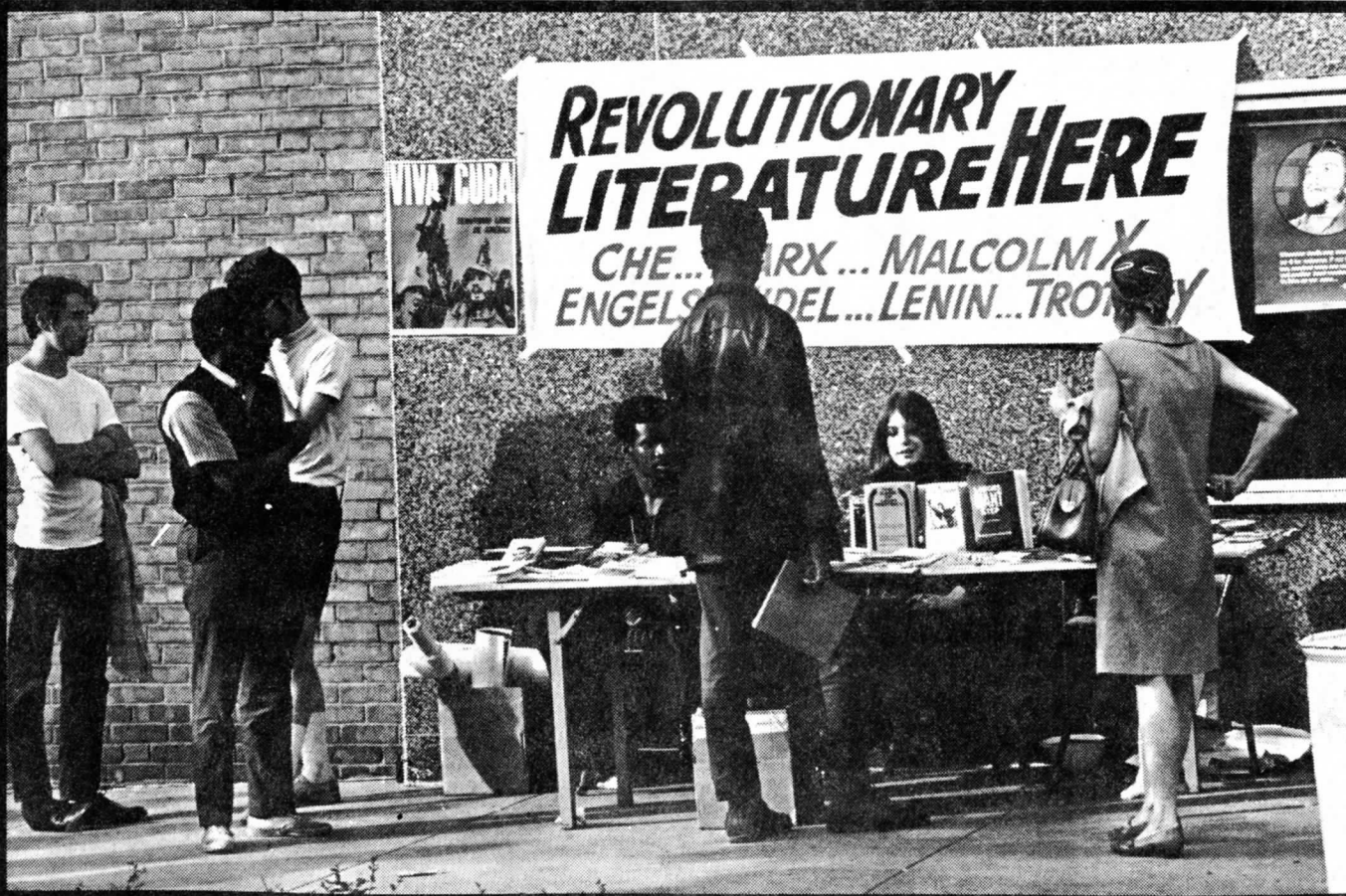


young socialist the organizer

8-13-71

Planning the Fall Campus Blitz



Financial Report Convention Call
National Abortion Action Campaign

20 Cents

Organizing the Fall Campus Blitz

The July plenum of the YSA National Committee projected three campaigns to be carried out on the campuses and in the high schools this fall in conjunction with our work in the mass movements. These campaigns were:

1) The recruitment drive, through which we will organize and systematize recruitment to the YSA.

2) The sales campaign and sub drive, through which we will get out our press on a wider scale than ever before.

3) The field work or regional "trailblazing" campaign, through which we will take all of our campaigns onto hundreds of new campuses.

Of course all of these campaigns will fit into and overlap with our one big campaign—the 1972 presidential election campaign of the Socialist Workers Party. The fall tours of the candidates will be the main kick-off activity for campaign supporters on each campus.

We will make the maximum impact if we are the first ones to greet returning students, before they have been swamped by 50 other demands for their attention and while their minds are still recording their impressions. Tables should be set up, publicity should be organized, and YSAers should be on campus as soon as the high schools and colleges open.

In order to accomplish this, we should be organized in advance. The dates for registration, orientation sessions for incoming students, and the first day of classes should be ascertained in advance for each different campus, and teams lined up to be there. Literature tables and rooms for meetings should also be reserved, and we will want to paste up the new YSA recruitment posters, which will be available at the Oberlin conference.

YSA RECRUITMENT MEETINGS

A key aspect of our campus blitz will be the YSA recruitment meetings held on each campus during the first week of classes. Locals should experiment with the program for these meetings. Some will consist of a number of short talks on the politics and activities of the YSA; others will feature a longer talk by a well-known YSA activist. These meetings should be intensively publicized through posters, leaflets, banners, announcements, ads in the school newspapers, *The Militant*, etc. On the days preceding these meetings and at the meetings themselves literature tables should be up and intensive sales of *Militant* and *ISR* subs should take place.

The entire local or at-large area should see these meetings as an essential step in establishing the YSA on the campuses and in the high schools. The meetings will not only result in recruits to the YSA and immediate publicity, but will also provide a list of interested people who we can work with on a continuing basis. The names we get from such meetings, along with the people who sign up at literature tables or who subscribe to our press, will most often be those people who can be involved in activities in the mass movements and in support of the SWP election campaign.

SUB BLITZ

Our press is the best recruiter we have. It continually explains our ideas and reports on the activity of our movement, and one of the primary indicators of the influence of the YSA and the SWP in any given area is the circulation of the *ISR* and *The Militant*.

This fall, with our increased size, our experience in organizing past sub blitzes, and our intensive work in the mass movements, we will be in a better position than ever before to launch a massive subscription drive.

Such a blitz campaign, carried out on registration lines, in classrooms, in cafeterias and dormitories, in lounges and at movement meetings, can go a long way towards establishing a situation where our ideas and discussion on them pervade the campus. Our sub teams will also be very valuable in publicizing the YSA recruitment meetings by distributing leaflets and inviting people to our headquarters, in addition to selling subs.

Because of the long summer vacation and the large number of new students on campus, we can assume that virtually *everybody* is a potential subscriber to the *ISR* and *The Militant*. This is especially the case on campuses and in high schools where we have no YSA locals or fractions.

