

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
November 14, 1975

To Organizers and Antiracist Work Directors

Dear Comrades,

Attached are two reports of NAACP conferences. These will be of special interest to comrades in light of the convention discussion about NAACP membership and participation in NAACP meetings and conferences. Branches that have participated in NAACP activities should send reports to the national office. Also, the Nov. 21 Militant has an article on the Kentucky NAACP convention.

Comradely,

*Doug Jenness*

Doug Jenness  
SWP National Office

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Milwaukee  
November 5, 1975

SWP National Office  
New York

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a report on the recent Wisconsin NAACP Fall State Conference.

We have had quite a bit of trouble getting in touch with the Milwaukee branch in order to have people join. Steve and I were able to join at the state conference and were able to meet and talk with the Milwaukee president.

The Milwaukee NAACP recently held its first public meeting since the branch reorganized and elected a new president, i.e., its first meeting since the spring. The meeting was publicized in the Black press and projected as a discussion of the Charles Dailey shooting and inquest, and "public school integration." Forty people, almost all Black and older, attended.

Arthur Dailey, the slain youth's brother, reported on the inquest. The family may initiate a petition to reopen the case. The NAACP's lawyers are investigating the legal possibilities of the family filing some kind of civil rights suit.

A statement from the NAACP National Office on desegregation and busing was read to the meeting. Unfortunately, the head of the Education Committee, and apparently others, do not agree with it. They do not support forced busing. They like the "magnet school" concept and the idea of getting more whites to voluntarily transfer to Black schools. Shortly after this meeting, School Superintendent McMurrin put forward a plan for voluntary integration using the magnet school approach. Given the probability of a decision coming soon on the suit charging Milwaukee's school board with keeping the schools segregated, it is not good that the NAACP is trying to evade the busing issue.

We are in the process of trying to get together a panel on desegregation for November 22 as well as a panel on police repression for December 6 featuring Karen Galloway and including Mrs. Mendoza, Michael Murphy, someone from the Delbert Tibbs Committee, and possibly Arthur Dailey or someone on the police shootings in the Black community.

Comradely,

/s/

Delpfine Welch  
Antiracist Work Director

Report on Wisconsin NAACP Fall State Conference

On Oct. 4, the Wisconsin NAACP held its Fall State Conference in Janesville. A Youth State Conference took place simultaneously. We sent four comrades involved in antiracist work to: 1) distribute SCAR material and obtain support for the SCAR conference; and 2) learn more about the NAACP.

We were not able to distribute material to the conference as a whole, but were able to talk to individuals about SCAR and its activities. The Resolutions Committee declined to propose endorsing the conference in light of a recent directive from the National Office warning branches to be wary of coalitions or endorsing activities of other groups.

Although the conference was open to the public, it was not widely publicized and was difficult to get to. Fifty-four people registered with 11 attending the youth meeting (including three comrades). Two-thirds of those attending were Black. About one-third of the participants were from Janesville (most of the whites). Almost all the others were in the leadership of the various branches.

There are six branches or almost-branches in Wisconsin encompassing approximately 1,000 members. Milwaukee is the largest with about 400. Madison has close to 300. Racine has about 200. Janesville, Beloit, and Kenosha each have around 50. The brief reports of the branch presidents indicated that their activities include legislative work, employment, housing, desegregation, the fight against the Nazis, and the prisons. The level of activity and involvement of members is quite low.

The conference was not organized as either a discussion of branch activities or of political issues. Most of the conference was taken up with workshops on education, volunteer work, ROTC and minorities, winterizing your home, and employment opportunities. They were short presentations followed by a few questions and answers. The luncheon speech, "You Gotta Belong," by state president Tom White, was a political talk explaining what's wrong with society, and why and how one must fight back. Tom attended the May 17 demonstration, riding with us on the Chicago bus, and later gave a slide presentation of the demonstration.

Ordinarily, when the Resolutions Committee presents resolutions to the body for adoption they are accepted with little or no discussion or debate. One proposal, however, met with vigorous opposition from the Madison president, Eugene Parks. The proposal entailed supporting an amendment currently in committee that would open up an investigation of the Nazi party. It also implied support for "anti-Nazi laws" aimed at restricting their activities on the basis of their ideas. Parks and I spoke against the resolution on the basis of the

so-called anti-Nazi laws' attack on First Amendment rights which could be used against the NAACP and any other anti-racist group. As a result of the opposition the resolution was sent to the Legal Redress Committee which essentially tables the question until next spring. It is important that the conference did not go on record in support of the various "anti-Nazi laws."

Other resolutions passed by the conference included: a condemnation of Senate Bill No. 1 "modernizing" the criminal codes, a petition to state superintendent Barbara Thompson to end separate and unequal education practices, a letter to Governor Lucey to confer with the NAACP to reaffirm the constitution and the search for equality, recognition of the disproportionate number of Black prisoners to prison personnel and the need for more Black personnel.

The Youth Conference discussed gaining the support of the branches for the youth councils, segregation in sports, and involving more youth in the youth councils. Steve Johnson was elected recording secretary for the State Youth Council.

Report on the Western Regional NAACP Conference Held  
in Asilomar, California September 19-21

by John Votava

The conference was attended by perhaps between 200-250 people. It is hard to say more precisely since so few people actually attended the sessions. Many major areas of the region, like Seattle and Portland, were not represented at all, or either did not make their presence known at the sessions or did not come to the sessions. In some cases, even panelists who were members of various NAACP chapters did not show up.

About 13 resolutions were passed. A number of them reaffirmed the NAACP's stand on affirmative action and against discriminatory lay-offs. They also passed a resolution condemning president Ford's recent antibusing statements.

There were a few sessions just for youth, but they were restricted to discussing things like distributing information on scholarships available to students planning to go to college. All the resolutions reported out to the conference from the youth sessions were along this line.

NSCAR had a total of 9 people attend the conference from four cities (Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, and Berkeley). Verna Canson, western regional director of the NAACP, originally indicated NSCAR could have written greetings read to the conference. This never happened. However, Rashaad Ali and Omari Musa were both introduced to the audience as representatives of NSCAR at the banquet where Thomas Atkins spoke.

We were told we could not hand out NSCAR literature but we did get out a lot at the youth sessions. These sessions were attended by between 50 and 75 youth.

We attempted to have discussions with people at the conference about NSCAR and what was going on in their areas but we had mixed success. We did not know many people before the conference and given the different attitudes that exist within the NAACP toward NSCAR and the structure of the conference in most cases our discussions did not get too far.

The most extensive discussions were with the head of the San Jose NAACP and the leadership of the Richmond Youth Council. In San Jose, Henry Gates is very interested in working with NSCAR, as well as other groups, around school desegregation. He wants to meet with Rashaad when Rashaad goes down to San Jose to speak at the State campus. The Richmond youth group has about 130 members and we raised the idea of their endorsing the national NSCAR conference.

Most NAACP chapters knew we were there and this should facilitate further discussions with the various chapters about what, if anything, they are doing and if there is any basis either for us working with them on their projects or their endorsing and participating in our projects.