

POLITICAL BUREAU

NUMBER 26

March 22, 1975

Present: D. Jenness, Lovell, Sheppard, Thomas

Visitors: Aspoy, Blackstock, Finkel, Gersh, Hildebrand, Lyons,
Matson, Morell, Novack, Perkus, Rose, Seigle, Smith,
Stapleton, Wattenmaker

Chair: D. Jenness

AGENDA: 1. Developments in SWP and YSA Suit
2. May 17 Demonstration
3. April 26 Union Demonstration
4. Special Fund Drive Proposal

1. DEVELOPMENTS IN SWP AND YSA SUIT

Stapleton reported on developments in SWP and YSA suit
following receipt of documents from government (see attached).

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. MAY 17 DEMONSTRATION

Sheppard reported on recent developments concerning building
for the May 17 demonstration in Boston.

A series of articles by a YWLL leader in the Daily World
will be answered by a leader of the YSA in a series in The
Militant. This polemic will provide an opportunity to take
on the Stalinists concerning their record in the Black move-
ment in general and in the Boston fight in particular, as
well as counter their redbaiting attacks on the SWP and YSA.
(See attached.)

Discussion

3. APRIL 26 UNION DEMONSTRATIONS

Lovell reported (see attached).

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. SPECIAL FUND DRIVE PROPOSAL

Sheppard reported (see attached).

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Developments in the SWP and YSA Suit

Report to the Political Bureau March 22, 1975
by Syd Stapleton

I assume comrades have seen the coverage of the FBI documents in The Militant and the New York Times. The release of these documents under court order has brought our suit against the government to a new stage. It has placed it squarely at the center of the battle against government attacks on the Black movement, socialists, the antiwar movement and the labor movement.

This will mean big new opportunities for support work for the Political Rights Defense Fund.

Most important, these files show the kind of tactics the government uses against all struggles for social progress. It gives the SWP and YSA a chance to explain what kind of organization they are, why they were the targets of these kinds of attacks, and how to avoid falling into the traps the government sets -- like red-baiting.

The FBI turned over two types of files in response to the judge's order. One was the working papers of about 40 individual "Counterintelligence" programs carried out against the SWP. This 500 pages of material is the clearest outline ever to appear of the government's attitude toward revolutionaries, Black activists, unionists and other fighters. The programs range from trying to get Fred Halstead beat up on his trip to visit soldiers in Saigon during his presidential campaign to trying to destroy the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, a civil rights defense committee.

The other 2,500 pages of documents are investigative files on the SWP, YSA and the 15 individuals who are named plaintiffs in the suit. These files were prepared for circulation outside the FBI -- to employers, Civil Service and so forth. They mainly show the type of information the FBI has collected, rather than specifying any type of FBI activity. There are two important features to this part of the documents. First, they show that the FBI is engaged in a massive effort to collect information about the SWP and YSA, using every conceivable method, from wiretaps to mail tampering. Second, the documents show that in spite of thirty years of this surveillance, the FBI has not been able to find one bit of evidence that the SWP or YSA engage in or advocate violence or any form of illegal activity.

Through articles in the press we will be able to convey the lessons reflected in this material. Various issues of the paper will develop in detail things like the whole role of the FBI in attacks on the civil rights movement, and the role of the SWP in building the civil rights struggles. Similarly, the stories of the comrades who were the targets of these attacks will show the SWP as a fighting working class party with a tradition and history in the labor and Black movements, going back to the Minneapolis strikes, to Clifton DeBerry's arrests for labor activity in Chicago in the '40s, to our consistent support to the Black struggle, to Fred Halstead's activity in the Square D strike in Detroit in the early '50s, and so on. Local candidates will want to use this FBI material as part of their campaign propaganda.

Another valuable side of these documents is that they show the government as an organizer and beneficiary of red-baiting. These files show that the FBI helped build the "confrontationist" wing of the antiwar movement, encouraged the CP's attacks on the SWP whenever possible, and used agents and other means to try to accelerate factionalism and sectarianism in the radical movement.

