

COMRADES--The drafting cttee. met on Monday, worked out an outline and divided the sections up among us. Because of time pressures what follows is a relatively unedited draft document. A number of sections haven't been seen by anyone w but the drafter and the typist.

BUILDING THE VANOUVER BRANCH OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE

For the Oct. 1977 Branch Organization and Fall Tasks Conference

PART ONE: THE FRAMEWORK FOR THIS CONFERENCE

For this, the first Vancouver branch conference of the Revolutionary Workers League, the central task before us is to establish the means for the consolidation of the fusion and the building of a strong branch in the city. Our fall tasks have this as their central point. In each area of public work, in all our branch institutions, this task will be reflected.

Throughout the fall, our attention will be on the elaboration of our analysis and perspectives, the integration of the founding organizations (their memberships, contacts traditions and interventions), the building of a collective leadership and new branch institutions, and the development of new forms of organization, new plans, new methods of work.

In this light this document and this conference have a very modest goal. We want to provide the political and the organizational means to build a strong branch. But to begin this process will be a task for the whole fall and longer. Therefore this discussion now is only to set the framework for accomplishing the consolidation of the fusion.

For this conference and our fall work, we want to set modest, obtainable goals. Where possible we want to set up branch structures. But these structures may not prove to be the most durable in practise. We want to set goals and priorities, but these may not prove to be the best ones possible. In this sense the fall period will be one of experimentation. All of us must approach our work with an attitude of openness, without a trace of "but that's not how we've always done things." This sets a perspective for the problems we shall face.

The branch as a whole must be the means to collectively organize our practise. To accomplish this, branch meetings must be used to transfer the experiences of one area of work to the branch as a whole. ~~The conference~~ Through this conference we do not want to undermine the exploration and work of the branch and its fractions by setting too stringent a set of priorities and structures. Instead, if we set a broad framework, the branch and all its members will be able to play a full role during the fall in the elaboration of our tasks and goals.

The tasks document adopted at our founding convention lists four basic components that "form the underpinning for building strong branches of the organization:"

"(a) a strong leadership team, which can lead comrades in developing priorities,

tactics and line, and in carrying out the decisions of the branch;

"(b) a clear set of priorities. These should be elaborated within the framework set by the convention, and based on a realistic estimate of local resources and ~~sk~~ skills, so as to ensure that comrades are not over extended;

"(c) a strong organizational infrastructure, resting above all, on a solid financial base;

"(d) a strong propagandistic intervention, which means above all contact work, educationals and forums and use of the press as the bedrock on which all our interventions rest."

The first of these, building a strong leadership team, will be discussed in a separate, leadership report. The bulk of this document sets priorities for building a strong organizational infrastructure and for our propagandistic intervention. There is a certain stress on the 'unity campaign' as an important focus for the fall, and on the consolidation of our finances and an increased utilization of the newspaper as two important aspects of the ~~L.A.~~ building of a strong branch.

## PART TWO: BUILDING THE BRANCH

### I. The Unity Campaign, Contacts and Recruitment

Perhaps the most dramatic political outcome of the fusion process was the strengthening of a genuinely non-sectarian concept of how the revolutionary party will be built and the unitary character of that party. The fusion itself was based, centrally, on agreement on what have been termed the key questions of the pan-Canadian revolution. It is in accordance with such key questions that we will recruit, we will fuse with other forces and the party will be built. Within the broad parameters set by this principled framework and strategic outlook a broad range of opinion and differences can and will exist. We want our organization to be able to creatively harbour this full range of opinion.

The import of such a conception, along with the impact of the fusion itself, means we can now pose membership to a range of people much wider than open to the founding organizations. The interest and excitement generated by the fusion can be translated into a substantial growth for revolutionary socialist forces here in Vancouver if we approach all facets of our intervention (from contact work, through our work in the unions and campus to our press) in an energetic, creative and aggressive manner. Without hesitation we'll urge all revolutionary socialists now outside our ranks to join in building the new organization." (Tasks document) We will be doing more than encouraging people to join us, but to encourage people to join together with us in building the RWL.

An important assignment for the new executive and the branch will be to discuss a range of programs and structures for accomplishing our contact and periphery work (~~from~~ forums, ongoing class series, weekend classes, individual contact work.....)

Certainly fractions will have to have this as a fundamental item on meeting agendas. We will want to set up a recruitment and contacts committee to have an overall responsibility for this area.

Our possibilities for recruitment will depend, in part, on the impact of our propaganda and interventions. We must use the momentum of the fusion to move out to a wider range of contacts. However we're hardly alone in this endeavor. Not to mention other left groups, the Maoist forces in the city, particularly In Struggle, are in a process of regroupment. Our forces are roughly the same size as I.S. While Maoism has a certain history of strength in this city, especially during the 1960s, we have to our distinct advantage an organization that (through its founding components) has a long experience at a revolutionary intervention; we have a non-sectarian and open attitude toward other leftists; we have a developed and sophisticated analysis and program (which makes those who think the sun revolves around papal declarations from Peking or Albania ~~with its folk and its hippardfajl~~ ~~GOVERNMENT~~ look like characters out of a fairy tale); and finally we are members of an international party of socialist revolution. We must capitalize on all this with a confident and open attitude towards our contacts and periphery.

## II. Finances

The conventions adopted the projection of a campaign to raise regular income by \$2400 monthly in English Canada. The Vancouver branch will participate fully in this crucial national campaign. It will be one of the branch's and executive's top priorities.

A big increase in spending on the cross-country level is necessary for measures to consolidate the fusion. The task of integrating three political groups across the country and the need for a big increase in leadership collaboration between our English Canadian and Quebec wings on a scale far above that possible for any of the founding groups require a strong and flexible staff, extra travel expenses, and other added costs. Another aim is to provide financial assistance for special opportunities in Quebec. A uniform level of financial support to all full-timers has also added to expenditures.

