

U N I T E D P R I S O N E R S U N I O N

4718 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, California - 90029
664-8728

Dear Union Member:

On the tenth day of October this year a few members of the United Prisoners Union Local #9 in San Francisco, notably John Irwin and Willie Holder, resigned from the United Prisoners Union and chose to dissolve Local # as an arm of the United Prisoners Union.

In so doing they stated a desire to proceed independantly, to sever themselves from this organization.

Honest dissent, policy disagreements and differing ideological bases have produced schisms throughout the history of man's organizations. Splinter groups have many times gone on to find more support than that of the organized body from which they broke away. That this sometimes happens is a credit to the dissenters honest beliefs, and to all men who fight on for unpopular causes.

John Irwin, Willie Holder and company can be credited with nothing remotely resembling honest dissent, nor with basic honesty, when they made their decision to break away from The United Prisoners Union. For these men used Union monies, stationery and membership lists in an effort to swing the bulk of the United Prisoners Union membership into their newly formed "Prisoners Union". That they were grossly dishonest with the membership is sad, yet their tragic dishonesty was to themselves.

Their cover letter, sent to the entire United Prisoners Union membership, states that. . . "a group decision was reached regarding the necessity of the San Francisco local setting policy for the San Francisco region. . ." and that this was necessary because. . . "communications (between members of the Executive Board) were difficult in day to day matters the San Francisco local reluctantly agreed to become autonomous. . .". It seems their inability to communicate did not include the entire union's membership, many of whom remained unaware of Irwin and Holder's inability to function as one of the four locals within this state.

To dignify their actions by any other definition but that of a cheap power play is patently ridiculous. Especially when their "lack of communication" means

obviously that they found it impossible to gain control even though a quorum of the Executive Board was divided between Sacramento and San Francisco.

AT ANY TIME THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD LIVING IN OR NEAR SAN FRANCISCO COULD HAVE MET AND DECIDED ON POLICIES WHICH COULD HAVE SOLVED LOCAL #9's PROBLEMS.

The "Prisoners Union" has also claimed that their aim was to also to be free to form new policies.

THE ONLY "NEW POLICY" EVIDENT AT THIS TIME IS THAT OF THEIR APPEAL TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED PRISONERS UNION ON A NATIONAL SCALE TO JOIN THE UNAFFILIATED LOCAL IN SAN FRANCISCO WHICH HAD ALREADY PLED AN INABILITY TO MAKE IT AS ONE OF FOUR STATE LOCALS.

This "new policy" is really quite old--we've always called it FRAUD!

All United Prisoners Union members are therefore advised that the "Prisoners Union" is to be considered by the United Prisoners Union to be a sham, an unsuccessful attempt by a few disgruntled members to gain the power that is rightfully yours as a loyal union member.

Be it known that John Irwin and Willie Holder have been forced to abandon their fraudulent attempt to usurp a power not theirs, to quit their lying policies, (the very paper you received entitled "Goals of the Prisoners Union" was written by a still loyal member of the Sacramento Board prior to the dissolution of Local #9) and been made to return all office files, records and UNION POWER to Wilbert "Popeye" Jackson, Organizer for the United Prisoners Union in the San Francisco area and Member, Board of Directors of the United Prisoners Union.

The Union's new address is:

UNITED PRISONERS UNION
3077 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94100

Yours In Struggle,

EARL HUNTER, MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD
ROBERT Z. SMITH, MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD
WILBERT "POPEYE" JACKSON MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD
MAXINE NORRIED, MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD