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THE PRESENT INTERNAL SITUATION

by Lyn Marcus

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NCLC INTERNAL DISCUSSION

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The single most important internal difficulty we continue to experience since late January of this year, is the lack of opportunity for several days to a week of general holiday, during which the strains of physical and mental anxiety could be reduced, to the effect that the members' minds could stretch out a bit to encompass a reflective overview of the process in which we are engaged. It is possible that the consolidation of the emerging hard-core of NUWRO will at least ease the intensity of per capita strains. It is immediately urgent and possible, despite the other demands upon our energies, that the necessary reflective process occur.

Focussing on the New York region and national center, where the clinical evidence is available to me in greater detail, we can efficiently summarize the post-Dec. 29, 1973 developments in terms of successive demands upon the members' resources for international mobilization.

1. The two-and-a-half weeks beginning in the pre-dawn hours of Dec. 31, 1973. For this there was total and generally magnificent response by the entire membership.
2. The disgusting capitulation of virtually every Labour and "revolutionary socialist" Left faction in Great Britain to the openly-proclaimed CIA military dictatorship threat. Then there were significant sections of the membership which began to block out reality in absolutely classic expressions of psychologically protective depression, and even reaction formations, in response to exceptional stress. A handful of members have remained in and out of that state of anxiety-withdrawal from reality since about that time.
3. Financial emergencies: because this underlined the reality that we, alone in this nation, as an organized force, were fighting for humanity's very existence, and a perceptibly -- as finances emphasized -- with damned little manifest caring about humanity outside our ranks, these emergencies were almost as stressing as the initial CIA attacks and the reality of British capitulation.
4. Organizing workers demanded a maximum ~~assertion~~ exercise of self-consciousness at exactly the time that stress anxiety was increasing intellectual and emotional blocks. Furthermore, since organizing efforts forced members to come out from behind protective neurotic blocks, there was a significant tendency to invent reasons without factual basis in reality for "why workers can't be reached at just this moment" in one locality or another. Organizing workers became almost as much a cause for anxiety as

- ✱ Britain and financial emergencies. This was reflected in a re-ification of data on organizing to the effect of reducing workers in networks to mere statistics in practice. The worst, anal disease of the movement, basing organizing perspectives on number games, broke out as a symptom of the temporary emotional crisis of even some formerly leading organizers.
5. The laggardness in vigorously searching out and counterattacking against the CIA's "psy-war" campaigns of "freaking out" parents and relatives, actually brainwashing as well as framing up a number of NUWRO and RYM organizers, etc., was caused by neurotic seizures of anxiety and created further cause for this anxiety.
6. The dull thud response to analysis of the Canadian developments (in New York, Newark, Philadelphia and undoubtedly elsewhere) again reflects simple neurotic anxiety, an effort to block out reality.

Before discussing this pattern in more detail, it is useful to compare the explosive growth in European Labour Committee membership and peripheries with the more modest rate of expansion in the U.S.A. or the momentarily hopeless situation in England. All three situations add up to a lawful expression of the mass-strike process.

What is the key distinction among these three areas? In England, we had the greatest immediate objective opportunity for recruitment of individual members during January, since the reality of our analysis was not factually contested by any merely honest observer there. In the U.S.A. we have the greatest potential for individual recruitment (provided we concentrate on recruiting workers) because we have greater left-hegemony among workers than the rest of the left combined. It is actually or implicitly obvious to now millions of industrial workers and others that if a socialist transformation is to occur in the U.S., the NCLC is the organization now on the scene carrying that particular ball. On the continent, where we have the highest rates of recruitment (trebling within three months!), we have the poorest competitive merits for recruitment, provided we consider the NCLC and ELC as merely competitors for recruits in a mass of potential recruits. After all, the continent has mass Communist parties and social-democracies with left-wing factions far more viable in political quality than anything we meet outside the NCLC in North America.

The answer has already been implied. In the U.S.A., but for a few small groups, there is absolutely no organized force with which to, in reality, form a united front -- outside the potential which exists within the CPUSA. In Canada, the situation is better in that respect. In England, there was absolutely zero -- although the situation would have permitted us to recruit fantastically, within the prisons and concentration camps in which your members would have been shortly prime pioneer inmates. It is the fact that

our united-front proposal is so visibly realizable on the continent, that makes the difference. It is not accidental that the growth is greatest in Italy and West Germany, where the united-front work enjoys a kind of fluidity on the left not existing in France. (Indeed, this is a happy confirmation of the strategic perspective for European recruiting potentials we developed back in 1969.)

