

**is news of the month '76**

for is and rt members only

# JUNE / JULY



I.S. National Convention, held in Detroit over the 4th of July weekend.

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## NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Although this edition of News of the Month officially covers June and July, this particular article is essentially about the post-convention period in the organization. Starting with the convention itself, it is clear that the effect on those who attended (almost two-thirds of the organization) was overwhelmingly good, and that effect has been carried back into the branches.

That is not to say that comrades left Detroit on an uncritical wave of high enthusiasm (see later article on EC assessment of convention), but there is certainly a clearer sense of where we are going now. To strengthen this development, every branch is in the process of being visited by an EC member or specific nominee of the EC, so that there can be discussions with the organizers and execs about the specific application of our convention perspectives in all the branches and local fractions.

On the industrial front, our auto work took a tentative step forward over the last week with the thousand-strong demonstration at the opening of bargaining on the auto contract. This demonstration was an alliance between the Coalition for a Good Contract (CGC) and the leadership of several locals who are active in the "30 and Out" cities of retirees.

We were not able to mobilize many active workers; the bulk of the demo was retirees. This confirmed the lack of movement around the contract in the plants which was discussed at convention. But the fact that we were approached to join the demo, the fact that we were also to take the lead at the demo, and the fact that the CGC got some publicity will all stand us in good stead when we move over to the plant gate rallies on the local supplements planned for the second week of August.

The main activity now in the teamster work is the building of the founding convention of the TDU. Following last weekend's meeting of the temporary TDU steering committee, the official brochure advertising the "counter" convention is now out, and the drive for a large attendance is on. On the political front, the teamster fraction leadership has completed work on the amended statement on PROD, and is now working on a perspective for post-founding convention activities of TDU and our line on government intervention in the teamster union.

The first decisions on the expansion of Red Tide to other cities have now been taken. For Detroit, an organizer has been sent to both Chicago and Pittsburg and two other comrades have moved from Detroit to Chicago to help with the new RT branch. There are also now RT branches in Cleveland and L'ville. Consideration is being given to how Detroit can assist there. Real potential exists to build more than these four RT branches right away, but the danger of over-stretching the limited leadership resources of the RT has become an important consideration. It is important that the RT does not mushroom out, only to collapse in on itself at a later date.

While still on the subject of expansion, the first comrades slated for the new Atlanta branch are now living there. They are the first of a team of a dozen people which will be in place by the end of the summer. This initiative is slightly different from our other new branches, since we will also be setting up a regional office there to help in spreading the IS further in the South. The organizer of this new branch and regional office will be Jack T. from Pittsburg. He will be replaced in Pittsburg by Dennis S. from Portland.

In the area of Tyler Defense work, this period has been one of mainly fund-raising activity in the major cities. There is also a large demo in New Orleans on July 24th. We have sent a small delegation to that demonstration. Their presence is more than symbolic, since it will strengthen the links with the Tyler family and local Gary Tyler ctte., and will extend our contacts in the South at a time when the I.S. is just beginning to establish its reputation in this region for the first time.

There is a possibility now that the Tyler campaign will end in victory by the end of the summer. This will not mean that work of this kind for the IS will cease. Already in Chicago we are involved in important anti-racist struggles (see this week's WP) as well as this defense work and there are many other initiatives that can and will be taken if resources come free because of our success with the Gary Tyler campaign.

The next meeting of the NC will be on the last weekend in September. By the vote of the post-convention NC meeting, this will be a totally closed meeting for NC members only. At this meeting there will probably be further discussion on the application of the mass work perspective and the final decision on the political magazine will be made. The rest of the agenda has not yet been worked out, but there will be a detailed written report after the NC meeting, since many branches without NC delegates in them will not be able to get a verbal report.

There will also be a four-day residential school and conference in Detroit for organizers immediately following the NC. While still on the subject of schools, in the late summer and early fall, there will be regional schools on Southern Africa. The exact dates cannot be decided yet due to the already tight calendar of events for this period.