FIELD WORK AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FALL OFFENSIVE

Each local of the YSA, including smaller campus-based locals, should take upon themselves as part of our fall campaign the task of duplicating on as many campuses as possible the type of campaign that is outlined here. By organizing the sub blitz, the YSA recruitment meetings, extensive distribution of campaign literature, the setting up of literature tables and the posting

of YSA recruitment material, and our work in the mass movements, we will be laying the basis for the YSA's growth in the coming months, both numerically and geographically. This will be even more true to the extent that we use the fall offensive to publicize our national convention in Houston, which will end the year with the biggest recruiting meeting in the history of the YSA.

Our fall campaigns offer all of the locals and at-large areas powerful tools for reaching out to the campuses and nearby areas. The success of all these activities depends upon the involvement of every member of the YSA in carrying them out. Our entire organization should be geared to these tasks on the campuses and in the high schools. The local executive committees should have detailed discussions on the organization of the fall campaigns, and leading comrades should be assigned to work with the various committees and fractions organizing the various aspects of this work.

On a regional level, regional committee meetings should be planned prior to the opening of school in order to discuss how the region should approach the fall campaigns and how it can meet the projection laid out at the YSA plenum for each region to have a full time regional organizer, and a full time regional traveler if at all possible. The regional committees should also discuss how these campaigns can be coordinated throughout the region.

Every YSAer should approach these fall campaigns with audacity and boldness; the possibilities are endless. Using school newspapers to get out our ideas, showing the YSA film, organizing Pathfinder sales work, requesting time for the YSA to present its ideas at initial orientation sessions and dozens of other ideas and projects should be integrated into the fall campaign.

Finally, comrades should keep in mind that the regular exchange of our ideas and experiences will be an important element in the success of these fall campaigns. As schools reopen, we plan on launching the weekly *Young Socialist Organizer*, and it will be essential for the contributions from each area to increase significantly to enable us to carry out this projection. A YSAer in every local and at-large area should be assigned to ensure that weekly reports and articles for *The Young Socialist Organizer* on all our fall campaigns are sent in to the National Office.

DAVE FRANKEL
YSA National Office

Building the National Abortion Campaign

On the 123rd anniversary of the Seneca Falls convention, a national gathering of over 1000 women launched a campaign for the repeal of all abortion laws and called for massive demonstrations in Washington, D. C., and San Francisco on November 20. For the first time women from all over the country had the opportunity to discuss how best to build a national campaign around one of the most pressing issues facing women today—their right to control their own bodies and decide for themselves whether or not they will bear children. Today, abortions are illegal or severely restricted in almost all states.

The decisions made by the conference to launch a national campaign for the repeal of all abortion laws, against forced sterilization and for the repeal of all contraception laws, gives the women's liberation movement a concrete issue to organize around and will be instrumental in drawing many new women to the feminist movement.

The debates and discussions at the conference revealed that there were differences as to how the abortion law repeal campaign should be organized and what the demands should be. The major debate was whether or not the slogans free abortion on demand and freedom of sexual expression should be added to the demands of repeal all abortion laws, no forced sterilization

and repeal of all contraception laws. The overwhelming majority of the women rejected these additional demands because they felt these demands would narrow the participation of thousands of new women.

During the course of the conference, as it became clear that the WISE (Women for the Inclusion of Sexual Expression) caucus had few supporters, the WISE women moved from political debate to disruptive, red-baiting tactics—charging "SWP-YSA manipulation" and attempting to prevent the conference from making any decisions. After the additional demands were overwhelmingly defeated, the 150 WISE supporters walked out of the conference. The attempts of these women to smear the abortion campaign by accusations of "Communist-controlled", "male-dominated", etc., obscure the real political differences. A press release, issued by WISE supporters in Washington, D. C., indicated that one of the major issues of their group is: "Opposition to mass demonstrations as a meaningful and realistic means to achieve abortion law repeal." This is the central issue that was being debated at the conference, and this debate will continue throughout the fall.

The size and breadth of the national abortion conference that formed the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition gives this coalition

a legitimacy and authority that opens countless doors for involving new participants in the abortion law repeal movement and the November 20 demonstrations. We want to help take word of the decisions made by the conference and the enthusiastic spirit of this campaign to every women's group in the country and enlist their support and participation in the fight to repeal all abortion laws and in the demonstrations on November 20.

Getting out the word on what happened at the conference and enlisting support for the November 20 demonstrations will best build the abortion law repeal campaign. The effect of the crass red-baiting tactics of the WISE women which were used to intimidate women at the conference and throw a doubtful light on the conference for those who were not there, will recede into the background as the abortion campaign gets off the ground.

One of the most effective ways to accomplish this will be through helping the massive endorser drive projected by WONAAC for the November 20 demonstrations and the entire campaign. The promotional materials published by the WONAAC office will make it all the easier to talk

to groups and individuals, explain the basis for a national abortion coalition, the kind of campaign outlined by the conference and secure their endorsement and commitment to participate in building this campaign. We should also encourage women representatives from all groups interested in working with WONAAC and building the November 20 demonstrations to attend the first meeting of the National Coordinating Committee, August 28, in Washington, D. C. This will be WONAAC's first opportunity to have a thorough discussion of how to best build the November 20 action and other aspects of the abortion law repeal campaign as outlined at the conference.

In areas where there are no abortion coalitions we should help initiate them. There are many women's church and community groups, trade unions, campus, gay, Black, Chicana, Puerto Rican and women's liberation groups who will support this campaign and should participate from the beginning in a coalition formed around the goals of the campaign. Particular efforts should be made to involve NOW chapters, which have indicated an enthusiastic interest in this campaign from the beginning. There are many organizations not previously involved in the women's liberation movement or the fight for abortion law repeal that will be supporters of WONAAC and this campaign. Many women from the National Welfare Rights Organization endorsed the July conference, and there are many others we will want to reach out to and involve. This kind of broad participation can only be achieved

through building broad coalitions.

Active campus women's liberation groups will be essential components of these coalitions. Campuses will provide large numbers of activists who will help carry out the day-to-day tasks of building the abortion law repeal campaign. Therefore, YSA locals should begin right away preparing to help build active, viable women's liberation groups on campus, encouraging them to make the abortion campaign and November 20 their main project for the fall.

Massive leaflet blitzes and well publicized meetings are good ways to inform women in each area about the abortion law repeal campaign. Abortion speak-outs and debates with the "Right to Life" committees and other anti-abortion groups, if planned and publicized well in advance, are activities that will attract attention to the campaign and can involve new women in the abortion coalitions or campus groups.

Campus referenda on the repeal of all abortion laws, against forced sterilization and for repeal of contraception laws, for access to birth control information and devices, for gynecological services for women, and for abortion clinics on campus will be excellent building activities for the abortion law repeal campaign and November 20. Regular literature tables, speakers to every campus and community group, and city-wide poster paste-ups all play an important role in getting out the word that this is a new political movement that demands everyone's support.

