

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 8 OF 16

FOLDER 1

MCLL POLICY STATEMENTS N  
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I would suggest that in terms of a labor strategy that the following crucial considerations be outlined:

- 1) That it is a fact that within the next year service organizing offers its greatest potential for MOLL and because it is at a stage where radicals can function more openly without being axed. That our primary effort recognize that fact and concentrate on the development of WEU and the Federation.
- 2) Part of the service organizing analysis is the continuing bankruptcy of the city of Detroit; that services will continue to be cut back and the intensity of the struggle will get worse.
- 3) That part of the criticism of the service industry is its shrinking tax base which relates directly to the failure of Chrysler to pay the necessary taxes in the city.
- 4) That Chrysler is the most important corporation in the city of Detroit financially and in terms of the work force and the Lynch complex is the most important focus for organizing in the city of Detroit.
- 5) That one element of service organizing immediately leads to the health industry which is tremendously powerful in this city.
- 6) That pollution and industrial hygiene are areas of increased political struggle in this decade.
- 7) That MIC combines the potential of combining struggle around pollution and industrial hygiene with organizing at the point of production inside and against the most important employer in the city. Moreover it offers a potential for increasing our potential for organizing within the health industry.

TWA therefore MIC not be shelved but that it be completely reevaluated to take on a less parochial viewpoint and generally held to develop a labor strategy vis a vis the industrial working class and the service industry.

There are some very fundamental questions which we must answer:

- 1) Should each individual project of MCLL be self-supporting and what is the process whereby the project is to get help from MCLL?
  - a. Should Changeover raise its own money or will it have to rely on the internal contributions of MCLL cadre? Given that the Changeover staff is now overextended, should there be one person whose primary if not sole responsibility is to raise money, keep the books, etc for the productions, machines, etc.?

PROPOSAL: That a person be assigned to Changeover with the specific responsibility of raising money and keeping the books. But that person must also have the responsibility of making regular reports to the general staff. In addition it is absolutely necessary that it be a clearly articulated policy that the financial secretary will examine the books on a periodic basis. Although for the time being it will be necessary to support Changeover by internal contributions, it is clear that a revolutionary paper of this quality can become self-supporting.

- 2) What is the relationship financially when we co-sponsor a program? What are the financial requirements for MCLL and the Alliance in CCC? Are both organizations now going to be asked to have fund raisers? Or is that responsibility to be placed in the planning committee?

MCLL is the more disciplined organization and provides the primary political leadership for CCC; it therefore has primary responsibility for the financial solvency of CCC. In addition, the financial secretary of MCLL must assume the responsibility for reviewing the books so that they never reach the state that Jo Ann put them in. Once again, that responsibility of the financial secretary must be a clearly articulated policy or else it will appear as an affront for that person to request to see the books.

Up to this point, MCLL has not provided adequate leadership for the financial support of CCC. Apparently, there is a Church back east which wants to support an educational but we have never followed up on that. No report has been made to the general staff of MCLL (let alone the general staff of CCC) concerning the books of CCC.

Finally there should be specific discussions with the Alliance concerning the other responsibilities for helping to finance CCC.

If we begin to see this area of responsibility taken on, with concrete reports being given, then we can talk realistically of the bookstore.

- 3) What is the relationship between MCLL and LDC financially? There has never been a financial report to the GS even though at the present time LDC is financially the most solvent organization that we have. In fact, I personally found out about the proposed plan to get \$50,000.00 from New Detroit at the Executive Board of the Nat'l Lawyers Guild-- this is bad practice. In addition, there is apparently another another proposal for \$40,000.00 from a group on the west coast. The GS should at least have periodic reports of this activity. It is good practice of extreme importance that this money is being raised but the process, the thinking, the knowledge must be integrated into the organization of MCLL.

PROPOSAL: The financial secretary of MCLL should have the responsibility of periodically preparing reports for the GS.

A discussion should immediately begin within the general staff as to how or whether some support of cadre of MCLL is possible. If so, then discussion should start with the Black cadre organization re that possibility.

