

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 13 OF 16

FOLDER 22

D GEORGAKAS R GLOTTA  
CORRES 1975

MAY 13 RECD

May 15, 1975

Dear Ron Glotta,

I was glad to finally have the opportunity to meet with you altho I wish we had had time for a more substantive talk in private.

I tried to call you one day but you were out of the office.

I will be in Detroit for a one day visit to film a tv show on May 14. My phone will be 865-9222.

If we cannot get together at that time, I will be back in the city at the end of June. I would be most interested in your reaction to the book.

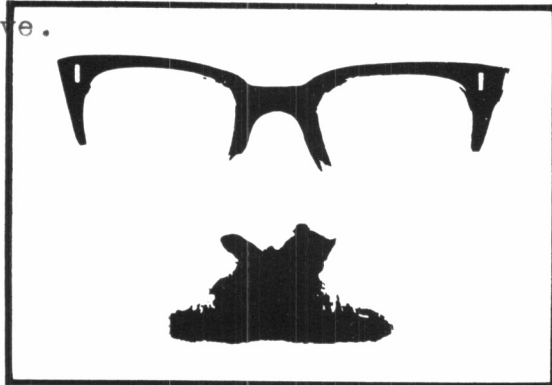
At any rate, I would like to have a copy of the MCLL statement that you referred to when we spoke. It might be a key document in any future revision of the book. Let me know if there is any cost involved.

I am also in need of an address for Frank Joyce. If you know of one, I would be most appreciative.

Yours,

*Dan Georgakas*  
Dan Georgakas  
212-274-4413

box 841  
stuy. sta.  
nyc 10009



Georgakas

Marvin Serkin  
240 West 102 Street  
New York, New York 10025

Rough Draft  
replaced by  
another letter  
dated 5-25-75  
by G.H.

Dear Marvin:

Enclosed please find the following: "Finally Got The News", Party Of A New Type, The Political Line Of The Motor City Labor League plus the most recent copy of the People's Tribune. I read your book very quickly <sup>but</sup> and will attempt to respond <sup>to as much as I can,</sup> ~~off the top of my head.~~ I guess ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> most severe criticism of the book that ~~I would have~~ is that it basically fails to make any analysis of <sup>principle</sup> ~~the~~ motion that was involved ~~in/the~~ for the different people who were to participate in the movement. What do I mean by motion? That is, an analysis which you can see particularly in "Finally Got The News" and "Party Of A New Type" shows that there was a definite direction which manifested itself in the different slips that occurred in the various organizations. It is insufficient (to say the least) to say that General Baker and most of the workers in the League of Revolutionary Black Workers decided they wanted to do work in the plants. The concrete fact is that the workers in the League of Revolutionary Black Workers made a conscious decision and moved towards and into the Communist League. Furthermore, it was the workers in the various plants in particularly ~~some~~ <sup>DRUM</sup> ~~were/w/~~ who were the very backbone of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. You did not see a factualizing of their work in nearly the same way that you saw a factualizing of the work particularly the more petty-bourgeois elements within the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

Recognizing that at the time the book was finally published, the Communist Labor Party had not been formed, the failure to see that its formation was inevitable arose precisely out of the inability to see the motion of the different parties who were participating in that movement. A concrete example of that is the whole debate as to whether you work in the factories which means that the point of production in terms of your organizing or your work in the communities cause workers come home also. That was a high type debate which had little substance to begin this. But if you were to take that debate at its face ~~f~~ value and indicate that certain elements such as Cockrel and Murphy took a position that you can organize in the community in opposition to organizing at the point of production and test where they stand now then you come to the conclusion that even that little position failed. The concrete facts stand that in terms of organizing workers in the city of

Detroit that has been done overwhelmingly by the people who presently constitute the ~~K~~ Communist Labor Party.

