
In a note to the previous NC I apologised for the lack of minutes, explaining that I had been submerged in the finances. I hoped affairs would soon improve. I was wrong. At this NC again I am presenting comrades with a great mass of minutes, mostly late.

I would not ask comrades to consider this situation anything but intolerable. The same, but more so, goes for the deficiencies in circulars, the unreliable and tardy response to correspondence, and the poor distribution of the IB.

Branch circulars have provided a bare minimum of information. For these minutes, I have not typed up routine items of no durable interest, or the discussions - which have taken much of the time of the OC and EC - on the TILC meeting, the Tebbit campaign, and the April 3 conference, which are dealt with elsewhere.

A brief word of explanation, if not excuse. On one level, the explanation is that in the old I-CL I was responsible for minutes, circulars, correspondence, IB etc as well as working on a 12 page fortnightly paper. Now I am responsible for that same admin work for an organisation twice the size, plus a 16 page weekly paper, plus finance, plus a bigger load of internal meetings.

More fundamentally, we have a problem of growth - of constructing a central apparatus suitable to an organisation our size rather than to a small, informal group.

The OC has agreed to schedule a discussion on this more fundamental problem. In the meantime, I have taken steps to enlist help from other comrades to relieve the bad situation on administration.

Kinnell.

P.S.: Premises. The delay is due to legal problems. The place we found was offered for rent (not leasing). The landlord offered us a tenancy agreement. We consulted with a solicitor to discover what security we would have. None, he replied. So we went back to the landlord and he has now offered to sell us the lease. This involves extra cost but we think it is worth it. The matter is now going through the legal procedures.

L.O. fete: The LO fete this year is May 29-31. Some comrades have already expressed interest in going. Please inform comrades in your branch and ask those who want to go to contact the centre as soon as possible.

EC. 24.4.82

Present: Smith, Levy, Hill, Cunliffe, Parkinson, Kinnell, Carolan, Noonan. Absent: Jones (domestic), Khan (holiday), Gardiner (TU commitment), Morrow (ill).

1. NC preparations. Procedure agreed. A resolution from Cunliffe was presented on women in the WSL - it was agreed to discuss it at the next EC, with comrades from the women's steering committee invited, and to ask Parkinson to organise consultation with the leading women comrades before then.

2. Summer school. Outline plans agreed as per separate sheet.

OC. 22.4.82

Present: Smith, Levy, Hill, Kinnell, Carolan, Jones. Absent: Cunliffe (local commitment).

+ NHS pay: Meeting of NHS cds to be organised Sunday 24th. Cunliffe to be responsible from OC.

+ Broad groups conference: Preliminary discussion. Agreed to discuss use of this conference further at next OC, but certainly to go for a broad range of speakers and observers.

+ Oxford resignations and repercussions in women's commission. Long discussion. Agreed to oppose a closed session of NC on this, as apparently proposed by East Midlands area committee; Smith to report from OC to full extended NC, approaching issue from standpoint of defence of party.

OC. 18.4.82

Present: Smith, Hill, Kinnell, Levy. Absent: Jones, Carolan, Cunliffe (domestic).

+ Oxford resignations. Smith reported that 4 women cds in Oxford had resigned. Discussion on response: steps to get a team of comrades working directly under Area Committee to get work going; a special area day school with the resigned comrades invited, with the question of the party as first item on the agenda; more active involvement by OC members in Oxford area.

NOTE: This OC was preceded by a discussion with cd Leland of the RWL, mainly on Poland. We discussed our criticisms of the focus of the RWL coverage on Poland (headline 'Defend Solidarnosc! No US intervention'), and the use in their press of 'collectivisation of agriculture' as seemingly an immediate demand: some of us argued that these gave ground, unintentionally, to Stalinist concepts of the 'dangers' of Solidarnosc. Cd Leland argued that there were in fact no substantial differences.

EC.9.4.82

Present: Carolan, Kinnell, Noonan, Cunliffe, Parkinson, Khan, Smith, Jones. Absent: Gardiner, Morrow (TU conference), Levy (ill), Hill (holiday).

+ Letter from Glasgow WSL objecting to 'one-day strike' call, and to lack of consultation with membership on it. Agreed to publish letter in paper, and to make sure Glasgow WSL is informed about the March 14 extended NC.

+ Letter from Mick J about NUTM work. Agreed Noonan to be responsible from EC for now.

+ Women's comm: steering ctee. Khan proposed a reorganisation. Agreed to leave on table pending clarification of Oxford problems.

OC. 2.4.82

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

(Discussion on preparations for April 3 conference and on Tebbit campaign).

OC. 24.3.82

Present: Kinnell, Cunliffe, Smith, Jones, Levy, Hill. Absent: Carolan (ill).

Discussion on April 3 conference, LCOTU, Tebbit campaign.

Women's commission: there was a discussion with Eliot on her resignation from this commission. The OC asked Eliot:

- to reconsider her resignation,
- to reconsider her proposal for an inquiry into the women's commission in the light of the OC's argument that such an inquiry was not appropriate to the problems involved,
- to consider what she would propose the women's commission and the EC do to surmount the women's commission's problems.

OC. 18.3.82

Present: Kinnell, Smith, Jones, Levy, Hill, Carolan. Absent: Cunliffe(holiday).

(Discussion on Tebbit campaign etc.)

OC. 12.3.82

Present: Carolan, Smith, Jones, Levy, Hill, Cunliffe, Kinnell;
plus Khan.

(Discussion on preparations for NC; Tebbit campaign; April 3
conference).

OC. 7.3.82

Present: all members

(Discussion on April 3 conference and Poland demo.)

OC. 25.2.82

Present: all members.

(Discussion on current work and on:)

+ Sinclair. After some discussion, Jones proposed an EC investig-
ation into allegations by and against Sinclair. Carolan and Kinnell
proposed that the Control Commission should be invoked. Carolan/
Kinnell proposal defeated with 2 votes in favour; Jones proposal
agreed unanimously. Carolan delegated to carry out EC investigation.

The plenary sessions (in this suggested scheme) would be mainly geared into the discussion streams on the labour movement and on women's liberation.

The suggested scheme for the stream on 'What is Trotskyism?' is (again, just to give an idea):

1. Revolution: October 1917
2. Lessons of October
3. Revolution: May 1968
4. Revolution: Paris Commune
5. Trotskyism against Stalinism
6. Revolution: Hungary 1956
7. Revolution: Poland 1980/1
8. Imperialism & national liberation
9. Women and the family
10. The socialist women's movement
11. Marxism & the trade unions
12. What is the WSL?

Kinnell.