# Economic Analysis

~~Handwritten scribble~~

- 4) As previously mentioned there exists a matrix of emotions which surround the question of money or even the mention of money. There is a fear of being ripped off and a desire to show commitment through the use of money. The willingness to analyze and discuss the obtaining of money is viewed at times as hucksterism. All of these ideas need to be dealt with openly.

Concretely, there should be a minimal contribution that every cadre in the organization make--at least \$1.00 per week. People should not be requesting "loans" from other cadre which are not loans. There is nothing degrading about asking for financial any more than asking for political education, or knowledge about organizing, etc. Yet I have perceived that those perceptions exists--actual statements to that effect.

- 5) We have failed to collectivize our knowledge about where money can be obtained and we have yet to collectivize the various talents we have to submit proposals, make necessary contacts, or even at the minimum ~~level~~ level of the exchange of information.

Ten months ago the Guru (Saul Wellman) stated that within the year MCLL should have the capacity to define left activity in this city. I'm satisfied that we have the power to do that now. We have developed the internal trust and the political knowledge to move to important new levels of political struggle. Both internally and externally we must begin to develop concepts that will insure that we will deal principally and correctly on questions of money--that one item which has so many emotional, and political ramifications.

January 1971

1170  
The primary political responsibility in this city and the country is the development of a cadre organization containing the following elements: economic, political, and military. If this cadre organization is going to develop it must start here in the city of Detroit among those people with both a history <sup>of struggle</sup> in this city and some ongoing relationships which have developed or can develop through concrete work programs.

The fundamental political philosophy of this cadre must be Marxism-Leninism. Therefore MCLL is absolutely primary as a political organization in that it is directed at the effort of organizing workers at the point of production. If a cadre organization is to develop it must be at the present be directed at white working people; while founded on Marxist-Leninist principles it must speak to American people, their needs and in their language. Those needs are economic, social, psychological, and cultural.

The development of any cadre organization must be organic in form and cannot be created by fiat. We however must create consciously those conditions whereby it can be ~~developed~~ <sup>developed</sup>. That means that we must prepare ourselves to take on the political leadership in different political arenas whereby the allocation of political leadership responsibilities will allow the development of mutual trust <sup>and</sup> understanding so that the division of labor will be based on an efficiently operating organization. In creating such an organization we will have to engage in honest political struggle, assess individual strengths and weaknesses, assign tasks on a collective basis, etc.

- In this development, MCLL has to be shored up and in some ways we must retrace steps already taken. It has certain glaring weaknesses:

- a) the absence and underdevelopment of people in the plants;
- b) the absence and underdevelopment of other people outside the plants who have direct contact with people in the plants--e.g. wives, etc.

#### - STRATEGY FOR 1971 -

- 1) we must continue the present leafleting program to give people <sup>specific</sup> tasks to perform.
- 2) obtain more information on plants where workers are carrying on struggle in the form of wildcats.
- 3) Internal education
  - a) History of labor struggles in this city and the country
  - b) Structure of the UAW in this city
  - c) Knowledge of specific plants where we are concentrating or have people:
    - 1) Know such things as who runs what parts of the plants, what connections that person has inside the corporation, etc.
    - 2) Know the foreman, the primary complaints, the nature and structure of the union local
  - d) Program for developing internal security
  - e) What does it mean to be an organizer? How can we develop "organizers in the plants"?
- 4) Establish contacts with other labor organizations such as UAW, United National Caucus, Rank and File Conference (2/71), The Players, IS PL, etc.
- 5) Must begin to have meetings with life including a mailing with each meeting as well as phone calls the day of the meeting. Must develop shop reports, allocate responsibilities beyond this group, etc.

## Some Clarifications on the MOTOR CITY LABOR LEAGUE

### 1. How is MCLL organized?

The Motor City Labor League is organized on a democratic-centralist basis. This means that there are various work and leadership structures in MCLL and that both leadership people and broad organization policy is decided on by VOTE in each aspect of the organization including the organization as a whole. Once decisions are made by democratic process every member is expected to work on the programs decided upon.