The various contingents that will be organized

for November 20—gay, Black, Chicana, Puerto Rican, church, trade union, campus, housewives, and high school—must be built in each local area and will broaden participation in both November 20 and local coalitions. These contingents will be important in demonstrating that the fight to repeal all abortion laws, to give women the right to control their own bodies, needs the active support and participation of every woman.

It is this concept—involving all women, from all walks of life—in this fight and putting it into practice that will determine the success of this campaign. Posters, buttons, and abortion campaign brochures may be ordered from WONAAC, P. O. Box 685, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N. Y. 10011, (212-675-9151). A special brochure is also now available relating the abortion law repeal campaign to Blacks, Chicanas, and other women of oppressed nationalities.

The July conference was an excellent beginning, and it is clear that WONAAC is faced with unprecedented opportunities for drawing tens of thousands of new women into action around a concrete need all women have—the right to control their own bodies, to control their own lives. November 20 will be a historic date for the women's movement and will be the first national demonstration of the abortion law repeal movement that will fight until all abortion laws are wiped from the legislative books!

RUTH ROBINETT
YSA Women's Liberation Director

Black Workshop at NPAC Conference

Our participation in the Black workshop of the National Antiwar Conference, July 2-4, reflected both the serious attitude YSAers across the country have toward doing antiwar work in the Black community and the success we have had in carrying out this work. Several factors underscore this point.

First, the list of endorsers for the conference included a broad spectrum representative of the Black community. Endorsements came from student organizations, religious figures and organizations, Black professional associations and trade unionists. During the last week prior to the conference, staff people working in the NYPAC office and the SMC National Office were able to obtain the mailing list of the National Conference of Black Churchmen and send out a mailing on the conference and the Black workshop to the entire list. This will be helpful in initiating work with Black clergy in many areas, especially since the head of the organization was one of the conference endorsers.

Secondly, the size and functioning of our own fraction at the conference was impressive in and of itself. Over 30 YSAers attended the workshop at one point or another, despite the fact that a number of Black comrades were assigned to other workshops at the conference and to the defense of the conference against the attacks mounted by PL. Six comrades also attended the Black Solidarity Political Party Convention in Brooklyn that same weekend.

Finally, the attendance on the part of independent antiwar activists was perhaps the best indicator of the work we have helped carry out in this area. Two areas, Detroit and Chicago, each brought over seven Black independents to the conference, most of whom have been involved in the building of antiwar actions in those two cities. Although the attendance from the New York area was not as large as it could have been, it was representative of the work done to build the workshop in that at least one person attended from the Committee for a Unified Newark and a representative from the citywide Welfare Rights Organization was in attendance. About 60 people attended the workshop all together.

In contrast to previous Black workshops at national antiwar conferences, most of our opponents did not bother to show up. Probably still smarting from their experiences in the Third World workshop at the SMC conference last February, the Workers League, the Labor Commit-

tee and IS declined to send their Black members to the workshop. The only other socialist tendency which participated in the workshop, besides the YSA, was the Young Workers Liberation League, led by Jarvis Tyner, National Chairman of YWLL, and Tony Monteiro.

The primary thrust of the YWLL intervention was around the demand of "set the date" in opposition to that of "immediate withdrawal." The various arguments raised by YWLL, both ultra-left and reformist, did not have much effect upon those present. Their lack of success was due mainly to YSAers taking the floor and offering a vigorous opposition to this unprincipled violation of the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination. At the same time, the workshop urged the building of united antiwar actions this fall that will have the possibility of mobilizing the largest numbers of African-Americans ever in opposition to the Southeast Asian war.

Although the primary thrust of YWLL's intervention was around the "set the date" slogan, they put forward several additional proposals for activity. This had the effect of curtailing discussion in the workshop on the actual implementation of the fall antiwar calendar in the Black community. It will be necessary that these discussions take place in local areas and that they involve all of the activists in the various Black antiwar formations in cities across the country. We want to help organize antiwar actions in the Black communities this fall, especially in the high schools and on the college campuses.

The prolonged discussion around the YWLL proposals also eliminated the time set aside for area reports. This was unfortunate because several areas had concrete experiences and successes around their work during the spring antiwar offensive that the workshop was unable to discuss.

One of the dates for action included by amendment in the proposal from the workshop was support to the September 1 actions in local areas called by the National Welfare Rights Organization.

We want to relate to this action in much the same way that the Black Moratorium Committee in Detroit has related to several issues that have arisen in the Black community there, i.e., by pointing out through leaflets, news releases, etc., the connection between the government's prosecution of the war and the economic crisis facing the Black community. For example, by issuing statements relating the war to the school cut-backs that occurred in Detroit last winter the BMC

was able to gather around it a number of Black youth who wanted to establish chapters of the BMC in their high schools. A similar thing was done around the sanitation workers strike that occurred there during the time of the conference.

The proposal adopted by the workshop, with its breadth of endorsement and attendance, gives us an authoritative mandate to use in drawing into the fall actions additional forces from the Black community, and to begin the construction of Black antiwar committees wherever we can.

One key to the success of these committees will be their nationalist character. They should be Black antiwar committees, not "Third World" or "Black and . . ." It will be committees such as these that will be able to involve greatest numbers of Black college and high school youth in building the actions which will lead up to the November 6 regional demonstrations.

Every effort should be made to hold some sort of Black antiwar activity or a number of Black antiwar activities during the course of building the fall antiwar offensive. Black antiwar teach-ins, demonstrations, and referenda on the war and the draft in the high schools and on the college campuses are examples of the type of activity that we want to carry out. Many of these activities can be built in conjunction with the student strike called for November 3.

Because of the regional nature of the November 6 antiwar demonstrations and because of the deepening antiwar sentiment in the Black community, spurred on by the economic crisis and *The New York Times* expose, the possibility of mobilizing the greatest numbers of African-Americans ever in action against the war is very real. Building the November 6 Black contingents is our central task in this area. With correct planning, organization and an audacious approach it is quite possible that the Black contingents on November 6 will duplicate in many cities the combined size of the contingents in Washington and San Francisco, if not surpass them by far.

JOHN HAWKINS
Cleveland YSA

Financial Report

Editor's Note: We are reprinting in this issue the Financial Report and Convention Call which were unanimously approved by the recent National Committee plenum of the YSA, held in New York City, July 5-8.

The financial campaign has been one of the most successful campaigns carried out by the YSA this spring. One indication is the success of the \$43,000 fund drive which we just completed, the largest in the history of the YSA.

In evaluating the spring fund drive, comrades should be conscious of the magnitude of this victory. Not only was this fund drive the largest the YSA has ever conducted, but it was among the largest—in fact the second largest—in the history of the American Trotskyist movement.

At the YSA convention, when it was first proposed, some comrades were, understandably, rather skeptical of being able to raise that amount of money. We had just completed a fund drive which fell \$3,600 short of its initial goal of \$36,000. This spring, not only did we make our quota but we went over by \$300.