All of this material will be important to explain to the activists working to build the May 17 March on Boston. We should try to see that every campus paper and Black papers print the truth about these FBI attacks. Especially in light of the YWLL's recent statement that it is impossible to redbait Trotskyists, we should explain again how such redbaiting plays into the hands of the government.

It's important to notice that all of this government material is edited to cover up their real methods of gathering information. They do this for two reasons -- one is because their wiretaps, bugs mail opening, etc., are illegal, and the other is to try to throw suspicion on members of the SWP and YSA as sources of the information. The COINTELPRO documents themselves show that one FBI tactic is to falsely implicate loyal comrades in spying -- as a means of trying to disrupt the SWP and YSA. At various points in its history the CP was tricked into launching agent hunts in its ranks, and we certainly want to avoid any similar error.

There may be some chances to improve on the FBI material we have already received by the use of the Freedom of Information Act. We may be able to request files that would show some of the FBI's attacks on the labor movement. A couple such requests have already been filed, and we will want to follow up on these carefully, working with the lawyers, to try to overcome the obstacles that the government will put in our way. There is no reason at this point for comrades in general to request their files, and this should not be done.

A meeting with the judge a few days ago set a tentative date for the trial in early 1976. This means that we will have almost a year to draw out the details of the government's activity, publicize further documents we will receive, and develop this material as a propaganda axis around which we can project the SWP and YSA as fighting organizations with roots in the Black and labor movements.

This will also provide time to fully develop the potential for support to the Political Rights Defense Fund. The publicity around the release of the FBI documents provides a good setting in which to overcome the lag in PRDF activity that existed in a lot of areas the first part of this year. A lot more people know about the suit now, and will be open to sponsorship. Even people that may have been reluctant to become sponsors before, labor union officials and others, may feel differently about the case now.

In New York the PRDF national office plans to explore the possibility of a broadly sponsored public meeting, involving the ACLU and others, to protest government attacks on democratic rights.

Of course, along with the opportunities, the financial needs of the case will increase right up through the time of the trial. Consistent support activity for PRDF in local areas will be essential to meeting the financial requirements of the suit.

This case has already made a historic contribution to unmasking the government's contempt for democratic rights. It has the potential of becoming a completely unprecedented challenge to the government's attacks on the working class movement.

National student conference & the struggle against racism

By MATTY BERKELHAMMER
National Organizational Secretary
Young Workers Liberation League
A National Student Conference

Against Racism attended by more than 2,000 participants, was held at Boston University Feb. 14-16. The conference voted to:

1. Support the call by the Boston NAACP for a national demonstration in Boston on May 17 against racism and for the desegregation of the Boston public schools.

2. Conduct local campus anti-racist actions on April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and the first International Day of Solidarity with Youth of the U.S. Struggling Against Racism. These actions will be around the theme of fighting against cutbacks in funds for education; for open admissions; against racist textbooks and curricula; and other local issues, as well as mobilizing for the national action on May 17. They will be the beginning of a six-week period of intensive activity designed to mobilize students in an ongoing way in the struggle against racism.

3. Launch a new national student organization called the National Student Coalition Against Racism.

The outcome of the conference was a result of sharp debate among many contributing forces.

According to the credentials report the conference was attended by 2009 persons from 27 states and the District of Columbia. This included participants at the teach-in on Friday evening preceding the conference. The participants came from 147 colleges, 58 high schools, and 113 organizations.

Approximately 15 percent of the participants were Black, Puerto Rican or

other nationally oppressed youth.

Some 400 of the participants were members of either the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) or the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) who, in their efforts to slack the conference, conducted an unprecedented mobilization of their own leaders and members in order to guarantee that the outcome of the conference conformed to their own sectarian plans. Approximately 100 other participants came from various other ultra-"Leftist" Trotskyite and Maoist groups.

