

## MEETINGS AND FILMS FOR PERIPHERY CAMPAIGN - ATTENTION EXEC

### Public Meetings for the Periphery Campaign

Below are 5 suggested public meetings. Each branch will choose 2 which are to be held in the next two months. Before getting into the specifics, however, here are a few general comments that will help in making these meetings as politically effective as possible.

Each public meeting must be carefully planned politically. If it is to be on a topic that branch personnel are not familiar with, there should be branch discussions on the topic prior to the meeting. (This will probably be the case with the one on South Africa) One branch leader must be put in charge politically for the content of the speeches and the floor discussion at any particular meeting. This includes working with the speakers on their speeches to ensure that each covers the main political points are laid out, and that there is no overlap. That comrade will make a political presentation to the exec on the content of the meeting and the key points to be carried in the discussion. He/she will be the floor leader during the discussion. This means lining up branch members to ask important questions and make SHORT contributions that enliven and broaden the political content of the meeting. The chair should know who is prepared to speak and ask questions, so that she/he will call on them and contacts first. If political problems develop during the discussion, the chair should know to call on the floor leader, whose job it is to get the discussion back on the right track with a short comment or a question.

**CHAIRING:** Chairing a political meeting must be prepared for well. The chair should know the overall political content and be prepared to make a short, snappy introduction. The chair plays a key role in keeping the meeting lively and moving. He/she should also push WP and the literature table in between speakers. Discussion should be limited to 45 minutes at most.

**OTHER POINTS:** A mailing list should be sent around during the beginning of the discussion period, and introduced by the chair. The hall should be well decorated with the appropriate posters, banners, and it should all be done as professionally as possible. Branch members should be there at least 15 minutes in advance, unless they are bringing friends. The literature table should also be set up in advance and music for any party afterwards should be brought before the meeting starts. In addition, any leaflet or poster put out should have "Child Care Provided" on it with a number to call. And don't forget to provide the child care.

### MEETINGS

#### 1. Fighting the Growing Racist Movement

There will be three speakers for this meeting. Overall, the speeches will cover the growing racist movement, growing out of the economic crisis, how racism divides the workers movement, and black liberation through workers revolution. No one speech should be over 10 minutes total.

**FIRST SPEAKER:** (Where there is a Red Tide, this speaker should be an RTer). This speech covers Gary Tyler as a symbol of what happens when black people stand up and fight back, and local incidents in the schools, especially among young people (busing, racial riots) and in the community. It should conclude with a pitch for the Red Tide and what the Red Tide is doing about these questions. It also covers the role of the police in the Black community. Be creative and use incidents in your city, check out the newspaper.

**SECOND SPEAKER:** (This is preferably a white worker with some experience in dealing with questions of racism on the shop floor). This speech covers the employers' offensive and how racism is a part of it (layoffs, city cutbacks of black workers). He/she uses own experiences to explain the dangers of racism holding back the building of a workers' movement, how racism will grow as a result of the economic crisis.

**THIRD SPEAKER:** (Preferably a black IS leader). This is the main speech. It will build off the other two and tie them up. It will cover the concretes of the growing racist movement (Louisville, South Boston, Marquette Park) and who's behind it. (For Chicago, see particularly WP # 171, the article by Gay on Marquette Park, The Issues). In general, specifics on the role of the Banks, real estate interests, large corporations should be brought out. Main political points to include building an anti-racist movement with a clear transitional attitude toward winning white workers to such a movement, based on their own interests in struggle. The speech should cover what the IS is doing and the need to build a revolutionary party to lead the workers movement and black movement in a unified political way; that black liberation and an end to racism can only come through workers' revolution- the alternative in this country will be a racist fascist movement that will smash the worker and black movements and set up a totalitarian state. This is the aim of the KKK, American Nazi Party, etc. End with a pitch to join the IS as part of building a movement to fight these forces.

