

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 9 OF 16

FOLDER 14

ALLIANCE NOTES MINUTES

FLYERS 1973 74

AFFIRMATIONS

WE AFFIRM:

1. The Alliance is a valuable instrument for constructive mobilization of politically-concerned and progressively-oriented persons in the Detroit metropolitan area.
2. The Alliance has developed into a vital force through the efforts of many dedicated persons.
3. The Alliance as an organized group and as individuals must encourage and respect the viewpoints, commitments, activities and development of each of its members.
4. The future vitality of the Alliance as a mass organization demands not only respect for the diversity of progressive political perspectives within it, but also the formation of structures to develop and capitalize on such diversity.
 - (a.) Individual members of the Alliance have the right to be either aligned or unaligned with progressive groups other than the Alliance.
 - (b.) Any group within the Alliance has the right to organize, discuss and decide upon political viewpoints regarding internal or external matters.
 - (c.) Any individual has the right to dissent or not participate in Alliance programs on the basis of personal and/or political conscience.
 - (d.) Members have the responsibility of bringing dissent out into the open.
5. The Alliance belongs to its total membership, which should make major decisions.
6. The Alliance is committed to relating to other progressive groups.

CONCERNS

WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT:

1. Maintaining the identity and independence of the Alliance with its own principles, structures, and political programs.
2. The disfunctional relationships that have arisen among some individuals and working groups within the Alliance since the internal problems of MCLL surfaced.
3. The serious impairment of vital progressive activities which may result from unresolved tensions within the Alliance.
4. The vitality of the Alliance--as reflected in such things as:
 - the low participation of over half of the Alliance in Alliance general membership meetings.
 - the low energy and productivity of some task forces.
 - members' financial commitments that are seriously in arrears.
 - the failure to continue to generate action programs comparable to the food coop (community outreach).
5. The feeling of some Alliance members that the cadre nature of MCLL has the effect of compromising the independence of the Alliance. (Cadre is interpreted to mean that its members are bound to vote the MCLL position at Alliance meetings.)
6. Maintaining a politically-progressive organization open to any progressive individual willing to explore a Socialist/Humanist perspective--which perspective needs clarification within the Alliance.

ALL NON-MCLL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP WHICH FORMULATED THESE AFFIRMATIONS AND CONCERNS ARE INVITED TO COME TO BETTY AND JIM JOHNSON'S ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, AT 8:00 P.M. (15347 MURRAY HILL--BETWEEN GREENFIELD AND SOUTHFIELD; NORTH OF FENKELL)

ROUGH DRAFT

1. Possible ways of Alliance relating to cadre organization(s)
 - a) Continue as before
 - b) modify the present (with caucus groups plus other communications improvements below)
 - c) MCLL limit role along lines in their November proposal (structural)
 - d) MCLL leave Alliance but continue relationship on programs
 - e) dissolve Alliance (not desired by anyone we know)
 - f) other Prepare slate of 5 non-MCLL members and endorse and work for their election to CoR.
 - g) Develop a series of discussions with MCLL re MCLL structure and our
2. Giving more serious consideration and evaluation to CoR elections: mutual concerns
 - a) require formal statements of positions key to Alliance in writing a week previous to elections
 - B) have opportunity to hear and question candidates on issues
 - c) copies of CoR minutes available from here on, including vote tabulations identified
 - d) have CoR positions on quota basis in relation to size of caucuses/ cadre groups, independents, etc.
 - e) clarify and communicate to members the election process: how nominations happen, etc.
3. Improving communications:
 - a) newsletter every two weeks (preferably in time to give advance notice about meeting content, decisions to be made, CoR discussion, etc to also include Task Force activities, personal news of members (births, new jobs, etc.)
 - b) If no newsletter, send out serious proposals members have to decide before the meeting when decision is to be made, along with CoR discussion on the issue.
 - c) careful notetaking at CoR and general membership meetings, available to members who are away, unable to attend, etc.)
4. Improving meetings:
 - a) reassess timing-eg.would a Saturday workshop once a month be better - meal, internal education, etc.
 - b) provide more formal internal education especially on issues like the meaning of socialism, Marxism-Leninism, vital, geared to needs of members, reading material provided, etc.
5. Growth
 - a) reconsider decision to become a "mass organization" in view of not having structures presently to deal with many new members.
 - b) reconsider decision to make Task Forces optional - has this led to debilitation of task forces --
 - c) make entry and exit procedures formal and clear
 - d) have more than one orientation meeting - follow up attendance at a general Alliance meeting with another orientation. Discuss the socialist perspective, etc.
 - e) some measures to make dues more serious as a commitment
6. expansion of 1-b above: give formal recognition/meeting times, etc to caucus groups which already exist within Alliance (?) but which is presently operative on organized basis among MCLL members. Provide meetings for caucuses to present "programs", "principles", etc.

THIS

IS A WORKING DRAFT.

ONLY ITEM #1 HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, AND THAT

RELATIVELY BRIEFLY. IT IS A CONSOLIDATION OF SUGGESTIONS WHICH CAME OUT OF THE FIRST TWO MEETINGS HELD BY SOME NON-MCLL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE IN A SINCERE EFFORT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A TIGHTLY-DISCIPLINED CADRE GROUP OPERATING WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

We of the Alliance have, through internal education, practice in social change efforts, and the simple act of living in the U.S., concluded that the society in which we live is not organized for the well-being of its residents.

Although the economic growth of the country has improved the general standard of living for many of us, those who benefit most from such growth remain the 1.7% of the population which owns and controls the productive resources of the country.

One fifth of our population continues to live below the poverty line, and two-thirds earn less than a minimum adequate income. Although the affluence of the few stands out, the reality continues to be poverty for much too large a sector of the population. And for most of us, even a little comfort must be purchased on credit which binds us to unending debt.

It is obvious that things are not working as we were taught they should. The old myth that the wealth of the few could be duplicated eventually by the many, has proven to be a colossal trick. Such myths have served only to generate feelings of guilt and self-depreciation in those who don't "make it". We know now that capitalism is structured in such a way that the majority cannot ever live securely. We know also that the ruling class relies on our continued belief that only our own inadequacies prevent capitalism from working for all of us. We no longer believe that we are inadequate. We know that capitalist society is an inadequate form for achieving decent human life.

It is no accident that the wealthiest country in the world is not able to finance necessary social services for the vast majority of its people. Our taxes increase continuously. Yet the services we should expect from these taxes continue to decline as the taxes rise. Where does the money go?

We are told that domestic social services are inflationary. We are told that people should be self-sufficient and not depend on government support. We know, however, that it is massive military expenditure that is inflationary. We know that General Motors, ITT, Ford and Honeywell depend on the government to support and secure their expanding profits at home and abroad through increased military force and governmental regulation of economic exploitation. We know that 60% of our taxes are used to secure profit for a few, rather than domestic services to benefit all of us.

The mounting profits of the largest corporations are directly subsidized by the federal government. Private corporations profit first because we are paid less than the value of our labor. They profit again from our labor when our tax money is used to purchase space ships and military hardware at inflated prices.

We are taught to believe in self-determination. We are taught that people should participate in making the decisions which affect their lives. Yet our resources are increasingly used to battle against the self-determination struggles of people all over the world.

Everywhere people are resisting economic and military domination. The Vietnamese have done so for two thousand years. Black Americans have done so for 350 years. Native Americans have done so for 400 years. White Americans have done so for at least 250 years. Increasingly the government functions at the direction

of those who own and control the nation's resources to suppress such resistance to domination. As resistance increases all over the world, the need of the ruling class for military strength increases. The economic crises which accompany this process only increase the level of struggle among people. And so the circles continue. State military power is used to prevent the erosion of private corporate power. The Green Berets, STRESS, the CIA, AID, FBI, National Guard, and B-52's have become the inevitable "services" provided by capitalist government.

Naked repression is assisted by the social and psychological control dynamics which have been socialized into us by the cultural institutions of the ruling class. We are taught to compete with each other, to define life as a ruthless jungle in which isolated individuals vie for power.

We are taught to support and perpetuate racism so that we can fight among ourselves rather than unite to define and defeat the common enemy. We are taught to define ourselves by what we are not, rather than what we are, to identify everyone who does not share our particular culture or physical characteristics as inferior. We are taught to love the rhetoric of future freedom and peace so that we might passively accept the present realities of oppression and war.

We are taught that one half of the human species should function in servitude to the other half. Men learn to define their worth by the degree to which they can control the lives of women. And women learn to define their worth by the degree to which men desire to control them. We are taught that children are clay to be molded by adults who have passed through the seasoning process of authoritarian institutions, rather than people free to mold and develop their own experiences. We are taught to be afraid of each other, afraid of ourselves, afraid of the unfamiliar, and afraid of struggle.

Though the power of the ruling class tends to be concentrated, the vulnerability and long term demise of its position is becoming more evident. The Vietnamese people, fighting the most massive and unrestrained battle of people against technology in our world's history, have demonstrated that the defeat of the monster is possible.

More and more, the American people are turning away from support of a system which continues to polarize the distribution of wealth, and has failed to use its potential to satisfy the needs of people. More and more, the American people are expressing their discontent, searching for some way to meet their needs, increase their participation, and make self-determination a reality for all people.

Largely because the apparatus of capitalism socializes people to feel powerless and isolated from each other, discontent does not necessarily move people to progressive struggle. People who feel powerless often fasten their hopes on demagogic leaders like Wallace, believing that, merely because he articulated some presumed causes of the problem, he will lead people to the solutions. History tells us that discontent can be channeled by the ruling class into fascist solutions, if we cannot overcome our racism and our passivity, and struggle long and consciously enough for truly progressive solutions.

The Alliance is seeking solutions to the problems cited above in a manner which provides for the achievement of human goals, participation of all people in the decision-making, and an end to the destruction and pillage of other societies. We are seeking an end to the exploitation of all working people for the increase of private profit, and an end to the State oppression of those attempting to build a human society

Out of a definition of what is wrong with this society flows a conception of what might be done to correct the wrongs. Out of the struggle for self-determination and a human life, the new society will evolve.

We must work to control the institutions, workplaces and governments which affect our lives and should serve us. Such forms must grow out of the full participation and answer to the full needs of all people.

We must totally restructure the economic life of the nation, so that wealth is evenly distributed, labor is cooperative, private profit and exploitation are absent, and work is a socially integrated life function organically related to all other life functions.

We must insist on full, meaningful employment for all, with encouragement and reward given to those contributing to the production of those commodities which fulfill the needs of the 25% of the citizens of this country who are most in need.

We can organize to end bureaucratic work divisions, support the right of employees to make decisions about work roles, production rates and goals, and to elect supervisors and managers.

We must totally restructure the governmental life of the nation, so that it is no longer an executive committee for the ruling class, but a series of institutions controlled by our people as a whole. We must establish national priorities which result in democratic planning to meet the needs of all groups in this nation.

We must end racism. We can organize to end racism in educational tracking, employment opportunity and status, community services, and open access to all institutions, including the right to self-determination.

We must end imperialism of every variety. We must return stolen access to the resources of other countries to the people who live in those countries. We must define non-exploitative forms of exchange to share the resources of the world equitably.

We must create an international diplomacy based on support for the self-determination of all people and mutual assistance and cooperation. We must end the military occupation of over thirty countries by the U.S. and make reparations for the damage caused by the imperialist war on the Indochinese people.

We must transform the material, psychological and family relationships of all people so that women are no longer oppressed, and children are no longer treated as the slaves of adults.

We can organize to support daycare programs, equal pay and opportunity in employment, an end to sex role tracking in schools and training, and adequate medical care, including maternity care, paid maternity leave, and the right to abortion.

We can organize for open education, controlled by the community of youth, teachers and parents.

We can organize to end the legal restrictions placed on women and youth.

We must continuously create new cultural forms which express the process of struggle, freedom, unity, love and respect. A revolutionary culture will arise organically from the experiences of developing a changed society.

Educational facilities, public housing, mass transit, free recreational and cultural facilities, free health programs and health education, free child care, must be socially supported.

We must end police occupation of low-income communities. We must initiate a system of justice.

We must turn technology and scientific knowledge into tools for averting ecological destruction, conquering disease, improving the conditions of work and daily life.

Those who presently claim power over our lives will not easily give it up. We cannot passively stand by and wait for the collapse of the monster. The monster can only collapse as a result of the pressures created by people struggling to determine the content of their lives. The Alliance intends to be a part of that struggle.

1. Members shall be brought into the organization by:

- a. nomination by an active Alliance member
- b. approval of C.O.R.
- c. participation in a new member orientation meeting
- d. subsequent participation in the next Alliance meeting without voting privileges
- e. notification of membership committee regarding intention to join
- f. notification of finance committee regarding dues pledge

2. Alliance membership must reflect a serious political commitment. Minimally members are expected to:

- It is the spirit of that commitment which will req. us fully to participate fully in the following:*
- a. consistently participate in general membership meetings and other programs of internal education.
 - b. to participate ~~as possible~~ in task forces ^{task committees} and to support the programs of the Alliance. *Part compulsory*
 - c. to pledge economic support of 1% of gross or net income. Students and unemployed members are expected to make a minimum contribution of one dollar per month. It is expected that dues be paid on a regular monthly basis unless other arrangements are made with the finance committee.

- d. to participate ^{as possible} in the Control, Conflict, and Change Book Club *realizing that it provides a collective educational experience a common base*

3. Alliance Supporters: a category of relationships to the Alliance for persons unable to commit themselves to active participation in the organization but are supportive of its goals and programs.

- a. they will receive regular Alliance mailings
- b. be welcome to participate in open meetings
- c. support as possible programs of the Alliance
- d. be expected to contribute at least \$5 annually to cover mailing expenses. Additional financial support is welcome.

4. Resignation: when it is necessary for a member to leave the Alliance for any reason, a letter of resignation should be submitted to C.O.R. Resigning members are encouraged to discuss with C.O.R. reasons for their decision, and can request that their letters of resignation be published in the newsletter. Likewise C.O.R. may wish to respond in the newsletter to the resignations.

Vicki, Margaret
M. Miller

Paul

Betty

Church is a vol.
org. w/ a long history.
As a result - it has
worked thru a
of basic org. p
Qs facing vol. orgs,
so that other

ALLIANCE INTERNAL EDUCATION PROPOSAL: SOCIALISM

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop class consciousness of Alliance members to a higher level: historical understanding of our class- locally, nationally, and internationally.
2. To enable Alliance members to understand socialism as a realizable goal for our class in America.
3. To develop curiosity among Alliance members about socialism and our class which will lead people to do further study beyond this program.

PROCESS

1. Three (3) general sessions.
2. Seven (7) home study group sessions at 4 locations.
3. Minimal readings in the form of handouts, etc.
4. Bibliography and selection of other books to be available for people desiring to do more in depth reading and study.

FORMAT

2/21/73	Home study session	Introduction and terms: dialectical materialism, idealism
3/7/73	Home study session	Communist Manifesto; Paris Commune
3/16	General session	Overview History of Marxism
3/21	Home study session	Russian Revolution: Lenin
4/4	Home study session	Russian Civil War through Stalin
4/13	General study session	American Labor History
4/18	Home study session	American Radical History
5/2	Home study session	Third World Revolutions
5/11	General session	White collar workers and socialism
5/16	Home study session	Socialist perspective on sexism, racism, and the war.

E. Rooney

Expects one of objectives to understand socialism vis à vis capitalism
Needs Huxley and Sorely intro to Socialism.

Educated Task Force Report

The Education Task Force presented a program to the Alliance on Friday, October 27. It was the intent of the Task Force for the membership to deal with adults' relationships with young people, especially in the Alliance. Problems and concerns about young Alliance members were brought out. After several short talks and skits, members met in small groups. Each group talked about their concerns with children.

The four sections below summarize what went on in these discussion groups.

I. Since childcare is necessary for Friday night meetings, a good way of handling it needs to be developed. Babysitters are the best way, but that is a cop-out if we believe in Alliance members sharing responsibility. Still, if we had regular babysitters whom children could get to know, that would be good.

Parents have an input about their children which could be helpful for childcare workers to know. Since the parents are with their children daily, they would know more things about the children. This information could also be helpful for our task force so we would know better in what direction to go.

Some political education should be in children's meetings. Perhaps movies would be a good means to do this.

Childcare is only once a month at alternate meetings. Therefore, it is appropriate to have age groupings.

An investment should be made in building games and things for children so that they could work together.

II. The second group brought out some more ideas especially about children's programs.

Political education programs similar to the Children's Work Shops that were held last year should be continued.

Older children should be involved with helping younger children since it is seen as beneficial for both age groups.

Adults have too low an expectation of what children can do. For example, they could have worked on the Education Task Force presentation this evening. Children should be expected to do something because they can be responsible.

Trying to de-class children by age does not always work. This might help older children, but it shouldn't be expected to help younger children.

Children should not be put down for interrupting Alliance meetings.

III. The third group discussed many of their philosophical ideas and their reactions to previous children's programs.

It is good for children to take an active part in the Alliance.

They should be doing what they want to do and we should not push political lines on them. It is not necessary that they be "taught" a political line for even getting together doing things in a different style from public schools is political.

Definite activities on Friday nights is very important. It would also be good for younger people to have a specific area to meet in while the general meeting is going on.

IV. The fourth group summarized their discussion with a list.

Children should have sessions. The adults should be the general setting on the same subject. The adults should share the responsibility of working with them. We can learn from children politically.

Something of interest to children should be planned. We should not be so jealous of the time we spend in meetings that we won't spend time with children.

We must recognize some of the problems with children. For some children get on their nerves. They have had their fill of dealing with children. Parents can be very possessive of children. There is a tremendous socialization process in what we're up against in changing our way of being with children.

Perhaps a parents' group is just as important as a children's group.

Let the children over 7 come to meetings if they want to come. Also let them participate in the children's program leadership.

