

7/18/80

U: Political Class Struggle
Particularity: NYC

Opposites:

Ext-

New York workers social, talkative,
cooperative, time out to help others

Racism as divisions not as strong as
several years ago. Large influx recently of
Spanish and oriental groups into the
workforce: larger welfare rolls, lower pay

Decay visible on streets, essential housing
services cut back, Queens, Bronx subways
deteriorating

Int-

Socialist party on the rise, Dem. political
machine slowed by dump Koch campaign;
people wielding pol. power. Transit strike,
poor women assert leadership, develop
ML analysis.

Pose:

Organization by women to serve poor &
working people's needs

vs.

Financeers, as observed on wall-
street hurried, frantic, competitive

Inflation felt, workforce cut -
corporations profit off new cheaper
workforce.

NY bankers meet to "save" the
city. Fast, efficient Manhattan trains,
freeways in wealthy sector kept up

Dem. party on the defensive. Pampers -
corporation will be forced to
recognize women's boycott, economic
pressure to get daycare center built.

INPUT

Material conditions, Unionization, high level capital structures removed from labor,
Large welfare population, coastal port (immigrants), corruption of political parties
in control exposed.

PROCESS A

Working class & poor women's leadership on the rise

- Welfare activist visits Cuba
- Poor women go through therapy at Institute
- women and renters unionizing
- Gay women politicized
- Socialist party gains momentum quickly, with minimum effort to organize

PROCESS B

Capitalist organization breaking down according to the laws of PE

- Koch may well get dumped
- Finances in crisis
- Structures can't cope (e.g. police giving up on drug rings)

OUTPUT

Political polarization of classes and organization ^{BY} poor & working women

p. 2 Sum NYC trip

U: Pol. Class Struggle

Process: Developing political relationship with CGRW

Problem: Structuring relationship with CGRW

Particularity: MLO's in NY & Mpls.

Opposites: (new, beyond the original outline or in addition to)

Mpls. come to NY with summed lessons to share;
Mpls woman exposed to women from other MLO's

Purpose of CGRW conf. to lay basis
for mass organization

Leadership of delegation not explicit from start
(operating structure for weekend). Clear dir. from
Iris.

CGRW conf. organized

Mpls. 0 high level household org. similar to
other fo of Org. to struggle with BWOL's

CGRW ^{conference} organizers live on upper W.
side; many are gay. Households have
or had some degree of systematiza.

0 of men and women committed to developing
w/c women's leadership

Men in supportive role of CGRW
(do daycare, clerical tasks).

Economic programs, in transition to open.

Social programs, cadre & open

Working class white women developing
Seeking connection with farmers

Poor black women developing
Cut off from farmers

Mpls. delega. not openly connected in Mpls

CGRW structures open (most)

Pose:

Lack of internal structure of Mpls. delegation
to build interconnection with CGRW

INPUT

Mpls. delega. BWOLs, CGRW BWOL's, Hist. of lessons summed in C of K from struggles,
conditions of USA and two geographical locations.

PROCESS A:

Tight MLO structure developing w/c women's leadership through variety of economic
forms.

- Use of ML tools developed through the ITP to shape the contradiction
- Daily connection with Iris
- Summarization of lessons from broad scope of organizing in various forms
- Economic forms not connected through open central body
- Mpls. delegation presented as "collective", not as unit
- Clear aim for purpose of connection with long-range view: Iris' outline.

PROCESS B:

Open ML collective (with ^{probable} ~~possible~~ central leadership) in process of developing
mass organization.

- Unclear direction as to Mpls. delegation's role at conf.
- Journal viewed as aspect of CGRW, not the principal aspect
- Mass programs

OUTPUT:

Strengthening org. tie based on deepening political unity.

