

'Resolution on Building the WSL' Carolan and Kinnell,
reprinted from IB 50.

'The Faction and Political Discussion' ... Ellis

'Don't help the Smith/Jones faction' ... Picton

'For Principled Politics in the WSL' ... Scott

'A brief response to Picton' Kinnell for the EC

'Wot? Only half the story' Kinnell

RESOLUTION ON BUILDING THE WSL

Carolan and Kinnell

- I -

Most organisations on the left are stagnant or have lost proportionately far more members in the last period than we have - the SWP and SL, our most important competitors, for example. What defines the crisis of the WSL is not the loss of some members, but that this happens to us in a period in which we continue to have a big periphery, part of it organised, in which we have been at the centre of struggles in the O., in which setbacks (but limited and not debilitating ones) have occurred for the O. left for reasons which we have long explained in advance and indicating a turn to the unions that we have long argued for and practised. In these circumstances we should have grown (if not enormously), and we have stagnated instead. Why?

- II -

These are the main reasons:

1. Since last May internal conflicts have absorbed much of our energies and made the internal life of the organisation unattractive to most people.
 2. We have failed to knit together the different fields of work, such as TU and O work and work among the specially oppressed.
 3. One of the most promising and potentially fruitful areas of our work - women - has been virtually wrecked by factionalism between groups of League women.
 4. Youth work has had divergent sections within it. Our youth movement was conceived as the broad group for the youth - it has been the empty shell of a League front.
 5. There are real and objective problems about recruiting some of our best O. contacts and quasi-supporters. They struggle through O. structures to which we relate and it is difficult to convince them to join and take personal responsibility for 'the party' - even when they recognise and broadly support its work.
 6. The downturn in industrial struggle and the setback the organisation has suffered at Cowley inevitably have a depressing effect on us.
- The new WSL is doing fewer regular industrial bulletins than the I-CL did. That form of orientation to the working class has fallen off.
7. The organisation - and in the first place its leadership - has been criminally negligent about that area of the left which has experienced mass growth in the last period: CND and YCND. Our involvement has been token. There is a strong streak of sectarian hostility to CND running through the organisation.
 8. As a result of the deficiencies of the leadership, the tendency of many comrades to withdraw into local 'ticking over' in response to the difficulties of the organisation, and the continual factional conflict between blocs of considerable size, there is organisational chaos.
 9. We have failed to intervene in and recruit from the crisis of our competitors - in the first place, the SWP.

- III -

These are the main external manifestations. There are things more basic and organic as well, which underlie the things listed above.

The fusion brought together in a single national framework two very distinct organisations. Fusion in the sense of the integration and interaction that would come from uniting closely linked groups in day-to-day work in the main did not occur. The two main areas of old WSL strength, O and L, either did not merge with an I-CL group at all (O) or did so only with a small and untypical group (L). At fusion we failed to establish any coherent or articulated division of labour