A whole different attitude toward finances and the fund drive developed this spring. One expression of the political and financial consciousness of locals and at-large YSAers came in the last weeks of the drive when it became apparent that in order to reach \$43,000 nationally not only did we have to make up the \$1,040 gap created by locals which had dissolved, but we also had to raise an additional \$1,200—the total amount by which it appeared that some locals would fall short of their quotas. YSA locals and at-largers took on and achieved this difficult task.

Some comparisons between this spring's fund drive and that of last fall help to reveal what a success this fund drive has been.

Last fall, for example, out of 53 locals 11 exceeded their quotas, while this spring, 27 out of 56 locals went over their quotas. The most significant statistic is that last fall 53 locals completed a fund drive of \$32,000, while this spring 56 locals completed a fund drive of \$43,000. Eleven thousand dollars more was raised this spring, based not on a big expansion in membership but on a big increase in financial consciousness and organization.

In many locals last fall, the fund drive was made, but to the detriment of other financial responsibilities. During that period, many locals failed to pay their convention assessments or dues or they just let their debts for materials increase. The money collected from these sources was being substituted for money that locals should have been raising for the fund drive. This was not so much the case this spring. Locals finished the drive with their own financial situations improved, as well as having made their fund drive quotas.

A new innovation tried for the first time in a YSA fund drive was the fund raising ad we ran in *The Militant*. Although we only ran the ad a couple of times, so as not to compete with *The Militant* expansion drive, we were able to raise over \$100 in contributions in this manner. The most important lesson we should learn from this experience is simply that we have a growing periphery that is willing to contribute money to the YSA. This periphery should be approached locally as well as nationally.

The fund drive was a victory, but it is only a reflection of much more basic gains made during the course of the spring financial campaign.

For the first time, many locals began to base their finances on a workable and realistic budget. Second, leading comrades were assigned to head up financial work and many locals established functioning financial committees. Thus began the recognition in many locals of finances as a major area of political work, and regular reports were discussed at local and executive committee meetings.

During the course of the spring fund drive, there has been a marked increase in the sustainer base of many locals. This spring we suggested to locals the goal of a minimum weekly sustainer base of \$3.00 per member. In the context of strengthening our campus base, all locals should try to do this, and according to the financial report forms returned to the National Office, many locals have already gone over \$3.00 per member per week.

Finally, we have gained much more experience in campus fund raising, and this is a topic that

I will be discussing in much more detail later in the report.

In part, these gains were made possible by steps taken by the YSA nationally. As part of the national campaign we launched last December, two people were assigned to work full time on finances in the National Office. Because of this, we were able to keep our national finances well organized and have much more collaboration between the National Office and the field on finances.

The financial tour provided the National Office with an opportunity to sit down and concretely discuss with the financial directors and organizers the financial situation in each local and region.

There was a much higher frequency of national mailings on finances. In fact, we've discovered that a majority of the correspondence sent out of the National Office this spring concerned finances.

Another factor was the development of the financial handbook. Most locals and especially the newer locals felt it provided a great wealth of technical know-how as well as political motivation on why a revolutionary socialist organization takes finances so seriously.

Many areas also found the financial material in *The Young Socialist Organizer* quite useful in providing new ideas for improving finances. I understand, for example, that one local keeps a file on finances in which all the financial articles appearing in *The Young Socialist Organizer* are kept. This is one useful tool which other locals may want to try.

The money raised in this fund drive enabled the YSA National Office to expand its functioning. We now have 12 full time comrades in the National Office. In comparison, we had six comrades in the National Office in December, 1969, and eight comrades in December, 1970. We have also rented an additional office in the building in which we are now located to provide work area for this increased staff.

We have a comrade heading up Chicano and Latino liberation work nationally, an additional comrade on finances, and an additional comrade on *The Young Socialist Organizer*. We were able to send two comrades on organizational tours this spring. We have expanded *The Young Socialist Organizer* to a regular eight-page biweekly publication, and there has been much more consultation between the National Office and YSA locals and at-largers through more mailings, telephone calls, and direct personal contact. We were also able to set up a national YSA Movement Center during the April 24 demonstration in Washington, D. C.

In addition, there was an expansion in travel. The list of places comrades visited this spring is far too long to enumerate in this report, but the total miles traveled by comrades in the National Office on political assignment is staggering. The figure is approximately 167,000 miles, meaning roughly that our travel on political assignment equaled seven trips around the world.

The spring financial campaign also had weaknesses which should be discussed so we will be able to begin to correct them this summer and fall.

First, most of the locals did not begin organizing the fund drive immediately after the YSA convention and did not start sending in payments as soon as they might have. We still suffered from the pattern established in previous drives of a lag in organization holding us far behind schedule until very near the end of the drive. At times we were as much as \$10,000 behind schedule.

We should be able to overcome this problem in the fall, if this summer we continue the momentum of the spring fund drive—the fund raising, the careful attention to sustainers, and all the other aspects of the financial campaign.

At the YSA convention, it was suggested that locals begin sending \$5.00 per member per month or as close to this figure as possible to the National Office on a regular year-round basis to be credited to the fund drive. Very few locals have done this, and we want to urge all locals to plan these payments into their budgets and to begin sending them in immediately.

Locals which begin implementing this in July will find the fall fund drive infinitely less difficult than locals which wait until September or October to begin sending in money. Cleveland, for instance, has already begun making these payments which are now being credited to its fall

fund drive quota. This will also tend to more evenly distribute the income which the fund drive provides for the National Office for the next six months.

The bulk of our income comes from the fund drive, but we have been getting most of the money on which we function in the last two months of each fund drive. YSA locals should also be extremely conscious during the course of this fund drive of being on schedule, and I would suggest that every local make this one of their goals during the fund drive this fall.

The second weakness is simply that some locals did not make their quotas. Therefore, other locals had to go over their own quotas, inevitably creating a certain strain on their budgets.

It has become clear from the experience of this and previous fund drives that the ability of relatively inexperienced locals to make their quotas is directly related to the amount of attention the regional center and regional organizer devote to working with all the locals in the region on finances. I will also discuss the regional organization of our finances in much greater detail later in this report.

It is also apparent that we are just beginning to tap the potential of campus fund raising, especially in large locals where we have fractions on many campuses.

Overall, however, the spring financial campaign was one of our greatest victories this spring and paves the way for the further growth and development of the YSA.

FALL FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

In the fall our financial needs are going to increase, and the expansion of the YSA we have projected at this plenum cannot occur unless there is a corresponding financial growth.

The YSA will be playing a major role in the building of the fall antiwar actions, the national campaign for the repeal of all abortion laws, and in the launching of the Socialist Workers Party 1972 election campaign. This activity and our other fall campaigns will undoubtedly necessitate increasing the staff of the National Office, travel expenses, correspondence, publications, and so on.

In planning our fall budget, we also had to take into account the increasing inflation in this country. Air fares, for example, have been raised twice since the beginning of the year; postage rates have gone up 30% and telephone rates 13%.

The first proposal from the National Executive Committee is thus for the National Committee to approve the YSA's national budget for the next six months and a fund drive for the fall of 1971 for \$45,000. The fund drive would begin on September 1 and last until the YSA convention. The six-month budget shows how this fund drive, together with our other categories of income, will enable the YSA to meet its expanding financial needs in the next period.