This is not to gloss over the actual qualities of the ELC leadership. Although the present ELC was developed from the basis of a loosely-coordinated circle of about a score of persons, beginning in the first of 1973, that year involved the most intensive development of a leadership corps which has ever occurred outside a revolutionary upsurge as such. In commitment and essential conceptual qualities of leadership, the European executive does not compare unfavorably with the NCLC's NEC. However, that acknowledged, the decisive distinction under immediate consideration is determined by the actual token and enormous potential movements toward a united-front movement's formation.

It should be stressed respecting comparisons that the ELC is acting under the same policy directives and general tactical orientation as the NCLC, and as severe a set of financial pressures, and that the internal problems (episodic blocking by individual leaders) of the ELC executive are not much different as a frictional problem than we encounter within the NEC.

The connection between the favorable situation of the ELC and its internal reflections is mediated through the dynamics of self-consciousness which feed upon such social movements. The cadres who are responding to the influence of positive ferment in class forces around them more readily develop a higher degree of consciousness, greater resulting intellectual powers and emotional sanity, which, as subjective qualities, are in turn reflected in their practice. Hence, the mediated exponential influence of political organizing work under such conditions.

However, we can not leave matters so simply ~~explaining~~ explained. We must qualify the situation of our cadres in (especially) Italy and Germany, to stipulate that their immediate advantage can be restated thus.

In nations which are visibly under vicious attack by forces (Rodefeller et al.) identified with foreign powers (e.g., the U.S.A.) there is an immediate credibility for fighting alliances against such foreign aggression provided that there exist visible, organized forces which are credibly predisposed to be mobilized for such anti-imperialist struggles. The immediacy of the potential united-front movements is presented in the most credible terms, in terms of alliances of existing, institutionalized mobilizations.

In the U.S.A., we have to overcome the workers' identification with the Rockefeller interests as being part of the workers' own nation (e.g., the susceptibility of U.S. populist-type formations to the "Arab" oil boycott hoax, as a prepackaged reaction formation against ~~x~~ confronting the real enemy "at home"), and the lack of credible established mass-based vanguard institutions mobilizable for struggle.

Despite those apparent disadvantages, as the recent upsurge of numerous ~~xx~~ strikes underlines for those who mistook "mass-strike period" for a mere abstraction, there is existing united-front motion on an extended scale within the U.S.A. itself. This plain fact has frequently been blocked out during the past two months by the anxiety-neurotic efforts of at least significant numbers of members to conceive the building of NUWRO as the creation of an "other" organization with which to form a united front at a later date. They declined to see NUWRO as the united-front process in concrete, a united front of the entire NCLC and RYM with groups of organic mass-leaders of industrial workers and unemployed.

Indeed, the mass-strike ferment in key regions of the U.S.A. is on the scale of the middle 1930's and as extensive as on the European continent. ~~k~~ The principal factual distinction to be made is that the U.S.A. lacks ready-made multiple mass based vanguard organizations of the type of the social-democratic left-wing factions and Communist parties. In terms of national or regional vanguard groups, or even left-wing trade unions with which to unite, there is virtually zero here.

In part, this difference does introduce a significant tactical difficulty for us, although not of the qualitative importance which some members' anxieties purport to reflect. The essential point to be made is that this discrepancy compels ~~us~~ us to self-consciously conceptualize the process of organizing a mass-based force in order to give our membership the per capita effectiveness of ELC members. In sum, the question of whether Europe has advantages over the U.S.A. is essentially a subjective question. If our members see the process of organizing as a united-front process, and therefore act accordingly, we have a most advantageous situation here.

For example. Do you treat a factory, an unemployment center as merely a possible area of propaganda and contact work, or do you regard the unorganized vanguard force at each such location as an element of a united front, to be treated in the same responsible fashion as the ELC treats negotiations and collaborations with the left-wing of the social-democracy of Communist parties? In short, as self-conscious overview of the organizing process "sees" the organizations being created in much ~~the same~~ ~~the same~~ ~~the same~~ terms as if they already existed as organized formations. This is a matter of conceptualizing process as process, rather than merely in anal, statistical terms.

The Psychological Problems

The reality which confronts each member continues to be what it was during the first weeks of this year.

Unless the Labor Committees are able to deploy in almost a military exactness, with abrupt maneuvers, maintaining the financial level of activity necessary to function as an effective force, there will be no hope for the human race by the end of 1974.

Despite the approximation of our analysis which has been promulgated by the Soviet leadership and the ~~KK~~ PCF, and the relative ~~xxxx~~ viabilities and leading roles to be played by forces much, much larger than our own, we are the only existing organization in the world which collectively embodies the organic development of world-outlook and methodological capabilities to contribute the margin of leadership initiative without which the human race will absolutely be lost to fascism and subsequent nuclear holocaust by the end of this year.