These and other aspects of the consolidation process have increased our pan-C-nadian expenditures far above the combined income of the founding organizations--more than \$5000 a month above the present income.

Another convention proposal to strengthen the fusion was to add full-time organizers in the branches--in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver--where the consolidation must be carried out on the ground.

That proposal, plus the decision for a uniform staff subsistence as it directly affects Vancouver, add more than \$650 per month to the branch's expenses. That's

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why our September sustainer to the N.O. is down to only \$750~~xxx~~.

The N.O. has asked Vancouver to consider the goal of raising that NO sustainer by \$450 as its part of the national campaign. That means we should raise it by about \$100 each month until January when it should reach \$1200.

After serious thought, consideration, and initial discussions with a few members to investigate possibilities, the outgoing executive is recommending we adopt this goal. This is in addition to overcoming the deficit we now have in our budget.

This is not a ~~4e~~ routine financial campaign to raise monthly pledges. It is more ambitious than either founding organization would have contemplated. That's because the needs of the fusion are ~~xxx~~ new, unprecedented, and absolutely necessary.

The backbone of the campaign will be increases in the monthly pledges of the members. The attitude must be: no, can my budget manage an increase in my pledge; but, what can I do to my budget to make a significant increase possible.

Both the LSA and RMG in Vancouver were centers of financial strength for their respective organizations. The average membership pledge to the Vancouver branches was among the highest for each group.

Our attitude could be: that means we are already pushing the limit on what comrades can give. The attitude should be, however, that Vancouver can continue to be a source of strength to this crucial campaign.

While the success of the campaign depends on increases in members' pledges, reaching the \$450 goal can be assisted in two additional ways--by a thorough search for our sympathizers who will pledge monthly (thereby bringing them closer to the RWL and helping them make a direct contribution to our political goals) and also by new recruits.

The new financial committee will have to hold discussions with every individual member on how they can contribute to the campaign.

The branch should also hold a discussion ~~fix~~ during the fall on the nature, experience, and goals of the Expansion Fund, and prepare a survey of the members and friends of the RWL for possible donations.

### III. Strong, Effective Interventions

In the months to come our branch will face an increasingly favourable terrain for its public work. The economic and political crisis of Canadian capitalism is far from over. While this creates a much larger audience open to revolutionary solution we must also be aware of the fact that so far the workers movement has proved unable to resist the bourgeois offensive. In B.C. there has been an upswing in the offensive by the ~~Socred~~ government--the Labour Code amendments, the VRB dissolution, transit cutbacks, Bills removing faculty members from the labour code and other:

to limit student participation in campus politics. The response of the NDP and the unions has so far been timid. Only in a couple of cases over the past year have students responded with any real force to the attacks (the significant mobilizations at UBC and Notre Dame.)

In the coming months we will have to direct a certain amount of attention to developing our analysis of BC politics and economy. But the general parameters of political life point to a series of themes that are addressed in the national tasks document, which we shall not repeat here.

The nature of our organization limits the effect we can have on the course of the class struggle at this time. In this manner, our self-definition is a propaganda group. This does not prevent us from participating in all aspects of the class struggle where we are able. It does not mean that at times we cannot have a significant influence on, and even lead, certain specific struggles. It does mean, however, that we do not currently offer an organizational alternative for the masses, ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ "But what we do have to offer, and only we as an organization have it, is a correct program to solve the problems facing working people. Our strength lies in being able to analyse accurately the course of the class struggle, using Marxist method, and chart a correct way forward." (Tasks) In this manner a strong effective intervention depends on ~~the~~ developing a propagandistic mode of functioning in all our public work--including the sale and popularization of our newspaper as the central component of our work.

The ~~the~~ aspects of this intervention are as follows:

(1) The Newspaper

The newspaper is the number one tool for effective revolutionary propaganda.

The paper will play a central role in consolidating the fusion. As the Convention tasks document notes, "Discussion of line articles for the paper is where the discussion of different points of view is likely to take place. As a result, writing, editing, and discussing stories for the paper, on both the branch and national levels, ~~it~~ help focus our diverse skills and experience in ~~a~~ united effort to elaborate our response to central political questions."

As an educator, organizer, and agitator, the newspaper helps in turning us outward, it explains our most current analysis of developing struggles and it unites the organization by ~~the~~ promoting a ~~the~~ common political understanding.

Through the fall, we must absorb the lesson that our political activity should start with the newspaper, both by elaborating a line for articles on British Columbia's politics and by intervening in the class struggle with sales.

The convention adopted as a prime task of the entire organization starting to move towards a weekly newspaper after an assessment of the timing by the Central Committee. It noted that the main precondition was not in circulation or finances, but

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that the branches begin to write articles on a weekly basis analyzing developments in their area.

Our first task with the press should be to meet this goal. We want to develop leadership by having fractions work out their interventions with concise articles for Socialist Voice in mind. The branch exec is responsible for seeing this through and ensuring that the political line of the articles reflects the decisions of the branch as a whole. We want to develop writers for the paper here in Vancouver. Forums or classes are excellent sources for background articles.

Our second task with the paper is to sell the paper on a weekly basis, to trade unionists, NDPers, women, students, gays and all others we meet or work with. We want to adopt an ambitious goal for the national single sales circulation campaign.

There is no secret to good sales. Sales are generally proportional to the number of comrades who sell and the length of time comrades sell. Sales depend on participation. Just as our other political activity is organized on a weekly basis--from branch meetings and forums, to interventions, to writing for and reading the paper (the goal is weekly, at least) we want to develop the norm that every comrade sells the paper at least once a week.