While we do not have the exact proposals for local fund drive quotas now, we will be contacting each local fairly soon. We are also planning to set quotas totaling \$46,000, which will be one thousand dollars above our national quota. This will help solve the problem we faced during the last fund drive, when the national quota was reduced as locals dissolved.

As the Organization Report indicated, however, we are confident that the trend this fall will be for many new locals to be formed and take on quotas, rather than for locals to be dissolved. This \$1,000 can thus serve as a valuable cushion against any unforeseen difficulties which may arise during the fund drive.

The increase in the fund drive between this fall and last spring is minimal, \$2,000 compared to the \$11,000 increase between the fall of 1970 and the spring of 1971.

Although next fall's fund drive will be the largest ever, the fact that there will only be a \$2,000 increase is the result of a conscious decision. We are proposing that locals focus more on paying off their back debts and strengthening regional finances by not projecting a huge fund drive increase. Thus the fund drive payments together with locals paying off their back debts will enable the YSA National Office to receive the money it needs in order to function this fall.

Last spring, the improvement in YSA finances was reflected in our ability to make the fund drive. This fall not only should we be able to

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make the fund drive, but the continued improvement in finances should be reflected in the stabilization and paying off of back debts and the strengthening of regional finances.

In a certain sense, this type of campaign will be much more difficult. We are not proposing any specific amount of money by which locals should reduce their debts or specified amount of money which if raised will automatically strengthen our regional work.

But if finances is approached with the same seriousness, intensity and consciousness as last spring, YSA locals will be able to accomplish all of these tasks. This will be a continuation of the campaign on finances which was launched at the YSA national convention in December.

The focus of our campaign will be: 1) stabilizing and paying off local and at-large area back debts; 2) campus fund raising; and 3) regional finances.

Before we get into these three main areas I want to discuss one question which will have a big impact on the organization of our finances this fall. That question concerns our relationship to the mass movements we are participating in.

This fall, we will be involved in building massive regional actions against the war and the national abortion law repeal actions. Many comrades will be on the staff of various coalitions, and much of our energy will be thrown into these two campaigns.

The YSA, however, as a revolutionary socialist youth organization, does not financially subsidize the mass movements. We build these movements in many other ways, but *not* financially. Except in very unusual circumstances, no YSA locals or individual comrades should be contributing money to the mass movements, directly or indirectly.

One way in which this can occur is by falling into the habit of using one's own personal resources to buy needed supplies, and thereby only being able to pledge a small sustainer to the YSA.

Another situation is when a YSA local directly subsidizes some aspect of our mass work as a substitute for ensuring that someone on the staff can concentrate on fund raising. Fund raising in the mass movements should have top priority, just as it does in our own movement, and there are greater opportunities than ever before for raising money for the antiwar and abortion law repeal movements.

One additional way in which comrades tend to indirectly subsidize the mass movements is a situation in which YSAers on the staffs of coalitions are either not paid, paid less than a living subsistence, or else only paid on a very irregular basis.

Being full time on these staffs should in no way interfere with the personal lives of comrades—that is, placing them in situations where it is difficult to function because they are not being paid. In particular, this situation places comrades in the position of not being able to meet their financial obligations to the YSA.

STABILIZING AND PAYING OFF BACK DEBTS

The first aspect of the financial campaign is stabilizing and paying off back debts to the YSA National Office, *The Young Socialist Organizer*, *The Militant*, the *International Socialist Review*, and Pathfinder Press. This campaign should be conducted in conjunction with the sales campaign discussed in the Organization Report.

To ensure that the National Office and the various national departments continue to function and expand, the National Executive Committee proposes that this campaign be launched by every local and at-large area to first stabilize and then begin to pay off their back debts.

In order to launch the campaign, we would like to suggest that every local hold a meeting of the organizer, sales director, literature director, and financial director as soon as possible to work out the best way to ensure that the debt is stabilized and that a strategy is mapped out for paying off any back debts.

The majority of local and at-large areas owe *The Militant* and *ISR* considerable sums of money, which total \$11,500. To begin implementing this campaign it will be essential for locals to pay their current bills on time and not add any more to the back debt. This means determining exactly the break-even point for *Militant* and *ISR* bundles and making certain that at least that number is sold and the money collected.

In many areas where both SWP branches and YSA locals exist, the branches have the actual financial responsibility for our publications, but the YSA will play a crucial role in ensuring that we break even and eventually raise money from the sales of our press.

The debts of most locals result from either having poorly organized sales, so that money is *lost* on sales, or using *Militant* and *ISR* sales money to cover other expenses. However legitimate many local expenses are, we must establish the norm that *Militant* and *ISR* sales money can only be used to subsidize other areas of activity *after* all back debts and current bills are paid.

There is no reason why areas cannot break even on sales of *The Militant* and *ISR*. It just takes a concrete, systematic approach to sales.

The same holds true for sales of Pathfinder literature. Local and at-large areas owe Pathfinder \$12,700. All finances concerning literature should be kept entirely separate from the rest of YSA finances. The goal of every local must be to have its income from sales cover its payments to Pathfinder and allow, above that, for the regular expansion of the stock of literature. This is realistically possible if a local organizes its sales conscientiously and keeps close track of the income and expenses from literature.

There is *no* reason why locals should not be able to pay their bills to Pathfinder if the literature is being sold and the money is being used to pay the bills. Comrades should read the article in *Organizing the YSA* on how to organize literature sales for further ideas on this.

Over the last several years the debts owed by YSA locals to the National Office for various materials has increased to the point where the total debt is almost \$5,000. When some locals build up large debts to the National Office, it hinders the effectiveness of sales as a means of national fund raising. As a result, the entire YSA must take on higher fund drive quotas in order to compensate for losses on sales and thereby, in essence, subsidize those locals that are building up these debts.

Much of the material which locals order from the National Office is for re-sale, including buttons, posters and pamphlets. Sales of these items should be organized in the same way as sales of Pathfinder literature. It is important that the cost of non-saleable items such as our leaflets and flyers be incorporated into a local's budget.

Due to the large size of the debt to the National Office we adopted the new credit policy which I'm sure locals are aware of. That is: 1) that all newly formed locals will have a credit limit of \$50 with the National Office. After a local has ordered \$50 worth of material only prepaid orders will be filled until the debt is reduced below \$50; and 2) that the debts of all locals currently owing more than \$100 will be *frozen*. Any orders from these locals must be prepaid until the debt is reduced below \$100. This policy was put into effect because we are losing money on sales. Over the last six months \$4,000 was spent on printing while only \$3,000 was made on the sales of our printed items. We lost almost \$1,000 on sales.

We are putting out a whole new line of materials and it is therefore even more important that we reverse this debt situation now.

During the spring financial campaign the norm was established in the YSA that locals were not responsible for paying the National Office the dues of individual members who had not paid. Since this policy went into effect there has been a sharp decrease in the amount received by the National Office for dues. For example, since the convention we only took in \$7,855 for dues and initiation fees. Assuming that \$7,000 of that is for dues, that would mean that as an average over the 6 month period we received dues for 778 members. It is clear from the Organization Report that our membership is way over 778.