### 2. Revolution in South Africa

There will be one speaker following the film "Last Grave at Dimbaza". The overall political content will be the nature of the fascist, apartheid regime in South Africa, the current struggle and the need to support this struggle. The need for this struggle to become a workers struggle, pointing out here that all white workers in South Africa are part of the fascist regime- hence it is a black workers movement and the need for a revolutionary party to be built to lead this struggle and make the socialist revolution which is the only real answer to the fascist regime. Link up what's going on in Zimbabwe and the key to the liberation of Africa is South Africa- ~~XXXXXX~~ an advanced capitalist country. End with need for solidarity with struggle in South Africa, the fact that we are fighting the same bosses (GM, ITT, Ford, GE, etc.), and how we here can materially aid their struggle by building the workers' movement in this country. End with a pitch to join. The film will be very effective in getting across the nature of apartheid and will set a good tone for the speech. The speech should center on building the struggle today including what's going on there now.

### 3. What's Wrong with this Country

There will be three speakers for this meeting. Overall, the speeches will depend on the city. The idea is to lay out- as dramatically as possible, the degeneration of the local institutions which most directly affect workers' lives. Two sides must be related. First, the rotting away of public services; the crisis in the schools (teacher layoffs, school closings, cutbacks in programs) decline in sanitation, library, street repair, childcare, medical and recreational services; tax hikes falling on workers; etc. Secondly, the local employers' offensive: layoffs, speed-up, accidents, threats of runaway shops. Both sides of the speech should combine- using as much local color as possible- to make it clear that capitalist society right here in your city is decreasingly capable of satisfying elementary human needs.

**SECOND SPEAKER:** This country and the international crisis. The object of this talk is to generalize

the presentation. This talk should begin with what's going on nationally- unemployment, that it's not just this city, etc., and then go on to the international scope of the problems introduced by the first speaker locally. The recent depression/recession has brought massive suffering to hundreds of millions of workers under capitalism. It should become clear here that we are talking about the inhumanity and irrationality of a worldwide system- not just the problems of living in this city. Of course some aspects of this second speech will not have been fully introduced earlier and must be now- especially imperialism.

**THIRD SPEAKER:** The working class solution: Having started from local problems and generalized to a world wide catastrophe, the stage is set. The third speech should make it clear that socialist revolution is the only solution, and that the fight to free the working class begins, for us, right here in starting to fight back in the places where we are to build a united workers' movement and a revolutionary party. Include rank and file work, anti-racist work, including the Red Tide, Women Against Racism other such work and how they all go into building the movement and the party, end with a pitch to join.

#### 4. Women and Revolution

There will be only two speakers for this meeting. The general theme of the talks are that only way to end women's oppression and in particular the growing attack on women will be to build a working women's movement and to build the revolutionary party which will overthrow capitalism.

**FIRST SPEAKER:** The first speech will cover the following: (1) the cities- life revolves around the cities, take N.Y.C for example, a few greedy men, bankers, David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan bank, for example own that city- own and control the lives of the workers in that city. The city is in financial crisis. Rockefeller says that the only way to ease the crisis is to squeeze more blood from the workers. Most of the NYC workers are women, blacks and latins. What do these bankers want? Wage cuts and wage freezes which freeze women's wages at 59% of men. They want cuts in social services, in transportation, public buildings like museums, libraries, etc., cuts in school spending, publically financed day care centers, etc. All this falls heaviest on women, since women are responsible for the maintenance of the family. City workers- teachers, clerical, etc. are the ones facing the greatest unemployment, job insecurity, speed-up. And there's the attack on welfare, the attitude of capitalists toward welfare was against the 'welfare chisters' in the 60's. Today, popular talk is to get rid of welfare altogether. This is another attack on women. (2) the union bureaucracy of the teachers, AFSCME, Postal, UAW, who will do nothing to fight for its members. That's why rank and file workers- who are mostly women, have to organize, build a rank and file movement that will fight back. (3) The capitalist attack is heaviest against women. Unemployment is greater among women and far greater for black and latin women. The wage differential is greater today than it was 7 years ago and it is still growing. Young black women graduating or leaving high school will not find jobs. And, the gains women made as a result of the women's movement of the 1960's in terms of better paying jobs in the well organized industrial areas- steel, auto, etc., are being eroded. When the next recession hits women- always last hired, will be the first to be laid off- unless an rank and file movement is built that demands and fights for the women to hold their jobs. (4) As a result of the capitalist crisis, the right wing is growing. They are organizing around ways to also erase the gains made by women. The anti-abortion movement is not just a bunch of cranks. It is well financed by the Catholic Church. The well known racist organizations such as ROAR in Boston are as against abortion reform and the ERA as they are against busing.

(5) The capitalist crisis has also shown working women who their real friends are and are not. In the 60's when there was some fat on the system, there was room for some women to maneuver. Gloria Steinem could say she was a 'revolutionary' feminist. Look at her now. The crisis in capitalism forces feminists to choose class sides- and Gloria Steinem, Betty Freidan, Olga Madar, and the like choose the side of the capitalist class- against the working class and against the overwhelming majority of women.

SECOND SPEAKER: This speech deals with why socialism and a working women's movement. We need a working women's movement because women have to organize and fight to end their exploitation as workers and their special oppression as women who experience this oppression. They will be the best and only ones able to lead and organize the struggle. Women have in the past done this- women's emergency brigade to support the Flint sitdown in 1937; the Brookside women's club to support the Brookside miners (plus other examples found in the pamphlet on Revolutionary Feminism) the Fremont GM women's group in the early 70's. Women in struggle against all forms of oppression whether it's fighting in defense of busing and against racist attacks, to free Gary Tyler and other black political prisoners of this racist system, housewives organizations against inflation, women's groups fighting against forced sterilization. etc. We need a working women's movement that will defend what it is to be a woman. Today the capitalist class through their institutions- the church, the media, advertising tell us how we should feel, look, act and think. We need a working women's movement that once and for all destroys what capitalism tells us to be. We will decide for ourselves. But first we must overthrow capitalism. Women cannot be free in a society where 2% of the population owns and controls 87% of the world's wealth and resources- the wealth that working women and men create. We create the wealth and power, we as the working people must own and control it as well. Women cannot be emancipated under capitalism. Capitalism cannot grant equal pay to equalize the difference in men's and women's wages- for one year in the US alone would be \$808 billion. The capitalist class cannot afford it. It can't afford to provide free medical care for all, it can't afford child care for all children, in other words, capitalism cannot afford to build the institutions necessary for women's emancipation. Capitalism is run for the profits of a few- not for the use of all. We need a party, of women and men, blacks, latins, chicanos, whites, all nationalities to fight for the end of all of capitalism. A revolutionary party capable of uniting us all in the struggle for a truly democratic society- of men and women working together to build this society which can promise real freedom for all- women men and children. NOTE: Barbara W. has copies of speeches on this and other subjects: Women in world revolution; the economic crisis and it's impact on women, Candy C.'s speech on women and revolution and will send xerox copies on request.

#### 5. Asses and Elephants - What the 1976 Elections are all about!

This meeting has two speakers and a brief skit. We want to get across our point of view on the presidential election in the most creative way possible. The speeches will generally cover the rightward shift of American politics in response to the economic problems, the lack of real alternatives, lesser evilism, and the nature of the Democratic Party. Finally, our perspective.

FIRST SPEAKER: The first talk will cover the fact that Carter has no answer to America's problems, that he in fact differs little from Ford. On unemployment, inflation, social cuts and the employers' offensive, on racism (ethnic purity), on abortion and women's liberation, on imperialism and war.

All of this is part of the rightwing advance - Carter offers nothing substantial to blacks, or to labor. The rightward drift of the Democratic Party is clear. A vote for Carter is nothing more than an apparent lesser evil.

SECOND SPEAKER: This talk will take up why the labor movement and black leaders are supporting Carter. It will go into the two party system- the fact of capitalist democracy and that the two parties are really only party with two wings. It will take up the function of the DP to co-opt movements giving examples from the 60's (civil rights, poverty programs in response to the black revolt, anti-war). It will cover who really controls the DP and how (party patronage, Southern Dems). Finally, it will take up why liberalism and elections will not solve our problems. What lesser evilism meant in the 1964 election (Johnson carried out Goldwater's programs). Why vote no. The alternative of building a rank and file movement and anti-racist movement, raising the point that those movements must enter the political arena and run their own candidates - candidates of the working class, not the capitalist class. End with need to build the party, join the IS.