OBJECTIVE: DIFFERENCE- Aspect A

General: Developing w/c women's leadership guided by tightly structured MLO
Individual:

- MLO condition of external discipline; internal discipline not fully developed within R, S and M. Concrete example: Sat & Sun we were overwhelmed by NY sights & sound, food, people vs. using the tools to guide action
- R, S & M disconnected from systems, forms of accountability except the nightly calls to Iris. Result-BWOL's and values come out, self focus at conference on what others would think of our Speak Outs vs. external focus required.
- M disconnected from R & S (particularity of above) in part, funct. of M never worked w/ R & S.
- Condition of accountability to the outline set in Mpls. M (and I think R & S as well to some extent) responded subjectively to task; character of fear-lack of confidence to carry out the task, did not want to spoil the process, make errors.
- Mpls delegation impressed by level of develop of org. and consciousness of CGRW, in contrast to one-sided view that Mpls. O is the only O moving forward.

General: ML Collective in process of developing mass org. Aspect B

Individual:

- Social oppression of women has been the focus of their organizing, and programs speak to the contradiction b/t women and the State. Unionization give the organizations economic power, and this is a strength. Welfare women, developing awareness of class contradiction-gays developing same. Individual form of pre-MLO org, whose organizers who are cadre live a lifestyle of business (day and night-time organizing) and pleasure (home life or the bars), interconnected but separate.
- Conf. required organizing on a large scale-busloads of women, high cost of busses connections all over the country, much phenomena (example: CGRW unclear where French women were coming from). Result: long-range aim of journal clouded.

Ext. CLASSIFICATION GENERAL: Political

- * Note: due to time factor, as well as the tapes and Suz's summary, I moved ahead to focus more on FOS and MOS in Contradiction-

B intersect A = Linda came to us to set up lunch with Hazel; we couldn't think of how to connect to Hazel, purpose.

B Intersect A Freda calls down to assure mtg. is on. Sets up mtg. with Elaine

A Intsct. B examples already summarized, including Mtg Sat afternoon, and Mon. pm w/ Fr. and Elaine.

B Intsct A = Sun. pm dinner Social, not political-no aim, tools not used

A union B Fr and Mpls share lessons after competition ~~summarized~~ pointed out

- ** Note: process of my using the tool to summarize is breaking down and time drags on. The process has served to clarify the problem, which is summarized below.

Due to lack of internal structure, the Mpls. delega. narrowly missed being unable to implement our task. Not until late Mon. afternoon did we form a structure, did R bring crit. to stop Mn's motion, did S assert leader. And not until Elaine was our unit functioning at capacity, efficiently. Internal: our BWOL's. Ext: Condition of Idealism set by Iris re. stages of process. Material reality of implementation of the document (outline of S&T) not clear to Iris before hand, nor during the phone exchanges. Problem not clear to delega., thus not exposed to I. directly on phone calls.

Whereas one of the most important aspects of the trip for us was summarizing shared lessons, I/didn't summarize her lessons with R and M(perhaps S was closer in touch with mistakes I may have made on her visit to set up Social exchange).Instead, we learned from the outline that a new political relationship had been reestablished throu calls from Iris to NY just preceeding our visit, and we were told all we had to do was follow through, not a correct condition to set for three metaphysicians.

Suggested steps for onghing practice:

Leadership ~~responsibilities~~ be laid out as clearly as the delegation of responsibility for forms of Str. was in the outline(Suz.Health, R Trades etc.)to ensure accountability for the workings of an organized unit to deal with the process in new and changing conditions.~~that~~ that part of reports back include assessment of functioning of structure.

Brief sum of errors as background to set context and overview of task ahead.

My own self-crit:

Principal problem in my practice was not exposing my view.I never revealed from the start my level of subjectivity during the week preceeding the trip,a trip which required objectivity.Deceit-PC Satisfy follow orders whether clear or not.Lessons learned from trip I am slow to internalize and use in ongoing practice, but I am more conscious.

As others have summarized, the perspective from the trip on the new movement was inspirational, and has aided me in my work with people who are demoralized and do not see motion in matter.