

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

November 12, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Since the YSA filed a motion in federal court to halt FBI surveillance of the St. Louis convention, there have been two delays granted to the government to prepare an answer to our request for an injunction. Tentatively the government is expected to answer our motion on November 18 and the federal district court plans to set a hearing no earlier than December 2 or 3.

It is especially important now that all YSA locals publicize the suit and win supporters to our right to have the convention without FBI harassment. Locals should contact student governments about passing motions demanding a halt to FBI surveillance of the YSA. Protest letters and telegrams by prominent people, campus groups and professors should be sent to FBI director Clarence Kelley (copies to the YSA National Office). Editorial endorsement from campus newspapers and local news media should also be solicited.

Enclosed are two pieces of information that can be used to win more supporters: an editorial in the October 31 St. Louis Post-Dispatch calling for an halt to FBI surveillance of our convention and a letter of support from the Tennessee chapter of the Socialist Party, U.S.A.

The publicity we gather around the suit can help build the convention and should be at the heart of convention-building activities in the weeks ahead.

Comradely,

Malik Miah

Malik Miah
YSA National Office

FROM THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

EDITORIALS PAGE

OCTOBER 31, 1974

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After receiving information that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was planning to maintain surveillance over its convention in St. Louis in December, the Young Socialist Alliance has gone into federal court in New York to seek an injunction to bar the agency from spying on its meetings. Since the FBI has a record of spying on political meetings (even such innocuous ones as the Earth Day assembly in Washington in 1970), the fears of the Young Socialist Alliance hardly seem unwarranted.

The FBI seems to have assumed the role of riding herd on radical political organizations, particularly those of the left. But when challenged in court in specific cases in which its information against defendants may have been gathered by surveillance, the agency has dropped charges rather than reveal its suspected illegal activity. In the Watergate era in which illegal harassment tactics by White House plumbers were used against a major party and then covered up, the nation should have learned a lesson.

If the FBI has information that participants in a meeting have committed a crime or are about to commit one, the agency's intrusion might be justified. But spying on a political meeting, no matter how unpopular the views of its members, is not the function of a police organization in a democracy -- as long as the political group is obeying the law and as long as the First Amendment guarantees "freedom of speech" and "the right of the people peaceably to assemble."

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The Tennessee Valley Socialists
2815 Noonan Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37206

November 3, 1974

To:

Young Socialist Alliance
P.O. Box 67
Station B
Nashville, Tennessee 37235

The Tennessee Valley Socialists endorse the right of the Young Socialist Alliance to hold its national convention free from FBI or other government harassment.

We deplore all efforts to silence, disrupt or illegally monitor the activities of the Young Socialist Alliance.

This resolution unanimously approved by the Tennessee Valley Socialists, an affiliate chapter of the Socialist Party, U.S.A., November 3, 1974.

s/Jerry Hornsby

(for the Tennessee Valley Socialists)