

Comrade,
I did not want to waste my time and yours writing this but if you want reasons for my resignation I am quite prepared to give same. It seems quite clear that your group accepts the nazi principle that some people are fit to do the work while others can direct them. Hence the bulk of the work devolves on a few people while others criticize and do whatever they do do in fits and starts. At the AF meetings (especially now) you get some people you never see any other time. When the meeting's over they crawl back into the woodwork. The toilers are supposed to obey their orders. It seems to me about time those actually working went on strike against them, and indeed only the thought of harming the movement's efforts prevents them.

One could instance TB who has time to spare to attend meetings to direct policy but could not forgo one such meeting to spare an evening for the donkey-work. The excuse of "no aptitude for clerical work" is very thin when so much of it is pure routine; people prefer talking on policy and criticizing to carrying parcels and wrapping papers. Imagine TB coming along one day to carry parcels, R doing some of the donkeywork here, or SC distorting the paper! Such work is better left to the errand-boys of the movement.

One might say that with regard for instance to the question of a large or small paper, that not one who wanted it made large has come forward to do the necessary additional work of folding it, not needed in a small paper; moreover, the sales in London have dropped to zero. This is the viewpoint of TB, KH and CH: "We'll tell you what to do; now go ahead and do it".

With regard to CH one might mention that he like his fellow "conspirators" is always available when there is a question of intriguing or criticizing. After a lot of reluctance and "smart" talk he was at last persuaded to devote one occasional evening to criticizing the capitalist system instead. At the last moment he phones a NON member of the AF and tells her he won't speak as announced, with some trumpety excuse. But he'd already said "smartly" to others; "You won't get me to speak" I another non-member, have to step in the breach. After devoting Saturday and Sunday afternoons; and Monday and Tuesday evenings, to F.P. office-work and travelling 100 miles on Wednesday evening to speak at a lecture, I must sit up all Thursday night to speak on Friday because CH lets us down out of lack of guts to speak. And the reason? In order to keep the lectures going that we might have premises in which our gaulsters can intrigue and tell us what to do.

Then perhaps you wonder why I can't spare Sunday mornings any more to argue with the parasites on the movement who drift in and out, never do any work, create a little stir while they exist and then disappear into limbo. The movement does not keep going automatically. Nor does it, contrary to the belief of our bourgeois Kingston friends, rely upon the press bricks-and-mortar and few sticks of furniture and old pamphlets, but simply and solely on the energies of a few people. If you gave some people the Daily Express to play with it wouldn't make any difference because they won't spare the time to work. Propaganda comes by a few people devoting themselves to work. I do not see the nucleus of a propaganda movement in the AF so long as it permits itself to be hag-ridden by a few lazy people.

The people who work and work far harder than I have ever done, seem to be the butts of criticism in the AF by a long and constant campaign conducted by those who would have repeated the success with Freedom Press that TB heralded for Freedom Theatre under his own auspices.

My memory goes back to the old ASU when meeting after meeting was devoted to Madam SC's exposition of reformist trade unionism and her long and constant efforts at revising our principles, together with more personal arguments. Having messed us about all that time she disappears into thin air for half-a-dozen years and suddenly reappears at the head of the table when the hard work of others has made the movement something to be reckoned with. If you imagine I'm going to carry on with bloody hard work for that type of person ~~you~~ I must frankly confess I haven't the patience of other comrades that enables them to do so. The original AF specifically excluded those who did not work for the movement, in order that it might eliminate such a nazi principle. Taking advantage of the absence from ONLY ONE meeting of some, including myself who was speaking elsewhere, and the possibly foolish action of others in walking out of the meeting, with a certain amount of excusable disgust, what was then a minority caucus in the AF of less than six people revised these principles. Taking advantage in a parliamentary way of being a majority only at one particular time in one particular meeting they pushed through the admission of D. and R. who have only noted themselves for their Cronica Obrera propaganda. Recently the present commission wrote to "Solid Obrera"

(Mexico) regretting that they could no longer publish this (pro-war) bulletin. Immediately that was ~~done~~ ^{what} I had accused KH before of wanting to do, which he had denied, ~~as~~ ^{what} I had accused KH before of wanting to do, which he had denied, Kin came the pro-war people such as O., of whom I know very little save his defence of Ministerial deviations from principle in a lecture on Spain, and SC of whom the least said the better. I'm sorry, but I find myself sick and tired of such wangling. The AF has done nothing before and it'll do a damn sight less now.

Some of our more sincere comrades either do not know or choose to overlook how much work is piled up on a few people in London. Eise where comrades share the work, go all out and as in Glasgow, combine to work in co-operation. Here, because of the poisonous infection of this belief that you can always fall back on the same old mules, the position is that we have a selection of drones in our midst who let not only work but responsibility for others fall on a few. I can no longer spend my energies amongst people who drift in and out; I can no longer waste time in senseless parliamentary wrangling with people who only appear for the executive meeting to record their votes and then vanish; I will continue to work for what I believe in until such time as complete drone monopoly entirely saps my confidence to do so.

A.M.

P.S.—yes, it is a question of "personalities" if you want
a convenient excuse.

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