SKIT: Title; THE REAL DEBATE

Players and format: There are 6 players (Carter, Ford, a revolutionary, and 3 workers, one black, one white, and one woman. Carter Ford and Revolutionary all sit up front near the podium, 3 workers sit right in front in the audience. The chair will introduce the skit. It should take about 10 minutes total. Remember this is as good as you try to make it. Have whoever plays Carter grinning a lot maybe with a straw hat, eating peanuts, etc., and Ford with a baseball cap, stumbling around, chewing gum, etc.

CHAIR! introduction- as folksy as possible- point out that many have seen the first debate (scheduled for Sept. 23) and how issues never really gotten to. This will be a real debate because we have a revolutionary with a real alternative. Then go the first question - unemployment - call on white worker.

WHITE WORKER: Asks what each will do about the problem of unemployment, now slowly rising again at around 9% nationally.

FORD: Rambles on about how unemployment will drop, only slowly because must keep inflation down - will be down to 6% by 1978. Can't overheat the economy etc.

CARTER: Promises jobs, through support for the Humphrey/Hawkins Bill

REVOLUTIONARY: Full employment through short work week, ban on overtime, etc. Country only working at 2/3 capacity now, produce for need and open these factories.

CARTER & FORD IN UNISON: That's not possible - the corporations can't afford this, you'll destroy our healthy economy.

REVOLUTIONARY: What's good for working people may be bad for the corporations but that's not my concern. My concern is with people, not profits.

CHAIR: Now for the next question (calls on the black worker)

BLACK WORKER: What is going to be done about growing racist movement, school integration, open housing, KKK, Nazis, etc.

FORD: Blames racist movement on busing and the courts. States that he is for voluntary busing, and will see that laws are enforced for housing and discrimination, says he's for equality in due time and that the local police will take care of lunatic groups like the KKK and the Nazis.

CARTER: Goes on for a little while about how he grew up with black folks and loves them, has a picture of Martin L. King in the State House in Georgia when he was governor, Says he is for going slow on busing and he'll see that discrimination stops - just leave it to me - trust me, and I'll do right by you.

**REVOLUTIONARY:** Talks about black liberation, the fight for real equality, busing, self-defense, for the black community to keep the KKK and Nazis out and how he/she believes white workers can be won to support black demands because black and white workers need each other to get what they need from the corporations.

**CARTER AND FORD IN UNISON:** Ordinary people can't take the law into their own hands. That's the job of the police. You're advocating violence and opposition to the law.

**REV:** The police are there to defend profits, not people. Many are members of the KKK. They haven't done anything to protect blacks in Chicago from the Nazi attacks and beatings. When striking electrical workers sit down in Ohio, the corporations phone up their friends the cops or the national guard to turn on the hoses. But when the companies lay off thousands of workers and threaten their life- and property- the workers can't call up the cops and have the bosses arrested for taking food out of the workers' children's mouths. Working people and blacks must defend themselves. The police belong to the corporations and the government and they won't help us.

**CHAIR:** For the next question I'll go the woman in the front.

**WOMAN WORKER:** How do each of you stand on abortion?

**CARTER:** Legalized abortion as it now stands will solve the problem.

**FORD:** I'm for a constitutional amendment which would allow the states to decide for themselves whether or not to legalize abortion.

**REV.:** Abortions should not only be legal, but free. As it stands now it is very difficult for many women to get abortions because of the costs. Also, sometimes, the doctors actually sterilize women going for abortions. We stand for free, legal abortions on demand and for no forced sterilization. Women must have control over their own bodies. That is a part of what women's liberation is all about. And we stand for the complete equality of women on every level and in every way.

**FORD AND CARTER LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN HORROR, BUT SAY NOTHING**

**CHAIR:** Okay, one last question:

**BLACK WORKER:** Every city in this country is falling apart. There's more and more crime, gangs, cutbacks in social services, schools, etc. What's your answer to all of this?

**FORD:** We need more support for the police forces. We cannot tolerate the growing lawlessness in our cities any longer. Continue on with law and order speech- make it heavy as you want.