Payment of dues is a requirement of membership in the YSA and we rely on regular receipt of dues from the membership as an important part of our national income. Locals have got to consciously focus in on this problem of collecting dues from all members over the summer and fall.

The last point I want to bring up in regard to National Office debt is that of tour quotas. It is essential that locals that have not yet paid their tour quota on the Jacquith and Oliver tours do so immediately. Also, there are some locals which have not paid quotas for tours which took place as long as a year ago—these tour quotas should be paid. In the last six months we lost \$850 on tours.

In order to carry out our political activities we count on all these areas of income. If we don't receive this income it means, concretely, that we don't print new materials, we can't pay our rent, we can't help subsidize our theoretical magazine or we can't pay the print shop for our publications—and the debts increase.

Successfully carrying out this campaign of first stabilizing and then paying off the back debt is,

judging from the achievements of our financial campaign this spring, a challenge the YSA locals will be able to take on and achieve.

CAMPUS FUND RAISING

The second aspect of the fall financial campaign will be campus fund raising.

Our greatest opportunity for fund raising is on the campuses and we want to utilize our campus base to strengthen our finances.

In building a campus base, we understand that some comrades who are students are going to have lower sustainers to the YSA than if they were able to hold full time jobs. But we reject the myth that a local with a large campus base has to be financially unstable. The more politically integrated a YSA local is on campus, the more fund raising can be integrated into our overall political work on that campus.

Campus fund raising is an extension of our concept of the red university. We must turn the campuses into organizing centers, politically and financially for our movement and the mass movements.

At the YSA convention last December, in our discussion of campus fund raising, we mapped out: 1) obtaining honoraria; 2) getting budgets from student governments; 3) getting money from sympathetic professors; and 4) utilizing the campuses for rummage sales, book sales, films, etc.

All four ways are good for raising money, but the two with the highest returns are honoraria and student budgets.

It is an important part of our campus work to take applying for student government money seriously. YSA campus chapters are student groups carrying out a wide range of activities on the campus of interest to practically every student. It is perfectly reasonable and legitimate for the YSA, like other campus organizations, to receive funding from the student government.

According to the financial forms returned to the YSA National Office, 8 locals applied for student government budgets last spring while 19 have applied for budgets for next fall. This is an indication of the increased awareness on the part of comrades of the potential for raising money this way. It should be pointed out that, out of the 8 that applied for money, 5 received budgets totaling \$1,055. This includes \$55 from Edinboro State College, \$600 from New York University, \$100 from the University of Oklahoma and \$100 from Clark University in Worcester, among others. These statistics are only based on receiving financial forms from two-thirds of the locals, so I'm sure they are low. To give comrades an idea of what is possible, Female Liberation in Berkeley just received a budget of \$10,000 for a tremendous range of activities.

Some campuses, although they may not grant money to organizations, will grant supplies. Also, many high schools grant money to organizations for their activity, so these channels should be looked into. When a YSA local is able to finance its regular local campus work through such grants, it can use a greater proportion of its sustainer income for carrying out other activities.

If a campus refuses to give money to us on the basis that we are a political organization we want to respond just as we would if we were prevented from selling subs in the dorms or setting up a literature table on campus. If other campus organizations get funding so should we. Anywhere this happens, comrades should organize a defense campaign around it. Perhaps a coalition can be formed of all organizations and individuals which support the right of all organizations to be funded, not just some. We must be bold and audacious regarding this question.

This last spring the YSA National Office organized a set of regional exchange tours for the purpose of obtaining honoraria. The speakers, who toured each region for a period of two weeks, were YSA members who were leaders of the mass movements or campus activists with good credentials.

We found the tours to be successful, especially considering that last spring was the first time this type of project had been organized on a national scale. Success was uneven around the country and depended on how much consistent work was put into follow-up work and how early each local started applying for honoraria. There was a problem of getting off to a late start in organizing these tours both nationally and locally. But from an overall perspective they were a success. For example, honoraria raised *only* through the regional exchange tours amounts to \$2,968. And again, this is a very low statistic due to the fact that we only received financial forms from 36 out of 56 locals. New York raised \$625, Cleveland \$415 and the biggest single honorarium was

\$300 at Edinboro State College. All honoraria raised this last spring, counting all speakers, is \$9, 224. Thus it is extremely significant that the exchange tours provided one-third of all honoraria raised.

Therefore, we plan to set up regional exchange tours again this fall. The information on these tours will be ready by Oberlin. Unlike last spring, this time the National Office plans to prepare the necessary information for each speaker's biography.

The organization of the tours will be similar to last spring in that each region will be responsible for the travel and living expenses of the speaker in the two week period in which she or he tours. In order to maximize the financial opportunities of the tour, expenses should be kept to a minimum.

The most efficient way to organize these tours will be through our regional apparatus. We suggest that all honoraria raised be deposited in the regional bank account and all expenses be paid out of that account. This way, an exact record of income and expenses can be kept along with a record of the schools where the money was raised. This will help to alleviate any confusion as to what local's fund drive the money should be credited to. Also, the region should collectively decide how money in an at-large area will be handled. We should try to arrange for the various schools to pay travel and publicity costs in addition to the actual speakers fee; in many areas this is a common practice.

With the experience gained this last spring, we should be in a position to raise much more than \$3,000 from the exchange tours this fall.

From our recent experiences, we've found that the most professional and efficient way to organize obtaining honoraria is through one central apparatus on a regional basis—the socialist speakers bureau.

This spring the Southern California region was the first to try setting up such a speakers bureau. By the end of the fund drive a number of other regions had also tried doing this. We propose that for the fall every region establish a socialist speakers bureau, which would be the central vehicle through which all the locals in the region would obtain honoraria.

This would be a big step forward from having all the locals applying here and there for money in an uncoordinated way.

The socialist speakers bureau would be organized with the regional center taking primary responsibility for getting out materials. Each local would assign a person to oversee applying for honoraria in its area while the regional secretary or someone else in the regional center would do the follow-up work in areas where there are no locals or at-largers.

It is important to have a clearly defined perspective beforehand of how the honoraria raised through the bureau will be allocated. This way we will most effectively be able to utilize and coordinate all our speakers.

1) For campaign speakers, the honoraria raised should go to the SWP campaign. Campaign tours are being organized for this fall and we want them to be a major part of the socialist speakers bureau.

2) Regional exchange speakers will again raise money for the YSA fund drive.

3) Comrades speaking within the region itself should help raise funds for the fund drive and our regional work. The bulk of the speakers offered by the bureaus will be comrades from the region.

4) The regional organizer and regional traveler would definitely be listed in the socialist speakers bureau and, most likely, all honoraria raised would go to the region. The regional traveler would also do speaking without an honorarium, but in all cases the region should try to line up fees.

5) As soon as the YSA National Office has the information on what comrades will be going on organizational tours they can be added to the speakers bureau. In this case, money over and above the tour quota would go toward a local's fund drive.