For those newer members who may not ; have fully conceptualized this point so far, we shall summarily restate the relevant case a short space ahead.

The essential, immediate point to be made at this point is that all manifestations of anxiety neurosis must create a fictitious premise which either implicitly rejects that terrible reality or which acts as an obsession to hysterically distract its neurotic victim's attention totally away from reality, to some special concern.

Apart from those extreme cases which verge upon the appearance of psychotic episodes (dissociation phenomena) all such neurosis employs the principle of "fallacy of composition" as a device for assuming a specious disguise of rationality. A construct is built, upon facts isolated from context for reification.

These constructs are of two general types. The straight-forward case is illustrated by the individual explaining away his wilful accident-proneness by denying the existence or relevance of all facts but those supporting the God's dice thesis. "It was just a series of accidents," this neurotic shrieks: "Don't try to make a pattern out of it; take each case one by one." The second type, overtly slyer, resorts again to fallacy of composition, but introduces a series of hypotheses instead of positive counter-conclusions to reality. "You must consider the possibility...", this hysteric proceeds, stipulating the "scientific rigor" that the plain fact of the situation taken as a whole must be ignored until the entire list of contrived hypotheses has been thoroughly investigated. The extreme example of this would be the "materialist" who refused to accept the existence of human mental processes until the possibility of thought had been fully explained by an investigation beginning with

the simplest quanta of energy. One inquires quietly, "By what means do you propose to effect that chain of judgments," and the hysteric responds, "Facts, reason," rejecting any "hypothesis" on thought as factual until the investigation he proposes has been completed.

Most members have observed the infectiousness of hysterical behavior among groups of people suffering anxiety. Indeed, "Chinese" brainwashing and "encounter group" methods of approximating brainwashing generally depend upon that phenomenon. One psychotic or semi-psychotic, notably certain types of paranoid schizophrenics, tend to have an infectious influence as participants in a group under stress. Thus, a single zombie within an encounter group can virtually spread semi-psychotic symptoms like the common cold.

Most psychological warfare technology is more or less deliberately premised on that principle of "infectious paranoia," as some members have recently noted in the wierd pathologies produced in their parents and relatives.

The obsessions which complement the paranoid schizophrenic modes (cited above) in anxiety reactions involves simply fixing upon an isolated point of preoccupation to the extent of thus blocking out everything the victim of this hysteria does not wish to see.

The general fallacy of composition pervading all such phenomena is simply a reflection of the individuals being driven in upon himself (to his mother-image-dominated ego-state), and thus degrading his conscious perception of the world about him to selected little turds of "fact," selected according to bourgeois-ideological ego-ideals. He loses his capacity to comprehend reality as a world-totality, he can not conceptualize processes, and by thus losing his most vital mental ~~perceptions~~ perceptual powers denies ("I can't see that") what the loss of that organ deprives him the mental power to detect.

"Music for musicians," "art for artists" are infallible illustrations of such neurotic loss of creative powers of perception. This, as we have reviewed the matter repeatedly during the past year, arises among musicians (for example) who have been terrified of confronting the "fundamental emotion." He responds to this fear in the manner I find most explicitly expressed in much of Gustav Mahler's music, a sudden regression into "romantic" preciousities -- "cute" expressions, etc. -- whenever he flees from prescience of deep emotion. (The report of R Freud's analytical sessions with Mahler confirms this point.) "Artists alone can appreciate art," reflects the preoccupation with the banal little preciousities of the palette and brush-stroke, "specialized masturbation," a series of motions which only a similarly trained masturbator could appreciate. It is the degradation of reality to a collection of recipes, in which "creativity" is reduced to refusing to measure one's seasonings.

It is the same principle which operates in the present stress-situation. We confront two infinite processes. We are faced with the fearful infinity of a world in which we, tiny, virtually alone at the moment, must take responsibility for the very future existence of the human race. The mind reaches for comprehension of that, and withdraws with a shudder, fearing not so much the horrors of fascism and nuclear holocaust as the initial horror of Schwaermerei at drawing upon the fundamental emotion required to effect the comprehension. The same problem arises in organizing the world working-class, another infinity which evokes the same dread of the sailing and threatened sinking movements of the ocean of fundamental emotion.

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The courage of the membership in early January largely reflected the illusion that it was only necessary to break through the thin if perilous thicket of forces immediately before us and then we would arrive as an open field or relative safety. Then, Britain took away that security -- the perilous area was no mere thicket, but at least a small jungle. The financial problems underlined the distance from the present moment to escape from the strains. Each added manifestation of the infinite made it increasingly less possible to imagine that the problems before us were not a finite area of struggle, the jungle seemed limitless. It was like fighting battles in the opening months of a long war -- "Where will there be an end to this?"

