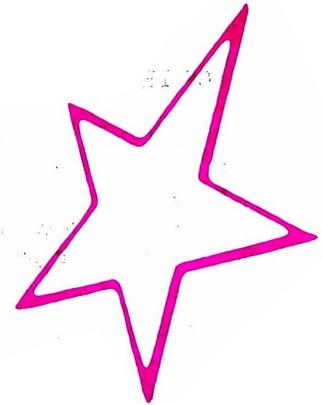


# CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

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## B L A C K P E R S P E C T I V E S

1. The economic attack upon the Black community continues unabated. For an ever-increasing number of Blacks, upturns in the economy have little effect. This attack does not affect all sectors in the same way. There is now a stable Black industrial working class which could not be dislodged from their jobs without a truly massive economic catastrophe. There is also a numerically larger Black middle class than in the past. But for a considerable and growing section of the community, American capitalism offers no future except permanent joblessness, poverty and a struggle for bare survival.

The administration's concern today, however is for the white middle income tax payer, not the Black inner city dweller. The tax revolt in particular while not strictly a racist phenomena, is objectively an attack on the Black community and is part and parcel of almost any conservative thrust in America today. It is Black people and other minorities who suffer most from the loss of public sector jobs and cuts in social services and education.

The Bakke decision and the endorsement of it by the Carter administration is another aspect of the current political attack on the Black community. And there is more to come. The fact that the Carter administration allowed Ian Smith of Rhodesia to enter the U.S. is a clear indication of the political alliances and the racist right-wing offensive. This is not simply a foreign policy issue divorced from American politics. It foreshadows the way these same forces will line up toward the Black community domestically.

The failure of traditional liberalism in the Democratic Party means that the Black leadership can no longer count on a well organized coalition with labor and white liberals to support programs benefiting the Black community. While all sectors of the Black community are not equally affected by this political attack, when it comes to carrying out the policies of economic austerity in the cities, the differences between the white racist and the most liberal or even Black city administrations are not very different.

2. Over the past year there has been a slow but real return to mass struggle on the part of the Black community. It is one part of a process that will lead to the re-birth of the Black movement in America.

Mass actions have developed around the issues of police abuse in some industrial cities, the revival of the Ku Klux Klan in the south, against the Bakke decision and in support of the Southern Africa freedom fighters.

## BLACK PERSPECTIVES/2

With some exceptions the organizations and coalitions involved in these struggles give the major political emphasis to support for the Democratic Party and its candidates.

In our work during this period we will emphasize support for more mass actions, and develop propaganda on the need for independent political action.

3. The Black leadership - the NAACP, the Urban League, SCLC, the Congressional Black Caucus - has received nothing for its support to Carter in 1976. This has led to a search for alternatives in reactionary directions - the Republican Party and big business. Despite the debates, however, the middle class Black leadership has generally remained committed to the Democratic Party. Within that party a section of the Congressional Black Caucus has joined DSOC and is involved in the recent Fraser led attempt to revive the old labor/liberal Black coalition.

The failure of the middle class leadership to turn back the offensive has reinforced the apathy and cynicism of the Black community that anything can be done. The process of political dialogue inside the Black middle class leadership, and the beginnings of mass struggle will eventually lead to a new movement for Black liberation.

4. The I.S. began to develop serious ongoing Black work at a time when the militant Black liberation fighters of the late sixties had become demoralized, dead or jailed. This hindered our efforts. Because there was no movement in which we could participate, we had to pick and choose what issue to campaign around. Some issues moved, other's didn't. But despite the difficulties, the Black and anti-racist work has been the major source of Black recruitment to the I.S. and the Red Tide, the youth section of the I.S.

The lack of a movement has also made cadre development difficult. Nonetheless, the retention rate of Black comrades has been no different from that of white worker comrades.

5. The Red Tide is the major achievement of the I.S.'s Black work. While the Red Tide is not a Black organization, it has been a major source of recruitment to the I.S. during the last period. Because the Red Tide is both a working class and a multi-racial organization, it has provided the I.S. with a means to operate inside the Black community. The Red Tide has also been a good training ground for Black cadre for the I.S. and the Red Tide.

The Red Tide is a real youth organization and thus requires a tremendous amount of patience and resources from the I.S. Today the Red Tide only exists as an organization in Detroit - due primarily to a lack of I.S. resources as well as Red Tide cadre resources.

The Red Tide cannot substitute for I.S. Black work. The I.S. must further train the Black membership of the Red Tide in the politics of Black liberation to enable the Red Tide to better intervene in the Black community.

6. Our most important Black work has been our on-going work among Black workers in the priority unions. Even in teamster trucking where there are limited numbers of Black workers, our members have initiated work on Black issues such as affirmative action.

### BLACK PERSPECTIVES/3

In the UAW in Detroit the I.S. comrades operate in a generally Black milieu. In local 51 the United Coalition helped get a racist foreman replaced, and in this local and others, I.S. members have gotten articles on busing, Southern Africa and Dakke into the rank and file newsletters. The I.S. has also been an aggressive advocate of Black leadership in the unions.

7. The regroupment perspective and the possibility of building left unity on a principled basis is crucial if the revolutionary left is to be able to play a role in building joint work and perspectives with the Black community to resist the racist offensive and build an integrated revolutionary movement.

8. The Black Commission did not function for much of the past year due to the general I.S. crisis of perspectives. Yet the Commission must function to organize and get the maximum benefits from our work. This requires the establishment of a Black Commission with more and talented resources. In particular, Black Red Tiders must be added to the Commission both for their theoretical development as well as bringing their knowledge and understanding of the Black community onto the body.

The first task of the Commission will be to : produce the pamphlet on Black liberation, now in final draft form. The Black Commission will also ensure that the I.S. magazine has regular articles analyzing events in and of interest to the Black community.