What about minority opinions? Any person or group holding a position different from the majority may continue to put their view forth and attempt to convince people that their view is correct, in the meantime, they are expected to contribute to the decision which is in place.

### 2. How does MCLL support itself financially?

MCLL cadre are expected to contribute financially to the organization. We have a tight budget and rely on our membership to be regular and consistent in their contributions. We are "bargain" conscious and attempt to get our material from the cheapest possible supplier. We provide access to bulk purchased supplies, at cost, to others in the Detroit area, including the Alliance. We often rely on the skills of ourselves and other politically active people to reduce what would otherwise become high costs: typesetting, layout, carpentry, electrical work, etc. We are fundamentally "self-sufficient" and in fact, provide services and reduced cost to others.

### 3. What are our "politics?"

Despite an appearance of strength and invincibility, we do not believe that capitalist exploitation is inevitable. We do not believe that the ruling class is more powerful than the great majority of people in the United States or the world. We do believe that the vast majority of people not in the ruling class, we who do not own or control the means of production, MUST ORGANIZE OURSELVES, to resist and defeat the ruling class. WITHOUT ORGANIZATION, LEADERSHIP, POLITICAL STUDY, HUMAN SOCIALIST RELATIONS AND COURAGE we will not be able to reclaim the wealth or power of America and end imperialist exploitation of other nations. Pollution, racial and sexual inequity and role models, tiring and alienated work, taxes and social services, crime and drugs, international wars of atrocity will require an analysis and a strategy to be defeated. And the cooperative effort of many organizational forms.

### 4. What is discipline? What does it mean to be a disciplined organization?

This means that we are all conscious of the need to be responsible for the work and commitment that is expected of us. That we are still in the early stages of a large and powerful force within our class--a force for the socialist transformation of the political, economic and personal lives of our society--for power to organize the society to serve people and not profit.

That struggle is long and very hard. We must be careful to protect people and organizations from being attacked and destroyed by the Richard Nixons and Henry Fords and John Nichols, without compromising our commitment or ability to put forth our political perspective and learn from the perspectives of others.

Agents, provocateurs, wiretapping, arrests, job loss are all real possibilities, and we wish to make it as difficult as possible for the ruling class and their government agencies to silence revolutionary thought and action in this country. Hence we do not make known everything about how we are organized internally, we seek to protect some members in particularly vulnerable occupational positions from job loss, etc.

5. What do we expect of ourselves as "cadre"?

A. Initiative

1. to raise questions, to recognize issues.
2. to organize, politically, around any arena of work.
3. to actively participate-take political positions-at organizational meetings.

B. Willingness to struggle

1. responsible for reading and study
2. responsible for analysis of own practice and practice of others
3. practice of criticism and self-criticism

C. Work

1. willingness to do any assigned labor, including both physical and intellectual and initiative to see work that must be done and do it
2. willingness to share work skills and help develop those skills in other cadre.
3. responsible for meeting assignments deadlines with work fully completed.
4. responsible for raising and resolving all problems affecting political production
5. responsible for maintaining, developing and repairing "comradely" relations with all persons with whom one works.

D. Commitment

1. willingness to allow maximum deprivatization of personal resources:
  - a. time, b. energy, c. skills, d. material.
2. willingness to accept organizational leadership and discipline.
3. willingness to challenge organizational leadership and discipline.
4. personal discipline
  - a. maintain good physical condition, b. maintain secure legal status, c. personally organize time in order to maximize quantity and quality of organizational work.

6. What does "assignment" mean?

Because there is so much work that could be done and never enough time or people to do it all at any given moment we make decisions on priorities and needs as we understand them. Through a collective process we come to decisions on how and where cadre will spend their time. Some cadre work in plants, some in offices, some in schools, hospitals or as lawyers, some in CCC, IPC, etc. For some cadre the Alliance is a very time consuming and important part of our political life. Hence it is an "assignment." All work that all cadre do, when understood and supported by the organization, are "assignments."



