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THE PURPOSE OF THE C.O.

(from CL to Slim)

4/9/75

The purpose of the Coop Organization is to serve as a vehicle through which we will work to re-structure the coops. After our goal has been completed, or after the Coop Organization would have fulfilled its purpose in the first stage of the coop strategy, then the Coop Organization will undergo a qualitative change in order to fit into the re-structuring of the coops.

The other wing of the Coop Organization must be pulled together this week. Also this week, both wings of the Coop Organization must be pulled together in an assembly in order to officially organize the Coop Organization. (Sunday)

Here is what you do--give a special talk covering the subject of why the necessity of a Coop Organization, and the history of the coops, and emphasize the necessity for studying socialist theory. On the one hand, theory without practice leads to dogmatic thinking; and on the other hand, practice without theory can only lead to situations where one had no intentions of being. The value of this talk should be to prepare the Coop Organization for its political assignment.

The petition must be projected as the Coop Organization's first ideological offensive against principles of capitalism--petty bourgeois capitalism, utopian socialism, the pure food line--and for the transformation of the coop system and centralized control.

NEXT:

- 1) organize a committee to hold P.E. discussions for new recruits.
- 2) designate a place somewhere in the coop system for an office; make sure a phone is there.

"Meetings that produce nothing but further meetings are perhaps the main organizational disease of the movement."

In order to avoid this organizational disease, we must set up guidelines for meeting. The Office Staff should only meet to (1) work out S & T, (2) for p.e. classes, and (3) for making decisions that will affect strategy and tactics.

Now is the time to pull the advanced elements from the rest of the Office Staff. Time must be spent to prepare the advanced elements for heading p.e. discussions within the Coop Organization.

The advanced elements from the Office Staff will compose a Marxist-Leninist unit and will function like one. The immediate task of the unit will be to bring the theoretical understanding in the Coop Organization up to a satisfactory level. Also unit members will head programs: the Farm Committee by I, the Bookstore by J, the Food Committee by H, I.C.C. for now K & M, the research committee by M; also L will be the first recruit for the art collective. It is their duty to organize people for their programs.

You will head the Coop Organization and work behind the scene to tighten up things; also you will be responsible for selecting reading material and establishing reading priorities.

The unit will exercise political control over the coop system. The organizational connections that the unit has with programs outside the coops will enable the coops to take on a revolutionary character and with a political function.

4/27/75: AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY C.L. BEFORE DISCUSSING STRATEGY AND TACTICS

You who are assembled here in this room are the product of 2 years and 2 months of organizational work. For most of you, 2 years and 2 months is a long time to work toward a goal which is designed to effect social change.

Many who started out in the process of transforming the coops have either accommodated themselves to a peaceful corner in bourgeois society or have turned into running dogs for the capitalist class.

All of you have earned your seats--have earned your place to be here--although some of you to a greater degree than others have contributed to making this assembly a reality.

(10:00 P.M.) 5/4/75: C.L.'S POSITION ON WHY WE SHOULD MOVE ON P.W.

CL's position is that we must move tonight.

Because, one reason, the coop history has been correctly analyzed, and the financial state of affairs has been correctly assessed. Any action other than physical aggression will prolong the coop transformation and run a high risk of demoralizing our forces. Most important, it will cause the struggle to ebb at a time when the flow of the struggle hasn't yet reached its high point. We must move tonight.

Here is another thought that supports CL's position.

There was a suggestion to barricade the opposition forces in the warehouse. What is the political advantage of barricading them in? There was a suggestion to call a mass rally. What is the political advantage of a mass rally, and what class elements can we rally? Needless to say, we can only rally hippie elements. This within itself is a class contradiction: on the one hand, we say we are for the working class, but on the other hand, we can't rally the working class. Unfortunately, the coops have isolated themselves from the working class. Therefore, to move physically on the occupants is the only viable option we have open. In relation to this, because of the isolation of the coops and their class character, CL sees no fear of losing our legitimacy if we were to physically remove them from the warehouse.

In keeping with democratic centralism, we must let the body of the Coop Organization cast its vote.

NOTE: After 30 minutes, the body decided overwhelmingly to unseat the warehouse occupants. After the CO body voted to unseat the warehouse occupants, the collective leadership of the Coop Organization received the news with excitement and readiness to move to unseat the coop reactionaries.

2:00 A.M. was set as the zero hour.