Selling is a form of contact work. We meet and start discussing with a wide range of working people in our sales work. ~~What~~

While there is no campaign to sell subs this fall, subscriptions are especially valuable in bringing contacts and radicalizing people closer to the RWL. We should also not overlook opportunities to sell ~~the~~ La Lutte Ouvriere, Inprecor, and Inter-continental Press.

To carry out these goals we will need a sales committee. How best to organize correspondence with Socialist Voice will be discussed after the branch conference.

- ( 3. (2) Educational work typed separately  
2. (3) Quebec " "  
(4) Areas of Intervention  
A. The Workers Movement

4 3.

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education

A key aspect of our work will be education -- both internal cadre education and external education interventions through forums and classes.

The forum program should be a weekly event for the branch and our periphery. We will want to use the forum to bring new people around the RWL, to provide a platform for guest speakers and to intervene and build struggles as they occur. The use of the forum to build and educate around international struggles is also an important tool for us.

An attractive and professional forum program is one of ~~the most effective ways~~ the most effective ways we can present our ideas to a broader range of militants.

We will want a forums committee that can plan and build the forum series as an important weekly event.

Internal education will also be a large part of branch life for the whole next period. We want to fully participate in ~~any~~ the national discussions which remain open after the convention. We also want to be creative in a program of education to guarantee that comrades are well grounded in Marxist theory and able to present our program in popular ways in the areas of work.

An important part of cadre education is classes and work with contacts and new members. The incoming executive will need to carefully assess the education needs of the branch and its periphery and make recommendations as to how to best structure this aspect of our education work.

Also, comrades should be keeping up to date in the international discussion in preparation for the pre-congress discussion

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which will get underway within the next year.

2. QUEBEC (I think this should follow the section on the press and be lifted out of the national tasks document -- cush)

One striking example of the importance of the strengthening of the circulation of our press and publications is the crucial task we have before us in the fall: Quebec defense.

As yet there is little motion in English Canada toward defending Quebec against Trudeau's chauvinist offensive. Even proponents of a new constitution to save Canada's unity have made little headway—and they take no clear stand in defense of Quebec's right to self-determination.

The only other organized campaign is that of the Fourth International.

There is much sympathy in English Canada for Quebec's national aspirations, but few yet see that Quebec's right to self-determination is being challenged by Trudeau and his allies.

Our increased attention to the workers movement, both in the form of NDP fraction work and increasing our forces in the unions, will be crucial to the development of Quebec defense work. ~~There are signs that we may be able~~ <sup>want</sup> to raise the Quebec question at union conventions and ~~opportunities may arise~~ <sup>meetings</sup> in the student movement. <sup>and</sup>

While we want to be alert to openings for action of any kind, it's clear that at this time there is no basis for launching a successful united front defense committee for self-determination for Quebec.

The most consistent way we can get out the truth on Quebec and win new people to our position is through effective circulation of our press and publications. Our newspaper will be the only paper in English Canada to carry extensive and accurate information and analysis on Quebec events.

~~We'll work to publish our basic analysis of Quebec's national oppression in pamphlet, or if possible, in book form.~~

While we do not expect the development of any mobilizations to defend Quebec's rights in the coming months, we must be alert to possible changes in the situation which may indicate such openings are occurring.

Forums ~~and work like the joint tour on Quebec~~ are an important way of maintaining a certain public awareness on this issue, particularly on the left, and continually gauging the response of activists to the challenge posed by the Quebecois national struggle.

9.

TRADE UNION WORK

The Orientation text and the tasks document adopted at the convention explains at great length the centrality of the trade union movement, concluding that "our orientation to the workers movement will be at the centre of our political work" and that "discussion planning and leading our trade union work will be one of the central tasks of our national and branch leadership in close collaboration with the various fractions."

The central role played by the trade union movement in the political life of BC ~~is~~ makes its stand out among all the provinces of English Canada. Press releases by the BC Fed are not buried in the movie section, but instead receive front page coverage. Debates in the unions and matters affecting them are fully covered.

in the bourgeois press and taken up in the legislature; the ~~g~~ trade unions played a major role in defeating the Socred government in 1972, and it consistently has lead and participated in ~~the~~ broader social movements, from ICBC through the VRB. Thus the debates of the labour movement and work in it become the key focus of the left in this province, ~~and~~ a left groups' credibility is largely determined by the work it does in the union movement.

The central debates that will determine the progress of the class struggle are to a very large extent taking place in the organizations of the labour movement, especially the unions. And most other ~~a~~ social struggles are reflected and adressed there (women, natives, Quebec, tripartism, gay, unemployment, inflation.-.) This leads to obvious conclusions about the importance of this work for rooting and building the RWL here in B.C., not to mention the longer term, strategic important of the organized working class. ~~The~~

The major questions we will want to adress in the unions in this period are ~~many~~ ~~concretely~~ the most relevant ~~of~~ aspects of our general approach and program for the labour movement:

1. independance of the workers movement from the state. Against tripartism, ~~and~~ against compromise with the government over federalism.
2. unity of the class. Support for actions of the womens and gay movements, organizing the unorganized (including support for UBW), support for self-determination for ~~a~~ Quebec.
3. For militant forms of struggle against wage controls and anti-labour legislation, and over issues of health, safety and the environment.
4. For rank and file democracy.

Although we have comrades in many unions, we will attempt to centralize our trade union work within a few carefully selected unions, determined by a number of factors. (it being a national RWL priority, where there is a great concentration of militants, where there are important openings, where we have a history of intervention, of where a union is central in the BC labour movement.) Concretely this means maintaining the two major union interventions of the founding organizations in CUPW and BCTF. As well we want to work within a longer term perspective of beginning to develop the interventions comrades have begun in CBRT, IWA, Steelworkers and ATU. In these areas we will work to set clear and limited objectives, and attempt to provide a structure where comrades in these unions can have a collective forum for discussion and ~~with~~ problem solving.

