

## PLAIFORM OF THE INTERNATIONALIST FACTION

1. Our primary orientation is to the working class. It is on the basis of this orientation and the needs of this orientation that we determine our tactics in relation to work in the MP. We reject the notion that work in the MP and MPYM is the central area of our work. We are for a major turn towards work in the trade unions, workplaces and amongst the unemployed. The current struggles in the car industry show that the openings exist for a turn to the advanced layer in the factories. In particular we should systemise the production of revolutionary socialist workplace bulletins; the building of fractions around the paper and bulletins; building genuine rank and file formations in the unions pitted against the bureaucracy; the fight against the TUC and the Stalinists for a national unemployed workers union and trade union organisation of the unemployed.
2. Our work in the MP is directed towards breaking workers from reformism as part of the struggle for revolutionary leadership in the class, not simply to helping the left to develop or evolve. It is precisely through our consistent orientation to the class, our clear criticism and our ability to show members of the left how they can locate their individual socialist commitment within the struggle to develop the only force capable of making the revolution - the working class - that we will win the best elements of the left to our politics.

Some years ago in 'Workers Action' Carolan argued:

"one of the major reasons for the divisions in the revolutionary marxist left in Britain has been different attitudes on what to do about the Labour Party. This is the major strategic question for militants trying to restructure and remould the British labour movement"

In saying this, Carolan was downplaying the central importance of the class's primary fighting organisations (the unions, and workplace organisations) In its stead he elevated the struggle around the working class electoral alternative to the Tories.

We do not reject work in the MP. But we do say that it should be subordinate to an orientation to the militants in the unions and workplaces, currently a minority, who are confused and disarmed after years of Labour misrule and Tory iron rule - also to the unemployed and specially oppressed sections of the class. We do not accept that the unions which embrace millions can be equated with a reformist political party, consciously joined by only thousands (despite official figures).

3. In line with our orientation, our press must be directed towards the situation of the most militant layer of the class and the mass of workers behind them. In the present period that requires a clear revolutionary programme and bold revolutionary propaganda and agitation which can address the problems faced by these militants, in a language they can understand, providing an explanation and an understanding of their experiences and drawing them towards an understanding of the revolutionary tasks of the proletariat. In practice, this means having a party paper.

By contrast, Socialist Organiser uncritically promotes Benn, Race & Co. - there was no criticism of Bishop Stortford or of the loyalty speech at conference; no criticism of Race on the Malvinas; no criticism of the liberal-reformist strategy of Tatchell; no independent strategy advocated within the democracy movement in the MP.

SO's open forum (not Trotskyist) approach to various questions (Women, Peace etc) whereby assorted centrists, petty-bourgeois feminists, pacifists, Tribunites etc speak for the WSL without editorial comment means that the voice of Trotskyism has to filter through this web in the form of individual contributions or letters - in most cases with little prominence or impact.