

A Letter to the SL

The following is a letter from a working-class militant who had been a supporter of the Spartacist League for over a dozen years.

27 March 1986

Oakland, CA

[Spartacist League]

Att. Oakland Local

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed are my pledges for Feb. & Mar. '86. This is also to tell you that I won't be sending you any more pledges, as I no longer am one of your supporters....

Two weeks ago a picket line of anti-apartheid fighters, including students, workers, blacks and leftists, militantly blockaded and picketed South African cargo at Pier 80. You were nowhere to be found. When confronting you on this, I was told you only work through the unions (or other working-class vehicles) in this kind of action. BULLSHIT! In recent years you have had occasion to substitute yourselves for union activity—examples, [your supporter's] one-man picket of a ship carrying Salvadoran cargo, and your Third Period substitutionalist picket *against* a radical-initiated boycott in '84, an action which you tried to wreck at the time, instead of at least critically support. (You later described it as supportable and commendable.)

Not *all* actions to be supported, joined or attended by revolutionaries are *initiated* by the working class. Although Bolsheviks will try to intervene in a way to give

the thrust of the action a more militant working-class axis, they *do* intervene.

While anti-apartheid fighters were being jostled, beaten and arrested (myself included) by cops, you weren't even present to dispense/sell literature arguing your own "correct" line. *A serious revolutionary party organizing militants to Bolshevism would have been there doing SOMETHING!!* I believe your absence was due to your increasing terror of having your ranks exposed to other leftists (particularly B.T. and other ex-members) who will tell them the truth about what kind of lying, slandering, cultist sham the SL is evolving into. Comrades, your emperor has no clothes and the world knows it!

Another half-baked line of shit you tried to hand me was that: "there are only certain periods that boycotts are implemented as a tactic." True—and this was definitely one of them. Gold miners were striking, a lot of blacks were being murdered and harassed by the state, and leading South African militants and labor leaders had put out a call for international solidarity actions of this kind!

Sincerely,

Bill S.

P.S. I now consider myself a supporter of the Bolshevik Tendency.