Beyond these interventions (but having a certain bearing on them) we want to reach broader layers of militants through press ~~and~~ sales and delegates to ~~the~~ the labour council, BC Fed, labour seminars, other union conventions, and strike support work. The empha~~xis~~ or mode of work here will be propagandistic, with the stress on

-11

periphery and propaganda tasks. This means effectively utilizing all our propaganda tools--the press, forums, class series, systematic contact work and taking our campaigns into the unions. The branch as a whole must be cognizant of the central importance of this work, and accordingly provide the necessary resources to back up through our fraction and committee structures and for press sales.

The structure for implementing this work will be three fractions--CUPW, BCTF, and an 'industrial fraction' to include the comrades in CBRT, IWA, Steel and ATU. As well, there will be a small, overall trade union committee, composed of a couple of comrades from each of the three fractions. This committee will provide leadership to the fractions and will be responsible for work in the ~~labor~~ unions in general, including articles for the press, contact ~~work~~ and periphery work.

Some ~~im~~ immediate tasks in this area of work ~~of~~ over the fall are:

1. for each fraction and the committee to work out its perspectives by elaborating from this outline, and feed it back into the executive and the branch;
2. At the BC Fed convention, press sales, press coverage, contact work, and preparation for the intervention of comrades who are delegates;
3. Selling the press at various union conventions to introduce the new organization to the union movement. Also at labour council seminars, the national CUPE convention in late October, and so forth.
4. Write for the press and suggest forum topics for the branch.

Our union activity ~~must~~ must be seen as long term, patient work. The t.u. committee should give thought to beginning to develop long term perspectives and analysis of the B.C. Labour movement and to developing and instituting a colonization plan in accordance with the above prioritized unions; and to establishing coordination with the national trade union commission. It should discuss ways of structuring the periphery of trade union comrades.

THE NDP -

WORK IN THE NEW DEMONCRATIC PARTY

The other side of our intervention in the workers' movement is our attitude to the ~~maxxxxxrefxxxx~~ New Democratic Party and to developments within it.

In British Columbia, the formation of the Open Caucus and the existence of the Women's Rights Committee provide us with an opportunity to work with militants within the NDP who are moving to the left. Many of these militants have worked with ~~the~~ both the RMG and LSA in important campaigns such as the defense of Rosie Douglas, the defense of victims of the coup in Chile, the abortion struggle and most recently in defense of the right of the Quebecois to national self-determination.

The former LSA branch was carrying out fraction work in the NDP and we will want to continue this over the fall both in the constituency associations and in the Open Caucus and women's committee.

(is our general guideline that all comrades should join the NDP -- if so we should add a ~~par~~ paragraph. possibly this section could go into more detail, but I think it's pretty well discussed in the pre-convention period...cush)

Cush -  
Edmonton &  
Quebec  
are inserted  
onto  
page 6

B. WOMEN'S LIBERATION

\* The radicalization of women has continued to deepen and the intervention by the branch into this important area remains a key task for the fall. Already we are involved in the coalition organizing the November 5, Rape Protest action. We will want to continue this intervention and to assign ~~appropriate~~ comrades to the Nov. 5 fraction.

Specifically around the rape demonstration we will be writing articles for Socialist Voice and exploring the possibilities of a forum featuring some of the organizers of the action.

The organizing for November 5 provides us with an important opportunity to probe the possibilities for actions on International Women's Day in March.

W.L. 2

The outgoing executive is proposing that we have a women's liberation committee responsible for coordinating our work in this area and staying on top of developments in the women's movement. In addition, specific fractions will be set up for specific interventions, such as the Nov. 5 action.

The branch will continue the interventions ~~which~~ in the BCFW and NDP Women's Rights Committee and to be open to other interventions that arise, such as actions ~~in~~ around abortion, child care, cutbacks in social services, etc.

CAMPUS and work with the Young Socialists

One of the areas where we ~~can~~ can see motion against the offensive of the bourgeoisie is on the campuses and in the high schools, especially the anti-cutbacks protests at UBC. Also, on the campuses we find large groups of people who are open to our ideas and willing to discuss our politics with us. This is most graphically shown by the growth of the Vancouver YS local in the past year -- \_\_\_\_\_ comrades have been in the YS for ~~less~~ a year or less.

At the present time there are \_\_\_\_\_ comrades of the RWL on UBC and 2 at SFU, in addition, there are \_\_\_\_\_ comrades on UBC who are members of the

campus....2

YS, but not yet members of the branch.

This is a very large concentration of our cadre resources and we have every reason to expect major gains for the movement in the coming period.

The new executive will have to work out how branch comrades who are not in the local will carry out their campus work, but we will want to have strong lines of communication and collaboration with the comrades in the local.

As stated in the Tasks document adopted by the joint convention, we will be having a discussion on whether to maintain a youth organization in English Canada, but this discussion requires that we go through an ex-

campus....3

perience of common work with the comrades  
of the IS.

In collaboration with the IS,  
we will want to take the RWL onto the  
campus and our campaigns into the stu-  
dent arena, such as bringing the K UBC

women's office into the Nov. 5 action.

At this point the only contacts in a  
~~The most politically sophisticated~~

~~contacts the RWL has~~ are those comrades  
who are members of the Young Socialists,  
~~and~~ Comrades should be doing consistent  
contact work with these comrades.

structured political relation with  
us, is one of the few who  
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the RWL, and some  
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[how's that  
Cush?]

