

EC. 31.1.82  
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Present: Smith, Levy, Morrow, Cunliffe, Kinnell, Hill.

Absent: Parkinson, Khan, Carolan, Jones.

#### 1. AGENDA

Kinnell: We can't discuss Cunliffe's resolution on women's work without Khan present.

After discussion, agreed to refer the resolution to Thursday's OC and ask Khan and other EC members to attend.

#### 2. ATTENDANCE

Absences: Jones unable to attend because of work pressure, Khan at selection conference, Parkinson unable to travel for medical reasons.

Carolan: Smith reported that Carolan had sent a letter to OC explaining that he was absenting himself from committees while he clarified in his mind the disputes in the leadership. OC had urged Carolan to attend - motion not communicated to him as a result of misunderstanding.

Some discussion followed. Levy moved that EC record it found Carolan's non-attendance unacceptable. Motion carried with 2 abstentions (Kinnell, Hill)

#### 3. LEYLAND: ASSEMBLY PLANT

Smith reported: some feeling in the plant League branch that we should tell BF we will sink him in the election for convenor if he does not call a mass meeting over the victimisation.

Discussion followed. Unanimous view that the feeling in the branch was wrong. BF has been weak on the victimisation issue - just as other non-League militants in the plant have been weak. But there is a difference between a weak ally and a determined enemy. So long as we are not able to win the convenor position ourselves, that difference is important. BF has been weak often before, yet our intervention on the pay issue last year, for example, depended heavily on our relations with him.

Motion carried unanimously to endorse Smith's report: to pressurise BF as far as possible without withdrawing support from him.

#### 4. LEYLAND VEHICLES

Levy reported. Morrow proposed a levy of £5 per branch to finance this work. Agreed unanimously. Also agreed Kinnell to prepare copies of our letter to IMG. Paper to carry appeal for funds for LAC.

#### 5. RAIL

Hill reported: short discussion.

#### 6. LABOUR PARTY

Hill reported. The Bennites have not completely given up - e.g. they have come out strongly for the rail strike. But they have given up the internal fight in the LP against the Right, for now. E.g. Southwark.

Cuts is a pressing issue and we need a longer discussion. I'll be preparing a report for the OC on work round the May election.

Noonan: On fares, the militants are looking to strike action rather than non-collection of fares.

Cunliffe: We should consider a pamphlet round the May elections.

Also agreed to organise a national meeting of comrades involved in these elections, with EC to attend.

#### 7. CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES

EC 13.1.82. Resolution. In point 5 reference should be to 'letter', not 'leaflet'.

(EC. 31.1.82. p.2)

EC 17.1.82: resolution on JQ. In point (a) 'anything sufficiently grave to' should read 'anything to'.

EC 17.1.82: point on unemployed work. Discussion to be scheduled for NC, not EC.

EC 17.1.82: minute of Morrow's contribution on youth school - should say 'need to strengthen leadership', not 'need for new leadership'.

#### MATTERS ARISING

Hill reported that broad group delegate meeting had approved paper price rise. Some discussion followed on the objections within the League to the rise. Agreed that implementation of price rise would be from Feb.18 and meantime EC members to visit branches and explain.

Allocation of Hunt. Hill reported that organisers had recommended he should move to Oxford. Kinnell moved, and it was agreed, that the organisers should be authorised to modify this decision as necessary to meet objections raised from other youth comrades.

Gardiner reported on the E.London dispute (EC 13.1.82) that he had not in fact been able to see Stubbins' letter.

#### 8. T.U. DEMOCRACY PLATFORM

Discussion not adequately prepared, therefore put back to next EC. Smith to draft amendments.

#### 9. SUMMER SCHOOL

Referred to OC.

#### 10. Resolution from Oxford General branch on WF SUMMER SCHOOL

Kinnell moved, and it was agreed unanimously, that we ask Khan to report to the OC on possibilities of a venue satisfying conditions (a), (b), and (d) in the Oxford resolution.

Cunliffe: we also should see if a bigger place is possible.

#### 11. SOUTH WEST LONDON RESOLUTION

Agreed:

- a) S.W.London resolution to previous NC to go to next one.
- b) On point 2 to accept the criticism on appearance of the IB. To put the IB out this week.
- c) Deadline for next IB to be March 1.

#### 12. RESOLUTION FROM NOTTINGHAM

1. We welcome the youth cadre school as a positive step towards arming the movement theoretically on the questions of the state and the party.
2. We urge the NC to take this question more seriously and devote more attention to educational work among members.
3. We urge the NC to take steps to proceed with the discussion necessary for the resolution of the differences tabled prior to fusion.
4. We ask that the Workers' Government be added to that agenda for discussion.
5. We urge the NC to ensure that the IB is produced on a regular basis, to ensure that these discussions proceed.'

Agreed: to endorse points 1, 2, 3, 5. On point 4 to ask the comrades interested to write for the IB on the Workers' Government.

#### 13. Next EC: February 7.

14. AOB. Cunliffe asked to be relieved of some work in order to work on the TILC document. Agreed in general, details to be taken case by case.

