

* FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE * A CENTRALISED DRIVE OF
 ORGANISATION TO RECRUIT NEW LAYERS * REJECT SMALL GROUP POLITICS
 - TOWARDS A BROAD BASED REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men*, which, taken
 at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage
 of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.

On such a full sea are we now afloat, and we must take
 the current when it serves, or lose our ventures."

(*William Shakespeare's language, not ours)

"Seize the time" (Bobby Seale)

1. We have been in existence for almost two years. This conference, and the discussion leading up to it, indicate clearly that far from carrying through a successful struggle to build on the gains of fusion the major blocs seem incapable of taking advantage of the huge opportunities which are opening up for the construction of a significant revolutionary organisation in Britain. We believe that we have something specific to say about how this can be done.
2. Four years of vicious Thatcherite Toryism has shaken the labour movement to its very foundations. Traditional syndicalist reformism has collapsed in the face of industrial devastation and a determined class enemy. The organised workers movement is increasingly demoralised and in retreat. This demoralisation reaches to the very heart of the class - millions of people are groaning under the crushing weight of an ever sharpening oppression.
3. This is, however, no one-sided development. While demoralisation is very real and widespread it is combined with a genuine search for answers, a willingness to listen to anyone who might provide a coherent solution, a readiness to respond to a determined lead. Far from being a period when revolutionaries must "keep their powder dry" and "avoid dissipating energy on a quiescent working class" we must
4. "seize the time."
4. The situation on the left is very different from that of the 1960's and early 1970's. Those looking for a lead broke with social democracy and joined left groups. Earlier on it was the SLL, later the IS and to a lesser degree the IMG. The left today is numerically far greater but it is characterised by its unwillingness to join the left groups. This reluctance stems from both bad and good reasons and also from reasons which are neither bad nor good but simply reflect the left's present stage of development.

Many refuse to join left groups because they reject the discipline which is involved, many refuse because they see from the outside what we see from the inside - divisions, organisational and political crises. Many are simply at a stage of development where they have yet to understand the necessity of a revolutionary leadership.

5. We believe that the present 'debate' over orientation in the WSL is a sterile 'dialogue of the deaf'. In our opinion neither side fully understands how MP work should relate to trade union and other work. Cdes Smith Jones and Cunliffe clearly counterpose trade union work and work amongst the super oppressed to our MP orientation. Cdes Carolan, Kinnell and Hill emphasize organisation of the existing left far too much and end up with what is ultimately the opposite counterposition.
6. We believe that the transformation of the existing labour movement and especially the MP will come from the involvement of new forces who are looking for a determined lead. Experience shows us that our influence with the existing left depends overwhelmingly on our ability to carry through an orientation towards presently unorganised layers. This is not to say that we reject the organisation of the left as a central part of our strategy. It does mean that we must look, as a central priority, to recruiting new layers.
7. The major problem which faces us today is one of sectarian reluctance to regroup with wider forces, to break from small-group mentality and reach out to the masses.
8. Wiganisation must become the central watchword of our movement. Turn out to the youth, women, unemployed and blacks in open, flexible, non-sectarian campaigns. Turn these forces into the MP to smash-up the right-wing stranglehold on local parties. Turn local parties towards the estates, the dole queues, the struggles against closures and cuts. Build MP workplace branches, democratise the unions, make the struggle against nuclear weapons a central issue in our work. A real Wiganisation turn means prioritising work both nationally and locally; it means conversely dropping whole areas of work currently undertaken. We cannot be everything to everybody.
9. The recent turn of the Socialist League towards the MP and a similar orientation to that of the Broad groups opens up a huge potential for regrouping many on the left today. Fusion with the SL is an immediate necessity if we are to capitalise on the opportunity it would bring for us to construct a new, broader based revolutionary organisation.

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Not only would we immediately gain the Chartist minority, whose spectacular success around London Labour Briefing holds important lessons for us all, and who have declared their intention to join such a fusion, we would also attract many of the presently unorganised left.

10. If you agree with the general thrust of this statement don't hesitate or equivocate. Make sure you have a loud and insistent voice on the new NC. Join us and help make the hope of the 1981 fusion become a reality.

* AGAINST THE BLOCS !

* AGAINST SECTARIANISM !

* SEIZE THE TIME !.

Mckelvie, Oliver and Parsons 15-4-83



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