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~~formed and in conjunction with our gayxi  
liberation and women's liberation work  
we should begin to explore questions  
and activities in the lesbian movement.~~

E IMMIGRANTS & EXILES

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In other parts of the country there have been significant protests against Bill C-24 which has now been enacted into law. Although the ~~fact~~ the protests in Vancouver were small and sectarian we

Vancouver has a large immigrant community and a significant community of political exiles especially victims of the repression in Latin America. Also, across the country there has been significant movement of Chileanx groups towards the banner of the Fourth International the largest number is in Edmonton.

~~In~~ Over the fall we want to strengthen our ties with the Latin American community in Vancouver, explore possibilities of joint work

immigrants & exiles...2

and bring these comrades closer to us.

This perspective is in keeping with our unity campaign, but also a very important part of our international solidarity work.

The outgoing executive is not recommending a fraction at this time, but rather we suggest that two or three comrades be struck off to stay on top of this important area so that they can recommend to the new executive how this work can best be coordinated.

In addition, we want to remain alert to openings which may arise around victimization of immigrants under the new immigration law and be prepared to carry vigorous defense campaigns in the event of such actions by the state as deportations.

PART  
IIISummary

The tasks document is by necessity a general guide for our fall work in consolidating fusion in Vancouver. ~~THE~~

It emphasizes building a strong branch by establishing strong branch institutions and through effective propagandistic interventions as the class struggle unfolds.

The report projects and sets certain priorities for the fall period and also some recommendations as to how ~~that~~ our work should be organized.

It is important that we have a flexible approach and be prepared to ~~adjust~~ make adjustments in our work to take advantage of opportunities that may arise in the class struggle.

summary....2

(should recap priorities, etc. when final  
draft is written)

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ments, etc.....

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The import of such a conception, along with the impact of the fusion itself, means we can now pose membership to a range of people much wider than open to the founding organizations. The interest and excitement generated by the fusion can be translated into a substantial growth for revolutionary socialist forces here in Vancouver if we approach all facets of our intervention (from contact work, through our work in the unions and campus to our press) in an energetic, creative and aggressive manner. Without hesitation we'll urge all revolutionary socialists now outside our ranks to join in building the new organization." (Tasks document) We will be doing more than encouraging people to join us, but to encourage people to join together with us in building the RWL.

An important assignment for the new executive and the branch will be to discuss a range of programs and structures for accomplishing our contact and periphery work (~~from~~ forums, ongoing class series, weekend classes, individual contact work.....)

Certainly fractions will have to have this as a fundamental item on meeting agendas. We will want to set up a recruitment and contacts committee to have an overall responsibility for this area.

Our possibilities for recruitment will depend, in part, on the impact of our propaganda and interventions. We must use the momentum of the fusion to move out to a wider range of contacts. However we're hardly alone in this endeavor. Not to mention other left groups, the Maoist forces in the city, particularly In Struggle, are in a process of regroupment. Our forces are roughly the same size as I.S. While Maoism has a certain history of strength in this city, especially during the 1960s, we have to our distinct advantage an organization that (through its founding components) has a long experience at a revolutionary intervention; we have a non-sectarian and open attitude toward other leftists; we have a developed and sophisticated analysis and program (which makes those who think the sun revolves around papal declarations from Peking or Albania ~~with its workers and its hippardfjl~~ ~~GOVERNMENT~~ look like characters out of a fairy tale); and finally we are members of an international party of socialist revolution. We must capitalize on all this with a confident and open attitude towards our contacts and periphery.

## II. Finances

The conventions adopted the projection of a campaign to raise regular income by \$2400 monthly in English Canada. The Vancouver branch will participate fully in this crucial national campaign. It will be one of the branch's and executive's top priorities.

A big increase in spending on the cross-country level is necessary for measures to consolidate the fusion. The task of integrating three political groups across the country and the need for a big increase in leadership collaboration between our English Canadian and Quebec wings on a scale far above that possible for any of the founding groups require a strong and flexible staff, extra travel expenses, and other added costs. Another aim is to provide financial assistance for special opportunities in Quebec. A uniform level of financial support to all full-timers has also added to expenditures.

These and other aspects of the consolidation process have increased our pan-C-nadian expenditures far above the combined income of the founding organizations--more than \$5000 a month above the present income.

Another convention proposal to strengthen the fusion was to add full-time organizers in the branches--in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver--where the consolidation must be carried out on the ground.

That proposal, plus the decision for a uniform staff subsistence as it directly affects Vancouver, add more than \$650 per month to the branch's expenses. That's

~~WESONK~~

why our September sustainer to the N.O. is down to only \$750~~xxx~~.

The N.O. has asked Vancouver to consider the goal of raising that NO sustainer by \$450 as its part of the national campaign. That means we should raise it by about \$100 each month until January when it should reach \$1200.

After serious thought, consideration, and initial discussions with a few members to investigate possibilities, the outgoing executive is recommending we adopt this goal. This is in addition to overcoming the deficit we now have in our budget.

This is not a ~~4~~ routine financial campaign to raise monthly pledges. It is more ambitious than either founding organization would have contemplated. That's because the needs of the fusion are ~~new~~ new, unprecedented, and absolutely necessary.

The backbone of the campaign will be increases in the monthly pledges of the members. The attitude must be: no, can my budget manage an increase in my pledge; but, what can I do to my budget to make a significant increase possible.

Both the LSA and RMG in Vancouver were centers of financial strength for their respective organizations. The average membership pledge to the Vancouver branches was among the highest for each group.

Our attitude could be: that means we are already pushing the limit on what comrades can give. The attitude should be, however, that Vancouver can continue to be a source of strength to this crucial campaign.