Comrades should also be aware that the Detroit district has started the process of moving to functional branches and a strengthened district ctte. There will probably be four branches still, but the discussions going on now are revolving around having two auto branches, a teamster branch, and a community branch. This may not be the final form, but there will be a full report later. In a future edition of the NEWS, we will also try to pull together something of the collective experience of NY, Chicago and Detroit in operating as districts rather than branches.

Finally, regular readers of the News of the Month will notice that there are no branch reports in this issue. There is a simple reason for this- the reports we had on hand were either too outdated or too brief and schematic to be interesting or useful. That was partly because of the pre-convention pressure on organizers and execs and partly because the old system of branch reports in the News of the Month was pretty useless anyway and therefore grinding to a halt. A fact that was duly noted in two convention resolutions. This edition was too early to start the new system, which is explained in full in another article, so we yook the decision to dispense with them altogether. Given the inter-communication that went on over the convention, it is fairly certain that this course represents no net loss of information on the organization. The next edition will be back to the monthly format.

Glenn Wolfe



## 1976 IS CONVENTION RECORD

The following is the record of the decisions of the 1976 convention; full political reports will be made to the branches by their delegates. Comrades already have copies of all the resolutions referred to below.

### Session I: National Secretary's Report

- The convention agenda was accepted by the delegates as proposed by the EC.
- The convention steering committee was accepted by the delegates as proposed by the EC.
- The National Secretary reported on the organization's activities of the past year; the report was unanimously accepted by the delegates.

### Session II: Economic and Political Perspectives

- A series of four amendments to Resolution C1 were proposed by Milt F.; all four amendments failed to pass, by votes of 4-many-0, 6-many-0, 1-many-0 and 2-many-0, respectively.
- Resolution C1 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-7.
- Resolution C2 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-1.
- Resolution C3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-5.
- Resolution C4 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution B4 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.

### Session III: IS in the Class Struggle

- Resolution A1 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution A2 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-1.
- Resolution A3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution A4 (with the exception of point 8) was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0, including the amendment to it proposed by the NY UFT branch.

### Session IV: Steps Toward Building the Party

- Resolution B1 was passed and Counter-Resolutions BB1A and BB1B rejected by the delegates by a vote of 35-27-2.
- Resolution B2 and point 8 of Resolution A4 were passed and Counter-Resolution BB2A was rejected by the delegates by a vote of 35-27-2.
- Resolutions B6 and BB6 were passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-3 and many-0-1, respectively.

### Session V: Party Building (cont.) and International Perspectives

- Resolution B5 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution B3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-4.
- An amendment to add a point 8 to Resolution B3 failed by a vote of 8-many-9.

--An amendment to add a point 9 to Resolution B3 was tabled to the National Committee.

--A series of 3 amendments to Resolution D1 were proposed by Milt F.; all three failed by votes of 2-many-6, 1-many-9, and 1-many-5, respectively.

--Resolution D1 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-6.

--A series of four amendments to Resolution D2 were proposed by Milt F.; all four failed by votes of 2-many-11, 2-many-7, 2-many-10, and 1-many-10, respectively.

--Resolution D2 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-11.

--An amendment to add a point 6 to Resolution D2 was proposed by Diane E., Fred H., Barbara W., Steve B., and Todd J.; the amendment was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-7-3.

--Resolution D3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.

#### Session VI: Organizational Business Meeting

--Because of the failure of their counter-resolutions to pass, the opposition withdrew its proposal on both the conception and slate for the new National Committee.

--The EC's proposal for the 1976-77 National Committee was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-4.

--The 1976 Convention was adjourned, and the new National Committee then met (see report following).

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- Resolution C1 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-7.
- Resolution C2 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-1.
- Resolution C3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-5.
- Resolution C4 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution B4 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.

### Session III: IS in the Class Struggle

- Resolution A1 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution A2 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-1.
- Resolution A3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution A4 (with the exception of point 8) was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0, including the amendment to it proposed by the NY UFT branch.

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- Resolutions B6 and BB6 were passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-3 and many-0-1, respectively.

### Session V: Party Building (cont.) and International Perspectives

- Resolution B5 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.
- Resolution B3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-4.
- An amendment to add a point 8 to Resolution B3 failed by a vote of 8-many-9.



--An amendment to add a point 9 to Resolution B3 was tabled to the National Committee.

--A series of 3 amendments to Resolution D1 were proposed by Milt F.; all three failed by votes of 2-many-6, 1-many-9, and 1-many-5, respectively.

--Resolution D1 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-6.

--A series of four amendments to Resolution D2 were proposed by Milt F.; all four failed by votes of 2-many-11, 2-many-7, 2-many-10, and 1-many-10, respectively.

--Resolution D2 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-1-11.

--An amendment to add a point 6 to Resolution D2 was proposed by Diane E., Fred H., Barbara W., Steve B., and Todd J.; the amendment was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-7-3.

--Resolution D3 was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-0.

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--Because of the failure of their counter-resolutions to pass, the opposition withdrew its proposal on both the conception and slate for the new National Committee.

--The EC's proposal for the 1976-77 National Committee was passed by the delegates by a vote of many-0-4.

--The 1976 Convention was adjourned, and the new National Committee then met (see report following).

REPORT ON NC MEETING OF JULY 5TH, 1976

There was a brief meeting of the newly elected NC immediately after the last session of the convention. All members were present except Fred H. who had been excused because of his necessary travel arrangements. There were only three items of business

- 1) The election of a new EC. The slate proposed by the outgoing EC of Glenn, Joel, Kim, Gay, Jack and Mike was accepted by the NC and Glenn was elected national secretary and Joel national chairman. All other officers of the organization are decided by the EC rather than the NC.
- 2) Dealing with items tabled to the NC from the convention. This meant dealing with the question of the political magazine. The EC moved there should be no final decision on it until the September NC. That the EC would produce a documented proposal within two weeks for early circulation amongst NC members.
- 3) A proposal on the question of observers at the next full NC meeting. It was proposed, and passed by a 3 to 2 vote, that as the NC was to be much more of a working body in the coming year, only observers vital to the discussion would be invited. In practise, this means the organizers who were previously allowed to observe even the closed NC's will now be excluded.

There was no other business. Since this meeting it has been announced that the next NC meeting will be on Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th of September. Also starting on the 27th will be a four day residential organizers school and conference.

Report by Glenn W on notes by Bill P

## Evaluation of the 1976 Summer School

Overall: Overall the 1976 Summer School was a big success. Around 100 comrades attended some portion and over 50 attended the entire school. There were 51 classes in all, 28 different ones. The format of having numerous different classes at the same time meant that everyone's political needs were at least partially met. In particular having different types of classes (cadre, industrial workshop and IS workshop) meant that several different types of political training took place- and that the comrades attending could participate in all of these. All in all, the new style of the school was an immense improvement over the old style. There is room for improvement, and we learned a lot about doing it. The following sections will take up specific areas and make suggestions for improving the school next year.

Classes and the Political needs of the organization: The wide variety of political cadre classes, covering all important aspects of our politics meant that comrades could choose those political topics that they were weakest in. And with one exception (recruitment) the political cadre classes were most popular- among those were the two on party and class, the two on Leninism, the two on Portugal and the role of the IRRP. The several on our trade union theory were also quite popular, but this was less easy to judge given the problems in getting comrades to lead them. Several of the trade union workshops, especially the ones on red baiting, were quite popular and met real needs in the organization. Although we did not use as many forms for the classes as originally proposed (slide shows, skits) the more informal atmosphere of several different things going on, and the smaller size generally led to good discussion in all of the classes. In several of the workshops, a form of role playing was effectively used.

The comrades coming to the school were mainly members of 1 to 2 years, not in industry, although there were important exceptions. Many of the newer comrades that attended are trying to go into industry and these in particular found the trade union workshop classes helpful. Since most of those attending the school were newer members, the level of the classes was generally directed to them. This meant, however, that there was little to offer the cadre of the organization that did attend, except in so far as they helped lead the classes. Next year, there should be a limited number of classes taught on two levels, one for newer members, and one for cadre.

The school was quite helpful to the national leadership in gaining an understanding of the political weaknesses of the membership. One general observation first from the convention, and later from the school is clear. The political level and understanding of the organization is much too low. The problem lies not with a lack of understanding of the more abstract questions like bureaucratic collectivism or Marxist economics, (although it is true of these topics as well), but of such basic questions as the role of the party, the relationship of party to class, democratic centralism, and important parts of our theory on industrial and trade union work. The combination of a lack of understanding of these questions and for the first time having a significant section of the organization involved in mass work means that we are approaching a potentially dangerous situation which if not seriously dealt with over this year could derail the organization. The school was only the beginning in turning this situation around. What it underscores is the need for a serious commitment on the part of the leadership of this organization to raise the political level of the comrades on these key political questions.



Organization of the school: Considering the numbers attending (close to twice what was planned for) the organization went quite smoothly. The classes had to be enlarged, and there was a continual problem of those comrades from Detroit not showing up for the classes they had agreed in advance to lead, sometimes without even letting anyone know. While illness was an unavoidable problem and clearly a justifiable reason for not coming, there were several cases that could only be chalked up to not taking the responsibility seriously. This must change in the future. Also, the general lack of participation by EC members was not good for the credibility of the EC, and toward the end of the school there was a low level of grumbling about this.

Despite these problems only 3 classes had to be canceled, all on Friday and Saturday. Classes generally began on time, and two hours was about right.

Administration of the school: The majority of the credit for this goes to Tom D. who not only served us all with excellent food and drink, but also had plenty of snacks, and oversaw clean-up as well. All of which served to make everyone as physically comfortable as possible and with the cramped quarters this became especially important.

Childcare: Byron, Carla and Yvonne did a fine job in organizing child care, especially given the cramped quarters. The children, and hence their parents could thus fully participate in the school. In general, all comrades were responsible about helping out in this and much of the credit goes to them.

Organizers' School: Despite the fact that the National Secretary was ill and could not hold the organizer's school, one was held. Several of the organizers pulled the school together, and went over some of the major problems they faced including the use of Workers Power, development of educational and political training programs for branches and fractions, etc. This showed one important healthy development in the organization- we now have a small but growing number of comrades who see themselves as professional organizers. Hopefully this will allow us to train more organizers and begin to turn around the situation of continually burning our organizers out.

Lessons for next year's school:

1. Place- we will secure a much larger place way in advance!!!!!!
2. Advanced planning- Classes and class leaders will be assigned much earlier. This should allow for better preparation on the part of those leading the classes, and hopefully more of a sense of responsibility for leading the classes. Movies, etc. will also be secured much earlier so that they will actually come off.
3. Two levels of classes: The important political cadre classes will be given on two levels- one for experienced, developed cadres and one for newer members.

Social role: As in the past, the integrative, social role of the school was quite important. All comrades attending came away with a much higher level of commitment to the organization.

**NOTE ON WHY THERE IS NO ISGB LETTER TO CANADA OR REPLY IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWS OF THE MONTH:**

Many comrades who attended the convention will be aware that the Canadian IS has dropped the policy of industrialization. This decision was prompted, at least in part, by a letter from the ISGB which argued against industrialization, against choosing priority industries and for an emphasis at this time on the recruitment of students and white collar workers.

Needless to say, we are totally opposed to this change of direction and have prepared a reply to the British letter which we originally intended to publish in this edition of NEWS OF THE MONTH, along with the original letter. However, as we wanted to ensure that the reply was available to the leaderships of the Canadian, British, and other IS organizations before it was made public, we have decided to delay publication and put it out as a separate item a little later.

