

Resolution on the MO, our tasks and tactics.

Part 1 - background, not for voting.

The trade Unions: The British workers' movement remains politically dominated by a reformist, bureaucratic leadership whose power base lies in their control over the mass trade union movement. Materially and politically it has been the trade union bureaucracy and its block votes which have formed the bedrock of the Labour Party leadership. Indeed whether Labour is in or out of Downing St, it is the trade union bureaucracy which in practice at every level acts to contain the class struggle and restrict the strength of the proletariat in its conflicts with the capitalist class and their state apparatus. In Britain, where even the slump has not reduced unionisation to less than 50% of the employed workforce, it is inescapably true that there can be no socialist revolution without the unremitting struggle of revolutionists to mobilise the rank and file in the unions on demands and struggles which can break them from the straitjacket of reformist politics and reformist bureaucrats, and transform the unions into instruments of struggle. Without serious work to recruit workers from the industrial unions by intervening and giving leadership in their struggles, we cannot build a revolutionary party with roots in the proletariat.

The Labour Party: Constructed by the trade union leaders as the means of furthering their own politics of gradualism and class collaboration, the Labour Party continues to serve as the central focus of the reformist illusions of the working class, and thus as the central strategic political obstacle to the construction of a mass revolutionary party. The potency of the LP as a focus for political activity of committed militants at rank and file level was increased by the democratic reforms and more radical policies that have been pushed through in the aftermath of the 1979 election debacle. It is additionally true that many thousands of class conscious militants not themselves active in the LP and many millions of working class voters - or non-voters - relate politically to the Labour Party as the "alternative" to the Tories. For these reasons the Labour Party cannot be ignored if we are serious about breaking mass layers of workers away from reformism. While it is plain that the LP itself - certainly in anything resembling the shape it has today - will not be transformed (least of all by a series of linear democratic reforms) into a revolutionary party, a mass Marxist party can only be built in the all-sided struggle to expose the limitations of reformism and present a consistent alternative policy and perspective.

Forces outside the unions and LP: The brutal reality of mass unemployment, coupled with sexual and racial oppression mean that the organised labour movement is so structured as to exclude or marginalise the majority of youth, women and oppressed minorities. Yet it is among these downtrodden and alienated layers that some of the most militant and determined fighters can and must emerge. Our task is not to tail-end the spontaneous struggles and frustration of these sections of society, but to offer them forms of organisation and a leadership which can consolidate their strength and mobilise them in the struggle against the Tory enemy and their labour lieutenants.

This means that we must fight against the understandable suspicion and hostility which these forces have towards the unions and the LP as they exist today, and direct their energies towards the fight for a new, revolutionary leadership and mass organisations of the class.

Part 2 - for voting

Our fight In the post-Blackpool situation in the MO and the unions we must recognise three starting points:

- 1) The necessity to find the means to bring our programme and