While the success of the campaign depends on increases in members' pledges, reaching the \$450 goal can be assisted in two additional ways--by a thorough search for our sympathizers who will pledge monthly (thereby bringing them closer to the RWL and helping them make a direct contribution to our political goals) and also by new recruits.

The new financial committee will have to hold discussions with every individual member on how they can contribute to the campaign.

The branch should also hold a discussion ~~fix~~ during the fall on the nature, experience, and goals of the Expansion Fund, and prepare a survey of the members and friends of the RWL for possible donations.

### III. Strong, Effective Interventions

In the months to come our branch will face an increasingly favourable terrain for its public work. The economic and political crisis of Canadian capitalism is far from over. While this creates a much larger audience open to revolutionary solution we must also be aware of the fact that so far the workers movement has proved unable to resist the bourgeois offensive. In B.C. there has been an upswing in the offensive by the Sacred government--the Labour Code amendments, the VRB dissolution, transit cutbacks, Bills removing faculty members from the labour code and other:

to limit student participation in campus politics. The response of the NDP and the unions has so far been timid. Only in a couple of cases over the past year have students responded with any real force to the attacks (the significant mobilizations at UBC and Notre Dame.)

In the coming months we will have to direct a certain amount of attention to developing our analysis of BC politics and economy. But the general parameters of political life point to a series of themes that are addressed in the national tasks document, which we shall not repeat here.

The nature of our organization limits the effect we can have on the course of the class struggle at this time. In this manner, our self-definition is a propaganda group. This does not prevent us from participating in all aspects of the class struggle where we are able. It does not mean that at times we cannot have a significant influence on, and even lead, certain specific struggles. It does mean, however, that we do not currently offer an organizational alternative for the masses, ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ "But what we do have to offer, and only we as an organization have it, is a correct program to solve the problems facing working people. Our strength lies in being able to analyse accurately the course of the class struggle, using Marxist method, and chart a correct way forward." (Tasks) In this manner a strong effective intervention depends on ~~the~~ developing a propagandistic mode of functioning in all our public work--including the sale and popularization of our newspaper as the central component of our work.

The ~~the~~ aspects of this intervention are as follows:

(1) The Newspaper

The newspaper is the number one tool for effective revolutionary propaganda.

The paper will play a central role in consolidating the fusion. As the Convention tasks document notes, "Discussion of line articles for the paper is where the discussion of different points of view is likely to take place. As a result, writing, editing, and discussing stories for the paper, on both the branch and national levels, ~~it~~ help focus our diverse skills and experience in ~~a~~ united effort to elaborate our response to central political questions."

As an educator, organizer, and agitator, the newspaper helps in turning us outward, it explains our most current analysis of developing struggles and it unites the organization by ~~the~~ promoting a ~~the~~ common political understanding.

Through the fall, we must absorb the lesson that our political activity should start with the newspaper, both by elaborating a line for articles on British Columbia's politics and by intervening in the class struggle with sales.

The convention adopted as a prime task of the entire organization starting to move towards a weekly newspaper after an assessment of the timing by the Central Committee. It noted that the main precondition was not in circulation or finances, but

~~the~~

that the branches begin to write articles on a weekly basis analyzing developments in their area.

Our first task with the press should be to meet this goal. We want to develop leadership by having fractions work out their interventions with concise articles for Socialist Voice in mind. The branch exec is responsible for seeing this through and ensuring that the political line of the articles reflects the decisions of the branch as a whole. We want to develop writers for the paper here in Vancouver. Forums or classes are excellent sources for background articles.

Our second task with the paper is to sell the paper on a weekly basis, to trade unionists, NDPers, women, students, gays and all others we meet or work with. We want to adopt an ambitious goal for the national single sales circulation campaign.

There is no secret to good sales. Sales are generally proportional to the number of comrades who sell and the length of time comrades sell. Sales depend on participation. Just as our other political activity is organized on a weekly basis--from branch meetings and forums, to interventions, to writing for and reading the paper (the goal is weekly, at least) we want to develop the norm that every comrade sells the paper at least once a week.

Selling is a form of contact work. We meet and start discussing with a wide range of working people in our sales work. ~~What~~

While there is no campaign to sell subs this fall, subscriptions are especially valuable in bringing contacts and radicalizing people closer to the RWL. We should also not overlook opportunities to sell ~~the~~ La Lutte Ouvriere, Inprecor, and Inter-continental Press.

To carry out these goals we will need a sales committee. How best to organize correspondence with Socialist Voice will be discussed after the branch conference.

- ( 3. (2) Educational work typed separately  
2. (3) Quebec " "  
(4) Areas of Intervention  
A. The Workers Movement

4 3.

7.

education

A key aspect of our work will be education -- both internal cadre education and external education interventions through forums and classes.

The forum program should be a weekly event for the branch and our periphery. We will want to use the forum to bring new people around the RWL, to provide a platform for guest speakers and to intervene and build struggles as they occur. The use of the forum to build and educate around international struggles is also an important tool for us.

An attractive and professional forum program is one of ~~the most effective ways~~ the most effective ways we can present our ideas to a broader range of militants.

We will want a forums committee that can plan and build the forum series as an important weekly event.

Internal education will also be a large part of branch life for the whole next period. We want to fully participate in ~~any~~ the national discussions which remain open after the convention. We also want to be creative in a program of education to guarantee that comrades are well grounded in Marxist theory and able to present our program in popular ways in the areas of work.

An important part of cadre education is classes and work with contacts and new members. The incoming executive will need to carefully assess the education needs of the branch and its periphery and make recommendations as to how to best structure this aspect of our education work.

Also, comrades should be keeping up to date in the international discussion in preparation for the pre-congress discussion

J.

which will get underway within the next year.