## Suggested Sustainers Letter

The challenge of the 70's is the creation of a serious white revolutionary movement in this country, and the creation of an organizational form to lead that struggle is of paramount importance. Historically, Michigan is the center for the development of these movements.

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The Motor City Labor League represents a very important step toward the creation of a serious white revolutionary force in the city of Detroit. The programs of MCLL are many and varied: MCLL sponsors Control, Conflict and Change Bookclub; it puts out the newspaper Changeover; it assists in numerous plant and union struggles; MCLL people have been key in the development and support of the People's Peace Treaty, the Alliance, the Three for Three Food Coop, and the Labor Defense Coalition. MCLL people have taken leadership positions within the National Lawyers Guild.

We are fighting the vicious slaughter by STRESS officers here in Detroit and we are fighting the vicious murder by the U.S. military in Vietnam. The people who have formed the MCLL come from many areas of struggle within our City; people who have a history in Detroit, who are committed to and who know this City intimately. We are in the plants, in the offices and in the community. We are students, lawyers, community organizers, housewives, legal workers, teachers-- we are of the people of Detroit. ~~And~~ MCLL members have traveled to Hanoi and Paris in recognition of the international nature of our struggle.

In the midst of these actions, we have spent much time ~~the~~ studying and working together so that we can begin to act as a cohesive unit--a process which is very time consuming and difficult. We have many problems. New programs must be continually developed. We project an expansion of CCC by September 1972 to include a bookstore and educational center for the City. In addition, this City must have a women's <sup>center</sup> and child care center within the next year. Many programs yet to be developed need a strategical direction if they are to be successful; such a strategy for action comes only from intense study and action. We face a major obstacle in the implementation of these programs. That brings us to the reason why you have received this letter--our primary obstacle is money. The Motor City Labor League needs money, and we are turning to you because of our belief that your commitment to and involvement in struggle is deep and unquestioned.

We ask that you agree to become a sustainer of the Motor City Labor League. We would most appreciate a monthly pledge, the amount to be determined by you. As a token of our appreciation you will receive a membership in CCC and a subscription to Changeover. In addition, we would appreciate quarterly meetings to share ideas, problems, and to socialize.

Many of our programs are run on a shoestring so ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup> contribution would be highly appreciated.

Suggested endings:

- ① sign the enclosed card and return to this address
- ② Someone from MCLL will call you.
- ③ Could you call such and such a number.

etc.

# Proposed Sustainers Letter

The challenge of the 70's is the creation of a serious white revolutionary movement in this country, and the creation of an organizational form to lead that struggle is of paramount importance. Historically, Michigan is the center for the development of these movements. ~~Nowhere else in the country~~

~~is there a more active and militant white revolutionary movement than in Michigan.~~  
~~Michigan is the center for the development of these movements.~~  
~~Nowhere else in the country~~

The Motor City Labor League represents a very important step toward the creation of a serious white revolutionary force in the city of Detroit. The programs of MCLL are many and varied: MCLL sponsors Control, Conflict and Change Bookclub; it puts out the newspaper Changeover; it assists in numerous plant and union struggles; MCLL people have been key in the development and support of the People's Peace Treaty, the Alliance, the Three for Three Food Coop, and the Labor Defense Coalition. MCLL people have taken leadership positions within the National Lawyers Guild.

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In the midst of these actions, we have spent much time ~~of~~ studying and working together so~~o~~ that we can begin to act as a cohesive unit--a process which is very time consuming and difficult. We have many problems. New programs must be continually developed. We project an expansion of CCC by September 1972 to include a bookstore and educational center for the City. In addition, this City must have a women's <sup>center</sup> and child care center within the the next year. Many programs yet to be developed need a strategical direction if they are to be successful; *such a strategy for action comes only from intense study and action.* We face a major obstacle in the implementation of these programs. That brings us to the reason why you have received this letter--our primary obstacle is money. The Motor City Labor League needs money, and we are turning to you because of our belief that your commitment to and involvement in struggle is deep and unquestioned.