About 50 members of the Young Workers Liberation League participated in the conference.

This left a total of some 1,450 non-affiliated students who participated. However, many of these attended only the teach-in Friday night; they did not participate in the conference itself. Approximately 650 independent students took part in various conference sessions.

On the one hand, the size of the conference indicated a substantial interest in, and support for, the struggles of the Black community of Boston to achieve quality integrated education through the use of busing. On the other hand, the conference was not of the size, scope, or breadth that would justify the YSA claim that it was an "historic" and "authoritative" event in the history of the U.S. student movement.

Throughout the conference strong hostility to the SWP-YSA was expressed by many of the unaffiliated conference participants.

This hostility and criticism was based on the SWP-YSA's attempt to manipulate and control the conference; also on the experience of many activists on the campuses during the past years, where the YSA's opportunism and capitulation to

racism have been exposed in the course of struggle.

At the opening session, conference participants objected to the proposed rules whereby a speaker could be recognized only if he or she was seated and was called upon by the chair. They proposed instead that speakers be allowed to line up at the floor mikes and that they be recognized in order of their approaching the mike.

Conference participants felt this was particularly important in view of the fact that two of the five people who were to chair the plenary sessions were YSA members, and they feared an arbitrary selection of YSA members to speak. As it turned out, their fears were well-founded, as the YSA members chaired the two key plenary sessions and usually called on one independent and one YSA member alternately to speak.

This debate at the opening session was not an attempt to "bog down the proceedings with procedural wrangles," as the Trotskyite newspaper, *The Militant*, has charged, but was an attempt by the independent students to insure a democratic open conference.

However, before the proposal could be discussed adequately, the question was called and the proposal was adopted. (In this debate, the YSA demagogically called for a quick vote, appealing to the desire of the students to get on with the work of the conference, knowing that this undemocratic procedure would guarantee their control.) Nevertheless, despite their domination of the chair and the arbitrary rules, there were many issues on which the Trotskyites could not dictate to the students.

The major issue debated at the conference was the role of white youth in the struggle against racism.

On this question the YWLL presented a principled position and argued for it on the floor. In the discussion on the action proposals, the League presented the following amendment:

"That, whereas the political powers of the Boston School Committee and other reactionary groups are used to propagate racism among white people, this conference recognizes that the main responsibility of progressive white youth, and white people in general, towards building of the actions for the period of April 4—May 17 and beyond, is to win white students and youth, and white people in general, to the struggle against racism, and specifically to the struggle for equal educational opportunity for Black and other nationally oppressed students, which is key to winning quality education for all. This includes resolute support for the Boston school desegregation plan."

The SWP and YSA have historically opposed this position, believing that the masses of white people are helplessly poisoned by racism. Instead of trying to win the majority of white workers to see that racism is not in their class interests, the YSA believes that the only way to overcome the influence of racism among masses of white youth is to use the Black community as a "battering ram to 'intimidate' them, to 'smash' the resistance of the white community. This denies completely the special responsibility of progressive whites to conduct the struggle against racism in the white community and among other whites.

The Trotskyite position was clearly stated in the February issue of the Young Socialist newspaper of the YSA, which was distributed at the conference. In a column of writings from Leon Trotsky, the anti-working class position of the YSA comes across clearly.

Trotsky says: "99.9 percent of the American workers are chauvinists, in relation to the Negroes they are hangmen and they are also so toward the Chinese. It is necessary to teach the American beasts. . . . The American worker is indescribably reactionary." (Young Socialist, February 1975.)

If American workers are "beasts" and "indescribably reactionary," as Trotsky said, it is no wonder that the Trotskyites have no confidence that white workers can be won through struggle and education to see that their class interests lie in struggling against racism.

This view is a capitulation to racism, for it assumes that the entire burden of the struggle against racism must be shouldered by Black and other nationally oppressed peoples.

In the debate on this question, Black and Chicano members of the YSA including Andrew Pulley, former national chairman of the YSA, Nan Bailey, youth coordinator for the SWP electoral campaign and Olga Rodriguez, a member of the YSA national committee — all spoke in opposition to the YWLL proposal.

Their arguments did not convince many of the independents at the conference, who understood the necessity for progressive white youth to work among other white youth to curtail the influence of racism. In addition, as YWLL members and other independents argued for the special responsibility of white youth to win other white youth to the struggle against racism, even many YSA members saw the correctness of the League position. They were so unconvinced by what the YSA leaders were saying that many of them would have voted in support of the anti-racist position.

In this situation, the SWP-YSA displayed its characteristic opportunism and chauvinism. Peter Camejo, the SWP 1976 Presidential candidate, took the floor to "correct" his fellow Trotskyites and "clarify" the issues. In a dramatic

Student activists in the '60s and early '70s recall vividly the SWP-YSA opposition to every attempt to link up the struggle against the war in Vietnam to the deteriorating economic situation and the growth of racism and repression here at home. The Trotskyites, in their characteristically chauvinist way, wanted to keep the peace movement "single-issue" and not make the struggle against racism an integral part of the struggle for peace. They functioned as the major obstacle to Black-white unity within the peace movement.

This white chauvinism was matched only by the SWP's arrogant national chauvinism, i.e., the feeling that they knew better than the Vietnamese what were the correct tactics and forms of struggle to pursue.

When the heroic Vietnamese people, with the support of the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union and the active solidarity of working class and peace forces throughout the world, had forced the U.S. government to the negotiating table, the Trotskyites argued that the Vietnamese were "selling out" if they negotiated the withdrawal of U.S. troops from their territory. This position was another capitulation to racism. Both these examples are matters of historic fact.

During the entire civil rights movement of the '50s and '60s the Trotskyites' main "contribution" was to direct their sharpest criticism against Martin Luther King and the democratic struggle he led for integration, civil rights, and equality. They opposed integration on the ground that "the races are separated . . . utilize the separation that has been imposed by capitalism to change society." (How a Minority Can Change Society, by George Breitman, Merit Publishers, N.Y., 1968, p. 11.)

Why then are the Trotskyites so eager, at this point, to become involved in the struggle for desegregation? Obviously, it is not because they have changed their position on so fundamental a question.

The real reason can be found in the desire of the Trotskyites to "get into" the Black Liberation movement, to take it over, and use it for their own sectarian ends.

We should recall, however, that the Trotskyites dropped the peace movement after they no longer viewed it as a "hot" issue, and after their opposition to the peace agreement, which halted direct U.S. involvement in Vietnam, had thoroughly discredited them.

For them, the struggle against racism is obviously not a principled question either. They can be expected to drop the desegregation issue also when it no longer suits their sectarian aims and their ability to dominate.

II

The walkout of about 100 Black and other nationally oppressed students from the National Student Conference Against Racism, at Boston University, Feb. 14-16, has been the cause for much discussion in the student movement.

The walkout occurred at the evening plenary session on Feb. 15 after a group-ing of Black students, about half of all the Black students present, tried to focus the conference on the struggle against racism and the way in which Black-white unity could be built.

What prompted the walkout? What were the issues involved?

The basic cause of the walkout lay in the fact that, from the outset, the conference organizers, dominated by the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party, did not project a clear direction for the role of white youth in the struggle against racism. The Black students who walked out saw this as capitulation to racism; they felt that meaningful Black-white unity could not be built on such a foundation. This view was expressed repeatedly by the Black and Puerto Rican students at the plenary session. As one student put it on the floor, "They're calling these marches, but let them go into their own communities and ring door bells and talk to people."

The Black students challenged also the elitist "student vanguard" concepts of the Trotskyites who sought to impose strategy and tactics from the outside on the community forces most involved in the desegregation struggle.

The proposal of the Trotskyites for a single-action campaign, as opposed to a campaign of ongoing organizing against racism as it manifests itself on the local campuses, was also attacked sharply by the Black students.

Another criticism repeatedly raised by the Black students was their feeling that the conference was not an open conference, that it was dominated by the SWP-YSA, which had a history of opportunism in the fight against racism, and that the doors to full participation in the conference were closed by arbitrary and undemocratic procedures.

In response to these criticisms which were raised on the floor of the conference, the YSA (Young Socialist Alliance, SWP youth group) responded in a way which was itself racist. Instead of dealing with the criticisms raised, YSA members began shouting, "Sit down! Sit down!" to the Black students. As supporters of the Black students began shouting, "Let them speak!" it appeared that the conference would not be able to continue. However, after the Black students walked out, the conference continued. A Trotskyite spokesman denounced the Black students as disrupters.

The walkout of the Black students was prompted by legitimate criticisms and by an understandable frustration at the undemocratic way the conference had been planned and organized.

Mixed in, however, were some incorrect notions derived primarily from the Maoists about how the struggle against racism and for quality education should be conducted. On the floor, the Maoists opposed support of the May 17 march called by the NAACP on the grounds that it was "reformist" and that the Black community of Boston does not support such. The Maoists attacked the busing program

as "forced integration" and as a "violation of people's right to self-determination." This view, however, was not shared by the overwhelming majority of Black students at the conference.

It was the Maoists among the Black students who advocated a walkout from the conference. The students who walked out were unable to agree on their political objectives, and their meeting produced no ongoing program or organization.

In the end, therefore, the walkout, though prompted by legitimate criticisms, did not contribute to the struggle against the efforts of the SWP-YSA to dominate the conference. Instead, it took many of the independent Black students out of the conference. In this manner the Maoists aided the Trotskyites in their efforts to control the conference and sabotage an effective mass struggle against racism.

In response to the frequent criticisms made by many conference participants of the SWP-YSA, the SWP responded by charging that they were being "red-baited."

Let us examine this charge. In the first place, the main reason for the Trotskyites' existence in every country is to oppose the Communists and other progressive forces in the struggle for progress and socialism.

The Trotskyites oppose and call for the overthrow of socialism in every country where socialism has been established, including the USSR, Cuba, the DRV, the GDR, etc.

The Trotskyites make the Communists the main target of their propaganda campaigns, fitting in nicely with the ruling class reactionary attacks on Communists. An outfit as anti-Communist as the SWP-YSA cannot be the object of red-baiting.

In the case of the National Student Conference Against Racism, the criticisms of the SWP were well-founded. Is it not a fact that the SWP-YSA sent 400 of their members and practically the

entire leadership nationally and from every local area to this conference?

Students who have had previous experience with the Trotskyites in the past, as in the National Peace Action Coalition and the Student Mobilization Committee, know that the Trotskyites never seek to build a really broad united front movement, but only one which they can tightly control. Since their ideas are increasingly rejected by progressive people, the Trotskyites know that the only way they can control movements is through numerical domination. This was the reason behind the massive SWP-YSA mobilization of its members to stack the conference.

Is it not a fact that two of the five chairpersons of the conference were YSA members?

If this effort were to be a real united front, wouldn't it have been more democratic to have broader representation in the chair?

Is it not a fact that the YSA-inspired rule to limit speaking at the conference to those recognized by the chair limited the ability of the independent students to express themselves and added a large element of arbitrariness?

Do these actions not constitute an attempt by the SWP-YSA to manipulate the conference? Can the exposure of these facts be called "red-baiting"?

But more than that, at the conference, the SWP and YSA leadership itself covertly engaged in some of the most unprincipled red-baiting attacks against the Communist Party and the Young Workers Liberation League. By their own admission, Marco Dixon and Paul Mailhot, YSA organizers and conference coordinators, without consulting the other conference coordinators but acting in the name of the coordinators, called Tom Atkins, president of the Boston NAACP, Rex Weng, of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and other community leaders in Boston, saying that they had heard that the Communist Party and the YWILL were planning to disrupt the conference and could they count on their support if

such disruption occurred.

