

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
July 7, 1975

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

The following report on Progressive Labor in San Francisco is being sent to you for your information. The National Office would appreciate reports from other areas on any significant activity by Progressive Labor.

Comradely,
Barry Sheppard
Barry Sheppard
SWP National Office

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San Francisco
June 25, 1975

Socialist Workers Party
New York, New York

Dear comrades,

I was assigned to observe a banquet and rally of the Progressive Labor Party on June 13 in San Francisco. We felt, after having a report in the branch executive committee, that a report to the National Office would be valuable, since it appears that PL is stronger in the Bay Area than most, if not all, other areas of the country.

I will try to summarize the most important features of the event. The occasion seemed to be a wrap-up rally for the spring. The featured speaker was Milt Rosen, and the banquet had obviously been built well all over the Bay Area, not just San Francisco.

Close to 300 people attended, including about 50 Blacks. It was clear that there was a large number of independents (probably just over half of the crowd) and that the PLers had made this event a major focus of their activity leading up to it. The entire evening was heavily oriented to recruiting these contacts to PL.

The program included dinner, several musicians and singers, all of whom began their act by introducing themselves as members of the Progressive Labor Party who were active in this or that campaign (30 for 40, Workers Action Movement, Hospital Workers, etc.). Following the "entertainment" Milt Rosen spoke for about an hour.

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Rosen's talk was totally oriented toward convincing people to join PL, as the revolutionary party. He said that now was the time to join the party, that one could not afford to put it off. In "answering" the hypothetical question, "What is the difference between PLP and other radical parties?" he said that no other party, be it the Communist Party or the Socialist Workers Party stood for the dictatorship of the proletariat, and that was the dividing line.

Rosen used Boston as an example of how to deal with the members of the ruling class--physically. There was much self-congratulation by PL on their work in Boston. Rosen's talk was dominated by references to the current rise of fascism in the United States, especially in Boston. They see their work in Boston this spring as a big victory in the fight against fascism and a big step for PL. Rosen said that they expected about 60 people from the West Coast to go to Boston for "Boston '75, Freedom Summer."

We felt that the event was a significant one, especially in size and the number of Blacks attending. It is clear that they have been able to draw a number of people around them. For what it's worth, Rosen said that PL had doubled in size in San Francisco in the last year. It is hard to evaluate that statement, since later he said that they had doubled in size in every major city in the country.

I have enclosed a sample of some of the literature available at the event. Hopefully, along with this report, it will help in assessing PL nationally.

Comradely,
s/Rich Stuart
San Francisco