The stressed mind withdraws from the demand of confronting the fundamental emotion by refusing to see anything except in turdlike discrete terms. The process linking together the discrete experiences is thus rendered "intangible," as the mind flees deeper into the infantile ego, hoping to find the hole where the "intangible" becomes totally unfelt.

The danger, as in brainwashing, is that because each such retreat is a half-conscious self-degradation (an act of willing moral and intellectual dishonesty), the toleration of successive moral retreats from reality become a process of retreat. It is this process of retreat, shown clinically when confrontation with reality results in the victim's retreats into greater depths of hysterical stupidity, which represents the condition of neurosis, of hysteria, leading toward disassociation and possible paranoid-schizophrenic episodes.

This must be generally comprehended by members in each Local, and certain working principles of mental health adopted as an organic part of the internal life of the organization.

1. The kind of stress leading toward anxiety must be acknowledgeable without shame. (e.g. ridicule, bombast) attached. This however, ~~is~~ also means without those gestures of contempt expressed by a maudlin sympathy for "for your suffering." This demands the necessary climate in which the proper response to fantasy and obsession. "You really know that's nonsense," is supportive rather than ego-stripping. I.e., in which the situation is "I remind you when you're playing the neurotic fool, on condition that you do as much for me if I slip into a similar state of spouting nonsense," etc.

rather than ego-stripping. I.e., in which the situation is "I remind you when you're playing the neurotic fool, on condition that you do as much for me if ~~is~~ I slip into a similar state of spouting nonsense," etc.

2. That the reality principle always be the standard of judgment of what is real and false. I.e., our economic analysis of the strategic situation, dialectical method.
3. Situate the methods of the "new psychoanalysis" always within the ground of that reality principle.
4. Attack every problem by rising above the narrow, particularized form to the larger reality.
5. Accept the danger of casualties while determining not to become a psychological casualty. (Any person who has come out of brainwashing or has struggled to pull someone out of such a state, knows that it is better to die than to let the bastards turn one into a zombie.) It is members who permit themselves to fall into deeper anxiety reaction-formations that are notably vulnerable to brainwashing; we will inevitably have some hideous casualties among such members and especially among ~~such~~ ex-members. The greatest danger at the moment is to black RYM youth and to ex-LC members, who will tend (in high proportions) to be pressed into some brainwashing program for obvious usefulness against us once they are in such a psychotic state. Given the size of the membership, etc. they must inevitably be a few such casualties, in inverse proportion to the effectiveness of our organizing, Operation Nuremburg campaign, and willingness to act ruthlessly in psychological warfare against those who join the LEAA-NAG operations against our members. Don't be terrified by such casualties when they occur; psychological death of that sort is a real ~~is~~ risk throughout the U.S.A. today. Concentrate upon inoculating yourself and others against the decline into ego-states which makes you susceptible, and act ruthlessly to rescue any member or periphery found in the probable first stages of conditioning.

The Kernel of our Development

My own most essential contributions to our development as an organization was consolidated during [the 1959-1961 period, by the apparently fortuitous task of working out the proof why no digital ~~fixxxxxxxx~~ computer system ever yet to be developed could possibly replicate actual intelligence. Although this recently had some auxiliary importance for more readily diagnosing cases of computer assisted types of programmed behavioral modification and informing some of our members where to look for the development of this aspect of brainwashing technology, the essential, decisive

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feature of that breakthrough was the resolution of the Cantor-Rieman notions which had preoccupied me since 1952.

The significance of this was essentially pedagogical, in the sense that it provided me with a concrete application of the Hegelian and Marxian forms of the dialectic through which I could immediately conceptualize the fundamental conceptions rather than enjoy a knowledge in the form of a Marxian-Hegelian critique of the Kantian system. (Which latter is generally the highest level achieved by any ~~profess professional~~ professed dialectician outside our organization, the understanding of the dialectical method approximated by pro-process-basis negation of axiomatic discreteness.) This actual mastery of Marxian method enabled me to represent, develop, and apply that method as my own immediate knowledge, as opposed to the alternative of accomplishing a mere scholarly representation of what Marx had formulated. Instead of being a mere scholar, efficiently qualified to retail Marxian method and economics, I was free to represent that knowledge and apply it on the authority of my own immediate, direct conception of ~~it~~.