2. QUEBEC (I think this should follow the section on the press and be lifted out of the national tasks document -- cush)

One striking example of the importance of the strengthening of the circulation of our press and publications is the crucial task we have before us in the fall: Quebec defense.

As yet there is little motion in English Canada toward defending Quebec against Trudeau's chauvinist offensive. Even proponents of a new constitution to save Canada's unity have made little headway—and they take no clear stand in defense of Quebec's right to self-determination.

The only other organized campaign is that of the Fourth International.

There is much sympathy in English Canada for Quebec's national aspirations, but few yet see that Quebec's right to self-determination is being challenged by Trudeau and his allies.

Our increased attention to the workers movement, both in the form of NDP fraction work and increasing our forces in the unions, will be crucial to the development of Quebec defense work. ~~There are signs that we may be able~~ <sup>want</sup> to raise the Quebec question at union, conventions and ~~opportunities may arise~~ <sup>meetings</sup> in the student movement. <sup>and</sup>

While we want to be alert to openings for action of any kind, it's clear that at this time there is no basis for launching a successful united front defense committee for self-determination for Quebec.

The most consistent way we can get out the truth on Quebec and win new people to our position is through effective circulation of our press and publications. Our newspaper will be the only paper in English Canada to carry extensive and accurate information and analysis on Quebec events.

~~We'll work to publish our basic analysis of Quebec's national oppression in pamphlet, or if possible, in book form.~~

While we do not expect the development of any mobilizations to defend Quebec's rights in the coming months, we must be alert to possible changes in the situation which may indicate such openings are occurring.

Forums ~~and work like the joint tour on Quebec~~ are an important way of maintaining a certain public awareness on this issue, particularly on the left, and continually gauging the response of activists to the challenge posed by the Quebecois national struggle.

9.

TRADE UNION WORK

The Orientation text and the tasks document adopted at the convention explains at great length the centrality of the trade union movement, concluding that "our orientation to the workers movement will be at the centre of our political work" and that "discussion planning and leading our trade union work will be one of the central tasks of our national and branch leadership in close collaboration with the various fractions."

The central role played by the trade union movement in the political life of BC ~~is~~ makes its stand out among all the provinces of English Canada. Press releases by the BC Fed are not buried in the movie section, but instead receive front page coverage. Debates in the unions and matters effecting them are fully covered.

in the bourgeois press and taken up in the legislature; the ~~g~~ trade unions played a major role in defeating the Socred government in 1972, and it consistently has lead and participated in ~~the~~ broader social movements, from ICBC through the VRB. Thus the debates of the labour movement and work in it become the key focus of the left in this province, ~~and~~ a left groups' credibility is largely determined by the work it does in the union movement.

The central debates that will determine the progress of the class struggle are to a very large extent taking place in the organizations of the labour movement, especially the unions. And most other ~~a~~ social struggles are reflected and adressed there (women, natives, Quebec, tripartism, gay, unemployment, inflation.-.) This leads to obvious conclusions about the importance of this work for rooting and building the RWL here in B.C., not to mention the longer term, strategic importancet of the organized working class. ~~The~~

The major questions we will want to adress in the unions in this period are ~~many~~ ~~concretely~~ the most relevant ~~the~~ aspects of our general approach and program for the labour movement:

1. independance of the workers movement from the state. Against tripartism, ~~and~~ against compromise with the government over federalism.
2. unity of the class. Support for actions of the womens and gay movements, organizing the unorganized (including support for UBW), support for self-determination for ~~a~~ Quebec.
3. For militant forms of struggle against wage controls and anti-labour legislation, and over issues of health, safety and the environment.
4. For rank and file democracy.

Although we have comrades in many unions, we will attempt to centralize our trade union work within a few carefully selected unions, determined by a number of factors. (it being a national RWL priority, where there is a great concentration of militants, where there are important openings, where we have a history of intervention, of where a union is central in the BC labour movement.) Concretely this means maintaining the two major union interventions of the founding organizations in CUPW and BCTF. As well we want to work within a longer term perspective of beginning to develop the interventions comrades have begun in CBRT, IWA, Steelworkers and ATU. In these areas we will work to set clear and limited objectives, and attempt to provide a structure where comrades in these unions can have a collective forum for discussion and ~~and~~ problem solving.

Beyond these interventions (but having a certain bearing on them) we want to reach broader layers of militants through press ~~and~~ sales and delegates to ~~the~~ the labour council, BC Fed, labour seminars, other union conventions, and strike support work. The empha~~sis~~ or mode of work here will be propagandistic, with the stress on

-#1

periphery and propaganda tasks. This means effectively utilizing all our propaganda tools--the press, forums, class series, systematic contact work and taking our campaigns into the unions. The branch as a whole must be cognizant of the central importance of this work, and accordingly provide the necessary resources to back up through our fraction and committee structures and for press sales.

The structure for implementing this work will be three fractions--CUPW, BCTF, and an 'industrial fraction' to include the comrades in CBRT, IWA, Steel and ATU. As well, there will be a small, overall trade union committee, composed of a couple of comrades from each of the three fractions. This committee will provide leadership to the fractions and will be responsible for work in the ~~labor~~ unions in general, including articles for the press, contact ~~work~~ and periphery work.

Some ~~im~~ immediate tasks in this area of work ~~of~~ over the fall are:

1. for each fraction and the committee to work out its perspectives by elaborating from this outline, and feed it back into the executive and the branch;
2. At the BC Fed convention, press sales, press coverage, contact work, and preparation for the intervention of comrades who are delegates;
3. Selling the press at various union conventions to introduce the new organization to the union movement. Also at labour council seminars, the national CUPE convention in late October, and so forth.
4. Write for the press and suggest forum topics for the branch.