**CARTER:** I believe the federal government should advise the cities on how to manage their budgets. While I was governor in Georgia, I reduced the budget by a large amount. That left money and meant that taxes didn't have to rise, and there were less cutbacks. We will have to try to keep city workers on, but the unions must be responsible and stop asking for wage increases, otherwise we'll have to lay others off. Secondly, I agree with President Ford and we can no longer tolerate lawlessness in our cities and streets. We must beef up our local police.

**REV:** Well, the question of crime and social decay comes directly from the problems in the economy. The economic crisis means more unemployment so that over 50% of black youths can't get jobs now, and can't expect them to 1980. We must fight in the unions for shorter work weeks for more jobs. We must organize the black community and working people to demand aid from the federal government. We must make them restore school cutbacks, housing, and so on. The police are no answer. They are part of the problem. Law and order are only code words for racism and protection of rich people's property. Crime affects blacks worse than anyone else, but the only time you ever hear about it is when it affects downtown businesses and the suburbs. The street crime you are talking about is nothing compared to the daily violence of the police, the government in letting people starve, to the wars and racist violence you both encourage by your stands on busing and other

legitimate black demands. In reality the questions of crime and the decay of our cities won't be really solved until you all and the rest of your buddies in the DP and RP and the really big ones who run GM, GE, ATT, US Steel are thrown out by working people, organizing themselves in the plants in the offices, in the mines, to take what is rightfully theirs as a class and set up a new society based on our needs and not your profits! You all there should join my party (the IS)

3 WORKERS: Right on! All Right! She/He's got the answers- let's go with him/her!

All 3 go over to the revolutionary and all four chase Carter and Ford (both looking scared) from the front of the room. The workers and rev. encourage audience to participate by yelling support.  
END

Note: Be as creative as you want. The questions and the answers are suggestions if you have better ideas, don't hesitate to try them. The key is the format of a debate and showing that there is no real difference between Ford and Carter and that the only alternative is rank and file organizing building the black and women's movement and overall revolutionary politics and the revolutionary party. Use the skit between the speeches.

## SUGGESTED FILMS

### WOMEN

1. "Salt of the Earth." This is about a strike of predominantly Chicano salt mine workers. It is a good film about women's liberation, the working class and racism. It can be obtained from Newsreel.
2. "Blow for Blow." In color, one and a half hours. French with English subtitles. An excellent film about women taking over a factory. It costs \$75 from Red Ball Films (212-924-4368).
3. "Union Maids." A film about women organizing in the 30's. Available free, we believe, from Dayton NAM.
4. "The Women's Film." Black and white, slightly new lefty, but good film about women's oppression. Available from Newsreel.
5. "I am somebody." A film about union organizing of predominantly black women. Available from Newsreel.
6. IS Slide Show on Women. This is also good for women's dinners.

### LABOR

1. "The Inheritance." History of the American labor movement. Available from any college film library for less than \$20.
2. "The Organizer." This is my favorite film of Marcello Mastroianni. It is about a communist organizer involved in a strike in Italy (Turin) during the 1890's. It is excellent on the woman question. A very moving film. Can be obtained from college film libraries for about \$100. In Italian with English subtitles.
3. "Finally Got the News." This is about DRUM. Available from Newsreel.

### BLACK

1. "The Murder of Fred Hampton." Excellent about the Black Panther Party and racism. From Newsreel.
2. "Attica." Excellent--about the Attica uprising. Newsreel.

### INTERNATIONAL

1. IS Slide Show on Chile. Has text and music.
2. IS slide show on Portugal. Has text and music.



3. "A Luta Continua." \$25 from Tricontinental. About the liberation struggle in Mozambique.
4. "Blood of the Condor." This is about Bolivia. Tricontinental for \$50.
5. "Viva Frelimo." About Mozambique. Tricontinental for \$35.
6. "Battle of Algiers." More expensive. From college film libraries or from Tricontinental for \$100-150.
7. "Last Grave at Dimbaza." Hopefully IS will own this soon.
8. A film is in the process of being made by American sympathizers of the PRP about Portugal. Hopefully IS will own a copy by the end of October.

#### OTHER

Eisenstein's "Potemkin," "Strike!" and "Ten Days that Shook the World" (the best). These are available from college film libraries. Comrades should remember these are silent films, so you must make certain there is a comrade who can narrate alongside the film. Comrades should also get MUSIC for the films.