

March 16, 1971

Problem solving #1 Labor

You are a member of an ad hoc committee of students who have come to the following conclusions about conditions in Hawaii:

- (a) The increasing reliance of the Hawaiian working force on tourism and military places Hawaii's people in a precarious position economically.
- (b) Depending on the outcome of American led imperial wars in Asia and the third world, an economic collapse or crisis is not unlikely in the near future.
- (c) Should economic crisis prevail in the near future, the labor force (primarily the local "ethnic" peoples) would resort to trade union leadership for direction while the big six companies would seek to maintain their capitalist-white rule in Hawaii.
- (d) A large segment of the working force is or will in the near future be composed of younger people, most of whom have little understanding or appreciation for worker organizations.

The committee seeks to explore the prospects for the formation of an internal third world-working class movement in the future whose aim would be to free Hawaii's people from large corporate interests, and to develop an independent nation. The committee realizes that the liberation of Hawaii must be linked to liberation in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

It establishes its primary task as one of examining the history of worker movements particularly in the United States and in Hawaii. Careful investigation into the problems confronted by other similar and related movements has required careful reading of the packet of material provided by one of the ad hoc committee members. It has been suggested by the person who put the packet together that the articles be read in the following order:

- The Communist Manifesto.
- Lenin and the American Working Class Movement.
- Labor Militant.
- The Truth about Communism in Hawaii.
- Employers organization in Hawaii.
- Lenin, National Liberation, and the United States.
- Race and the House of Labor.
- The ILWU as a force for interracial unity in Hawaii.

The ad hoc committee has been requested to report their findings to the following questions to a larger group of students of similar political inclinations:

- (1) What has been and what should be the immediate aims and means relied upon by a political movement which seeks to establish working class rule in the world? (Break this question down as follows).
 - (a) What should be the role (s) of a group like the Communist Party in Hawaii when most people are poor, oppressed, and beginning to develop a class awareness? Should the group ignore the existing trade unions because of the "reactionary" leadership and develop a principled radical organization separate from the trade unions, or should it seek to work within these organizations?
 - (b) Should the political movement in Hawaii develop close ties with other ideologically similar organizations on the mainland U.S. or certain third world nations like China and become part of an international movement from the beginning? If so, what advantages and dangers are there?
 - (c) What would it take to build a sustaining long-term organization like the communist party in Hawaii with all of its mistakes of the past corrected to meet the demands of the future? What internal organizational problems do you foresee? What security problems can you spot from past experiences and how should they be dealt with to avoid repression?
- (2) Some analysts of Hawaii's labor history contend that the problem which progressive unions failed to confront was that of racism, especially by white leadership. These union groups failed to achieve fundamental change in Hawaii, these historians maintain, because of the strict class analysis. They failed to appreciate the need to direct as their goal — self-determination of dark peoples in Hawaii from white racism as well as from U.S. imperial domination.

Discuss the validity of this perspective and the relevance of this question to third world organizing in the future along class lines.