

Report of G. Gove to Lenin Club, 8th June, 1935 F.I.1
Report accepted

Comrades! This meeting is the most important ~~meeting~~ general meeting that has been held in the Club since its foundation. The decisions that you, as members of the Club, will make this afternoon, will affect for a long time to come the welfare of the Club. The welfare, the growth, the very existence of the Club will depend on the decisions that you, as members of the Club, will make this afternoon. For this reason I want to impress upon you all the urgent necessity for using all the calmness, clear thought, and determination that you possess in making your decisions. The Executive Committee has, you see, called this meeting for the afternoon in order that there need be no rush to get over the business. Every member should take the opportunity to speak his mind. By no other way can this meeting prove fruitful.

On Monday, the 27th May, the Executive Committee resigned as a whole in order that you, the members of the Club, could have a free hand at this afternoon's meeting. I am no longer your Chairman. I am your Ex-Chairman. And as the Executive Committee wanted to give you the freest possible hand, it did not appoint a Chairman for today's meeting but decided to let the meeting choose its own chairman.

The first item on the agenda, then, will be the election of a chairman for this meeting. As an ex-Chairman, I know of the difficulties of keeping a warmed-up meeting in order. And most meetings of the Lenin Club soon become warmed-up. This is a sign of the life that is in our Club. But as it is important for the success of this meeting, upon which so much depends, that it is kept in proper order, in other words, that the chairman should be as objective as can possibly be found, I take the liberty of calling for nominations for chairman of this meeting and at the same time of nominating Comrade Schrire for chairman for this afternoon.

Elect of chairman

Comrades! As Chairman of the Executive Committee which has resigned I wish to report on the activities of the Club for the period of Jan. 22nd to today. The last General Meeting was held on the 22nd January. Eleven Executive Committee Meetings have been held since then.

Besides the routine Thursday and Saturday nights Lectures, the Sunday School, the May Day Social, and the House-Warming, little has been done during this period. New Economic classes have been started just recently. A trade union group ~~was formed~~ was formed a few weeks ago. This is practically the total of the activities since the 22nd January.

At the first Committee meeting (Jan. 23th) the question of holding open air meetings in the name of the Club was discussed but no agreement could be reached.

A sub-committee appointed for the purpose of drafting a new constitution could not ~~xxxx~~ function because of its inability to agree. The same is true of the Sub-Committee instructed to draft a May Day Manifesto and a Jubilee Leaflet. As a matter of fact, during this period of almost five months the Club has not issued a single leaflet. Those comrades who were members of the Club last year will remember that the Club issued a number of leaflets during the latter half of the year.

The Unemployed and Relief Workers Council died a few weeks ago. The failure of this Council can in no way be attributed to the Club. From the first the Club has supported the Council both financially and with the active participation of Club members in the work of the Council.

I can safely say that the work in the Council has been almost the only activity of the Club which has not been directly affected by the internal condition of the Club.

What are the causes for this record of these five months under review? Every member must admit that although the Club may have increased its membership it has not functioned actively and has not progressed sufficiently during these months. If last year, with a smaller membership, the Club could hold open air meetings, mass meetings, in halls, and issue numerous leaflets, then surely these last five months show a marked deterioration in the work of the

Club. It is true that we have had some splendid lectures on our Thursday and Saturday nights, and for these we must thank the members and sympathisers who gave them. But last year we also had good lectures. Surely no one can suggest that the influx of new members has been the cause of this deterioration. We must look for the cause elsewhere.

It is known to all the members of the Club that a difference of opinion on almost all important questions exists in the Club. These differences have become plain to even those members who attend the Club infrequently. These differences are not of recent growth. They have not arisen during this year, but so sharp have they become during the past five months that they have become crystallised and embodied within two groups. I refer to the Workers Party of South Africa and the Communist League of South Africa.

The Lenin Club cannot sit in judgment on either of these two political bodies. The Club has no jurisdiction over either of these two bodies. Insofar as the Executive Committee of the Club has been torn between these two bodies, the work of the Club has suffered. This is the reason for the deterioration in the ~~astixistix~~ activities of the Club. There is no other reason. Since the Executive Committee has been composed of Club members who were also members of the contending groups, there has been a continual clash within the Executive Committee. It is not my intention to go into the details of the various clashes and disputes that have wracked the E.C. since its election in January. The point I want to make is this. The members of the Club must, and this is the real reason for today's meeting, must ~~xxxxxxx~~ elect an Executive Committee ~~xxxxxx~~ that will function

Collection Number: AG2722

WORKER'S PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1933-1935

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa