

C-3  
Oakland, Calif. 4 1971  
Sept. 21, 1971

Political Committee of the SWP  
c/o National Organizational Secretary  
New York, New York

Dear Comrades,

At the branch meeting in which convention reports were given, I asked three questions concerning decisions and reports made by the last convention, the twenty-fourth national convention of the Socialist Workers Party. The answer I received by a national committee member was to write the NO because such questions were "out of order" at this time. Although I disagreed with his remarks, I have decided to write you to get the best possible answers to my questions. The three questions follow.

1. In light of the upcoming YSA pre-convention discussion, is it permissible for members of the party previously identified with a minority, who are assigned to the YSA, to express their differences in the youth organization? Or, are they subject to the direct control of the Political Committee of the SWP, and consequently, under discipline not to express views in disagreement with the party line? If so, does this mean comrades who were once members of a minority tendency are under discipline to argue and vote for the majority line adopted at the party convention in the YSA?
2. Considering the numerical size of the Proletarian Orientation tendency (approx. 10% of party), why weren't they included in the new National Committee as full members? What has been our position historically on this question?
3. In International Information Bulletin No. 5, dated July 1971, page 8, the PC of the SWP stated that the "leaderships of sections and sympathizing organizations" of the Fourth International "would do well to begin consulting

directly with each other" concerning developments in the international movement. The PC added: "This should include the leaderships of declared tendencies in national sections, where they may exist, inasmuch as this is a period of discussion preparatory to a world congress".

The question I have is does this statement also apply to declared tendencies in our party? If not, why not? If so, may the previously declared tendencies in our party "begin consulting directly" with other sections or tendencies concerning international questions? How could this be handled without breaking discipline?

Thank you.

cc: Nelson Blackstock

Comradely,  
Gerald Clark

*Gerald Clark*

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
October 15, 1971

OAKLAND-BERKELEY

Gerald Clark

Dear Comrade Clark,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of  
September 21 addressed to the Political Committee.

Comradely,

Rich Feigenberg  
National Office