EC: 17.1.82

Present: Smith, Cunliffe, Noonan, Hill, Kinnell, Levy, Morrow, Parkinson, Khan

1. UNEMPLOYED WORK: Agreed to schedule a discussion and invite MF.
2. FULL-TIMERS: (Dooth also present for this item). Dooth raised question of involvement of full-timers in local branch work. From this developed a long and wide-ranging discussion. Decision: organisers sub-cttee to prepare a report on possible improvements in use of full-timers.

Morrow asked about Eant. Hill: organisers' sub-committee had decided he should move to London to do youth organisation. Noonan and Kinnell objected to this decision, and it was referred back to the sub-committee.

### 3. RAIL

Kinnell: The Triple Alliance is a major political point to stress.

Smith: It is all contingent on the miners' vote.

Levy: Blacking of newspapers is very important.

Khan: We should get SG to speak at public meetings round the country

Smith: I don't think a lock-out is likely. BR is still a soft employer relative to the likes of BL.

### 4. BL

Report from Smith

### 5. YOUTH SCHOOL

Morrow: The school was positive. But there is a gap between the leadership and the rest of the youth: need for a new leadership. Student work: we should continue in the Socialist Caucus in NOLS.

Noonan: There are new youth comrades coming forward.

Kinnell: I'm not sure about the NOLS Socialist Caucus. He should leave that for further discussion.

### 6. FINANCE

Levy reported from the organisers' sub-committee and there was a discussion. Organisers' sub-committee proposed raising price of paper. Khan proposed raising dues rates.

Decided:

a) Propose paper price raised to 25p (10p unwaged). (Unanimous apart from Noonan voting against).

b) Drive to make sure comrades pay their dues regularly, and that those who can increase their amounts. Also that all ods pay their broad group contributions. Question of raising dues rates to be decided in light of results. (Unanimous).

### 7. T.U. DEMOCRACY PLATFORM

Brief discussion: agreed ods to come back to next meeting with amendments.

### 8. SUMMER SCHOOL

Organisers' sub-committee to prepare proposals on agenda for next EC.

(EC. 17.1.82. continued)

9. WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Date planned (Feb.13) clashed with NO. Agreed to hold an extended women's committee on Jan.24.

10. JQ

It was reported that JQ had refused to sign our appeal for labour movement solidarity with the Polish workers and had tried to dissuade others from signing.

Decided:

a) to reply to the complaints previously raised by JQ about the discussion on whether he should be in the W or B branch by saying that (i) it is now academic since the 2 branches are merged, (ii) we see no evidence of anything sufficiently grave to merit EC action.

b) to lay formal charges against JQ on the question of the Polish appeal and to ask for his response in writing. (Any proposed action to be decided on the basis of that response).

c) to notify membership of the facts on this.

POINTS FROM OC. 14.1.82

S. Yorkshire day of action - agreed to send up Levy with team of comrades to help with work.

London fares - agreed to approach LLD to jointly call a public campaign meeting and seek Regional LP backing. London Assembly: agreed to intervene with leaflet.

Organisers' school - agreed to schedule one. Organisers' sub-committee to sort out details.

Anti-racist commission - Kinnell reported discussions with Keith and with James on OC proposals about a national conference (that we should approach local anti-fascist committees at the start as well as S. light). Problem now seemed to be clarified: would report back to OC if further problems.

Sponsorships for paper - Carolyn to chase up.

Open Letter to M. (on Bishops Stortford and witch-hunt) - draft agreed.

GS/EEC/Afghanistan - agreed to discuss EEC at next EC; GS at next but one. A school on GS to be held same weekend as organisers' school.

EC. 13.1.82

Present: Kinnell, Levy, Parkinson, Smith, Gardiner, Hill; also East London branch.

S. Yorkshire day of action - agreed to send up Levy with team of comrades to help with work.

London fares - agreed to approach LLD to jointly call a public campaign meeting and seek Regional LP backing. London Assembly: agreed to intervene with leaflet.

Organisers' school - agreed to schedule one. Organisers' sub-committee to sort out details.

(EC.13.1.82. continued)

The comrades in the western part of the branch work in a broad left group. This DL group discussed its policy on a candidature and decided against our opposition to back Z. But comrade S from the eastern part of the branch put himself forward for the candidature. Should S withdraw and endorse Z?

After a dispute in the branch, the matter was referred to an extended Area Committee meeting, which decided that:

a) S should withdraw;

b) He should withdraw in favour of Z.

Point (a) was implemented. S was however unwilling to carry out (b). The majority of the branch voted to ask for a further discussion. So the EC was convened.

S: Main problem is Z's position on abortion rights. His position is unstable, but clearly he does not support women's right to choose. To endorse Z is unnecessary; harmful in relation to the left critics of the DL group; and inconsistent - elsewhere we have not withdrawn in favour of soft left candidates.