But of ~~th~~ course that is not the test. It is very easy to ~~indicate~~ take static position and indicate the numbers and the qualities of the peoples that now constitute the Communist Labor Party and say "Aha we won". The real question is what is the political line of the Communist Labor Party and ~~th~~ is there a concrete reason why it is able to organize workers ~~in~~ in the way that it does and is able to build a multi-national political organization such that it has. That political line is ~~Marxist-Leninism~~ Marxism-Leninism therefore we are the inheritors of all that is decent in the old CPUSA, the Socialist Party, the IWW, etc. That position of course is to be contrasted with the position that in essence looks to stars as the basis ~~of~~ for a political movement. The ~~bankrupt~~ bankruptcy of that analysis is illustrated by the bankruptcy of the people who continue to hold to the star system of analysis.

Of course, our big fault is the fact that we have not written books of that nature. I would indicate that the speeches that were made however are major political analysis. However, we do not have the same kind of work to get those out but perhaps should have been done. In addition, the analyses are weak in a number of various so we are pushing them as a final resolution of a number of issues. However, I think the speech of Party Of A New Type does pretty well summarize the culmination of the work that a certain group of people have performed over the last ~~six~~ seven years.. Just like everything else, it is too bad~~y~~ that it has to be said after the book is already printed. Final manifestation of the different political tendencies is concretely in the meeting that we had that Sunday--the only persons who were prepared to put out a position, debate it, and stand by it in an open meeting were people from the Communist Labor Party. Other people were prepared to rely and manipulation, back stabbing and any other kind of so-called political struggle. But they certainly were not prepared for one moment to put out what their actual position was.

In any case, I ~~would~~ thought I dictate some basic feelings I had about the book and that Sunday meeting. The fact is that I am involved in the Metropolitan Hospital strike which ~~is/ta~~ has taken every moment and I am dictating this for that matter late at night. I guess the best way to explain where I am coming from is that I bring a great deal ~~f~~ of confidence, and enthusiasm, to the work that we face. At one level it seems overwhelming and at another level it seems almost easy. But I can say with a great deal of calmness that in the future you will see over and over again the working class struggles in the city of Detroit being lead by people who pulled together the Communist Labor Party. The other people have become more and more ~~is/ta~~ isolated and internalized. Some point, it would be good that we have a general political debate about what that

(over)

5/25/75

Dan + Marvin -

In rereading this letter it sounds almost curt. I hope that you will ignore that "sound" & instead think of the letter as concise. The ideas contained in letter obviously require more develop - a task that I hope to take up in the future. Obviously, I have serious disagreements with the political stance of the book. But as that great line in the Godfather goes: "Nothing personal". I think you will see the weaknesses in the book's analysis as events unfold in the next 3 or 4 years.

Yours in Struggle  
Ron

5/21/75

Dan Goergakas  
P. O. Box 841, Stuy. Station  
New York City, New York 10009

Dear Dan and Marvin,

I am enclosing certain materials to Dan. I assume that the two can exchange them as you need them.

I reviewed the book very quickly and perhaps for that reason it is unfair to comment on the content of the book. However, since I lived most of the events that are mentioned in the book, I will take the liberty to make some short comments. In general, I think the book attempts to be accurate while coming from a definite political viewpoint. It has minimal analysis of the objective conditions in Detroit which conditions are the material base out of which all of these events arise. That failure then leads to many mistakes, the most important of which is the tendency to use a "star" analysis of history. It fails to analyze people actions in relation to their class position and their class stance.

