

COPY

COPY

COPY

Los Angeles, Calif.
July 16, 1975

National Office - SWP
New York, N. Y.

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed please find a resolution, "The Problem of Layoffs," I am submitting for a vote in the branches and at the convention.

I would like to have this printed in the discussion bulletin. Since I am late in presenting this, I would appreciate it if you could carry this in the bulletin as soon as possible.

I request that the Political Committee make available to me time under the report on the resolution, "The Decline of American Capitalism, etc.". I would like to have 40 minutes and 10 minutes summary.

Comradely,

Milton Alvin

Los Angeles, Calif.
July 18, 1975

National Office - SWP
New York, N. Y.

Dear Comrades:

This is to confirm my telephone conversation today with Comrade Jack Barnes in which I agreed to alter the nature of the document I submitted July 16th entitled, "The Problem of Layoffs," from a resolution to an amendment to the resolution submitted by the NC entitled, "The Decline of American Capitalism, etc."

Comradely,

Milton Alvin

COPY

COPY

COPY

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
July 29, 1975

Milton Alvin

Los Angeles

Dear Milt,

At yesterday's Political Committee meeting we took up your letters of July 16 and July 18. The Political Committee decided to recommend to the preconvention plenum that it recommend to the convention that you be the first speaker under the discussion of the political resolution and that you be granted an extension of time of ten minutes, making a total of twenty minutes to present your arguments on behalf of your amendment. In addition, we will urge the presiding committee to do its best to make sure that any of the delegates who support your amendment be given the floor during discussion of the political resolution. If at the end of the discussion you request it, we will recommend you be the final speaker for ten minutes before the summary by the reporter on the National Committee's political resolution.

It was the opinion of the Political Committee that a forty minute presentation on an amendment is disproportionate. It would be equivalent to two-thirds the time of the reporter, whose responsibility is to present the main elements of the National Committee's political resolution and deal with the central points raised in the preconvention discussion concerning it which, of course, are several in addition to your amendment. It would also be an error in our opinion to take more time from the delegates in light of the early publication in the discussion bulletin of the National Committee political resolution and report, and the articles presenting your point of view. The entire party has had ample opportunity to read and consider all of them.

If you have an alternative proposal it can be presented to the preconvention plenum which will convene at 7 p.m. Saturday, August 16. If you wish I will distribute a letter from you on this to the comrades on the National Committee prior to the preconvention plenum. For the information of the National Committee we are attaching to the Political Committee minutes your letters of July 16 and 18 and this letter to you.

Comradely,

Jack Barnes, for the
Political Committee

Los Angeles, California
August 6, 1975

Jack Barnes
National Office
New York, N.Y.

Dear Jack,

The arrangements described for the convention
in your letter of July 29, 1975, are satisfactory
to me.

Comradely,
s/ Milton Alvin

A Proposed Amendment to the National
Committee draft Political Resolution

by Milton Alvin, Central-East Branch, Los Angeles Local
July 16, 1975

Accepting the problem in these terms--affirmative action versus seniority--is a big mistake because it plays right into the bosses' tactic of "divide and rule." They would like nothing better than to see workers fighting among themselves over a dwindling number of jobs, rather than wage a united fight against the boss for laying off anybody.

The fact that during a period of economic growth the question was "who should be hired first?" does not mean that in a period of recession the question should simply be stood on its head to ask, "now who should be fired first?"

The efforts by women and Blacks to protect their jobs and change the discriminatory aspects of the seniority system should be supported. These efforts to protect women and Blacks from the brunt of the layoffs are laudable, but they are not enough. The effect of these actions is limited unless those involved develop a broader perspective.

Neither seniority nor affirmative action in and of itself really addresses the question of unemployment. And that's the fundamental question right now: how to stop the layoffs and provide jobs for all.

The pressure of united mass action by the labor movement could force implementation of a shorter workweek, with no reduction in pay, to share the available work among all who need jobs. It could win an emergency public-works program to provide useful employment for millions.

Some may complain that these proposals are utopian and impractical. Far from being unrealistic, a struggle for a shorter workweek and a massive public-works program is the only way to halt unemployment.

One thing is certain; if we do not strive to build a united movement for jobs for all, if we simply accept that male and female, white and Black workers must fight it out over who will be fired, then the only winner will be the boss.