

NOTE ON FINANCE FOR N.C. 18-19 SEPTEMBER 1982

We are in a bad financial situation at present for four reasons:

- a) The flow of paper money over the last six weeks or so has been very bad, with comrades on holiday, etc.
- b) The special fund income has been even worse.
- c) We have just received the bill for the summer school. It is £4600 - i.e. £1600 more than we budgeted for. Exactly what went wrong with the budget is not yet clear, but we certainly have a problem.
- d) There are some major expenses coming up: the work around the Blackpool conference, a necessary repair and overhaul for the duplicator at the centre, and almost certainly leaflets, travel, etc for major industrial disputes this winter.

Immediate steps that should be taken by branches are:

- a) To consolidate the work of getting dues payments up to date stimulated by the special conference. Detailed accounts are being circulated at this NC.
- b) To get their paper accounts straight.
- c) To schedule regular fund-raising activity.
- d) To get out selling the magazine and sending the money in. Potentially the magazine is a big profit-maker. If every comrade sells 10, we will make a profit of over £1000 on it.

We will also have to discuss special measures to deal with the problem of the summer school bill.

Kinnell

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES 16.9.82

Present: Carolan, Collins, Cunliffe, Gardiner, Kinnell, Noonan, Parkinson, Levy, Hill.

Absent: Smith (another meeting), Jones (domestic), Morrow.

1. SEPTEMBER 22

Levy reported. Discussion followed on relative focus as between national demonstration and local picketing etc. Agreed to seek reports and opinions from NC.

Carolan to present a report on the EC discussion.

2. WITCH-HUNT

Hill reported. Stevenson had raised the question of us supporting Pat Wall for the NEC. Hill felt we should stick to our line of supporting the left slate. It is a long-standing decision which we have discussed several times and defended publicly on many occasions - to change it at the last minute would be bad. Besides, it is right. Wall has no chance of winning, and the only effect of his candidacy can be to save Kinnoek or Lestor from being ousted by the left. The candidacy is a futile propaganda gesture for not-very-useful propaganda in a situation where it makes a real difference whether or not the left can oust Kinnoek and Lestor.

3. SPECIAL CONFERENCE: MATTERS ARISING

Kinnell: The special conference vote decides the WSL line, and there is no argument about that. However, the moral authority of the decision (as distinct from the formal, constitutional authority) is obviously limited.

We accept the third count but we can't be sure it was right. The count was so close that accidental absences, votes of disputed or paper members, etc. were decisive. By my reckoning if all WSL full members had been there the vote would have gone 109 to 100 the other way with 7 I don't know about.

I would want to re-raise the issue at the regular conference.

I propose:

- a) We should publish a supplement to the magazine with an editorial putting the new position plus the 2 resolutions from conference;
- b) We should not attempt to change the formal position of the broad groups. There is no foreseeable vital political purpose to be served by doing so, and there are tremendous disadvantages in doing so from the point of view of security and of our relation with the broad groups.
- c) We should freeze the internal discussion (see resolution in documents for NC). (I make the personal qualification that I strongly object to the descriptions of my position in IB 15 and 17 - which the freeze makes it impossible to reply to - and will reply when the freeze is lifted).

On the discussion on imperialism, I propose to work on an article surveying some of the post-war literature.

Cunliffe: The conference resolution is now policy. I agree with the idea of a supplement to the magazine. On the broad groups I agree with Kinnell. If there is a problem we can deal with it by signed articles.

A freeze? The theoretical questions should not go by the board.

Levy: I take it the freeze on discussion does not affect international discussions.

Gardiner: I think there were important theoretical issues raised in the debate - like the theory of the system of colonial enclaves - which require continuing discussion.

Decisions

- a) Supplement to magazine - agreed.
- b) Contents. Carolan proposed an amendment - supplement to contain a jointly agreed statement on the discussion and decisions, plus a statement from the new majority, plus the resolutions.

Agreed.

Sub-committee of Cunliffe and Kinnell nominated to prepare the supplement and report back to EC if necessary.

- c) Freeze on discussion.

Carried, with 2 votes against (Gardiner, Levy) and 1 abst. (Hill).

Hill: I agree with the general spirit but think the resolution is too narrow. Will try to formulate an amendment for NC.

- d) Implementation of Armstrong resolution on discussion on imperialism. Parkinson proposed that EC nominate a sub-committee to formulate proposals and bring them back to the EC.

Carried, with 1 vote against (Carolan).

Nominated for sub-committee: Cunliffe and Kinnell.