These charges were totally unfounded. The YWILL's participation in the conference was constructive and principled from the beginning to the end. Though the YSA conference coordinators were aware of the YWILL's constructive participation, they did not hesitate to resurrect the hackneyed McCarthyite charge of "Communist disruption." What could be clearer evidence of classical red-baiting by the YSA than this?

III

The debate on the structure of the new organization to be set up by the National Student Conference Against Racism, meeting at Boston College, February 14-16, was one of the most important at the gathering.

Inherent in the debate on structure was the question of whether the new organization, the National Student Coalition Against Racism, would be a broad, united, effective vehicle among students in the struggle against racism, or whether it would function as a narrow, unrepresentative body dominated by one organization. Also involved was the question of whether Black and other nationally oppressed youth would be guaranteed representation on all the leading bodies of the coalition.

The Young Workers Liberation League submitted a proposal on structure. It proposed that a steering committee be elected by the conference which would be composed of two representatives of every national student and youth organization that endorsed the program adopted by the conference, and two representatives of every state or regional organization of NSCAR, and six persons elected by the conference as a whole, at least half of whom were to be Black or other nationally oppressed youth.

The League proposal specified the type of national organizations that could be approached to participate on the steering committee, including the NAACP Youth Council, the National Student Association (NSA), the Newman Clubs, Hallel Clubs, the YMCA, the YWCA, the

Liberal Religious Youth, the Young Democrats, the Young Republicans, Aspira, the YWLL, etc. If this approach were carried out, it would guarantee that the new organization could be a solid front of a large part of the young generation.

This was a proposal to take the new

organization forward. It proposed to build on what had already been accomplished and further, to encompass broader sectors of youth. The proposal guaranteed representation from all regional affiliates of NSCAR, thus combining features of national and local representation, as well as the direct election of six steering committee members from the conference itself.

The proposal was workable in that the steering committee would not be so large that it would be unable to meet.

In opposition to this proposal some of the conference coordinators, at the initiative of the YSA, put forth another. This proposal was issued dishonestly under the name of the five coordinators, though Robert Harper, the political affairs chairman of the Harvard-Radcliffe African and Afro-American Students Association, and one of the conference coordinators, had not agreed to the use of his name.

The proposal included as the name for the new organization, SOAR (Students Organized Against Racism). It was a take-off on the John Birch Society-inspired ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights) which had been heavily involved in the racist violence in Boston. The proposal called for a steering committee which emphasized the role of national organizations and called for the representation of "one representative from each campus and citywide chapter of Students Organized Against Racism."

The YWLL and many unaffiliated students opposed this proposal on the grounds that the steering committee would be too cumbersome and unworkable and the proposal downgraded the importance of seeking representation and participation from the important mass organizations of youth. Further, there were no guarantees in the coordinators' proposal that Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Native American and Asian American youth would be adequately represented on the steering committee.

Some of the supporters of this proposal

argued that the practically "unlimited membership" of the steering committee would be good.

Actually in the name of "democracy" and "local representation," the proposal was very bureaucratic. The size of the steering committee would prevent it from meeting regularly, thus rendering it ineffective and giving actual control of the organization to the coordinators, who would be in charge of the day-to-day operations. And in the proposal from the outgoing coordinators, two of the five new coordinators were members of YSA!

After discussion of the two proposals the YSA proposed a "compromise" resolution which incorporated some of the least essential aspects of the YWLL proposal while maintaining the steering committee concept proposed by the coordinators.

Thus, the "compromise" appeared to combine positive aspects of both proposals, and was adopted by the conference, which by that time was composed of more than 50 percent of YSA members.

The NSCAR structure, as adopted, makes it more difficult for broad organizations and other independent forces to participate effectively in the work of the organization.