**Glenn Wolfe**  
**National Secretary**

## ASSESSMENT OF 1976 CONVENTION

The convention must be judged to have been a real success for the organization, though that doesn't mean that every single aspect of it was positive. The truth is that the convention was a faithful reflection of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization as a whole, and if we come out of the convention feeling that, on balance, it was a step forward, it is because the organization is still moving forward. Probably our main weakness, however, is that we are no longer moving forward at a fast enough rate.

At this convention we managed to clarify some of the major issues facing us over the coming year, and there were sharp enough divisions on some of those issues that the outcome was extremely clear. Recruitment policy, the relationship of the fractions to the political center, the role of leaders in industry and full-timers, internal communications and economic perspectives were debated fully and therefore resolved most definitively. But while we passed comprehensive positions on the other major issues facing us, indeed these were the more important issues around mass work, transitional politics, Workers' Power, etc., there was a tendency for the outcome of those discussions to be less sharp and therefore less helpful in providing a concrete lead in the coming year.

The truth is that these major positions were probably dealt with in as much detail as major convention issues in the past. But it is also the case that we are a different organization now, playing a real role in the working class movement. The level of clarity that was sufficient in the past is no longer enough.

This is why we have decided to continue the discussion on mass work into the post-convention period through the Internal Bulletin and the September NC. Not because there are any serious political differences on this, but because there is much to be gained by having an even more detailed discussion of this, the core of our industrial work. There is also an extent to which the phenomenally high level of activity at every level of the organization tended to truncate the pre-convention discussion so that non-controversial but nonetheless vital issues were hammered out in depth only by the central leadership.

One of the most impressive aspects of the convention was the strength of the delegations. So many of the delegates were leaders of external work as well as IS leaders, and this is the first time that this has been the case. This fact probably explains why the level of factionalism over the political disagreements was kept to a very low level. That is to say, the objective need to work together against the bosses and bureaucrats immediately after the convention ended did a lot to maintain a sense of unity in the organization even while fierce political debate was in progress. It is a sign of the growing maturity of the organization that, with few exceptions, two weeks after the convention, the tension that existed in some areas over the political debates has largely evaporated.



In some ways the worst debates of the convention were around the International, or more particularly Portugal, resolutions. It is in this session of the convention that there were deep differences which did not come out clearly and sharply enough at all. There is only one explanation for this appalling state of affairs, an explanation which was included in one of the motions that was passed in this section. The EC had not done enough either to educate the membership on its positions, or to encourage the debate around counter-positions. To some extent this failure was the result of the high level of external work over the last year, but it is also a symptom of the wholly unacceptable de-politicization that has occurred in the past period.

The convention was the first step in dealing with that de-politicization, the summer school was the second step, and the EC will have to take further steps, too. But while undertaking this struggle, the whole organization must be aware that the re-politicization of the organization cannot be accomplished at the cost of our external work. There is nothing inherently political about an inward-looking organization: we will not develop our politics through the contemplation of our navels.

The results of the convention fraction meetings were not uniform, but we learned some general lessons that should be reported. We were right to give these meetings the time and importance we did. In every case they took the fraction forward to a greater or lesser extent.

But the meetings themselves tended to be rather unfocused. We are untrained in running national fraction meetings; there is rarely the opportunity to get everyone together, and when we do, the tendency is to try to cover everything, and to try to do it with a minimum of preparation. It is clear that in the future, these meetings will have to be better prepared organizationally and politically.

Two final points that must be made. First, we did not make enough effort to get contacts to the convention. This was partly due to lack of organization, and partly out of fear that arguments at the convention would turn people off. The latter was a mistake, the opposite is the case. The experience of an organization hammering out a line and then collectively following it can only benefit contacts. That was the experience with the couple of dozen contacts who did attend--almost half joined.

