

Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

August 15, 1967

To All Organizers and NCers

Dear Comrades,

The SWP plans to launch its 1968 presidential election campaign at the National Conference for New Politics convention, August 29 - September 4, in Chicago. As indicated in the election campaign report in the most recent NEC minutes (August 4, 1967) the Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle will also be announced at the same time.

A previous report (July 13) outlined minimal facts regarding this convention. Further information shows that the conference will be well attended. Conceived as a conference to chart strategy for the 1968 elections, it will also be a building device for the NCNP. A number of serious radical youth will undoubtedly attend. The purpose of our participation in the conference will be to launch the SWP campaign and the appropriate campaign committees as means of appealing to whatever serious youth are present.

It seems unlikely that a consensus will emerge from the gathering. The Communist Party and the DuBois Clubs will attend in large numbers and will push for their peace and freedom ticket. On the other hand, the New Politics people who will have authority at the convention -- Waskow, Kissenger, Booth, Hayden, Webb, etc. -- will probably propose that local organizing is the task of the day, that national campaigns are meaningless at this time. There are, moreover, differences among the "new politickers" themselves, which will be difficult to resolve. Finally, the practicality of running a national '68 campaign will be a major negative factor.

Events of the last few weeks have done a great deal to expose the King-Spock ticket. King's remarks on the ghetto uprisings make him an unpopular man among the nation's militant youth, white and black. Spock's remarks regarding the war and the '68 elections (to the effect of let's wait and see before nominating candidates) put him, more or less, in the same category.

These same events make the SWP campaign and the perspectives we have outlined all the more timely and important. At the NCNP convention we will want to put forward the SWP candidates and program as the antiwar candidates and the candidates to support for fundamental social change. We want to introduce our campaign to the conference, counterpose it to "peace" type approaches, appeal for support, and launch the campaign at a big press conference.

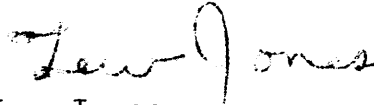
For these reasons it is important that local areas attend the conference. West coast locals will have to work out plans in consultation with the NO. A large attendance is necessary although a full national mobilization is not required. Chicago, Minneapolis, Detroit, Madison, and Cleveland should attempt to get full attendance.

We are told by the convention organizers that each local may apply for delegate(s) status, as outlined in the first issue of New Politics News, which the NO mailed to each local. The convention delegate criteria are so vaguely defined that we may be delegates without committing ourselves to something we are opposed to. Thus local areas should apply. Additionally, where possible and applicable comrades should run for delegates from other organizations.

Locals should keep the NO informed of what they are doing in this regard and how many from each area will be attending. The organizer in each area will be called about further details of the conference and on our participation. Those comrades who can should plan to be there from Thursday, August 31, to Monday, September 4. Others should be there for the weekend (Friday evening through Monday.)

Housing arrangements should be made through the Chicago local: YSA, 302 S. Canal St., Rm 204, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Please let the Chicago comrades know in advance who will be coming from your area.

Comradely,



Lew Jones
National Chairman