4. N.C. PREPARATIONS

Agenda agreed as on separate circular. Vote on whether to take whole international discussion in October or a preliminary information report at this NC: agreed by 5 votes to 4 to take preliminary report at NC.

Collins said she wished to put a resolution to NC demanding regular reports to each NC on the dues situation.

Kinnell moved that EC ask Collins not to put the resolution. The only problem about regular reports is practical possibility, and the only effect of the resolution could be to weaken comrades' individual responsibility for paying dues.

Motion carried 3 votes for, all others abstaining.

Noonan gave notice of a resolution for NC:

"When comrades are sent into areas by the centre it must be done after discussion with area leaderships and adequate planning on the tasks to be done".

Some discussion followed on what it referred to. Noonan said it was visits to Yorkshire by Swing and by Joplin. Hill said that Swing's visit - to help developing broad groups - had been planned and discussed with the area leadership. Kinnell said that Joplin's visit was a private one.

5. IMG

Resolution from Kinnell agreed unanimously (see notes for NC).

6. WRP

Agreed Cunliffe should report to NC on slander against Gable.

7. RWL & LELAND'S VISIT

Cunliffe proposed that EC should formally approach Leland for discussions. At present Leland was discussing with comrades on a completely freelance basis. Also that we should phone comrades in US to get their picture of the background to Leland's visit.

Agreed unanimously.

9. KENDALL RESOLUTION ON LABOUR PARTY

Brief discussion.

Cunliffe: I would not be ready to vote for section (e) because it is too vague. We should delegate some comrades to look at the tactical possibilities if the register is imposed.

Agreed that the resolution should go to the NC for discussion with the final decision to be taken at the October NC.

10. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

Agreed organisers' sub-committee to meet Saturday to draft proposals for NC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2.9.82

Present: Carolan, Collins, Cunliffe, Hill, Kinnell, Noonan, Parkinson, Jones, Smith.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

Voting procedures: Jones and others registered a protest at the proposals from some NC majority comrades being circulated to members before the final EC discussion.

After some debate, Parkinson proposed that two comrades be delegated to reach a compromise if possible. Agreed. Nominated: Kinnell plus a comrade to be named from the NC minority.

Disputed membership issues: Kinnell proposed, and it was agreed, that the conditions for considering comrades paid-up should be:

either a general good financial status (in which case 1 or 2 months' arrears would not disqualify them);

or in the case of comrades with considerable arrears, at least the last 3 months' dues,

plus, in the case of comrades with unacceptable paper debts, at least one month's (4 papers') paper money.

Specific cases were discussed, and it was agreed that these conditions should apply equally to all.

Other disputed membership issues: Dai and Sarah S.: proposal received from branch to expel them on grounds of effectively quitting WSL activity by quitting country. Proposal from branch organiser (Cohen) and NC member (Chorley) to suspend them in meantime. Jones moved that we ask the comrades to reply, and that the issue goes to the NC. Hill moved that in addition they be suspended in the meantime.

Hill's proposal was defeated. For: Collins, Hill, Kinnell. Against: Cunliffe, Jones, Noonan, Smith. Abst: Parkinson. Jones's proposal carried unanimously.

Kate W: Birmingham branch proposed she should be readmitted as full member. Agreed that she should be for purposes of conference, on Oxford precedent, but matter should be raised at NC.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 25.8.82

Present: Carolan, Collins, Kinnell, Morrow, Noonan, Parkinson, Jones, Smith, Gardiner, Levy.

1. CURRENT SITUATION

Brief discussions on NHS dispute, TUC, Lebanon.

2. CONFERENCE

Carolan proposed postponement on regular conference. Discussion. Agreed to put a recommendation to a special NC meeting on September 5.

For: all comrades except -
Against: Morrow
Abst: Collins, Noonan.

3. SPECIAL CONFERENCE

On the Oxford re-admissions, Jones proposed that the readmitted ods should have a consultative vote only at the special conference, and then their votes should be counted definitively after the NC decision on their status.

Discussion: it was pointed out that if the conference decision hung on these votes, then it would be impossible to have a clear discussion on the norms involved at the NC. Agreed to stick with status quo.

Special conference resolutions were also discussed.

4. WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Report from Parkinson plus discussion.

5. BRANCH CIRCULAR

Morrow registered a correction: on moving to a democratic-centralist TILC in December, the decision had not been unanimous - at least Johnson had voted against the position of refusing commitment to this.

Morrow also registered dissent at the circular's comments on the RWL.

