

Dear Comrades —

There are some things about the FSR supplements of January & February that I didn't agree with.

George Breitman's article was great but I just can't stand it when we keep saying that we're just about even-steven with the CP; we're just kidding ourselves. The CP still has connections & friends that we don't. Come to Chicago & look at District 31 of the USWA, & you'll see CP members, friendly ex-members & supporters everywhere. All the radicals in steel combined might equal the number of CP members & friends. District 31 President Jim Balanoff is an ex, & so is his brother, Clem who headed up the National Flight Back office. The president of Bethlehem's local 6787, Kazocha is CP, & so is his wife, a leader of the District 31 Women's Committee (also with Roberta Woods of Local 65). The vice-pres. of local 1010 at Inland is another "ex", Cliff Mezo.

Clem's wife, Miriam is running for state assembly in S. Chicago as a Democrat & her campaign posters are everywhere, & I mean everywhere! They must have a lot of people doing that work. I wish we

could do half as well for our election campaigns.

We don't yet have a Gary, Ind. branch but when we get there we can just imagine how many people they have, especially Blacks.

The CP certainly isn't the behemoth that it once was, but they still are a big obstacle. The first step in fighting them is to honestly inform the party as to their size & strength.

On the February ISR, I couldn't believe that you gave all that valuable space to such an esoteric, abstract, super-intellectual subject as a debate on anthropology. Surely that space (6 or 7 pages as I recall) can be used for something much more valuable; ~~for~~ e.g. - something that deals with what workers are thinking about. When I read the Militant & the ISR I try to imagine that I'm fairly new to socialist ideas, & I always ask myself, "could a new reader understand this or be interested in this?" I think I can imagine what the response of workers was to this article. "Is this the kind of newspaper the Militant is? Is this the kind of party the SWP is?"

Always talking about anthropology, philosophy, & economic theory? Then I guess I'm not smart enough to read this paper or to join this party. It must be a party of super-educated people - I wouldn't belong." And that's what they must've been thinking after that article.

How do you sell that copy of the paper to co-workers? I myself was considering ^{removing} the ISR supplement & selling the rest of the paper, but then they'd ask, "What happened to pp 9-17?"

I'm not saying that this discussion isn't somewhat important, but such a long article that doesn't appear to have any connection with today doesn't belong in a workers' paper, just as is the case with a similar type of article dealing with economics or philosophy. George Novack's recent FP articles in defense of Engels & dialectical materialism should not have been in the ISR supplement to the Militant.

The best variant of course would be if we still had a separate ISR magazine. Maybe someday we can bring it back.

I know that the Militant is many things to ~~many~~ different people. It's an

Educator in basic socialist ideas for
new people, it's an organizer for comrades,
it also serves the needs of people who are
in-between. But I don't know of many
experienced comrades who read the entire
article, & even fewer who understood
everything. I sure didn't, lacking any basic
background in anthropology.

Please be more conscious of this.
Always think of what we can put into the
paper that'll make workers want to
consistently read it.

Comradely,
Dennis Brasky
S. Side Branch, Chicago Local