

'On the orientation - back to youth work' ... Hunt

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 Conference is February 18-19-20. Comrades should have the following documents:

- 'The Crisis in the British Section' ..... Evington
- IB 22 The Ballykelly bombing ..... Glasgow WSL  
 'Crisis of the FI and our tasks' . OC  
 November 1981 NC minutes
- IB 22+ Resolution on the LP ..... Carolan  
 Parts of a draft doc. on women ... Parkinson/Fraser
- IB 24 Aspects of the int'l situation ... OC  
 The economic situation ..... Kinnell
- IB 25 British perspectives ..... Cunliffe
- IB 25 part two Amendments to Br. persp.. Kinnell  
 Resolution on the LP ..... Carolan  
 Industrial perspectives ..... Levy  
 The long road to Wiganisation ... Oliver  
 Resolution on Ireland ..... Dec.1981 NC  
 Resolution on the EEC ..... Apr.1982 NC
- IB 26 Democratic centralism in TILC .... Jan.1983 NC  
 Information on the TILC
- IB 27 Gay liberation and the WSL ..... Gay commission  
 'The political problems are as yet unresolved' ..... S.Layton
- IB 28 Youth work ..... Joplin/Fraser  
 Student work ..... Joplin

Women's oppression and socialist revolution: Cunliffe

Platform of the WSL Internationalist Tendency

Towards an International Tendency: problems and tasks.

Further discussion articles and resolutions should be sent as soon as possible to the centre, if possible typed A4 on Roneo stencils.

CONFERENCE DOCUMENT FOR VOTING.

ON THE ORIENTATION - BACK TO YOUTH WORK

Hunt

Introduction

This conference must note with alarm the result of 18 months of 'youth work' in our fused organisation and we must take immediate steps from this conference to resolve that situation.

My document attempts to pinpoint the real problems in terms of the general orientation. The worst possible outcome of the youth discussion at the conference would be a halfway-house position of CF groups here and there, a position that we have maintained up to now. To adopt that position would ensure a federalist youth movement. It is therefore my view that the two opposing views on the youth orientation must be fought out at conference, and that one of them must come out as the dominant position, which all members will be obliged to fight for in the class.

The last conference of the old League passed a resolution, with the majority of the youth leaders voting against it, that committed the League to a "disciplined", "communist" intervention into the YS.

The document contained many proposals which, if implemented, would have gone a long way to ensuring this kind of intervention, but these proposals were never fought for, either by the leadership or the membership.

The proposals included the 'suspension' of the Socialist Youth League through a two-day conference which would also launch a new 'Keep Left'-type paper. That conference never took place. It was also proposed to set up a youth steering committee from the leading members, suffice to say, that never materialised either.

In my view, once that resolution had been passed, it was taken, deliberately or not, to endorse the orientation of the Barricade group, who were already buried in the YS. The issue was certainly important in the rush towards fusion.

I voted against that document. I feel that the line of the youth leadership to maintain the independent organisation with a serious YS orientation, possibly a tendency, was correct. However, because of my experience in the YS over the last couple of years, I am more flexible about the profile of that group than I was at the time of that conference.

Since its foundation, the NLNYM has represented little more than an amorphous group, consisting of a group of League youth activists and some anti-M elements in the YS, most of whom have been middle class in social composition.

Quite frankly we have failed, not because the objective condition haven't been there, to build any credible youth movement. These are what I feel are the main reasons.

The party youth organisers and the party youth leadership have failed to take up any consistent fight in the movement, a) to get the youth work taken seriously as a priority issue, and b) to give any real lead to the youth and the work, in many ways due to the lack of any real agreement on our perspectives prior to fusion. The talks around the setting up of the NLNYM prior to the June conference, amounted to no more than a bodge-up, to get the thing off the ground at any price. For this we are all guilty.