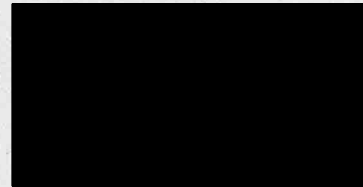


409.7
397.3
12.4

William Reidy



Dear Bill,

I am very sorry for disappointing you about these application for membership forms. Frankly, the explanation of the delay is not pressure of work or anything of that sort. The matter has been held up simply because I did not like on my own responsibility to alter the paragraph relating to the Provisional Council's function to determine the conditions of membership. As you are probably aware, Barry Walsh was away for a fortnight (longer than either he or I had expected at first) and I did not have the benefit of his advice until this week. We had no small difficulty in expressing the purpose of the clause in the Constitution without running the risk of putting off prospective applicants. I enclose a draft of the form of which we finally approved and which, I hope meets with your approval. I think you will agree that the distinction between members and associate members at the outset was unfortunate, though the idea of safeguarding the Organisation against subversive or other undesirable elements was certainly sound.

We have postponed calling a meeting until there was some progress to report on the formation of branches. I am sorry to state that for one reason or another the three members from the Highgate district who were to set the ball rolling have not been able to do anything so far. The explanation is partly that they have been knocked out at different times with colds, but mainly that potential supporters have been rather disturbed

by recent events and are showing much less enthusiasm for the cause than recently. An indication of the difficulties we are up against for the time being is provided by W.Martin's failure to obtain the use of a room in the school at Highgate for a meeting we were hoping to hold to-day with a view to making even a small start. I have told one of the local representatives to secure a place for to-morrow evening and Barry and myself will probably attend. I am also willing to devote next Thursday evening to starting a branch elsewhere if a meeting can be arranged to that end am thinking of getting into touch with J.J. Long who operates in a promising area.

I fully share your anxiety concerning our lack of progress but feel that little could have been done in the past couple of weeks. Now that the air is cleared, however, by the proceedings in the Senate last Tuesday I think we should go right ahead with our preparations for a big assembly next month. The appointment of a part-time organiser as you suggest would certainly be helpful, but I feel that an organiser would have a very difficult task until at least some skeleton branches are in being. I agree with you that it is essential to have someone on the job more or less day after day and I also agree that Barry would be a very good choice. In fairness to him, however, I held that a number of skeleton branches with provisionally elected officers should at first be established. I would like very much to have your view and also Charlie's as well as your joint help in getting things moving. Until something definite on these lines has been achieved I doubt if much is to be gained by summoning another meeting, though I realise that one is now due.