

2/3/73

To the PC

Dear Comrades:

After yesterday's meeting I asked Frank, somewhat reproachfully, why he had waited until the last minutes of the discussion to say the things he said then.

From his reply it was evident that there had been some kind of misunderstanding. He said that he had understood the point to be discussed was the economic situation, to which his report was devoted almost exclusively, and that he had been quite surprised as the meeting began when the chairman said the point on the agenda was "Trade Union Work." At any rate, he did not get around to the latter subject until the very end of the discussion, just as we were adjourning.

So it seems to me that the discussion ought to be continued, this time if possible on the basis of specific proposals. I do not mean to suggest that Frank alone has the responsibility of introducing specific proposals if possible; all the PC members who can should.

As I stated yesterday, I am in agreement with the main point made by Tom and Farrell -- that no major reorientation is now indicated. But how about what may be called a minor reorientation, a readjustment of less than total character? I do not see the latter warranted on the basis of any significant change in the trade union situation, either in August 1971, or now, or in the immediate future this year. But I do see it warranted by the new composition of the work force in many industries and the beginnings of politicization and radicalization among young workers (most of whom are not yet much interested in the unions or union work). Without a major reorientation, without a colonization campaign, without turning away from work being done on and through the campuses, we should be able to do much better than we are doing with our present forces among the young workers of the type mentioned in the previous sentence. This requires not only "more attention," as everyone says, but also possibly some minor reallocation of forces.

Since it was announced at yesterday's meetings that soon several members will be leaving for visits to all the branches, we should have the continuation of the discussion before they leave, if possible.

George Breitman