

SAVE THE FUSION by OLIVER and PARSONS

1. There is a danger that the differences in the group over the Falklands/Malvinas issue might disrupt the fusion. This must not be allowed to happen. We must build on the strengths that both organisations brought to the fusion.

2. The historic importance of the fusion, both nationally and internationally, needs to be emphasised. Trotskyist groups in the UK are characterised by their small size and their sectarianism. Where groups have broken out of this impasse and turned to the class eg. SLL in the early '60's and the IS in the early 70's they have not managed to learn the lessons and consolidate the gains. Respect is due to the leaderships of both the old WSL and the ICL, the one for breaking from the politics of Healyism and learning from a genuine involvement in industrial struggles, the other for charting an independent course against other groups and gaining roots in the MP.

The fact that both groups decided to fuse comes not from a sense of weakness or irrelevance, as with Church unity, but a sense of mutual respect and a willingness to learn from each other in the process of discussion and in the course of intervention in the class struggle. Nobody should mind being in a minority; nobody should use a majority bureaucratically. We should be proud of the fusion and of the new WSL. WE SHOULD BE DETERMINED TO MAKE IT WORK.

3. The strengths of the old WSL are mainly twofold a) its stress on international work and b) its involvement in industrial and community struggles.

International work is of vital importance; we need to intervene in the world movement with our ideas; we need to learn from the experiences of our international comrades we need international solidarity. The formation of the TILC is a great step forward; we should try to expand it.

The old WSL has a tradition of full involvement in a whole number of industrial and community struggles, fighting for leadership against the Trade union bureaucracy. In this way a number of worker militants members were gained. At the same time they learnt in struggle to move from propaganda politics to basing themselves in the experiences of the working class.

4. The strength of the ICL has been mainly in the MP. A Belgian comrade at the Summer School complained that nobody in the debate had mentioned "smashing the MP" and "making the lefts fight". The fact is that the ICL started to do precisely that. The fight for democracy and the Benn for deputy campaign led directly to the SDP split and the present witch-hunt. The Broad groups are a means of drawing the "lefts" into a fight. The WF initiative has provided a lead to a whole layer of women activists in the labour movement.

5. It has to be said that there has been a neglect over the last year to reap the benefits of the fusion; indeed there have been some quite scandalous failures of organisation at the centre where a bit of initiative or imagination could have improved our interventions. This seems to be a fusion of the weaknesses of both organisations and has left the membership somewhat confused, cynical or downright anarchistic. This needs to be sorted out before and at the next National Conference.

6. We have identified four main areas where the fusion needs to be strengthened...
a) international work b) the link between MP and TU work c) unresolved differences
d) more planning and leadership from the centre.

a) For international work we need:

- (i) a pamphlet on the history and state of the FI and a crash programme of education throughout the WSL - so that all comrades know who is who and who stands where.
- (ii) the WSL magazine must appear regularly and have news about the FI and encourage contributions from TILC groups. A better title would be "Trotskyism Today" since it would make our traditions clear to new readers and help international sales
- (iii) our paper should have a section every week on the "Left Press" which could take up issues internationally and nationally - not in a sectarian manner but as a sober assessment.
- (iv) the WSL has a whole range of international contacts and these need to be prioritised. Some of our contacts have been around for a long time. It is