

REPORT OF THE LIBERTARIAN WORKERS GROUP (U.S.A.)

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Our group is small at present, yet we are not discouraged by this, because we have been able to be quite active given our size. Our members have been active in a number of workers' struggles, and in some cases have worked for the formation of rank-and-file groups. Some of us have also participated in community struggles as well as the student movement. Some of the students in the group have also participated in the growing anti-militarist movement here. The ~~students~~ students in our group are almost all actual wage-workers also. This is quite common here.

Our group is also affiliated with the Anarchist Communist Federation of North America (ACF), a federation of 10 groups in the U.S and Canada. Also affiliated with the ACF is the Syndicalist Alliance of Milwaukee (SA), which is also becoming an affiliate of the IWA.

There is a strong syndicalist influence in the ACF, which seceded from the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation (SRAF) because this group contained many persons who were anti-organization and were opposed to class struggle.

We do not think at present that the ACF will affiliate as a whole with the IWA; in fact, this proposal was rejected at its last conference in August of last year. It is very possible that other groups besides ourselves and the SA will affiliate with the IWA and remain in the ACF. We do think that the Secretariat of the IWA should continue to maintain fraternal relations with this federation. ~~copy of the IWA statutes is enclosed.~~

Some of us are also active in the IWW. While we believe that it is clear that the IWW will not affiliate with the IWA at any point in the near future, we disagree with the suggestion held by some in the IWA that this is due to the influence of Marxism in the IWW. In fact there are very few actual Marxist in this organization, and they do not hold great influence on it.

The problem is simply that the IWW is not an anarcho-syndicalist group. Although the primary tendency in the IWW is anarcho-syndicalist, there are many militants within it who do not consider themselves as such, but simply as rebel workers without a specific ideology.

As anarcho-syndicalists, we see the IWW as one of the organizations in which we can work, but we do not intend to try to impose an anarcho-syndicalist line on it. We encourage the IWA Secretariat to maintain its long standing ties with the IWW.

We are still publishing our bulletin "ON THE LINE". It is mainly distributed by our members and friends, who give it to their contacts. The content is primarily

reports on events concerning workers in the New York City area, with some news of the class struggle on the national and international level. We will be discussing with the Syndicalist Alliance the possibility of a national bulletin, which hopefully would become a full-fledged national anarcho-syndicalist newspaper.

For the last few years, the political situation has been fairly bleak. The workers' movement has been at a low ebb for some time now, though this appears to be changing recently. There is certainly a growing level of insurgency among teamsters, steelworkers, miners, and some others, though we feel it is a mistake to assume that this will automatically spread to the rest of the working class in the U.S. Much of what happens will depend to a large extent on what happens to the economy here.

Other movements have had difficulties also. The student movement almost disappeared entirely a few years ago, although now it is beginning to revive itself. This is in part due to the possibility that the Federal government may re-impose conscription into the Army on young people, and the growing concern over the possibility of imperialist war. This has also given impetus to the peace movement, which along with the anti-nuclear movement has grown considerably in the recent past. There is a noticeable libertarian presence in these movements although it suffers from lack of cohesiveness.

The movements that have gone through the greatest difficulties are those of blacks and other minorities, as well as the women's movement. These have suffered from not only consistent attacks by right-wing forces (who have grown in power over the last few years), but from complacency in the society at large. As a result, many of the gains which they made during the late 60's and early 70's are in serious jeopardy. Still, these groups continue their struggle.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough the possibility of another world war. Recent developments here have led us to conclude that the ruling class of the U.S. now sees war as inevitable and is beginning to mobilize for it. We urge the Congress to continue and increase the anti-militarist agitation of the IWA.

We deeply regret not being able to be present at this Congress, and hope to see all of you at the next one.

TO 1979 IWA Paris Cong

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