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3861 Montevista Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44121
August 19, 1970

Jack Barnes
National Organization Secretary
New York, New York

Dear Comrade Barnes,

I plan to write a document for the next party convention. The document will be on the question of sending comrades into the industrial working class.

In regard to this document, I assume that the following actions are correct procedure: (1) corresponding with other comrades on the question, (2) circulating a rough draft of the document to some comrades before the 90-day discussion period begins in order to submit the best-thought-out document at the very beginning of the discussion period.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that these actions will constitute the formation of a tendency. The duties of this tendency, as defined by the 1965 Organizational Bulletin, are to engage in "...a principled collective effort to argue for a change in the given policy..." and to "...present its views openly before the whole party in a responsible and disciplined manner."

Please let me know whether or not I have correctly understood, in general terms, what actions constitute the formation of a tendency and what the rights and duties of a tendency are.

Comradely,

s/Barbara Gregorich

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873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003

September 21, 1970

CLEVELAND

Dear Comrade Gregorich,

I'm sorry for the delay in answering your letter of August 19. It was occasioned by the fact I was on vacation.

In response to your letter of August 19 requesting clarification of correct party procedure in the formation of an organized tendency and the rights and duties thereof:

There is little I can add to the rather detailed elaboration of party principles and practices embodied in the resolution adopted by the 1965 convention of the Socialist Workers Party on "The Organizational Character of the SWP," from which you quote part of one sentence.

I can find no sanction in our organizational principles or practices for authorizing a selective discussion prior to our regular pre-convention discussion period. To the contrary, I call your attention to the section on "Factionalism and Party Unity," from which you quote, on page 11, paragraph 2, which states:

"Concentration on private discussions of disputed issues, on the other hand, tends to give the comrades involved a one-sided view and warps their capacity for objective political judgement. Inexperienced comrades especially are made the target of such lopsided discussion methods. The aim is to line them up quickly in a closed caucus, and prejudice their thinking before they have heard an open party debate. When dissident views are introduced into the party in that manner groupings tend to form and harden, and the dissenting views tend to assert themselves in disruptive fashion, before the party as a whole has had a chance to face and act on the issues in dispute."

Furthermore, the sentence from which you quote refers specifically to "ideological" tendencies. You say you plan to write a document for the next party convention dealing with "the question of sending comrades into the industrial working class." Fine. I believe the party can profit from such a discussion conducted in accordance with our organizational norms.

However, the bare statement of the subject upon which you plan to write does not constitute a proper basis for the formation of an "ideological tendency." Whether or not your views on the subject are a valid basis for the formation of an organized tendency will be determined in the course of the discussion itself. To my knowledge no authoritative party body nor any party leader in the center, proposes to revise, let alone abandon, our basic proletarian orientation.

It is your right to believe otherwise and to try and convince the party that you are right. But that question can best be determined in an organized discussion conducted "openly before the party in a responsible and disciplined manner."

Comradely yours,
s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary