

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 12 OF 16

FOLDER 9

NIC BWC EXPULSION 1974

June 28, 1974

Dear Comrades,

This is just a note to inform you that the Black Workers Congress has been expelled from the National Continuations Committee. This also means that people who are members of the BWC locally, can no longer be members of the Continuations Committee unless they resign from BWC.

The split came after a number of weeks of intensifying struggle. However, the main thing that precipitated the split was the question of democratic-centralism on the Continuations Committee. The BWC held the position that all of a sudden in the 5th issue of the NEWSLETTER, that the National Continuations Committee introduced democratic-centralism into the Continuations Committee, thus changing the line of the Committee. The position of the National Continuations Committee is that there was never a change in organizational line of the Committee. From the time of the Conference on, democratic-centralism has been the only possible organizational principle for the Continuations Committee. In fact this is the only possible organizational principle for any Marxist-Leninist Party, organization, or committee. This has been true ever since the time of Lenin. Whether the two words Democratic-Centralism were ever used or not, this has always been the principle adhered to on the Committee, with the line of the committee and method of organization spelled out innumerable times.

Since the time of the Conference, there has been only one theory for the Continuations Committee -- the theory of Marxism-Leninism. There has been only one line -- the political line of the Conference as expressed in Marxist-Leninist Unite! There has been only one center -- the national continuations committee. Any development of the political line, or any disagreement with the line had to be struggled out in the collectives of the Continuations Committees -- the National Newsletter, the local committee meetings, or the national committee meetings. All positions had to be written up before being discussed. No grouping could go outside these collective bodies and organize for their own line if it ran counter to the Conference Resolutions. This is the line that has been maintained staunchly since the conference. And this is the democratic centralism of the committee.

BWC claimed they were not informed of this, and that they could not agree with it. This was on Wednesday, June 19 and then again on Wednesday, June 26. We indicated to them that the question of democratic-centralism was an uncompromising principle for all Marxist-Leninist organizations; that the question was not up for debate; that it was a settled question for the committee. We criticized ~~ourselves~~ the NCC for not making it clear from the outset, but also indicated that we assumed that this was understood by all Marxist-Leninists joining the committee. We agreed to print in the Newsletter a criticism that they said they planned to write regarding this mistake.

Then on June 28, they informed the local Chicago Committee that they would not be participating in a forum that was being sponsored by

the local Chicago Committee on Sunday, June 30 until the question of democratic-centralism was settled. Once again we indicated that the question was settled, and further that part of the democratic-centralist discipline of the committee was to participate actively in the work of the local committee. They said that it was the policy of their organization not to participate. The local committee meeting was adjourned.

Following, there was a meeting of the National Committee with the BWC -- here it was pointed out that there were two clear fundamentally different lines on the national committee, with two centers developing, that this was hostile to the committee and unless they submitted to the democratic-centralism of the committee they would be expelled. They refused and were expelled.

Comrades, let us just point out that the motion of the BWC on the Continuations Committee was almost identical to ACWM, only at a far higher level.

We should now be prepared for the attack, but also remember that such splits can mean only one thing -- that we move deeper and deeper into the working class.

Comradely,
the NCC

P.S. One thing that the BWC informed us of before they were expelled is that ^{some of} the RU split off groups who are close to the BWC have now merged with BWC.