

December 18, 1971
Toronto

To the Political Committee of the SWP
Executive committee of the IMG
United Secretariat of the FI
copies to Peter Graumann
Vancouver LSA(Canada)

Dear Comrades

We have just received a letter from our Vancouver comrades concerning the incident that Comrade Graumann, a member of the For a Proletarian Tendency of the Socialist Workers Party, brought to your attention in his letter of November 24

You will recall that Comrade Graumann protested the display of a poster which apparently portrayed a large bird eating a mole, The Red Mole (through the attachment of that papers masthead to it) and enscribed with the following words, it "is for the birds, but not for this bird; as a steady diet it is indigestable."

This poster was displayed along with many others at a banquet-celebration of the October Revolution held on November 6, some 18 days earlier than comrade Graumann's letter which described the banquet as being otherwise a "quite excellent celebration of the October Revolution."

The minutes of the Vancouver executive committee meeting of November 14--held only 8 days after the celebration, while in no way condoning the incident not only give insight into the attitude of the leading Vancouver comrades about this incident but put it into its proper framework.

Item #3 of the executive minutes reads as follows; "Discussion of banquet and specifically of light treatment of Lenin, Marx, Trotsky, etc. Must create more serious attitude to political questions and to leadership of the movement. Surprise atmosphere of banquet not appropriate, not in control of the membership."

It is apparent from the above that the general character of the displays at the banquet celebration were of an irreverent and satirical character that took Marx, Lenin ~~and~~ Trotsky and others to task. It is only in this context that we too could understand this unfortunate incident involving the Red Mole.

At its December 9th meeting the Vancouver branch LSA/LSO passed unanimously a resolution condemning this display as "not representing the attitude or view of the branch towards the international or any of its sections" We are completely confident that our Vancouver branch shares our opposition to any and all actions that could in anyway create or heat up a factional situation in the world movement and that such an incident will not be repeated

comradely
Ross Dowson on behalf of
the PC LSA/LSO

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December 1, 1971
334 Queen Street W
Toronto

Peter Graumann
c/o Socialist Workers Party
923 S.E. 13th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Comrade

Thank you for your letter detailing an observation you made while attending a public meeting in celebration of the October Revolution organized by our Vancouver branch

It would seem that while you have brought this incident to the attention of the SWP political committee, the executive committee of the IMG and even the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, through sending them carbon copies of your letter to our central committee, that you have neglected to extend this courtesy to our comrades of the Vancouver LSA/LSO

I think you will agree that it is of primary importance that everyone know what they have to say about this incident and in writing. I have therefore sent them a copy of your letter. I will forward a copy of their reply to you and to all the other recipients of your note just as soon as I receive it.

comradely



Ross Dowson
executive secretary of the
central committee LSA/LSO