

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
March 4, 1976

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

On March 17-21 the Third National Black Political Convention will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio. (See attached for schedule and registration information.)

This convention is being organized by the National Black Assembly, which is the body formed out of the first Black convention held in Gary, Indiana, in 1972. The NBA is only a shell of the body projected by the 8,000-attended Gary convention.

At the Gary convention a program for Black liberation was developed, which, if implemented, would have advanced the overall struggle for Black rights. The BNA's purpose was to make this program become a reality. This never happened. In fact, NBA chapters have rarely met in its four years existence. And, as far as we know, few of the planned NBA delegate selection meetings that were scheduled to be organized prior to the Cincinnati convention have actually been held.

It is not yet clear what the organizers of this third convention hope to accomplish at this gathering. Since they announced last February, 1975, their intention to run an "independent" Black campaign in 1976, the organizers of the NBA -- from Amiri Baraka, the former secretary-general of the NBA to Ron Daniels, present chairperson of the NBA -- said this presidential campaign would be "anti-Democratic and anti-Republican." Yet their main choice for president is a Black Democratic legislator -- Julian Bond of Georgia -- who has no intention of leaving the Democratic party. (See January 2, 1976, Militant for more details on projected campaign.)

As well, on February 21-23, the NBA organized a National Committee for Peoples Politics (NCP) meeting in Washington, D.C. The NCP is supposed to be the nucleus for a future campaign committee for the "independent" Black campaign. However, this body, which is not all Black (only half), plans to consider running a white woman as the vice-presidential candidate. (See Baxter Smith's article in the March 5 issue of the Militant.)

Just from this information it becomes clear that the NBA is not planning to run a truly independent Black campaign but instead it is projecting to launch some type of "peoples campaign." The Militant that will be sold at the convention will further analyze this perspective of the NBA.

Although it is not clear what the NBA will decide to do in Cincinnati, or what the size of the meeting will be, we can safely assume that several hundred Blacks will probably come to the convention. The major Black media has already given the convention much publicity. And it is likely that many Blacks will come to the convention just to "check it out" and to see if the convention will nominate or draft Julian Bond to be its presidential candidate. Others will be there because of their opposition to the two major parties and will be looking for an alternative to them.

These independent-minded Blacks will be open to our ideas. The convention thus provides us a valuable opportunity to discuss our socialist ideas with many radicalizing Blacks from Cincinnati and around the country. Willie Mae Reid will be at the convention and a major socialist propaganda intervention is planned. PRDF will also be bringing literature to the convention.

The National Student Coalition Against Racism and supporters of the May 16 ERA demonstration will be bringing literature to the convention too. NSCAR is seeking to get a pro-busing speaker at the convention.

We are encouraging as many Black comrades as possible to attend the Cincinnati meeting to help carry out these different activities. Where it is possible, we want comrades to try and become elected delegates to the convention. Based on past experiences, only delegates are allowed to speak and participate in state caucuses and to speak from the floor. We especially, therefore, want to encourage comrades who are candidates for office to become delegates. Registration fee for delegates is \$25; for observers, \$10.

A national fraction meeting will be held at the Tangeman Center (Student Union), University of Cincinnati at 7 p.m. on March 17 (Wednesday). The room number will be posted. (If there are any problems finding the place, comrades can reach me or someone else at Rick Mitts' -- 513-272-2596.)

Everyone should also bring sleeping bags for mass housing. The cost will be \$1 per night.

Finally, we need to know by March 15, at the latest, how many comrades and campaign supporters will be coming to Cincinnati. Please drop me or Nan Bailey a note or call once this information is known.

Comradely,

Malik Miah

Malik Miah
SWP National Office

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 17, 1976

- 12 noon - Executive Council Meeting
- 4:00 PM - Convention Committees Meeting
- 6 PM - Midnight - Credentials Hearings
- 8:00 PM - State Chairpersons Caucus

Thursday, March 18, 1976

- 9 AM - Registration, Convention Center
- 11:30 AM - Press Conference
- 12 Noon - 4 PM - "A Salute to Theodore M. Berry"
Testimonial Luncheon
- 2 PM - Platform Hearings
- 7 PM - Opening Session (Convention Center)
 - a. Greetings and Welcome
 - b. Official Seating of Convention Delegates
 - c. Rules report and Credentials Report
 - d. Recognition of Platform Guests & Dignitaries
 - e. Invited Speakers: Lerone Bennett, Jr.,
Barbara Sizemore, Ron Dellums
- 10 PM
 - a. Preliminary State Caucuses
 - 1. Orientation
 - 2. Review of NBPA Reports
 - 3. Review of NBPA Constitution and
Statement of Principle
 - 4. Review of 1976 Black Political Strategy
 - b. Workshop moderators and Panelists meet
 - c. Benefit - "Four Hundred Years of Black
Survival, The Legacy of Black Music"
(Cin. Riverfront Coliseum)

