

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 7 OF 16

FOLDER 14

GAD GADTDM AND THE NLG

GLOTTA, ADELMAN & DINGES

GAD, a consciously multi-national law firm, was and is specifically designed to provide legal support to the proletariat, and particularly the industrial proletariat which we recognize as the revolutionary vanguard for political struggle worldwide and in this country.

Between 2/3 thousand workers have come to GAD since its beginnings in 1970, almost totally from the Service and Production sector. The production workers have been mostly from auto and steel and the service workers from hospitals and the Dept. of Social Services. The cases that are handled result mostly from oppression at the workplace, i.e. grievances, firings, injuries and death. Most of these cases are "small" in the bourgeois sense, but are very large in importance to the survival of the individual workers and their families.

The only addition to this part of the above report

is to indicate in more concrete detail the areas of concentration. The most important plants that we have cases in are: Ford Rouge; Chrysler Elden; Chrysler Dodge Truck; Chevrolet Spring and Bumper in Livonia; the Briggs workers and Detroit Aluminum and Brass; then there is Metropolitan Hospital, WEU workers. There are a number of small plants that we get cases from. At this time, it is fair to say that we have created a network of individual workers, union contacts, former clients such that we have a fairly good source of cases and contacts. The major change that has occurred is that now we have organizationally (CL and MCLL) many people who are active in industrial settings that the primary political question is the nature ~~and form~~ of the political support that is to be given because we now have political forms to which to direct our clients (for instance, selling of tickets to Negro Nation Day).

Another important area of GAD work is legal support of workers in strikes and also support of individual activists, dissident caucuses and left organizations, e.g. MCLL, CL, RU & IS. GAD lawyers are "rooted" in the sense that various lawyers are known and called in struggle situations by workers at specific workplaces, e.g. Adelman-Social Services, Taylor-Chrysler, Glotta-Ford Rouge, Metro Hospital, Great Lakes Steel.

GAD relates politically to its clients in several ways. One is through the wall posters, leaflets, magazines and newspapers that are visible and available to clients. Also, the case interviews are often used to discuss and expose the contradictions and oppressions at the particular workplaces and jobs. Of course, the obtaining of the means of physical survival--food on the table, a roof over the head, clothing on the back--is a profoundly political statement.

GAD is a major supporter of the National Lawyer's Guild, and its members function very actively in various NLG forms and activities. Our efforts are consciously concentrated in the NLG Labor Committee locally and nationally and in various National activities, e.g. the International Committee (Davis). The firm recently presented a proposal for a Guild educational program(attached) which was discussed and debated at one of the best attended membership meetings in recent history. We view our activity in the Guild as one means of unifying the TEP & S & P sectors.

The change that has occurred in this area is the more precise attack that the firm is under as a result of the clarification of the political line of the firm. The move of MA to Miss. has both positives and negatives in this area. MA had been identified somehow as a more neutral figure than RG or HMD in the NLG but his move makes it clear that the firm is a force to be reckoned with and not as individuals, so that there is now no neutralization of the opposition that is expressed. The political line means that lines are being drawn inside the Guild in such a way that the large financial support combined with the energy that we give the Guild is looked at as more of a threat than supportive. There are several important people who are now following our leadership and we need to continue to develop them politically.

The additional change in this area is the necessary work that we will have to do in the National Conference of Black Lawyers which is a front ~~of~~ of the CPUSA. The work of IR in this area is important; in addition, the development of David Seals in this area is crucial. IR will also do work on the campus around the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council as well as the Black Law Students Campus organizations. IR has already taken considerable leadership in this area but with minimal political leadership.

Internal to the firm, some of the legal workers are becoming more active politically. Some are active in the NLG Unemployment Comp. program, and most are active in the GAD study circle which was organized by CL cadre and which has been functioning in a very positive way for the past several months. Firm meetings are held each Wednesday morning for discussion and decision on GAD policies, assignments and cases. All persons have an equal vote. (We don't know of any other firm in town that does this.)