6) The Socialist Workers Party is preparing a list of well-known spokespeople from our movement whose names could be added to the speakers bureau. Here, of course, the money would go to the SWP. These comrades would not be on tour but remain in their respective branches until a speaking engagement with an honorarium is set up. Their speaking fees will be very high, perhaps \$1,000, and these comrades' credentials will also enhance the speakers bureaus. We can also utilize the YSA film in the speakers bureau and other ideas, such as special speakers programs or plays.

The speakers bureaus should cover all our basic areas of work—women's liberation, anti-

war, Black, Chicano and Puerto Rican liberation, as well as topics like the Mideast or a basic "How to Make a Revolution" presentation. Full biographies should be written on each speaker. Special notice should be given to what each will speak on my making the relevant credentials prominent. The topics and fees should also be included at the end of each summary.

This information should then be printed up into an attractive brochure. The socialist speakers bureau will be presenting public speakers for the YSA, and therefore much thought and work should be put into this material. We will be competing with many professional speakers bureaus and we must convince these university boards not only that our speakers are dealing with the issues students are most interested in, but also that we are a responsible, serious organization. This must be reflected in the quality of our material.

The initial mailing should be sent to all colleges in the area, with copies to the student activities office, the various departments, and all campus organizations. Then the follow-up work begins. This is the important part of getting the speakers bureau off the ground. Don't expect that the campuses are going to search us out. All locals should do follow-up work in their areas through systematic phoning or visiting all campuses. Often the follow-up work in areas where there are no YSA locals will have to be done by the regional center. Los Angeles has set up a system where one page in a logbook is devoted to each campus. All contacts, correspondence, and information from the phoning and visits is recorded, so that a simple and comprehensive record for the socialist speakers bureau is available.

When we have additional speakers for our bureau, like the comrades who will be on national organizational tours, new material should be sent out and then followed up. The important thing to keep in mind is that the bureau is an ongoing vehicle for our movement to get out our ideas as well as raise money.

In most cases, the speakers bureau can be coordinated with our regional work, and the speakers can serve as trailblazers to regional areas where we do not as yet have locals or at-largers. The upcoming regional exchange tours, for instance, should be used to build the anti-war actions, the abortion actions, our regional educational conferences, and the YSA Convention. If organized and executed properly, these bureaus can provide our movement with tremendous opportunities for expansion and recruitment, as well as become our major source of outside fund raising.

We should begin to set up these bureaus immediately. We must be fully prepared to send out the initial mailings this summer. We want to be the first organization presenting honoraria requests at every campus in the region.

If we begin to organize the socialist speakers bureaus now, the \$9,000 we raised in honoraria this past spring will seem small in comparison with the amounts we can raise during the fall.

REGIONAL FINANCES

The third aspect of our fall financial campaign is regional finances. In order to carry out the tasks outlined in the Organization Report for strengthening our regional work, we must develop a much stronger regional financial base. Just as a local is self-sustaining, if we are financially conscious and organized properly, regional work should also be able to finance itself.

There should be a regional budget, a regional bank account and regional books totally separate from that of the center local.

We have already begun to develop the consciousness that regional financing is not the sole responsibility of the central local in the region. The financing of the regional apparatus is a collective undertaking. All locals and at-large areas should contribute, and the regional budget must be arrived at by consensus among the locals.

Many regions have already adopted a system of obtaining pledges from each local and at-large area. The first systems began with a \$1 or \$2 monthly assessment from each local member in the region, but many regions found that pledges worked better and raised more money. A substantial amount of money for the region can be raised by having every local take a pledge, the size of which would be determined by the size of the local and the objective situation in which it finds itself. For instance, if a local has a higher sustainer base or more experience in campus fund raising then these factors should be taken into consideration in determining the size of the pledge. The regional quotas should be determined like fund drive quotas.

It is clear that in order to sustain regional

work, a substantial part of each local's budget will have to go toward regional work.

In addition to pledges from the locals, we should aim at raising money directly through regional work. Honoraria from the socialist speakers bureau and the profit from the trailblazer's literature sales can play a central part in financing our regional work. Donations can also be a good source of money for sustaining our regional work. Every time the regional traveler visits an area, a certain amount of time should be spent visiting professors and trying to line up donations from them. If the regional traveler speaks at a campus where an honorarium could not be gotten, a hat should be passed at the meeting. We must start applying all our financial experience and knowledge to regional finances.

Another fund-raising event regions should be making plans for soon are the regional educational conferences. If these conferences are organized correctly, there is no reason that a region should lose money on them.

Regions should start drawing up budgets for these conferences as soon as the initial projections are made. We should attempt to get honoraria for all speakers, and we should try to get the campuses to pay for travel expenses and publicity. Possibly a fund-raising party can be organized to follow the conference. A collection speech and pitch should given at the conference as well. Both the Southern California region and the New York region have raised large sums of money this way.

After taking all these factors into consideration, an admission should be charged which is reasonable but at the same time ensures that the conference makes a profit. Since these conferences are generally held twice a year, they should be looked upon as major fund-raising activities and planned accordingly.

As was projected in the Organization Report, all regions should have the perspective of being able to finance both a regional organizer and a regional traveler as soon as possible, as well as the office expenses of the regional center, a newsletter, mailings, telephone, etc.

In addition to the financing of regional work, we should also look at the role of regional organization in helping local finances. Tours of the region by the financial director of the central local are one possibility in this area. These tours can accomplish on a regional scale what the financial tours of the National Office accomplish on a national scale. Workshops on finances at regional committee meetings or regional conferences would also be helpful. Regional newsletters should regularly carry fund-raising notes and reports.

The opportunities which exist for recruiting to and building our movement regionally do not allow for neglecting regional finances, or for putting it off until we are in better fiscal shape. As revolutionary socialists, it is our duty to carry out the tasks which are politically important and not have to say, "Well, we can't because we just don't have the money."

A significant improvement in regional finances is one of the achievements we hope will flow from the whole fall financial campaign.

In the National Office we will be taking several steps, besides those already outlined, to help in the implementation of the fall financial campaign.

1) We plan to expand the financial handbook and to bring it out in permanent form, as a part of *Organizing the YSA*.

2) We will conduct another financial tour this fall. This will be a tour of all the regional centers beginning sometime in September. Again, local organizers and financial directors from the region will be requested to come into the center for this tour. The objective of this tour will be to discuss the fund drive, campus fund raising and the campaign to stabilize and repay back debts. A special focus on this tour will be regional finances.

The role of the executive committee in carrying out this campaign is very crucial.

We can successfully carry out the tasks projected for the financial campaign this fall if the leading comrades in each local understand this campaign and help to oversee and give political direction to it. The leadership above all has to take the collective responsibility to see that this campaign is carried out.

If we are able to carry out these tasks, we will be ensured of having the resources to build the mass movements we are involved in and at the same time to continue the work of building the revolutionary socialist youth organization in this country.

TERRY HARDY
YSA Financial Director

Houston Convention Call

Comrades have probably noticed from the plenum schedule that fifteen minutes has been allotted for a report under this point. In addition, one-half hour has been scheduled for discussion.