Friday, March 19, 1976

- 8 AM - Exco and State Chairpersons meet
- 9 AM
 - a. NPBA Political and Organizational Development Institution begins
 - b. Open Forum - Issues, Information, and Discussion series No. 1
 - 1. Black Women and Black Liberation; Women's Concerns and Issues
 - 2. Youth and Students: Getting Involved in the New Black Politics
 - 3. Senior Citizens: Organizing for Effective Action
 - 4. The Economic Crisis and the National Black Community; The Causes and Cures
 - 5. Criminal Justice and Political Repression; Organizing to meet the Crisis
 - 6. Social Services and Community Development; Their Role in Community Struggles
 - 7. The Status and Future of Black Political Empowerment; the Electoral Political Perspectives

12 Noon - Lunch

- 1 PM - Open Forum - Issues, Information, and Discussion, series Number 2
 - 1. Directions in Black Education; The Outlook
 - 2. Full Employment; Building a National Movement
 - 3. The Crisis in Health Care; Meeting the Needs of the Masses
 - 4. The Role of Communication in Building Mass Support for Electoral Politics and Community Struggles
 - 5. Consumer Advocacy; Life Line Concept as a Priority for Action
 - 6. The Status and Future of Black Political Empowerment; The Community Organizing Perspective
 - 7. The State of the Black World; International Perspectives and Directions
- 4 PM - National Black Political Assembly Information Session
 - a. 1976 Black Political Strategy
 - b. 1976 Black Political Platform
 - c. The Status, Goals and Future Direction of the NBPA

6 PM - Dinner

7:30 PM - Plenary Session

- 1. Recognition of Platform Guests and NBPA Exco and State Chairpersons
- 2. Platform read-out
- 3. NBPA Speakers: Mtanguliza Sanyka (Haywood Henry), Mashariki Kurudisha, Ron Daniels
- 4. Ratification of NBA Reports
- 5. Ratification of NBPA Constitution and Statement of Principles
- 6. Ratification of 1976 Black Political Strategy
- 10:30 PM - State Caucuses
 - 1. Review of '76 Political Strategy and State Progress Reports
 - 2. Review of voter registration and State Progress Reports
 - 3. Review of Assembly Building Progress and State Report
 - 4. Review of '76 Black Political Platform
 - 5. Review of Plenary Session Agenda

Saturday, March 20, 1976

- 8 AM - Exco and State Chairpersons meet
- 9 AM - State Caucuses Continue
- 12 Noon - Lunch
State Chairpersons and Exco
Luncheon Caucus
- 1 PM - Plenary Session
 - 1. Ratification of 1976 Black Political Platform
 - 2. Ratification of Resolutions
- 6 PM - Dinner

7:30 PM - Plenary Session (Continued)

1. Nomination of Presidential Candidate
2. Seconding Speeches
3. Ratification of Presidential Candidate
4. Acceptance Speech
5. Convention Adjournment

12 Midnight - Midnight Special - Benefit Fund
Raiser

Sunday, March 21, 1976

10 AM - Exco and State Chairpersons Meet

CONVENTION BASICS

Date: March 17-21, 1976

Place: Cincinnati, Ohio

Location: Cincinnati Convention Center
200 Fifth Street

Registration: Delegates, \$25.00

Student, unemployed, welfare, Senior Citizens (over 60), Delegates, \$10.00. NOTE: Reduced rates to the above categories of delegates with two forms of identification only, e.g., driver's license and student I.D. card, welfare card, unemployment card, etc. Delegates who pre-register at the reduced rate must present identification at the registration desk at the convention for final verification.

Observers: \$10.00

NOTE: All checks and money orders for pre-registration should be made payable to "Black Convention, '76". No personal checks will be accepted after March 8, 1976.

Reservations:

Housing accommodations can be made through the Convention only. All delegates will process their housing requests through their respective state chairpersons or convenors. Observers should return their pre-registration form with the deposit of \$10.00 to guarantee your accommodations. This is extremely important as choice housing for such a large convention will be tight. Deposits for housing should be made payable to "Cincinnati Convention Bureau" (Black Convention, '76)

Advance Payment:

All payments, and pre-registration forms should be mailed to:

BLACK CONVENTION, '76
CINCINNATI CONVENTION BUREAU
200 W. FIFTH STREET - ROOM 229
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

For further information: Call (513) 621-4328