

Aug. 4, 70

Dear Don:

Thanks for your two letters that I received while I was a patient at Hillcrest Hospital. In addition to the fact that I enjoyed reading them, I was glad that you had taken the trouble to write to me because, in the circumstances which accompany this slow recovery from a paralytic stroke, correspondence and frequent exchange of opinions with responsible comrades like you is the one means open to me by which I can avoid becoming isolated from the daily life and problems of the Party.

Because of this I am particularly thankful that you sent me the outline of your opinions concerning the development of Leninist Cadre policy by the Party.

I noted one very important point that you made in your outline; namely, that the Party should develop capable young comrades as public spokesmen. I think that is a key thought concerning our Cadre policy. In general, I found a number of ideas suggested in your outline which should be incorporated clearly in the carefully formulated complete statement of our adopted Cadre policy.

I think that, in such a statement, our emphasis should be upon the aim of systematic development of our young promising comrades rather than selection of cadres. I would even go so far as to propose consideration of the means by which such development should be directed. That brings forward one of the organizational tasks that will emerge as the development of young cadres proceeds. ~~The~~ I think one such org-form will be local conferences of active party members. It should be convened periodically by the responsible Party committee in designated ~~area~~ centers: such as industrial areas or metropolitan areas ~~rather than~~ ^{and} the participants should be Party comrades who are members of the employed labor force of that area. The purpose of such conferences should be to improve our work and, specifically the winning of support for the Party's policies. I member of the leading Party committee should submit a keynote report to each conference, whenever it is appropriate. The report should include concrete proposals for action.

The comrades who are participating should be encouraged to Act on the Report. I would say right up to charging certain local comrades with ~~responsibility~~ responsibility for initiating certain specific activities. Wherever it is possible, the National Office should give a hand.

If the foregoing seems to place too much emphasis upon organization "from the top", you must be patient with me. Actually, the entire concept took shape in my mind as a result of considerable pondering about "How will the Party develop young comrades as public spokesmen?"

Conferences of activists certainly offer possibilities, organization of them should be considered. Note well Don: It is very important that the process through which young activists are brought forward should be an integral part of the over-all struggle to extend and strengthen the Party and ~~its influence among the workers~~ ^{its influence among the} workers.

I don't think that anything I have written here contradicts either the letter or the spirit of your draft. ~~If~~ This being the case, I should add that I agree with and share your concern about the urgency of getting to work on the development of fresh young Party Cadres now.

We have a lot to do.

We should not allow events to overtake us.

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If you should reply to this, please dont "Pull any punches." One of our pressing needs is critical discussion- ~~not~~ particularly of each other's point of view. In the meantime, warm personal regards to you and Sylvia.

With high hopes that my recovery will be appreciably more advanced before long.

Yours,

Jim