

25th August, 1950.

Joan O'Halloran,
10 Torrington Gardens,
Greenford, Midd'x.

Dear Joan,

Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd. We were very sorry to hear you have illness in your family and hope this will soon be better.

In the main, I don't think there can be any basic disagreement with the points you make. There is certainly none on the necessity for industrial work and for trying to draw together industrial militants. This, surely, was the whole reason for the change in organisation - it goes far beyond a mere change of title if it is to be more than a dead-letter.

It is, perhaps, inevitable that a disproportionate amount of time and effort should go to producing a paper, when the production rests upon a small group. But a paper, after all, is only a means of getting our ideas across - as are pamphlets. An organisation - however small - needs a form of expression. And the written word can often have a big effect. I agree that we shouldn't concentrate all activity on the paper. The important thing is to try, as best we can, to counteract the pernicious propaganda of the union bosses and stalinists. Admittedly we have an enormous task before us, but not everything is against us. As one of the Liverpool comrades said at Manchester - "The workers have tried the Labour Party and found it wanting, the stalinists are politically discredited, the trotskyists have committed suicide - outside syndicalism, what is there?"

I wish you had been at the conference, for there seemed to be a general realisation that the "hard slogging for small but solid results" of which you speak is the only way forward.

Regarding Hyde Park, I don't think any of us have illusions about the revolutionary potentialities of Hyde Park. Frankly, I am more disgusted each time I go there. When one says that it is a means of gathering together a few shillings at a time - Sunday afternoon - which is unsuitable for other

types of activity, one has said everything in its favour. There was a time - a few years ago - when this was not the case. Then we did have a body of supporters at the Park with whom it was worth-while maintaining contact. Those contacts, for one reason or another, no longer frequent the Park.

Re-reading your letter, I cannot believe there are any basic tactical differences between yourself and other members. Minor differences there may be; these are inevitable and healthy. The health of any social grouping depends on the free interplay of differing viewpoints - complete unanimity cannot exist outside the totalitarian state or the tomb!

We sincerely hope you will accept membership of the committee. For us to have any chance or prospect of success, we must all work together.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, and that we shall be seeing you as soon as your family difficulties are resolved,

With best wishes,
Fraternally,