All of the groups brought out several important ideas concerning childcare and what the Alliance members can do to deal with children. It was felt that this Oct. 27th meeting started people thinking about children differently and raised questions about the whole process of childhood that we as adults need to be responsive to. Therefore, the Education Task Force would like to plan another program for a general meeting.

Membership, elections, green sheet, internet
education

Announcements

Proposal re Tim Muth.

Membership 95-80 ppl - active Alliance members
26 ppl. Cindy + Tim Rich.

- What kinds of issues shall discussions in
its mtgs, issues it takes org'l positions
on, what sort of tinkling power around
particular issues exist around votes?

Does MCLL discuss issues that come
in the Alliance + vote on those?

How does that insure that there is
debate + openness to pts that are
raised?

- How does MCLL see Q of identification
of Alliance + MCLL?

- What do members of Alliance see their relationship
to MCLL - helpful?

- Are there secret MCLL members - num for office.

- Loss of religious christian orientation by
non of resignation? Is communism really atheistic?

- How does MCLL assign ppl to Alliance.
How many members of MCLL are in Alliance?

week

①

7²
15

10

20

2.50

2.50

7.00

3.00

3.00

5.00

15.00

4.00

3.50

10.00

25.

7.50

7.50

2.50

10.00

5.00

15.00

5.00

177.50

6

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \overline{) 180} \\ \underline{60} \\ 120 \\ \underline{60} \\ 60 \\ \underline{60} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

At Mellon
 Mrs. B. Baker

- George Coleman -

- 3 issues: ① Work nonproductive bec. of dynamics of split.
② Priority to bid on KVC candidacy. Doubtful that those pol. priorities wd be followed.
③ Pol. allies wd like to do work bec. of attack on these ppl by MCLL.

Dave Brist

10/3/72 - Who sponsor CCC. Not truly democratic. How cable org. relates to + functions of a mass org.

Who are ppl like Sandy leaving?
Monday night G.S. mtg - not incorrect to send out the blue letter. Disturbed by that mtg. GS becomes a lower priority.

Alliance - MCLL proposal. Special Sunday afternoon mtg - outside org. making a proposal to C.D.R.

No structural relationship to MCLL.

Alliance give \$100/month to CCC - D.B. is opposed.

Small commitment to From the Ground Up.

Peg Rosa

Pol. assessment of Alliance - experienced a pattern of haphazard redefining as evening.
Personally will not engage in outside mtgs.

Ann Brennan

Stallmate -

Values the work of Alliance + MCLL

JCR + KVC crucial. Focus on pol. activity in Det. + W/Group that focus in Det.

Sandy Brist

Money situation - ppl behind in dues.

Financial contribution to CCC - no intention of financial support.

Tom Brennan -

Resigns regrettably.

Represents a minority viewpoint.

Appeal to W.C. - not enough time

Wants W.C. to control the group,
interested in Det.

Work with those
who agree

Jess Christman 2 Qs - ① Can Alliance exist w/ or w/o MCLC

- No accountability, secret members.

- Too much energy, too much talent too narrowly
focused.

- MCLC will use Alliance for own ends.

Understanding too tight not to threaten others.

Commitment to pol. correctness overrides humans.

B.P.F.

Inner directed to resolve issues,

Gordon Greenup,

Marge Baly

Hoping that it will become professional
etc.

Berna Freikman - member for 1 yr. Struggle for
struggle - can't struggle w/in Alliance.
Has to learn to be productive

Kathy Schultz - impairment of relationships & effected
The Alliance. Mechanisms of distrust.

Assumption - at the time of the split, Alliance had
internal debt pending.

Cutting back on number of task forces.

Different ways for ppl to participate.

Never implemented.

Effect of "goals process" - new cohesive
vision - not fed back to the
org.

9/72 - interest of Alliance as positive & independent
but impossible to do. Historically looked
to relate to MCLL. Excluded possibility
of variant judgment different from MCLL.
Alliance is independent pro-socialist org.

10/3/72 - better understanding of control &
manipulation by MCLL. Hegemony - preeminence
of control or influence. Numerical group.
Bc. it is a tightly disc'd had that part.

Conflict of interest - problem of decision making

Money support for CCC, Alliance office.

Q if MCLL as a cadre operation is Q for
everyone. Operational effect of a cadre

org - impacting of it. Mobilized ppl.

Respect for M-L + ppl who make it a
political strategy. Misused - generating

a sense of hierarchy, misused, confused, control.
Creates a division.

Can't have a cadre group w/in Alliance.

Can't have
key imp
pro-socialist
orientation

Eleanor Paluhin

Always note NCLL position -