

SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION

25, Amberley Road,
London, W.9.
2nd April, 1949.

Dear Comrade,

At this critical stage in the history of the British working class, a number of industrial militants have decided to form a federation based on the principles of revolutionary syndicalism.

The formation of this movement has been precipitated by the realisation that reformist trade unionism and state socialism cannot bring about an economic system where industry is under the control of the workers.

We feel that syndicalism is the only effective and sound approach to the struggle for economic emancipation. The workers, at present, have only two real alternatives - the reformist policy of the Labour Government or marxist totalitarianism. We, as convinced syndicalists, are seeking a third solution.

The enclosed draft proposals for a "Syndicalist Workers Federation" are based on the Statutes of the International Working Men's Association (IWMA). It will be realised, however, that our statutes must be in conformity with present-day needs for, under the Labour Government's policy of nationalisation, the worker is opposed not only by the employer, but by the whole force of the State apparatus.

To discuss these proposals and to decide on future action, a preliminary meeting of those interested in the formation of a syndicalist organisation in Britain is being called on Sunday, 17th April, at 25, Amberley Road, London W.9, at 3 p.m. We hope to be able to count on your attendance at this meeting, and on your active participation in the proposed movement.

We should be glad if you will fill in the form below and return it to the above address as soon as possible, together with any amendments you may wish to submit to the draft proposals, and any further suggestions you may like to make.

Yours fraternally,

R. FARLEY,
T. HURST,
D.P. Organising Committee.

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I am interested in the formation of the Syndicalist Workers
Federation

I shall attend the meeting called for 17th April

NAME

ADDRESS

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DATE INDUSTRY and/or UNION , , , , ,

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE FORMATION OF A SYNDICALIST
WORKERS FEDERATION

1. INTRODUCTION : At this crucial phase in the history of the British working class, it has been decided by various militants in Britain to form a Syndicalist Workers Federation. This step is being taken because:

a) bourgeois reformism with its natural corollary of nationalisation is not only cementing the class structure of the State and Empire, but is also laying the basis of a totalitarian state, wherein the worker is nothing more than a unit of production and distribution, and

b) Marxism, as practised by the Stalinist oligarchy and its various national sections, presents a grave danger to the freedom of the individual worker.

The present situation is ripe for a syndicalist organisation: the practice of delegated legislation, an inevitable result of bourgeois socialism, is making the legal facade of the democratic state a totally inadequate concept in both the theoretical and practical fields.

2. PRINCIPLES : (a) The Syndicalist Workers Federation bases its policy on three cardinal facts - the class war, the need for free communism, and the vital issue of workers' control.

(b) The Federation is opposed to any monopoly of power, whether it be capitalistic or shrouded in revolutionary opportunism - e.g. "the dictatorship of the proletariat."

(c) The Federation believes in the pursuit of the daily revolutionary struggle for the economic, social and intellectual improving of the working class. It realises, however, that the aim of this struggle must be - i. to raise the masses to be the managers of their own production units; ii. to create a society based on the need for the producer to be the pivot of the system, autonomous and free; and iii. to create a society where control comes from below, and not by authoritarian decrees from above.

(d) The Federation is opposed to all forms of centralism : clerical, juridical or economic. It advocates and practices federalism.

(e) The Federation is opposed to all parliamentary activity. Universal suffrage is meaningless in a capitalist state - it is not only a cloak for class exploitation, but is completely ineffective in expressing the wishes of the people.

(f) The Federation advocates a policy of regionalism and inter-regionalism; it thus rejects all political and national boundaries and consequently believes in the self-determination of all social groups.

(g) The Federation is opposed to all political parties. It holds that the inevitable result of political action

is power and privilege for the few, and continued exploitation for the mass of the workers.

(h) The Federation is anti-militaristic, and is determined to take an active stand against militarism.

(i) Although rejecting militarism, the Federation believes in the method of Direct Action. Although it would like to accept that pacific brotherly love could effect the social revolution, it realises that, owing to the present level of human ethical progress, it is essential to combat the State and all its adjuncts by force, especially as the State not only controls large technological forces, but is also inevitably bound to clash with rivals, due to its own inherent weaknesses.

(j) The technique of direct action finds its most effective weapon in the general strike. The Federation is the natural ally of all strikers, and will assist and foster strike action.

(k) The Federation recognises the working class as the only source capable of successful revolutionary action. Technicians, etc., are welcomed, and admittedly have their function, but, basically, the working class are the only mainspring for effective action.

5. APPLICATION :

ULTIMATE : (a) Economic : Society will consist of numerous syndicates linked by a federalist system. Each production unit will have charge of its own affairs. There will be two forms of union - the union of all workers at all stages of the productive process in specific production units, and the union of all workers in a special geographical area. Unionism will thus be "two dimensional."

(b) Legal; The legal basis of the community will not be based on any ethereal metaphysical assumption but on the fact of self-help and mutual aid : there will be duties for everyone and hence rights for all.

IMMEDIATE : To be elaborated on the basis of the above principles - e.g. The Federation will resist all forms of war propaganda, and in the event of a third world war will refuse action.