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- ① sign the enclosed card and return to this address
- ② Someone from MCL will call you.
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*etc.*

6) Chuck Gayney

Possible sustainers

- 1) ANN Neydon  
1130 Parker, Apt. 309  
Detroit 48207
- 2) Laurer Howard  
1130 Parker, Apt. 309  
Detroit 48207
- 3) Thomas Taylor  
75 E. Parkhurst  
Detroit 48203
- 4) Scott Schraeger, MRS.
- 5) Allen Houseman

The last few weeks have been a very disturbing period of time for me and I sincerely believe that MCLL faces some fundamental political questions which if decided incorrectly will have extremely bad effects. I am not a ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ good writer ~~WAX/WAXX~~ and I therefore request that this paper be read in its entirety and carefully regardless of how dull it gets in spots.

The most important question which has been raised is the termination of MIC. ~~But in that context many questions have been raised about the future of MIC~~ There are however other tendencies w/in the organization which I suppose must wait for another paper.

#### THE CRITICISMS OF MIC

1) There is a general criticism of MIC that it has now "been in existence for one year" and it still does not have an "organizing strategy". Historically, MIC was first thought of as a possibility in March 1971. At that time, MCLL was not a cadre formation but rather a collective attempting to become a cadre formation consisting of about 12 people. We had little if any information about the area, we knew nothing about the medical profession and we had absolutely no labor organizers (JT was not a member). Since that time, we have accumulated a great deal of information, we have specific contacts in the plant (Eldon) and in the community. We have now a handle on and can begin to organize the medical community which arose as a necessity from MIC. We now have specific legitimacy inside UNC, an item of primary importance in 3/71. We should remember that in 3/71 we were so desperate that we were talking of a joint organizing project w/UNC because they were the only group w/ any people in the plants who would relate to us.

We should compare historically LDC which was first conceived of in 11/70. We assigned one of our most experienced and qualified organizers to that form and in fact have had an office for approximately 10 months. Besides, we have had about \$5,000.00 to work with over the last 10 months. During that time, LDC has done little if anything in terms of labor organizing and it absolutely has no labor organizing strategy that I have seen articulated or even alluded to. In addition, it has a major lawsuit involving approximately 4 lawyers for a long time. All of this has not resulted in one item of labor activity per se which directly benefits LDC - ~~WFEED decides it is a strike organizing project.~~ Compare for instance that the MIC people have put out over 50,000 leaflets; carried out a major survey in the area and have distributed approximately 3000 copies of Changeover--all of which is directly related to an attack on Chrysler, the single largest employer in the city.

2) Do we have an organizing strategy for MIC? We have at least elements of an organizing strategy which relates directly to the industrial working class. The Chrysler complex was chosen for strategic reasons:

- (a) Chrysler is the most important employer in the city.
- (b) The Lynch complex is the most important Chrysler complex in Wayne county - *perhaps in the country.*
- (c) The complex is relatively new. Huber Foundry is only 7 years old and cannot be phased out w/in the foreseeable future. GM and Ford are phasing out their inner-city plants.
- (d) The complex has a history of struggle both inside and outside the plant. No other plant complex that I know of has that history--surely not in the immediate vicinity and certainly not one that is not being phased out.

In thinking of an alternative area for doing industrial organizing I can think of no other plant complex which offers the same potential. An alternative "strategy" for specifically relating to the industrial working class certainly has not been presented. Speaking in terms of "strategy" it clearly is important also to think of the national movements which are moving in the direction of industrial hygiene. With MIC, we will be on the ground floor with people trained to relate specifically to the area and to the subject. That means that money will become available, that the national press will begin to talk about the entire question of industrial hygiene and that the medical profession will begin to respond to these pressures. By shelving MIC we lose all of the potential which goes with having been there first and having already made an analysis. *That has strategic importance in how we move in the next year.*

3) The most telling criticism for MIC is that the racial composition of the area is heavily Black and that the people we now relate to are too old for organizing. That criticism speaks more to moving to the suburbs to do industrial organizing and I have not heard that run as an alternative, nor do I believe people are prepared to run that as an alternative. Even that does not speak to the racial composition of the Lynch road assembly plant and its potential for organizing. There is nothing to indicate that the entire area surrounding the complex is old--on the contrary I get the impression that there are many ~~young~~ younger families in the area. For those who offer this as a criticism I believe that it is at least incumbent on them to indicate what other plants could be organized within the next year or two and why our energies should be pointed in that direction. This gets back to that question of labor strategy--what for instance will the POW offer to address itself to the industrial working class. How will the Federation provide us any grounding in the industrial working class? How will the labor school fill that void? What can LDC do to generate cadre in the plants and what plants will it focus on?