Second, we had a new format for this year's convention, not just in the obvious sense of where we held it, but also in the way we conducted business around resolutions rather than wide-ranging documents. Holding the convention in a hotel was a total success; organizing it around resolutions produced some disadvantages. But we feel that these did not outweigh the advantages to a workers' organization of having debate around clear and brief motions. But there are improvements we will have to make before following this path next year.

The 1976 convention was a more sober convention than the previous one. That was both a strength and a weakness. The mood was one of cautious optimism and realism, but the bad side of that coin was the exhaustion and lack of enthusiasm that was also evident. Having said that, there is no doubt that we can build on the positive side over the next few months. The incredible growth in our experience and competence over the last year will stand us in good stead as we go on to the Sept. WP campaign and the fall recruitment drives.

Executive Committee

## IS NEWS OF THE MONTH and Internal Communication

The 1976 Convention mandated an increased emphasis on internal functioning and communication. Therefore, this June/July issue is the last one of the old-style News.

Specifically, it was decided to change the conception of the IS NEWS OF THE MONTH to include regular reports from the fractions, and also reports on the branches done by the branches themselves. The resolution (B6) further stated that branches would "submit their own report of no more than one page (i.e., one stencil)."

Almost immediately after the convention, several NC members pointed out that, while the idea put forward in the resolution was correct, the specifics--one page per branch per month--were not very workable and were too mechanistic. It would mean an automatic 20-page section of branch reports in each issue!

Therefore the EC is putting forward the following guidelines for future issue of NEWS OF THE MONTH in an attempt to carry out the spirit, rather than the letter, of the resolution:

1. Each branch should submit to the NEWS every 3 months a comprehensive political reevaluation of its work over the past period; that means each issue will carry reports from one-third of the organization on its work.

Branches would be grouped as follows:

<u>Group I</u>	<u>Group II</u>	<u>Group III</u>
Bay Area	Austin	Boston
Indianapolis	Bloomington	Chicago
Madison	Cincinnati	Charleston
New Jersey	Detroit	Cleveland
Sacramento	NY UFT	LA
St. Louis	Philadelphia	Louisville
Seattle	Springfield	NY CWA
Portland	Mid-Hudson	Pittsburgh
	South Bend	

Branches in Group I will send in reports for the August issue, Group II for the September issue, Group III for the October issue, and then Group I again in November, etc.

2. Branch execs and organizers will be collectively responsible for producing the reports. In the past, information published about branches has been gleaned from the somewhat erratic and irregular organizers' reports to

the National Secretary. Now branch reports will be the product of the collective leadership of a branch, after having had a serious evaluation and discussion of the branch's work by the branch executive.

3. Each fraction will also submit to the NEWS every three months a comprehensive political evaluation of its work over the past period; that means each issue will carry reports from 2 fractions on their work.

Fractions will be grouped as follows:

<u>Group I</u>	<u>Group II</u>	<u>Group III</u>
Teamster fraction	Auto fraction	Telephone fraction
Gary Tyler Fraction	Postal fraction	Steel fraction

Fractions in Group I will send in reports for the August issue, Group II for the September issue, Group III for the October issue, and then Group I again in November, etc.

4. Fraction steering committees will be collectively responsible for producing the reports on the fractions. In the past, information published about the fractions were written by whoever in the fraction could be roped into the job. Now, fraction reports will be the product of the collective leadership of a fraction, after having had a serious evaluation and discussion of the fraction's work.

5. NEWS OF THE MONTH is produced the 4th week of each month and mailed out with WP on the Friday of that 4th week. This means that branch reports and fraction reports TYPED ON GESTETNER STENCILS FOR 8 1/2 X 11 PAPER are due to be in the National Office by Monday of the 4th week of the month. (The August NEWS is put out the 4th Friday of August, so the deadline is Monday, August 23.)

6. Both branch and fraction reports should be political in nature--not mere lists of events held or events planned, but rather real political analysis both of the problems being encountered in the work AND the successes and achievements. The best reports are produced when you ask yourself what it is you want to know about the work of some other branch or fraction, and then apply the same set of questions to your own work, and answer them.

