

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 14 OF 16

FOLDER 15

CLP GLS REPORT

State

5 April 1976

GLS Unit Bureau

Comrades,

The development of our Party and our unit has reached a point where either we can move rapidly forward or else slide backwards. It ~~k~~ is in this context that I raise this very serious self-criticism and criticism.

What daily becomes clearer to me is that my political work and that of the unit in general, is being held back by a foul, sickening, and stupid anti-communism. It's obvious, of course, that my work and the unit's is neither all good nor all bad. We have gathered around us, I understand, some 40-45 persons on one level or another;; we put out a shop paper fairly regularly; we have established some kind of PT distribution; and we have several comrades who are recognized as militant fighters and play a role on the shop floor and in the Trade Union struggle. What is also obvious, however, is that we are not known as CLP members by very ~~many~~ GLS workers. We are still hidden to them, though not necessarily to the Union and the Company. Comrades, the old system of "grounding", of first becoming friends, or militant fighters, and only after that, becoming known as communists to a selected few is totally inadequate and incorrect. Here I, above all, deserve criticism. Some of my "friends" at work still do not know what I represent. This selective kind of approach will never build a route system for the Party press and literature, never build a nucleus, never draw ~~w~~orkers around us because ~~if~~ it's a subjective approach, based on ~~how~~ we think workers might respond.

Comrades, in essence, this anti-communism is a question of ideology, of how much we're willing to sacrifice. In our unit, it is closely linked with economism and, in recent months, a "veiled" cynicism and anti-Party attitude. On some level or another, all of us in the unit recognize the problem: that the shop paper (GLST) does not reflect the struggles of our departments, that ~~the~~ Party press and literature are not an integral part of our work, that Marxist-Leninist education gets pushed aside because of the pressure of "other" work. Does this not indicate a tendency in our work that is basically wrong?

The Electoral Campaign has brought to the surface the contradictions that have existed internally. In a contradictory way, we have both supported and resisted the Campaign from the beginning. Yes, we have struggled to understand the political line of the Campaign and we have attempted to bring the Campaign into the factory through the shop paper, some petitioning etc. At the same time, lack of enthusiasm is evident and we have neglected the quantitative

aspect of signatures, both in the plant and in the community. Here I believe it important to point out that in a meeting with comrades of the Section and District (Comrades Esther, Angie M., and Lolita), these comrades failed to convey the urgency of this Campaign and our accountability. Later, when a member of the State Bureau struggled with us over our low number of signatures, we agreed to hit the streets more earnestly. The question of whether or how we would approach ~~the~~ GLS workers, other than close contacts, was again neglected. My understanding of the Unit's line, however, would be this: that we approach only contacts in the plant, and certainly not workers we don't know. This line is based on fear of exposure and the tough measures GLS takes on any kind of political literature, including trade union (rank and file caucas).

Comrades, I've had no choice but to deal with the plant question, mainly because my health and other work make it impossible for me to do community petitioning. If I'm going to struggle for the Party Electoral Campaign, I have to do it in the plant.

Our "hide and seek" approach to workers cannot succeed. What comes to mind most immediately is the recent ^{fundraising} party for a fired contact. CLP comrades were the main force behind the party and yet we had no literature there and had other comrades move secretly around to get signatures for the Electoral Campaign. The union and company surely know a number of us by now. If they don't, the police do. It's only a question of when they want to move on us. In the final analysis, workers are our only defense.

Comrades, it's essential that we use this Campaign to build factory nuclei. That will partly depend on follow-up work with signatures but it also depends on how we work ~~in~~ within the plants. Let me give the classic example. I had been holding back from approaching anybody with the petition in my dept., because I was relatively new (~~in~~ 2 months) to the dept. The person I chose to first approach was one of the more progressive workers, it's true, but I still had doubts. When he glanced at the leaflet for about two seconds and handed it back immediately, I thought I was blown away for sure. He said: "I've already signed this!" (at a supermarket on the East side). ~~Then~~ With some doubt in his voice, to be sure: "you want me to carry this around and get names?" Me: yes. Him: "OK, but I don't think communism will work either." A comrade from another plant related to me essentially the same kind of story about a worker across the line from her.

Comrades, my method of work and that of the unit needs correction. We have to become 24-hour a day communists, not ~~a~~ just part-time.

I have begun by putting ~~it~~ together a basic packet to take wherever I go. This includes the Campaign material, the PTs, the Fight for Jobs pamphlet, the ERC flyer, and the Party program. Using this

I am approaching people I ordinarily deal with: storeowners, waitresses, barber etc.

I intend to take this packet, and including the Great Lakes Steel Tribune, into work on Wed., 7 April. I intend to approach workers that I don't know as well as those I do. I intend to be discreet and do it on my time so as to be potentially ~~xx~~ covered by the NLRB ruling which allows for distribution of literature during lunchbreaks etc. But, at the same time, I intend to reach as many workers as possible.

It's my understanding that this style of work is contrary to the Unit's present policy. Ordinarily, I would consider ~~x~~ it correct to first struggle for political unity in the Unit. In this case, however, given the conditions and needs of the class, the Party, and the Electoral Campaign and the fact that this kind of struggle has gone down in our Unit so many times without real resolution, I believe I can best uphold democratic centralism, that is, the ~~x~~ Party program, by proceeding as I have stated. If the Unit Bureau disagrees, then it should, of course, bring me ^{up} on charges.

Comrades, let's wipe out this negativity and lack of enthusiams that has affected the GLS unit. The GLS unit can point the way, in criticism, self-criticism and rectification, if it so desires. It's time we let workers and progressive people know that we're ~~xxxxx~~ proud to be CLPers.

SMASH THE ROTTEN IDEOLOGIES OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND SECTARIANISM!!!

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS!! BUILD FACTORY NUCLEI!!

FORWARD WITH THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, PUT CLP ON THE BALLOT!!

Comradely,


paul

cc: Section, District, State, Center, Indust. Comm., Electoral Campaign Committee.