

December 10, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

The following are excerpts from a letter from a CLUW activist in Michigan. The activity proposed for CLUW that she refers to could be important. If such activities are raised in other areas, please forward that information to me. The same kind of activity has been proposed here in New York. Please share this information with people active in CLUW.

Sincerely,

Linda Jenness
Linda Jenness

* * *

"Olga Madar has proposed setting up an unemployment committee within Wayne County CLUW. The purpose of the committee is essentially to find out what is already going on to deal with the unemployment crisis, what plans are projected by the labor movement and community groups. In motivating the proposal, Olga said she believes it's necessary for CLUW to work in coalitions with other groups to fight unemployment and lay-offs, and that this committee would find out what is going on and bring proposals and recommendations to the CLUW chapter. Olga will chair the committee, which is extremely important for its authority and legitimacy in the union movement. The committee is also to put together a panel on unemployment for our next chapter meeting, and to make specific recommendations for activity to the chapter meeting.

"I believe that Olga has been in contact with Bill Marshall, president of Michigan AFL-CIO, about this. She also mentioned that she's attending an executive board meeting in N.Y. of a national organization on full employment. I don't know the name of the group, but Coretta King and Jerry Wurf are also on the board. She said she might have information on what they're planning that CLUW can tie into. She mentioned the fight for state- and federally-funded public service programs to relieve unemployment as an example of something CLUW might relate to.

"People in other areas may want to consider establishing similar committees in CLUW chapters."

(The following information on proportional representation is taken from the "Call for the fourteenth national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance" approved by the National Committee plenum on July 7, 1974.)

Proportional Representation

Where there is a division on national policy within a local unit, election of delegates in the local is to be on the basis of proportional representation. Delegates shall be elected on the basis of a vote on a resolution or statement made in writing and submitted to the local unit for a vote. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

The following table shows the modified proportional system to be followed if a division occurs:

Number of qualified members in unit	Total number of delegates the unit is entitled to	Minimum number of those voting* for a minority to get:		
		1 del.	2 del.	3 del.
5-13	1	***	-	-
14-22	2	1/3	-	-
23-31	3	1/4	***	-
32-40	4	1/5	2/5	-
41-49	5	1/6	1/3	***
50-58	6	1/7	2/7	3/7
(9n-4) to (9n+)	n	1/n+1	2/n+1	3/n+1

* The following distinction should be noted: The total number of delegates to which a unit is entitled is based on the total number of qualified (but not necessarily voting) members. The fractions in the table refer to the minimum number of those voting, since only those who vote are entitled to decide the divisions of the total number of delegates. For example, a unit of 20 qualified members is entitled to 2 delegates. If only 15 members vote, 1/3 of 15 equals 5; a minority must receive 5 votes to get a delegate. If 19 members vote, 1/3 of 19 equals 6 1/3; a minority must receive 7 votes to get a delegate. Also note that 6 1/3 is the minimum number of those voting for a minority to get a delegate; therefore 7 (and not 6) is required.

** In the special case of a unit entitled to an odd number of delegates and where the division in unit voting is exactly equal, 2 delegates with 1/2 vote each will be elected.

*** In the event that a unit undergoes a more than two-way division, that unit will elect delegates on a directly proportional basis,

i.e. in a unit entitled to n delegates, at least $1/n$ fraction of votes must be cast for a position in order for that position to get a delegate.

After a division has been established, those voting each way will select in caucus their own delegations and report them to the unit as a whole for acknowledgement. Where no division has taken place, the election of delegates will proceed normally by the unit as a whole.