Our union activity ~~must~~ must be seen as long term, patient work. The t.u. committee should give thought to beginning to develop long term perspectives and analysis of the B.C. Labour movement and to developing and instituting a colonization plan in accordance with the above prioritized unions; and to establishing coordination with the national trade union commission. It should discuss ways of structuring the periphery of trade union comrades.

THE NDP -

WORK IN THE NEW DEMONCRATIC PARTY

The other side of our intervention in the workers' movement is our attitude to the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ New Democratic Party and to developments within it.

In British Columbia, the formation of the Open Caucus and the existence of the Women's Rights Committee provide us with an opportunity to work with militants within the NDP who are moving to the left. Many of these militants have worked with ~~the~~ both the RMG and LSA in important campaigns such as the defense of Rosie Douglas, the defense of victims of the coup in Chile, the abortion struggle and most recently in defense of the right of the Quebecois to national self-determination.

The former LSA branch was carrying out fraction work in the NDP and we will want to continue this over the fall both in the constituency associations and in the Open Caucus and women's committee.

(is our general guideline that all comrades should join the NDP -- if so we should add a ~~par~~ paragraph. possibly this section could go into more detail, but I think it's pretty well discussed in the pre-convention period...cush)

Cush -  
Edmonton &  
Quebec  
are inserted  
onto  
page 6

B. WOMEN'S LIBERATION

\* The radicalization of women has continued to deepen and the intervention by the branch into this important area remains a key task for the fall. Already we are involved in the coalition organizing the November 5, Rape Protest action. We will want to continue this intervention and to assign ~~appropriate~~ comrades to the Nov. 5 fraction.

Specifically around the rape demonstration we will be writing articles for Socialist Voice and exploring the possibilities of a forum featuring some of the organizers of the action.

The organizing for November 5 provides us with an important opportunity to probe the possibilities for actions on International Women's Day in March.

W.L. 2

The outgoing executive is proposing that we have a women's liberation committee responsible for coordinating our work in this area and staying on top of developments in the women's movement. In addition, specific fractions will be set up for specific interventions, such as the Nov. 5 action.

The branch will continue the interventions ~~which~~ in the BCFW and NDP Women's Rights Committee and to be open to other interventions that arise, such as actions ~~in~~ around abortion, child care, cutbacks in social services, etc.

CAMPUS and work with the Young Socialists

One of the areas where we ~~can~~ can see motion against the offensive of the bourgeoisie is on the campuses and in the high schools, especially the anti-cutbacks protests at UBC. Also, on the campuses we find large groups of people who are open to our ideas and willing to discuss our politics with us. This is most graphically shown by the growth of the Vancouver YS local in the past year -- \_\_\_\_\_ comrades have been in the YS for ~~less~~ a year or less.

At the present time there are \_\_\_\_\_ comrades of the RWL on UBC and 2 at SFU, in addition, there are \_\_\_\_\_ comrades on UBC who are members of the

campus....2

YS, but not yet members of the branch.

This is a very large concentration of our cadre resources and we have every reason to expect major gains for the movement in the coming period.

The new executive will have to work out how branch comrades who are not in the local will carry out their campus work, but we will want to have strong lines of communication and collaboration with the comrades in the local.

As stated in the Tasks document adopted by the joint convention, we will be having a discussion on whether to maintain a youth organization in English Canada, but this discussion requires that we go through an ex-

campus....3

perience of common work with the comrades  
of the IS.

In collaboration with the IS,  
we will want to take the RWL onto the  
campus and our campaigns into the stu-  
dent arena, such as bringing the K UBC

women's office into the Nov. 5 action.

At this point the only contacts in a  
~~The most politically sophisticated~~

~~contacts the RWL has~~ are those comrades  
who are members of the Young Socialists,  
~~and~~ Comrades should be doing consistent  
contact work with these comrades.

structured political relation with  
us, is one of the few who  
work on a program in  
explicit solidarity with  
the RWL, and some  
of the most politically  
developed contacts  
the RWL has are...

[how's that  
Cush?]

GL...2

~~formed and in conjunction with our gayxi  
liberation and women's liberation work  
we should begin to explore questions  
and activities in the lesbian movement.~~

E IMMIGRANTS & EXILES

In other parts of the country there have been significant protests against Bill C-24 which has now been enacted into law. Although the ~~fact~~ the protests in Vancouver were small and sectarian we

Vancouver has a large immigrant community and a significant community of political exiles especially victims of the repression in Latin America. Also, across the country there has been significant movement of Chileanx groups towards the banner of the Fourth International the largest number is in Edmonton.

Over the fall we want to strengthen our ties with the Latin American community in Vancouver, explore possibilities of joint work

immigrants & exiles...2

and bring these comrades closer to us.

This perspective is in keeping with our unity campaign, but also a very important part of our international solidarity work.

The outgoing executive is not recommending a fraction at this time, but rather we suggest that two or three comrades be struck off to stay on top of this important area so that they can recommend to the new executive how this work can best be coordinated.

In addition, we want to remain alert to openings which may arise around victimization of immigrants under the new immigration law and be prepared to carry vigorous defense campaigns in the event of such actions by the state as deportations.

PART  
IIISummary

The tasks document is by necessity a general guide for our fall work in consolidating fusion in Vancouver. ~~THE~~

It emphasizes building a strong branch by establishing strong branch institutions and through effective propagandistic interventions as the class struggle unfolds.

The report projects and sets certain priorities for the fall period and also some recommendations as to how ~~that~~ our work should be organized.

It is important that we have a flexible approach and be prepared to ~~adjust~~ make adjustments in our work to take advantage of opportunities that may arise in the class struggle.

summary....2

(should recap priorities, etc. when final  
draft is written)

We want to be alert to new develop-  
ments, etc.....