My contributions to Marx, in this light, can be accounted as variously a modern representation of Marxian method and economic theory (since only modern persons could state Marx directly from a modern background of knowledge.), to assimilate certain few critical, needed features of modern achievement into the corpus of that theory, and to create for the first time ~~since~~ a self-conscious pedagogy concerning Hegel's Feuerbach's and Marx's principal achievements.

The development of the Labor Committees has been essentially in essence what ~~is~~ has been in observed fact, the teaching of Marxian method and conceptions initiated on the basis of my own authority to directly communicate that material and apply it ~~to~~ freely to a wide-ranging variety of topics thrown at me, and the developments of members' comprehension of what they have studied in that way through a body of social practice, as an organization, based on these conceptions.

Consequently, the Labor Committee tendency is the only organization yet existing in which actual Marxian method and economic and other theoretical conceptions can be the basis for policy-making problem-solving. This has been realized -- to the extent ~~is~~ has actually been fulfilled, at a time when this competence ~~is~~ is the absolute minimum required to comprehend what the class as a whole must be brought to understand as the alternative to the end to humanity.

In a relatively large proportion of members, this collective competence may not yet exist as the independent ~~wa~~ quality of the member taken as an individual, but those members have assimilated two things which make them immediately potentially capable of making a qualitative leap to actual individual competence. In general, they have grasped our ~~to~~ method and the rudiments of more of theory in an algebraic way (as an efficient basis for scholarly critique),

and this comprehension has to be sharpened by a series of shared experiences in using this algebraic competence as a means for enabling them to make a series of conceptual breakthroughs on particular issues. They have also accumulated experience of several breakthroughs or more, a kind of "bad infinity" experience of the dialectical method as a principle for enumerating ~~an~~ new dialectical conceptions in particular. For such members it is only necessary that they make the leap from this algebraic "bad infinity" comprehension to its obvious "transfinite" equivalent, that their competence should seem thus to others to almost "miraculously" burst forth as their independent intellectual and political-leadership powers.

So far, I have borne what has been for me an awful personal responsibility on this account. It has been necessary for me to initiate most of our strategic and major tactical initiatives, as well as most of our essential conceptual breakthroughs. This has been guided (and thus delimited in practice) by those opportunities in which it was possible to couple the utterance of a conceptualization with its imminent empirical confirmation. The conceptual process within the organization generally has been premised on the conviction (and, hence, conceptualization) occurring as the predictive aspect of the new conception was empirically verified in the members' experience.

The NC plenum and aftermath of Sept., 1971 is notable in this respect. Although the ~~a~~ demonetization of the IMF in March, 1968 sufficiently confirmed my 1958-60 conjunctural predictions from the standpoint of scientific rigor, it was the August 15-16 events which gave overwhelming credibility to those same predictions, because the publicized change in institutions meant that only an hysterical fool could now pretend the contrary. The immediate effect upon the NCLC was to eliminate the last significant unconscious reservations concerning me economic-theoretical predictions (which they had previously formally accepted as policy), and because the theory itself had passed its test so overwhelmingly against a sea of ridicule and opposition in the left, academic classrooms, etc., the members obtained from that the strength to make an entire new leap forward in conceptualization of policies, strategies, etc., out of which circumstance it was possible to articulate the already-developed thesis in the form represented in the Socialism or ~~Russians?~~ Fascism? pamphlet.

Following that, we made a series of breakthroughs, which each increased the basis for the succeeding advance.

This is not an extension of me, personally. As wretchedly inadequate as we of the NEC general staff look to one another nightly gathered to comprehend the world of that day, each of our contacts among the ranks of the world's leading socialist and capitalist strata -- and we have had a fair sampling of those in the past three months, shows us that wretchedly inadequate as we appear to be to ourselves,

there is no agency in the world to which we could look up for approval of our work, and barely a handful of the world's leading figures and agencies which have the bare competence to act upon what we virtually alone can understand. I think that one of the principal problems of our members is that they do not adequately appreciate that their participation represents a selection as well as development process. However queer your parents and miserable your feeling of yourself in your private fears and self-doubts, this 1,000-odd collection of seeming odd-balls can not be unfavorably compared with anything outside it today. If there will be something better than we are in the world, it will exist because we make it possible.

If we recognize the distinction between hubris and mere protective bombast, and that the self-effacing denial of hubris ("so as not to offend unduly") poisons the capacity for sanity, our membership will be able to see itself in world-historical terms as, unfortunately, the best agency that exists.

For what we need for what we have to do, we have unquestioned right. What we say collectively, has the closest approximation to reality being uttered by anyone. Give courage and leadership to the frightened skeptics around our organization. Moreover, if we don't win, life won't be worth living for any human being, anyway. We are risking nothing that we would not be certain to lose otherwise. We, of all people, are at least alive.

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