

Peace at any price ?

Collins

It has come to my notice that my name (and that of Cde. Callaghan) is being touted around as the latest convert to the Faction - if not politically, then on the organisation question.

This says more about how the Faction operates than my position. The Faction leaders know that on every major issue I disagree with them and support the politics of the majority. (Comrade Callaghan is if anything further away from them.) But what do politics count for when there are organisational grievances at stake ? Unlike the Faction I believe politics are paramount. The organisation question resolves itself down to : what kind of organisation are we trying to build, on what politics ?

Perhaps it should come as no surprise. Smith's vote against the expulsion of Booth at the last EC can only make sense if the Faction see politics as secondary to cementing old loyalties and consolidating their bloc with the rightist pro-B clique centred round Parsons in Coventry.

For the record, then, I would like to put down on paper where I stand in the present dispute - if for no other reason than that I will inevitably be accused (or excused) as having been bludgeoned into accepting the position of Carolan, Kinnell, Hill, et al.

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The present situation

Nobody can be in any serious doubt ( notwithstanding any proclamations they may chose to make for tactical advantage) that the organisation is split. Irreconcilably split. To an extent, the apportioning of blame ( though clearly I have my own views on this) is irrelevant. We are faced with a fact. And we must decide how to deal with it.

Jagger has proposed an amicable divorce. If it looked like it were possible, I would support it. If the two sides were capable of a calm rational division (of opinion, politics, resources, people) then we would not be in the position we are now in.

I was in favour of a 'divorce' a year ago - but I was persuaded (primarily by Carolan who is supposed to be the main motivator of a split) that the majority of the organisation did not at that point did not see the situation as irreconcilable. My position then was partly subjective (I have an instinctive sympathy - though it's not my considered position - with the view that it's a lot of neurotic male egos.) Mainly, though, it was a result of the experience of the work I was most