An example of the above is the analysis of the Communist League when it emerged in May 1973. Given the proletarian base and line of the organization, the emergence of the Communist League was a major event in Detroit. For instance, <sup>the book</sup> mentions that ~~it~~ had 50 cadre without giving the reader any dialectical analysis of the importance of those cadre--their class position, their proletarian line, their rich history in the working class struggles of this country. In the light of their objective class position, their clear training in Marxism-Leninism, their clear struggle to unite the working class, these 50 people would prove to have enormous influence in Detroit. More importantly, the book never contrasts this consolidation of a large number of working class cadre as trained Marxist-Leninists with the total disintegration of other forces. At that time, Cockrel and Murphy had no forces. In July of 1973 during the Jefferson strike Cockrel was seen driving around the plant trying to get someone to tell him what was going on while the MCLL cadre were representing these people legally, demonstrating outside the plant, and within a short time they were recruited into a study-action circle of the CL. The book never points out that by May 1973, Cockrel was totally isolated from any working class organization; all he had by then was the reputation as a "revolutionary". Whose strategy had failed? Whose politics were proven to be opportunist (sacrificing the long term goal for the short term gain)?

This failure to set the historical analysis in the objective conditions of the city manifested itself again in the treatment of General Baker. The book states that General Baker took the workers and split the LRBW. That fact alone has enormous political import but is never explained. Baker becomes a "secretive" person without any analysis of the objective situation in which he found himself--a man on probation for a bogus charge with an injunction outstanding against him, ~~XXXXX~~ ordered to leave town by Cockrel to protect himself.

It is interesting to note the way Cockrel handled the injunction <sup>on</sup> against Baker. In July 1968, Cockrel stipulated without hearing to allow that injunction to enter against General Baker, DRUM and other leadership. He never attempted to get the injunction dissolved. It was this injunction that required that Baker leave town. Compare this legal work with the time spent on the Inkster cases that year or the RNA case the following year. More importantly, those cases involved people outside the ~~the~~ organization while Baker was a member of the same leadership body of the same organization of Cockrel. Why? Could it possibly be that the legal time to dissolve Baker's injunction carried no glamor for Cockrel's career and therefore was ignored. Or could there be more invidious reasons for allowing Baker to hang out on a limb for two years? Contrast Cockrel's handling of this injunction to the work that we did in representing Scott in the Forge case where he was held in contempt with a \$35.00 fine with a suspended sentence with the injunction dissolved within 3 months. This work of course did have the "glory" of the jury trial but had enormous political impact. The failure to make this analysis leaves serious weaknesses in the book. The book leaves the reader without any explanation as to why Cockrel forces failed and the Baker forces succeeded. We determine success by the goal that both set: to build a working class base with a revolutionary proletarian line.

The Communist Labor Party was the culmination of the work of the honest Marxists in Detroit. We of course are enthusiastic that we could build such a strong multinational organization. The impact of that organization was clear even in that Sunday meeting. Not one other person was prepared to engage in political debate around the history of the movement in Detroit--certainly not Ravitz or Murphy. Everyone knew what had happened so they sat there in stone silence knowing the effect of their defeat. All they could do <sup>was</sup> whisper their opposition to the CLP and its cadre behind closed doors hoping that no one finds out the real history of the MCLL and the LRBW.

As to the materials that are enclosed, they must be read in total to understand their development (e.g. read "Finally Got the News" and "Party of a New Type" together). If you have any questions let me know.

Finally, I want to emphasize that the important question is not the obvious success that we have in the last few years. The real question involves an analysis of the political program of the Party because that will stand the test of time. Our stability and growth will stand in sharp contrast to the decay and degeneration of the other groups.

Yours in Struggle  
Ron Glotta

1529 Broadway  
Detroit 48226

7641190

Dan Georgakas  
22-58 33rd Street  
Queens, NY 11105

30  
June 23, 1975

Dear Ron Glotta,

Thanks for sending the mimeo material and the long letter. In many ways our evaluations of the past are not so different, and we will be able to see how the future shapes up. If you are correct, many folks will be trying to join your party.

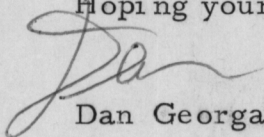
I am writing about something a bit more specific. Marv and I are co-editing an issue of Social Policy considered with Auto: The Big Domino. We are soliciting articles ~~are~~ various people who are engaged either in activist or scholarly roles. We would be interested in having an article on the unemployment council you folks have been working on ~~kkkk~~ in Detroit.

