

## McCann Summary

I seriously considered passing because almost everything's been said. I'll be very brief instead. I just want to make one specific. Someone said I got up here and said that I said the Merrills were indiscipolned and disloyal. I didn't say anything of the kind. I said they were guilty of violating the rule that was apparently set down at the convention, has become clear, but that I considered that rule out of order and they were in no way disloyal or indisciplined.

I just want to point out the problem that everybody who's been defending the Merrills has faced. We're going to be brought up on charges. As I said before, I was told by the trial committee and Comrade Wulp said that he would bring me up on charges in his summary. I presume that he will follow through on that promise. Now he has a few other people to add because they've all defended the Merrills, roughly along the same line as I did. Here's the problem we faced. We're being brought on charges for defending the Merrills. It's not quite that simple. We could vote against the expulsion. We could even speak against the expulsion. But we couldn't explain to you comrades why. We couldn't explain why we opposed the charges. We couldn't explain that they were anti-Leninist and that they would lead to a sterilization of the youth. We couldn't explain that. That was explained in the trial committee, because the decision, that is, Barry Sheppard's statement~~X~~, had been voted upon ~~X~~ and therefore the only logical thing I could do, according to the trial committee, was to abstain or not vote. Or even if I did speak against the charges, I couldn't explain why.

Then we couldn't explain why the charges were being brought. That is, we couldn't put it in a political context. We can't talk politics here, we can only talk legalism, I guess. We can't put these charges and explain that the party is beating a retreat from the working class and that is the reason~~X~~ for these charges. Those are the two reasons why we're going to be brought up on charges.

This should indicate the rigid formalism with which the leadership is proceeding. That is, the absolute tight legalism with which they view these things. Not the least bit dialectic, let alone flexible.

The Merrills expulsion cannot be viewed pragmatically. That is, you just can't take the Merrill's expulsion and view it on its own merits in isolation from what is actually happening. It is part of the process which the leadership must follow, and this has been explained. The leadership must follow in order to cover its retreat from the working class. Before this process is completed, and I disagree with Dick Merrill about these problems, that they're not going to solve these problems by expelling us organizationally, that the objective circumstances are still going to be there. Their objective circumstances are still going to be there, but this party doesn't give a damn about them. They're going to solve the problem of a left wing, or a proletariat, in this party definitively. They're not going to leave any question. In a couple of weeks, there's not going to be a left proletarian wing in this party. There's going to be expulsions in every major branch in the country: Chicago, Washington, New York, San Francisco, you name it, on this issue, on defending somebody~~X~~ else's right to speak.

They will solve this problem. They're about to solve it. The whole process if one of solving this problem -- getting rid of the left wing within the party. This party will be scattered to the winds, but not because of some left wing element in it. There's not going to be any left wing element in it.