4) There is no money and there is no place--this is offered as a criticism of MIC. Yet those people who have the potential to generate that money have not done so. To give an example--SM, LC, and JR spent 2 days and nights developing a proposal which copped 5000.00 for LDC. These are 3 of our most valuable cadre who have the most extensive contacts in obtaining money; yet that effort has not been expended for MIC. As I understand it, LDC hopes to obtain \$40,000.00 w/in the next 2 months; that is done w/ little or no discussion w/in the general staff as to priorities for obtaining money or organizing strategy in terms of the direction of our efforts. There has not been over 5 meetings of the executive board, that I am aware of to even discuss this strategy. That same criticism applies to the idea that no written details as to the organizing efforts in the clinic--none exist as to LDC but it is not being shelved.

5) The defeat of J.U.; J.T. permanent separation from the area, we have no cadre in this area. These criticisms are real and go directly to an overall criticism of MCLL--we have no base in the industrial proletariat. The problem is circular; the intention of MIC from the beginning was to develop cadre--train ours, and obtain cadre from the plants and the community. In fact, if MIC were to get off the ground many of the problems of LDC in terms of functioning as a viable coalition and supporting that organizing effort would be solved. At that point, the anti-repression aspect of LDC could have a real labor focus. *W/o MIC, LDC will focus on service organizing.*

*to be about to*  
My major concern is that we scuttle the only program we have that relates directly to the industrial proletariat <sup>and we have</sup> no generalized or specific program to take its place. That means that we have absolutely no labor strategy vis a vis the industrial proletariat, or we have specifically decided that our organizing efforts will be directed in the service area: the white collar work force, the Federation, hospital workers, or even the place of work section which at most will have 3 people at the point of production. I don't think that decision can be made by simple expediency (we don't have the people or we don't have the base). The simple fact of the matter is that we are not going to get the people or the base until we develop some ~~thing~~ which has some concrete possibility of developing cadre at the point of production. *Either work through a program or through the assignment of people at the point of production.*

Many of the left groups that we have known have a terrible history in dealing with financial problems. In both the BWC and the LRBW, the irresponsibility and general negligence in financial matters was merely a reflection of the political irresponsibility of both cadre and the organizations. But in addition there have been many other financial mistakes--Ad Hoc for instance has paid much more in taxes that was in fact legally necessary which developed from bad advice. Besides bad advice and negligence, most voluntary organizations fail to keep books; very few know where their money comes from and where they spend it. Not knowing much about their financial program, no groups that I ~~have~~ know have made any analysis of the political significance of how to raise money, from whom and the political ramifications as to how money is raised.

We have never analyzed the entire complex of ideas that surround the question of money--having it or getting it. We were raised poor--to hate, envy, respect people with money--to hate ourselves for not having money and to hate ourselves for wanting to have money. This is not an abstract discussion of a general problem because it has concrete results in this organization. We have seen a general inability or unwillingness to talk specifically and concretely about the political significance of careful handling of money and the importance of being constantly conscious of where and how money can be raised. We have seen the most incredible sensitivity about the keeping of books; in fact, I have on repeated occasions seen extreme defensiveness whenever I asked to see the books of either Changeover or CCC--I have never asked to see the books of ~~SDA~~<sup>LDC</sup>. This reaction is not only incorrect (although it is understandable given our upbringing), it more importantly interferes with open and honest discussion about to use our money internally--everyone recognizes that money means power but we never discuss the particulars of that.