Gardiner: We should not so much endorse Z as endorse the DL group, which is v. important. Z is a bad candidate, but he is the candidate of the left. Abortion rights did not come up as an issue until Z spoke at the women's section, where he opposed restrictive legislation. We went into the DL group discussion prepared to accept the majority decision. We should vote Z against the Right.

Resolution (agreed unanimously):

1. The letter of withdrawal should call for an anti-Right vote, i.e. a vote for the candidate of the organised Left. This does not mean approving that candidate's policies.

2. If cd. S. desires, the letter can also spell out some points of our political criticism of the Left candidate.

3. If such points are included, they should be accompanied by some detailed criticism of the Right candidate so that the letter cannot inadvertently aid the Right.

4. A detailed criticism of the Left candidate can also be included in a leaflet on the selection produced by us.

5. The text of the leaflet should be agreed between S, Gardiner, and Hill - with final decision in case of impasse in Hill's hands.

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OC. 7.1.82  
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Tory strategy: Kinnell raised some criticisms of Smith's article.  
Agreed to schedule an EC discussion.

Labour Party: Hill reported and discussion on Bishops Stortford.

Poland solidarity: Kinnell reported on labour movement appeal.

Agreed: Brown to chase up this work, Jones to be responsible from OC.+

+ At OC 28.1.82 this responsibility was reassigned to Cunliffe.

(OC: 7.1.82 continued)

ID: - Kinnell to take responsibility, after current ID done by Morrow.

Summer school: Fraser to organise venue.

Anti-racist commission: Letter received from commission dissenting from OC position of approaching local anti-fascist committees at the start as well as Slight. Dissent seemed to OC to be based on misunderstanding: agreed Kinnell to approach commission to try to clarify this.

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EC. 31.12.81 (during TILC meeting)

Present: Carolan, Cunliffe, Smith, Jones, Hill, Levy, Kinnell.

Proposed amendment on Poland resolution presented by Carolan: (text will be circulated separately).

Objections were raised on the length of the text: reply was that the amendment could be proposed with a provision for suitable sub-editing by the TILC Secretariat.

Objections also raised to content: that it underestimated the strength of the Polish bureaucracy as distinct from the USSR bureaucracy and was wrong in identifying the USSR threat as the crucial factor in inhibiting the Polish workers' movement from a revolutionary perspective.

A vote was taken whether in principle to propose the amendment, with whatever arrangements about editing etc.

For the amendment: Carolan, Hill, Kinnell.

Against: Cunliffe, Smith, Jones, Levy.

Amendment therefore not proposed.

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EC. /30.12.81 (during TILC meeting)

Present: Carolan, Cunliffe, Noonan, Smith, Gardiner, Jones, Hill, Levy, Kinnell.

1. US. Discussion of documents from RWL. Agreed to press for withdrawal of charges against minority comrades and to insist on responsibilities of majority to make concessions in order to carry through the fusion.

2. FI(IC). Smith proposed additional points for the resolution. Agreed they would be drafted in. Jones presented short resolution for an open conference. After some discussion, agreed nem. con. (Gardiner abstaining).

3. Central America. Re-draft agreed. France. Text agreed. Italy. Text agreed: agreed also to oppose Danish amendments.

4. Poland. Carolan proposed a short explanation of the self-determination slogan as part of the programme of political revolution.

(EC 30.12.81)

(Text will be circulated separately).

After some discussion, this text was rejected (4 votes to 3, 2 abst.) in favour of the simple slogan 'self-determination'.

Kinnell proposed a vote on whether we approved the text as such, irrespective of whether it should be included in the TILC resolution. This proposal was rejected.

Carolyn read out a draft amendment to add to the resolution an emphasis on the role of the Kremlin in the Polish developments. (See text to be circulated separately). Agreed that this should be typed up and discussed the next day.

Agreed to support deletion from the resolution of a passage making a too-close analogy between reformism under Stalinism and reformism under capitalism.

EC. 23.12.81

Present: Carolyn, Cunliffe, Smith, Jones, Hill, Levy, Kinnell, Gardiner, +Johnson.

1. Assessment of fusion. Discussion opened by Smith - covered general problems of orientation, Poland, regime on the paper, functioning of leadership. Also covered specific question of Carolyn's letter on Cunliffe's Graffiti piece.

It was agreed to continue the discussion on the general questions. On the specific question, Jones moved:

That public attacks on members of this committee by other members should first come before the EC or OC.

This was carried by 6 votes to 1 with 1 abst.

Explanations of vote:

Carolyn said he had voted against, not because he disagreed with the general principle of Jones' resolution but because he considered it irrelevant to the particular case. Reserved the right to take the issue to the NC.

Kinnell said he abstained on the same grounds as Carolyn.

2. TILC conference.

Attendance: EC members to attend. Carolyn conveyed apologies from Khan. Hill gave apologies for part of meeting.

Political resolutions:

Central America - Kinnell said draft seemed unclear on cross-class fronts. Agreed Cunliffe to redraft.

Poland - Kinnell proposed Jones be allowed to argue minority position on self-determination for Poland if he wishes. Agreed.

France - Kinnell to draft a resolution.

Agenda - Cunliffe to draft.