It goes without saying that security matters and sensitive personnel questions have no place in any internal publication.

Clearly, the quality and usefulness of the branch and fraction reports in NEWS OF THE MONTH depend largely on the degree of seriousness and responsibility of the leadership bodies which will write them. The EC will comment on, tie together,

and provide direction for the problems reflected in the reports. The National Secretary's report will both report on the political decisions of the EC for that month, and will also attempt to bring together the whole thing and comment on the state of the organization.

But the success of this internal publication depends largely upon the input of the comrades outside the center.

I am happy to provide whatever assistance I can to branch and fraction leaderships in helping to put together useful, informative internal communications.

Pam W.  
Assistant to the National Secretary



## THE INTERNAL BULLETIN

The 1976 Convention further mandated the publication of a bi-monthly Internal Bulletin as "a platform for all members," and that "contributions will be solicited on key issues of the time."

The first issue of the Internal Bulletin will come out the first week in September; it will arrive with the WP's the weekend of Sept. 4th. Articles and copy for this issue of the Bulletin are due in the National Office by MONDAY, AUGUST 30. This gives comrades about 6 weeks to generate material. The next issue of the Bulletin will come out the first week of November; copy for that issue is due to the NO by Monday, November 1st.

ANY ISmember may contribute whatever she/he chooses to this internal publication. The only requirements are as follows:

1. That you meet the publication deadline;
2. That the contribution be TYPED ON GESTETNER STENCILS FOR 8 1/2 X 11 PAPER;
3. That the article be appropriately titled and signed (first name and last initial, branch name).

Branch organizers will assist members on the mechanics of producing these stencils.

The National Office will establish a theme for each issue of the Internal Bulletin; the members will be notified in advance what the theme is to be. The EC will make contributions to the Bulletin on this theme, and other contributions on the same theme will be solicited from various members by the National Office.

Contributions for any particular issue of the Bulletin NEED NOT be relevant to the theme of that issue, however. The theme of the September Bulletin is MASS WCRK. Members may contribute on this theme, OR on other topics, whichever they choose.

In addition to soliciting articles on the theme, I will also solicit articles on various topics from members as I know about them, from reading the branch, fraction, and organizers' reports. For example, I will be urging the comrades in Pittsburgh to write up a more detailed analysis of their experience with the teamster wives group; I will urge the comrades in Portland to evaluate their work selling WP door-to-door in the black community, etc.

However, comrades should not feel, if they haven't been approached by me, that they shouldn't take the initiative when they have something to say. Also, comrades are encouraged to write responses to articles already published in an issue of the Bulletin. The same three guidelines listed above apply to all (ALL) contributions, solicited, unsolicited, on the theme, off the theme, original article or response.

I would appreciate knowing in advance if you plan to contribute to the Bulletin; either phone me at the NC or drop me a note, telling me your topic, when you will send in the copy, and your estimate of the length of your contribution.

Again, I am happy to help out in whatever way I can.

Pam W.  
Assistant to the National Secretary

Letter from Women's organizer

20 July, 1976.

The women's commission has not yet been able to meet, due to the summer school activities and one member of the commission being on vacation.

We are planning a lengthy meeting for Tuesday, July 27, and the full report of that meeting will go out in Workers Power for the 30 July.

Tentatively planned on the agenda: 1) Reorganization and specific tasks of the women's commission 2) perspectives for women's work for August/September 3) additional personnel for the women's commission 4) relationship between women's commission and Workers Power 5) Evaluation of national women's caucus meeting. 6) Bay Area questionnaire 7) women's caucus meeting for Cincinnati/Louisville/Indianapolis/Bloomington. 8) new women's pamphlet.

We will be meeting regularly after this, and will put out reports with each national report, and of course, the women's bulletin.