Thus, the conference was manipulated, in the name of "democracy," into "committing" any guaranteed representation for Black and other nationally oppressed youth and women. An organization which came into being in the name of fighting for desegregation refused to adopt a structure which guaranteed against the exclusion of Black students from its leadership.

Whether the organization will continue to function on a narrow base or broaden out, whether it redresses the legitimate and historically oppressed concerns of nationally oppressed students, whether it is able to win Black students to its ranks, depends upon how the independent forces will mobilize to participate in the pro-

gram of action and organization adopted by NSCAR.

What are the tasks facing the new National Student Coalition Against Racism? What steps must be taken if it is to make an enduring contribution to the progressive student movement?

In the first place, NSCAR must implement all of the decisions of the Feb. 15-16 conference, not selectively or arbitrarily. This includes mobilizing for April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and the first International Day of Solidarity with Youth of the U.S. Struggling Against Racism. Already local committees of NSCAR dominated by the YSA have ignored this date, projecting only activity around May 17.

Building a mass turnout for the national demonstration in Boston May 17 initiated by the NAACP is of utmost importance. This can be accomplished only by relating the struggle for the desegregation of the Boston public schools to the struggle against the racist manifestations on local campuses, such as the attacks on open admissions and on Black, Chicano and Puerto Rican studies programs, the promulgation of racist ideas via Shockley, Jensen, etc., the cut-backs in funds for financial aid, etc. This is the meaning of the April 4 actions as part of an ongoing movement which would help to mobilize for May 17.

Secondly, NSCAR must carry out the mandate of the conference by mobilizing and winning white students to see their own self-interest in the struggle against racism. Any backtracking by the YSA on this struggle must be firmly rejected.

Thirdly, NSCAR must build a broad united front movement with real democratic participation of all those forces which have a stake in the struggle against racism.

These tasks are essential if NSCAR is to fulfill its responsibilities to students in the midst of an unprecedented racist and economic assault on the conditions of all youth.

From: Daily World

March 13-14, 1975

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
March 24, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND TRADE UNION DIRECTORS:

Dear Comrades,

The "Rally for Jobs Now" in Washington on April 26, called by the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, has so far not been widely publicized by its official sponsors. According to our information, published in The Militant of March 28, the AFL-CIO intends to send notices to all IUD affiliates. Some unions have a special interest in this rally and are doing more; the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE - Jennings) and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME - Wurf), for example, are preparing to charter buses in several cities to transport unemployed workers to Washington for the rally. But we can expect that everything will be done in routine fashion.)

We cannot expect to exercise decisive influence on preparations for the rally. But we are supporters of the action and are anxious to do everything in our means to build it. ||

Comrades in some cities have already made initial moves. In Detroit the Graphic Arts International Union (GAIU) passed a motion to support the action and voted money to charter buses. In Cleveland the local CLUW chapter adopted a supporting resolution at its meeting on Sunday, March 23. In New York the ITU local 6 adopted resolutions (one by the News chapter and another by CLUW women of the local) endorsing the action. In Pittsburgh we have called several unions and learned of plans by IUE to charter buses. The Pittsburgh CLUW chapter is expected to call a special meeting to build for the 26th. In Washington, D.C., an enlarged "coalition meeting" has been called by the Washington Teachers Union for April 3 to urge the Black community, independent unions, all who are affected by the job crisis to attend the rally on the 26th, and to bring out as many of the unemployed as possible with their own banners and demands. (This "coalition meeting" was planned before the IUD agreed on the 26th, when the Stalinists were planning a demonstration on that date.) In Philadelphia a candidate in an AFSCME local has put a notice of April 26 in his campaign leaflet, one of the things he stands for and is helping to build. These are some examples of things we are doing right away.

We hope that unions from most major cities west of the Mississippi will be represented in Washington on April 26. If this happens, the JFK stadium which holds an estimated 85,000 will not hold the crowd.

Our purpose at this stage is to become as active as possible in the preparations of this demonstration, try to get as many unemployed as possible to go, and manage in every way we can to get there on the transportation that is provided.

