

New York, N.Y.
January 25, 1966

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS

JOSEPH JOHNSON CASE

Dear Comrades,

As reported in the January 17 and 24 Militant, comrade Joe Johnson has received a final ruling from the district office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service in Minnesota. The government upheld its original ruling, Joe is declared a stateless person and ordered deported to Canada.

The deportation order is stayed pending appeal. The next steps in comrade Johnson's legal defense will be an appeal to Immigration Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. and whatever court actions may yet prove advisable.

During the period that Joe's case was limited to hearings before the Minnesota district office his expenses were handled entirely by the Twin Cities Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson, except for the legal services of Leonard Boudin which were provided by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in New York. The Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson has been primarily a local Minnesota committee up to this point.

Greater expenses will now be entailed as appeals go to Washington, D.C. and to the Federal courts. It is therefore necessary to enlarge the committee and give it a national character.

In the next few months a special effort will be made to organize local defense committees in large cities throughout the country and obtain an imposing list of sponsors among educators, civil libertarians, etc. In addition a national speaking tour for comrade Johnson is being arranged.

This new stage of Joe's defense effort places greater responsibility on the party as a whole and will require special attention in each branch. The main burden of initiating a national defense committee will fall on the shoulders of Joe's comrades. The following steps should be taken at once to

guarantee that his defense does not falter for lack of funds or broad moral support:

1. Each branch should assign one person to take responsibility for defense work locally.

2. A special effort must be made to find locally prominent people to become sponsors of the Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson. This will coincide with Joe's national tour which will begin in February and last through April. (A tentative tour schedule is enclosed.)

3. The basis for a local Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson should be formed in each area where we have a party branch.

4. Joe's tour should be utilized as fully as possible. He can appear before lawyer's groups, faculty groups, civil liberties groups, etc., in addition to or in cooperation with meetings sponsored by a local Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson.

Literature on the case, a list of sponsors already obtained and sponsor cards will be sent to each branch as soon as they are ready. In the meantime, the National Office should be informed of the name and address of the comrade chosen to be responsible for this work in your area.

It will be necessary to raise money in the course of Joe's tour. A prompt reply and acceptance of the tour schedule is required.

It is planned that the central office of the Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson will be established in New York within the next few months. For the time being, however, it will be necessary to use the letterheads, address, etc., of the only functioning group -- the Twin Cities committee.

To maintain close cooperation between the National Office and the comrades working on Joe's defense in the Twin Cities, it will be necessary to send copies of all correspondence with the National Office to the comrades in Minneapolis and vice versa.

Communications with the Minneapolis comrades should be sent to Paul Eidsvick, at the party headquarters, 704 Hennepin Avenue, Room 240, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403.

Formal letters, funds, requests for information etc., should be sent to:

The Committee to Oppose the Deportation of
Joseph Johnson
P. O. Box 3731, North Star Building
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Comradely,



Ed Shaw

Organizational Secretary

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