The major change in this area is the incredible political consolidation of the lawfirm with the change in the political line. Previously, MA, AA, JDi, RDi, etc. had all withheld political support for political reasons. With the change of the line, they have all come into the organization. It is very difficult to assess the general impact of that motion. We clearly have less tensions in the firm and it is positive. But the question is what is the purpose of the firm--a financial base for the Party of course, legal support for the Party, of course, but should it try to expand, but stay the same size and send cadre to other parts of the country as we are now doing? Now it clearly is a petty bourgeois organization in support of the rising proletariat; previously, in some strange ways it was the most proletarian base inside the organization. The assessment of the new motion will take further analysis--but for now the motion is very positive in terms of the politization of the firm and the base of power that that represents.. The fact is that the politics that we have were projected during the Dodge Truck strike even though we in no way exposed cadre and RU cadre who were completely exposed and fired; that fact arose because of the ~~exemplary~~ ~~exemplary~~ role that RD JT etc played in that strike. We obtained enormous amounts of information and maintained all our contacts in spite of the efforts of RU.

To: The City Committee

From: Diane M.

Re: Legal Fraction

This report is intended to be an analysis of the specific legal skills of CLP Cadre in the Detroit area.

The GADTDM Firm, obviously, has the greatest concentration of legal workers. The Firm was specifically designed to provide legal support to the working class, particularly the industrial proletariat. Between 2,000 and 3,000 workers have come to GADTDM since its beginning in 1970, almost totally from the service and production sector. The production workers have been mostly from auto and steel and the service workers from hospitals and the Department of Social Services. Specifically ^{are} the most important plants that we have cases in ~~our~~ Ford Rouge, Chrysler Elden, Chrysler Dodge Truck, Chevrolet Spring and Bumper in Livonia, Briggs, Detroit Aluminum and Brass, Metropolitan Hospital, and the WEU workers.

The cases that ^{we} ~~handle~~ result mostly from oppression at the work place, i.e. greivances, firings, injuries, and deaths. Most of these cases are "small" in the bourgeois sense, but are very large and important to the survival of the individual workers and there family.

Another important ^{aspect} of GADTDM work is legal support of workers in strikes and also support of individual activists, dissident caucases, and left organizations. GADTDM lawyers are "rooted" in the sense that various lawyers are known and called in struggle situations by workers at specific work places (i.e. Taylor-Chrysler, Glotta-Ford Rouge, Metro Hospital, Great Lakes Steel.)

GADTDM relates politically to its clients in several ways. One is to the wall posters, leaflets, magazines, and newspapers that are visible and available to clients. Also, the case interviews are often used to discuss and expose the contradictions and oppressions of the particular work place and job. Of course, the obtaining of the means of physical survival, food on the table, a roof over the head, clothing on the back-is a profoundly political statement.

Of the 11 present employees at GADTDM, 8 are CLP Cadre. There specific skills are as follows: Buck D. does criminal and employment discrimination cases;

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Ronald G., Diane M., John T., and Bob D. do workmen's compensation; in addition, Bob D. does cases arising from personal injuries (auto accidents etc.) and divorces, and Diane M. does general labor work (grievances, arbitration etc.) Ivy R. will not complete law school until December, 1974, and has general law clerk duties at this time. Joan H. and Theresa D., although not lawyers, are gaining various legal skills, Theresa in the area of unemployment and social security cases, and Joan in the area of employment discrimination.

In addition to the above mentioned GADTDM workers, the following legal cadre are in the Detroit area: Sam G. is presently a staff attorney at the Free Legal Aid Clinic supervising law students who are handling misdemeanor criminal cases; Mike O. is in his last year at Wayne State Law School, works part-time at the National Lawyers Guild as a staff person, and also has a part-time industrial job; and finally, Pat K. who is a law school graduate but apparently is not going to function in the legal arena.

The main contradiction facing all of the cadre with legal skills that the Party has in the Detroit area is that they are universally young and relatively inexperienced. None the less, they collectively possess a high level of skill. There is also the constant contradiction that most young lawyers spend sixty or seventy hours a week doing nothing but learning their trade while CLP's lawyers obviously have many other responsibilities.

In terms of professional associations, CLP attorneys have a considerable base in the Detroit Chapter National Lawyers Guild. (see companion report on the NLG) Buck D. staffed the first Guild office that was established in Detroit six years ago. In addition, GADTDM attorneys function within the Workmen's Compensation Section of the Detroit Bar Association although they have not been in leadership roles. GADTDM lawyers have working relationships with other lawyers in the more progressive firms in the Detroit area.

