force for mobilisation.

Discussion: on the coverage in the paper and profile of WSL in rally.

AREA REPORTS

Included particularly mobilisation for and follow-up to rally.

MAGAZINE

O'Keefe reported.

IRELAND

O'Keefe: Hunger strike has ended, with British govt. taking a very

vindictive attitude. The Polarisation between the communities has led to sectarian assassinations.

In the south there is a very important political debate. The Government is proposing to amend the constitution, and Fianna Fail is opposed. It's not a simple question: the amendment to renounce Dublin's claim to the 6 Cos. might mean accepting partition, but the existing constitution means a claim to the 32 Cos. on the basis of Catholicism.

The basic struggle is not only anti-imperialist. The intermeshing of Britain and Ireland predates modern imperialism. And the struggle in the '60s was precipitated by British pressure for reform. The struggle is anti-imperialist, but not only that.

Completion of the bourgeois-democratic revolution is not the issue. There are generally 2 types of colonies in history: the USA type and the Africa type - driving out the native people or imposing an exploiting minority on top of them. These 2 types were combined in Ireland - corresponding roughly, but not cleanly, to 2 areas of the island. Partition is reactionary not on general principle but because of the intermeshing of the communities; thus in fact partition was an imperialist imposition, on the basis of an alliance with the Orange forces, entrapping 35% of Catholics in the Protestant state. But the bourgeois-democratic revolution was accomplished, as much it actually went, from above in the late 19th and early 20th century. S. Ireland is not a 3rd World country but a highly developed capitalist state.

The last 10 years have seen the revolt of the Northern Catholics in isolation from the mass of the Irish people. On the basis of $\frac{1}{2}$ million Catholics vs. one million Protestants, the struggle is unwinnable. On a Catholic-nationalist basis, it is unwinnable. Open civil war would not mean victory but almost certainly repartition and an intensification of sectarianism.

The Catholics are right to revolt, and we should support them. But the struggle in the North needs to be transformed into class struggle on an all-Ireland basis, linking up with the South.

Why hasn't that transformation happened? There is a real obstacle created by the Border. But there is also the question of leadership. The Provo leadership is not only petty bourgeois, but downright anachronistic in its politics.

Living in Britain, we must support the Catholic revolt against our own state. But we must maintain a critical awareness. The nationalists have no real answer, and we have a class answer. I think WF and I-CL were insufficiently critical of Irish nationalism.

Irish 'Trotskyists' have tailed nationalism. They calmly look towards civil war - but civil war would mean massacre and repartition. We need to put forward an independent class view. By doing that we may be able to lay a basis for a movement in Ireland.

Spilling: I'm worried by the dominant tone of the paper's coverage of Ireland. We can't just look at the relations between Protestants and Catholics, but at the real struggle with British imperialism. The article on the Chelsea bombings was unsatisfactory. I'm not saying it was motivated by cowardice in the face of imperialist propaganda, but it read that way. Would we condemn the military actions by the French Resistance?

Reynolds: The Trotskyists did condemn the individual attacks.