Briefly, we would like to know what kinds of demands the council is raising, what reaction it is receiving from workers and from the bosses, what problems have developed, what victories, however limited, have been won.

If someone there would like to do such an article we would love to have it. The magazine is Social Policy which circulates about 5,000 copies mainly to scholars and government people. Length would 10-20 typewritten pages. Due September, 1975. All material subject to approval of SP board altho we anticipate few problems there.

If we do not hear from someone in the next ten days or so, we will assume folks are not interested because of other time and energy needs or whatever. ~~Whck~~ If someone should decide to do it, they could write to me for more details if the above is not clear. Needless to say, movement rhetoric ~~and iingian~~ has to be avoided and the author would need to exercise organizational modesty. It is, however, a good opportunity to have a podium that is generally not available to the Left. Marv has been able to get the guest editorship through his contacts at Brooklyn College. We have asked a wide spectrum of people to write, including Wilbur Haddock, Marty Glaberman, and Stanley Aronowitz.

Hoping your response will be in the affirmative,

  
Dan Georgakas



FROM

RETURN TO

Dan Georgakas  
22-58 33rd Street  
Queens N.Y. 11105

Ron Glotta  
1129  
Detroit

SUBJECT

MESSAGE

Dear Dan -

We would like to write the article  
someone to the task. Promise not to exercise  
modesty" & avoid "movement statistics", she must  
"objective reality" (couldn't resist).

RETURN TO →

SIGNED

REPLY

I have asked someone to get me a copy  
Policy. Then he thought some more specific  
generally it would be helpful to have an outline  
of article.

By the way, anyone get paid - Detroit Union  
could always use the money!

SIGNED

Ron

DATE / /

for any clarification it needed. objective reality: I'll pay first  
we decided to participate in this historic project write to me  
sway for the answer. We are pleased that you're organization  
primarily under the main a direction but I'm filling in some in  
all contributions will be based on her suggestions. this project is  
possibly just as a will be collected into a book in which case  
enclosed copy. All work undertaken is gratis. this is some  
social policy is a typical magazine but is moving forward. see

101-101

dear ron,

social policy is a liberal magazine that is moving leftward. see enclosed copy. all work unfortunately is gratis. this is some possibility that essays will be collected into a book in which case all contributors will be paid on per page scale. this project is primarily under marvin's direction but i am filling in as he is away for the summer. we are pleased that your organization has decided to participate in this particular project. write to me for any clarification if needed. objective reality: i'll buy that!

--dan

P.S.  
WOODCOCK  
HAS BEEN A POLICY,  
WRITER IN SOCIAL  
SO VAW will read it =  
I'm told SP circulates widely in  
gov. + academic circles

TO

Dan Georgakas  
22-58 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Queens N.Y. 11105

FROM

Ron Glotta  
1529 Broadway  
Detroit Michigan  
48226

SUBJECT

DATE

7/8/75

**MESSAGE**

Dear Dan -

We would like to write the article I have assigned someone to the task. Promise not to exercise "organizational modesty" & avoid "movement rhetoric". We even hope to disguise "objective reality" (couldn't resist).

SIGNED

**REPLY**

I have asked someone to get me a copy of Social Policy. There are a number of more specific questions that generally it would be helpful to have an outline of theme of articles.

By the way, anyone get paid - Detroit Unemployment Council could always use the money.

SIGNED

Ron

DATE

/ /

GLOTTA, ADELMAN & DINGES  
1529 BROADWAY, SUITE 410 - DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

M E S S A G E

R E P L Y

TO Michael Adelman

224 Second Avenue

Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

DATE June 2, 1975

DATE

Dear Mike:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter  
which I mailed to Dan and Marvin.

Yours in struggle,

SIGNED

Ronald D. Glotta

Enclo. FTM

SIGNED