

Dear Comrades:

*Subs Statement*

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One week ago, you attended a meeting at which I was expelled from the Young Communist League. You are fully aware of the proceedings of that meeting. You know that the chairlady, the leading comrades from the section committee and Mike Martini of the District were guilty of using bureaucratic methods in dealing with my case. It is the purpose of this letter to you to clarify some of the events which took place at that time. In all cases of expulsion the charges are always presented in written form to the comrades involved. However, such was not the case here; I was given no adequate opportunity to defend myself.

Comrade Martini was supposed to sum up the entire proceedings; instead he viciously attacked me as a counter-revolutionist and raised new testimony which I was not permitted to refute. A vote was then taken whether or not to permit me to speak in answer to the new testimony which had been introduced. This vote indicated support for my position in the ranks of those present, which disturbed the leaders very much. Comrade Nettie "decided" the vote was against me and refused to permit a re-vote, which was in order, particularly since her ruling which prevented me from speaking for three minutes, was disputed by many. She ruled everybody out of order except those with motions of expulsion. Actually a motion for non-expulsion was also in order, but this did not deter her. All those who spoke against the motion for expulsion on the grounds that I was not given a fair trial were ruled out of order arbitrarily. The leadership was tolerant only of those who were for expulsion. These methods of steam rolling all opposition and undemocratic procedure are not conducive to an objective and sane discussion of issues within a democratic organization. On the contrary, such stifling of opinions and arbitrary rulings can only lead to bureaucracy which should have no place in the revolutionary movement.

I resent most the fact that Comrade Martini raised the central political issues in his summary while they had been deliberately omitted in the course of the proceedings. Such attacks upon me as a counter-revolutionary Trotskyite-Lovestoneite did not help to shed light on the issue involved, but merely indicated the unprincipled depths to which he was ready to stoop in order to steam roller thru the expulsion. One need not be far advanced in the labor movement to know that Trotskyism and Lovestoneism are diametrically opposed on the most fundamental questions before the labor movement. Why then befuddle the issue by stupid name-calling?

Comrade Martini proceeded to make much ado about a statement which is attached, charging that it had been prepared by myself in conjunction with some outside groups. It is to be regretted that Comrade Martini's memory fails him, and that on the contrary, it was precisely upon the request made by Lloyd Brown and himself that such a statement was ever submitted in the first place. I took the pains that I did in writing the statement, only because it was necessary to place squarely before these comrades the issues involved and my attitude which I did not conceal.

Comrade Martini indicated that at some future date he would tear apart all my arguments and reveal them to be, as he claims, counter-revolutionary. It is unfortunate however that he must first have me expelled before he attempts "elucidation". Is Comrade Martini afraid to "expose" me before the branch while I still have the right to participate as a member of the Y.C.L. in such a discussion? These methods of procedure obviously run contrary to every conception of organizational unity. Comrades, it is my intention in addressing this letter to you to clarify the real issues and atmosphere surrounding my expulsion. After reading carefully the attached statement you are bound to ask yourself the following questions, which I in turn address to our leadership:

Are these arguments of a counter-revolutionary or are they the arguments of one who is attempting to understand and evaluate some of the most important issues facing the Communist International today?

Is there not room within the YCL today for one who accepts the basic Marxist principles of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the dictatorship of the proletariat, precisely when the YCL itself admits members only on the basis of their recognition of the need for a socialist society?

Can anyone expect democratic discussions within the ranks of the YCL and still follow a policy of bureaucratic expulsion of members because they dare to question or disagree? How can we ever build a mass YCL when such actions prevail?

Comrades, on the basis of this statement, I intend to appeal my case to the Section Committee and if necessary to the highest bodies in the YCL. I want to take this opportunity to thank all comrades who have contributed time and money to help make possible the issuance of this letter to you in the interest of clarity and objective discussion. I ask you comrades to support my fight for re-instatement and the fight for democratic discussion within the YCL by acquainting yourselves further with the issues I raise. I consider clarity of purpose and critical expression a life and death matter for the YCL.

With Communist Greetings,

Milton Miller

1426 Clinton Avenue, Bronx.