We would like all women's caucus convenors to have written reports in for the August bulletin by Friday, August 20.

Any material for the women's bulletin must be in on GESTETNER STENCILS, also by FRIDAY AUGUST 20. Stencils should be for 8½" x 11.

Thank you very much.

Barbara W.

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF THE RE-ORGANIZED IS GAY CAUCUS

After a number of years of inactivity, the Gay Caucus of the IS is in the process of re-organization. The gay issue in the organization has not been dealt with since the 1972 convention, when a perspectives document was adopted. We feel that this document is woefully inadequate and out of date. Moreover, we believe that a new perspective on gays needs to be developed, one which will provide a basis for the integration of gay comrades into the organization, as well as beginning to develop an approach to gays in the workforce. We are under no illusion that the latter task will be an easy one, and realize that there is little or no practical experience upon which the gay and non-gay comrades in the organization can draw. Nevertheless, we feel that this process must, at some point, be initiated. Moreover, we encourage our non-gay comrades to participate in this process as much as possible.

At this point we would like to explain the factors which initiated the re-organization of the Gay Caucus. In the past year a number of gay comrades on the West Coast left the organization. The reasons for this are complicated, but it seems to us that a number of factors contributed to the situation: the lack of a gay caucus, the lack of a gay perspective for the organization (causing confusion among some gay comrades as to what their priorities were), and impatience on the part of these comrades and some leaders of the IS. It was indeed unfortunate that these gay comrades left the organization, especially since some of them were very effective industrialized cadre. It is for this very reason that we have been impelled to re-organize the Gay Caucus. There is a tremendous amount of misunderstanding about gays and gay issues in the organization. The IS is no different from any other organization in this respect. Gay people are stereotyped in various ways, ways in which many of us are not even aware: gay men are effeminate, gay women, masculine and tough; sexual preference is the all-important distinguishing mark of gays; gays are not serious thinking or political people, etc., etc. We in the IS Gay Caucus believe that these stereotypes should be fought and corrected. Moreover, in doing so, we feel that the organization will benefit, inasmuch as the recruitment of new gay comrades, as well as the integration of old members into IS work and our priorities, will be facilitated. Finally, we aim at achieving an open atmosphere for gay comrades in the organization.

The Gay Caucus has taken initial steps in organizing itself. Due to the presence of a number of gay comrades in St. Louis, we have decided to use that branch as a "clearing house" for communication between gay comrades in the organization. We intend to raise gay issues in the monthly bulletin, as well as in Workers' Power. Also, we plan on making available to comrades, both gay and non-gay, a select bibliography dealing with the gay issue and its relationship to politics. We hope that by the next convention we will have the initial draft of a gay perspectives document. Because there is only a very small body of theory and practice that

exists on this question, both in the IS and in the socialist movement generally, we would hope that this document would be a first step towards enabling our organization to provide concrete leadership on this issue to the revolutionary movement in this country. However, we believe that in time, as the IS recruits more and more gay comrades who play major roles in our organization and its work, and as both our gay and non-gay comrades begin to provide an input to the organization on the gay issue, we will build up the practical experiences to develop a gay perspective for the IS.

In closing this initial statement we, the IS comrades of the Gay Caucus, welcome and encourage all those in our organization who identify themselves as gay to join us and work with us. We aim at building up, through the Gay Caucus, a network of gay comrades to facilitate communication among ourselves and to provide an atmosphere whereby we will not be isolated from one another. Moreover, we hope that our non-gay comrades will contact us whenever they feel that they might have problems in their branches relating to gay issues or gay comrades.

Comradely,

The IS Gay Caucus

Signed:

Ara, Atlanta  
Ray, Boston  
Rob, Boston  
Sharon, Chicago  
Chris, New York  
Jackie, Portland  
Richard, Portland  
Gail, St. Louis  
Harriett, St. Louis  
Jane, St. Louis  
Lea, St. Louis  
Diane, Seattle  
Donna, Seattle  
Sandy, Springfield