We will, of course, work within the established apparatus of the unions, not attempt to work around them. We want to find as many militants as we can to work with on this project, and make new friends in the process.

Our slogan is the same as the one of the unions: JOBS FOR ALL. If anyone wants to know how we propose to accomplish this, our election material (Bill of Rights for Workers and Why Can't We All Have Jobs) will supply some answers. For those who have further interest, we will have classes on the Transitional Program (and other basic writings) at the SWP headquarters. We are anxious to introduce as many young militant workers to our politics as possible, and preparations for this rally in Washington is the first good opportunity that has come along in a good while.

We will have opportunities to sell our literature in the course of this work and explain why we think this is a very important action. We want to become recognized as builders of the action and builders of the union, not union knockers, even though we may think the officials are inefficient and routinist.

It may be that some unions from the mountain states or even from the West Coast will want to send delegations, probably made up of union officials with one or two of their unemployed. In such cases we would like to be selected as part of the delegation.

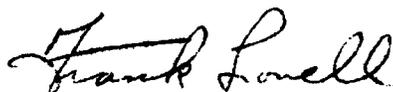
At Washington on the 26th our primary task will be to sell our literature, and in some cases we may be part of union committees selected to help with the organization of the overflow crowd -- if the whole thing gains that kind of momentum. (We are not predicting that it will, but we must work for this optimum development and be prepared at every stage and in every way to help it along.)

The Militant will continue to give coverage of the April 26 Rally for Jobs, and we will welcome reports about it from all branches.

Let us know what is happening in your area, and what you are doing about it.

Please read this letter at your next branch meeting for information of all members.

Comradely,



Frank Lovell
Trade Union Director

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
March 25, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND FINANCIAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Special Party Building Fund

At its meeting of March 22, 1975, the Political Bureau approved the launching of a Special Party Building Fund, contingent on Congress passing some form of tax rebate on 1974 taxes.

The Special Party Building Fund will be a public campaign, appealing to members, sympathizers, Militant readers and others to support the Socialist Workers Party by contributing all or part of their tax rebate.

The success of the party and YSA's suit in forcing the government to turn over some of its files pertaining to the illegal campaign it has conducted against the party and YSA has publicized the party as a fighter for democratic rights, and as a fighting party championing the cause of labor, the Black movement, the antiwar movement, etc. This fund will enable supporters of the party to aid us in all our work. It will enable those who want to aid the real fight against inflation and unemployment to support the party that is carrying forward the fight to eliminate the cause of both, and to protect the working people from the effects of both.

The Fund campaign will be conducted on two levels. One will be a campaign organized by the branches among party members and sympathizers. Pledges will be taken from members and sympathizers, once the size of the rebates is known, and the branches will be responsible for collecting these pledges as the checks are received. We propose that the money collected by the branches be split between the branches and the National Office, at the ratio of 40 percent for the branches and 60 percent to the National Office.

We also propose that the 40 percent of the pledges kept by the branches be used first to pay off any back debts to the national departments the branches may have.

The second level of the campaign will be a direct appeal in The Militant. Funds collected in this way will all go to the National Office.

Once the Congress passes the rebate proposal (assuming it does), and comrades and supporters can figure out the amount they will receive, pledges should be taken in the branches. After the National Office knows the total of these pledges, a national goal can be set and the Fund publicly launched.

Special Party Building Fund/2

Assuming that Congress actually passes the rebate proposal, this Special Party Building Fund will be very important in helping the party nationally. As comrades know, financial realities have forced us to undertake some cutbacks in national functioning. This Fund campaign can help the party minimize these cutbacks in a period of increasing political opportunities.

Please bring this letter to the attention of the membership, so comrades can begin to think about their pledges.

Comments or suggestions will be most welcome, and should be addressed to Barbara Matson.

Comradely,

Barbara Matson

Barbara Matson
National Financial Director

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
National Organization
Secretary