In addition, Ivy R. does work at Wayne State University with the Black Legal Alliance, the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council, and is beginning to function in the newly formed Detroit Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. This latter group may become extremely important (it is a CPUSA front organization)

Our general analysis of the role of lawyers, specifically organizations such as the NLG and NCBL, is that they have a role to play in the United Front Against Fascism and the Defense of the Democratic Rights of the Class. Given the

other priorities of the last six month period, we have struggled to maintain a presence within the NLG particularly in the area of labor work. However, there are many areas where we could play a more active role if the Party decides that this would be appropriate at this time (a Marxist-Leninist study group could be established for law students, and more general political educational could be developed within the Detroit NLG Chapter, innovative law suits could be devised that would bring in lawyers from other firms (an example would be a suit to force the Ford Motor Company to pay for workmen's compensation insurance rather than maintaining its present self-insured status based on the fact that Ford is presently abusing the privilege by refusing to pay injured workers). In short, we have been somewhat holding back on legal organizing because it did not seem to be a priority task in the last period of time.

PROPOSAL FOR LEGAL FRACTION

The working class in the USNA is facing a period of increased fascist repression as the economic crises of overproduction, unemployment, and inflation escalate still further. It is clear that we must utilize every arena of struggle, both legal and illegal, given our main task of winning the vanguard of the proletariat to the cause of communism and our principal strategy of the United Front. We must use foresight in organizing all of our resources to meet the fascist offensive.

Specifically, we are faced with the following tasks:

1) Legal defense of the democratic rights of the class

As conditions worsen, actions by militant workers will increase (strikes, demonstrations, etc.) and the state criminal apparatus will be utilized more frequently. Affirmative legal action will also be necessary (i.e., lawsuits to prevent threatened plant closings, unjust firings, deprivation of constitutional rights or rights guaranteed under a union contract)

2) Legal defense of CLP cadre

We can also anticipate that as the CLP grows numerically and its influence becomes more widely apparent, the bourgeois will move against party cadre. In addition to representation in connection with criminal charges, the party and its cadre often need civil representation on matters involving some level of security and trust.

3) Research for party campaigns

The CLP, as it moves more into legal forms of struggle, will need specific information about various laws, governmental agencies, programs, etc.

To accomplish the above political tasks, a nationwide network of lawyers and legal workers who are competent and progressive is needed. (Security might demand that the third task occasionally be performed only by CLP cadre). Cadre are presently functioning within two legal organizations: the National Lawyers Guild and the National Conference of Black Lawyers, both of which are CPUSA front organizations, that is, under the influence of the political line of the CP (even though no CP members are in structural leadership - at least of the NLG). The NLG is a mainly Anglo organization of lawyers, legal workers, and law students which defines itself as "anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, anti-sexist, and anti-racist" and has 4,000 members in 54 cities across the USNA. The dominant political tendency is anarcho-syndicalism which the CPUSA promotes partly by emphasizing the broad liberal base of the organization so as to prevent struggle around political differences. The result is a lack of class analysis and the tendency to see various "struggles" that NLG members support (i.e., prison, labor, military, etc) as virtually competing with each other and having no interconnections. The NCBL, like the NLG, was established as a "progressive" alternative to other bar associations and is all Negro. It is not organized around numerous committee/areas of work (like the NLG) but depends on strong bourgeois nationalism to unite its membership.

Our strategy is to form a NLG fraction and eventually a NCBL fraction (we presently have only one cadre in the NCBL who has only recently begun to be active in it) to consistently put forth the CLP line within these organizations so as to polarize political debate, draw democratic forces to us, and expose the revisionism of the CPUSA. As we move towards structural unity of the NLG and the NCBL we will have yet another forum to fight bourgeois nationalism and white chauvinism.

The formation of these fractions will also accomplish other political tasks. It will enable us to strengthen our nationwide contacts to do legal support work in and for the United Front Against Fascism and will give us the opportunity to recruit the most progressive people we develop.

Specifically as to the NLG, Detroit area legal cadre (as well as one comrade lawyer in Mississippi) already have a substantial base in the Labor Committee and the area of criminal defense work. Contact must be established with the CLP lawyers in Northern California and the CLP Mexican national minority law students in Southern California. Our work within the NLG should be expanded to include Immigration and Military Law (this latter area providing contact with militant groups organizing within the armed forces - an area where we now have no cadre functioning). As to the NCBL, they will shortly be invited to participate in a national labor project with the NLG and hopefully our cadre in the NCBL will be assigned to do this work. Comrades in the legal fraction will mainly utilize semi-annual national meetings of the NLG and submit articles to the national publications of the NLG (in addition to doing work in their local (i.e., city-wide) NLG chapters).

The national NLG fraction would be responsible directly to the Central Committee but its members would still function within street units according to the guidelines set forth in Peters, pp. 75-6:

"That means that members who belong to mass organizations must systematically report to the Unit Bureau or to the Unit meeting about their work. How they bring the various political campaigns of the Party into their mass organizations; about their experiences in recruiting members for the Party; in getting subs for the Daily Worker; on strengthening the influence of the Party by organizing and leading struggles of the members of the unions, Unemployment Councils, ILD, or other mass organizations.

"If the unit regularly hears the reports of these active members, the membership will learn from the experiences of these members; they will be helped to solve their own problems, while at the same time continuously checking on the activities of the members.

"We must realize and recognize the fact that the work of the comrades in the mass organizations is very important. Therefore the Unit should not demand that they take Unit assignments in the same proportion as those members who are not active in the mass organizations. But we should expect all of these comrades to act as Communists in the territory where they live; make friends in their free time among their neighbors; surround themselves with sympathizers and in this way help the Unit get connections with more workers in the territory. An active member of a union or other mass organization cannot excuse his negligence or failure to act as a Communist in the house or territory where he lives."

Finally, a special legal project is proposed for the Detroit Area and the GADTDM firm. GADTDM is generally grounded with workers in basic industry and hospital workers in the Detroit area and has 2-3,000 files (i.e., present and past clients). The cases that we handle result mostly from oppression at the work place (injuries and deaths and firings) plus applications for unemployment and social security benefits. Most of these cases are "small" in the bourgeois sense but are very large and important to the survival of the individual workers and their families. We also do legal support of workers in strikes and support of individual activist and dissident caucuses.

We have started to systematically review all open and closed files for information as to age, sex, place of work, job description, residence, union, nationality, political consciousness and organizational affiliation. The purpose of the review is to categorize people for possible political connections and movement into:

- United Front and fundraisers (demos, rallies, cabarets, etc.)
- street work (leafletting, food coop, community orgs, etc.)
- shop work
- WUPES forums
- School
- Party

This task is obviously a long and complicated one! A Political Committee has been formed within the Law Firm to direct this work. Since GADTDM is not a mass organization it is not appropriate to form a fraction but we will develop a mechanism to insure proper flow of information.

Comradely,

Diane M.

Factory nuclei Class on Legal and illegal work

Reading--Points of affiliation to the Comintern (quoted in Comrade Kilpatrick's pamphlet, "On the struggle against Revisionism," the 12 Points of Bolshevization--J. Stalin (quoted in beginning for the Outline for the study of Marxism-Leninism)

Dimitroff, United Front Against Fascism, "Unity of the Working class", last two sections, "a correct line is not enough" and "Cadre"

W. Pieck, "We are fighting for a Soviet Germany" Report to the 13 Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Comintern, Part V, (our reprint)
Lenin, "The Illegal Party and Legal work" vol. 18 pg. 387 col. works
(our reprint)

Questions for discussion:

1. How is your unit, as a part of the Party, preparing to meet the fascist offensive?
2. What is the relationship between "legal" and "illegal" work? Is Party work ever "legal"? Discuss in relations to your unit's work. How is your unit organized as a "illegal nuclei, establishing strong-points of work in a wide network of legal workers' organizations"?
3. How can comrades in a factory do effective political work without being exposed and fired? If you are not in a factory unit what role should your unit play in protecting the factory nuclei and its work in its concentration area?
4. What is the difference between the Party and the other organizations of the working class? How is this difference the key to the strength and activity of the Party even under the most difficult conditions?
5. What other organizations that influence the working class are here in your area? How do they differ from the CLP?
5. Show how the Party must advance and retreat according to the situation of the class struggle, using your unit's work as an example--.