Usually, the motion presented under this point on the agenda is very simple:

That the National Committee call a convention of the YSA to be held at the end of 1971 and that the National Committee empower the National Executive Committee to organize the convention and decide on the dates and place.

The National Executive Committee does not propose to present a different motion this year. However, the NEC has already discussed the question of where the next YSA convention should be, and we would like to share our thinking with the YSA National Committee, local organizers, and regional organizers present at this plenum.

The NEC felt that in line with the ambitious projections flowing from the plenum—and as the last four days of reports and discussions and the entire tone set here for the approaching fall offensive have shown—it would only be correct that we begin thinking out *now* where we will hold our next convention. This is not a minor question, but rather an important political question for us because we are discussing where we can best build a convention which will be an impressive culmination of the next period of our activity in building a revolutionary socialist youth organization in this country. It is an important question as well because our conventions, more and more each year, are making a real political impact on youth in this country.

In addition, we feel that by discussing the question of where our next convention should be held at this plenum, a full six months in advance, it will be possible to take this call back to the entire YSA along with all of our other projections, fully integrate the work of building the convention into all our other work during the fall, and begin the fall offensive with the perspective of working towards the YSA convention, which will be the concrete reflection of our progress in building a revolutionary socialist youth organization this fall.

Even though we want to begin right after the plenum to politically motivate building and attending the YSA convention and begin thinking out how every comrade can make the necessary arrangements—especially the financial arrangements—to ensure that they can attend, the NEC feels that it would be a mistake to lock ourselves into a convention site so far in advance.

It would be a mistake to formally set a site this early because events can happen between now and the beginning of the fall which may cause us to want to change the site. If there were a major explosion in the high schools in Detroit or Chicago, for example, and our movement experienced a significant expansion there, then we may very well want to relate to it by building and holding a massive YSA convention there. Because of this, we want to leave ourselves open for calling a different site through the NEC. That's why the motion from the NEC under this point remains the same as usual.

Now, for our thinking. After checking to make sure that adequate facilities are available to us for a convention of 2,000 young socialists, we have reached the conclusion that the next YSA convention should be held in Houston, Texas. We think there are at least six good reasons why Houston would be the best place to hold the next national convention of the YSA.

First, because it is in Houston that our movement faces the most serious and urgent challenge in many years to our very right to exist. Since our movement was established in Houston just a little over one year ago, our right to exist has been challenged by right-wing terrorists in collusion with the city government. And just recently that struggle has intensified with the bombing of our headquarters, and other attacks upon our movement. But we have begun to turn these attacks around through building a powerful political defense movement.

Both the official and unofficial terrorism perpetrated by the cops and the Klan upon the radical movement in Houston during the 1960s has been a major stumbling block to the development of the mass movements there. This makes the victory of the present defense effort even more important for us. Holding an open, massive convention of young revolutionaries from all over the country and the world in Houston could deal a stunning blow to the reactionaries in Houston.

Second, because of our outspoken and active role in the counteroffensive against the right wing in Houston, and because of the energetic municipal campaign which we have been waging there, the YSA and the SWP are very well known by the public and the press. We would be able to gain a large amount of publicity both prior to and during the YSA convention in the mass media throughout Texas. And from our experience at our last convention, we think we will be able to gain a lot of publicity through the mass media all around the country by tying our convention into the counteroffensive against the right-wing terrorists.

Third, we think Houston would be the best place because it is one of the centers in the Southwest of a major new struggle—the Chicano liberation movement. In addition, just last month it was the site of the first national Chicana conference. Considering that the YSA is attracting more and more militant Chicano youth to its ranks and playing more of an important role in that movement as a whole, it is appropriate that this year our convention be held in a city which is a major center of that movement. Through building the YSA convention throughout the entire Southwest and on the West Coast, we think we can and will attract a large number of Chicano militants to our convention and to the revolutionary socialist movement.

Fourth, simply because Houston is a crucial center for our movement, and building a YSA national convention there will be a major boost to the expansion of our movement, not only in Houston but throughout all of Texas. In Houston alone there are three major universities, including the University of Houston which has an enrollment of around 20,000 and at which we have a strong fraction, and Texas Southern University, an all Black school of 7,000 students located right next to the U. of H.

In addition, being the sixth largest city in the country, Houston has a large number of high school students, and Black and Chicano communities comprising almost 50% of the city's population.

Fifth, the NEC thinks Houston would be the best site for our next convention because holding a convention in that city would be symbolic of the national expansion which our movement has experienced in the last three years, most impressively in the South.

Holding a convention in Houston would sig-

nify the breakthrough and establishment of our movement in a big way in the South. This is particularly important for us because it is the first time in the history of the American Trotskyist movement that we have established our movement in that crucial sector of the country. And by holding our next convention in Houston, we will be able to make further breakthroughs in that area of the country, particularly throughout Texas but also to the east of Houston in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The comrades in Atlanta, Houston, and Austin—those locals which will play a particularly important role in building this convention—are confident that the convention can be built in a large way through aiming our regional work throughout the fall towards the YSA convention.

In other words, we can confidently say that by holding a convention in Houston, the YSA will take another major step forward in terms of its growth and expansion in the South.

Finally, what all the comrades who attended last year's convention in New York or the one before in Minneapolis will especially appreciate, is that it will be warm in Houston in December.

Even though Houston is certainly not as centrally located for our movement as Chicago, Cleveland, or even Atlanta, we are confident that we will be able to mobilize the entire YSA to attend this convention. Our last convention in New York certainly wasn't centrally located. Nevertheless, even though the convention call did not come out until October, there was an unprecedented percentage of the YSA in attendance. I should add that at the New York convention there was the largest delegation from the West Coast, both in terms of numbers and percentage, than at any YSA convention in the past.

This year we have almost six full months to mobilize and organize not only our own membership, but hundreds of young socialist supporters of the SWP '72 campaign and activists in the mass movements to attend the YSA convention.

On the national scale we plan on starting early to build the convention as well. We are projecting not just one poster and one leaflet to build the convention, but rather a whole series aimed at attracting hundreds of young militants to our convention. We are also thinking in terms of other activities which will help build the convention like special blitz tours throughout the South by leading YSAers, special teams of regional travelers, and so on. It seems obvious that if we didn't approach the next YSA convention by thinking big and by beginning to map out concretely how the building of the convention will fit into all our fall activity, it would be in contradiction to the entire plenum—the reports and discussion.

The immediate task that the leadership of the YSA faces now is take the entire plenum—the tasks and perspectives laid out, discussed and adopted over the last four days, including our thinking on the site of the next YSA convention—back to the YSA, beginning in a systematic way the implementation of our tasks.

Andy ended his report earlier today saying that our watchwords this fall must be: "Onto the campuses!" "Onto the fall offensive!" I think it would be appropriate at this point to add a third: "On to Houston!"

FRANK BOEHM
YSA National Chairman

San Francisco City College Elections

San Francisco City College is a two year industrial trade college which is 70% Black, Brown and Asian-American in composition. This spring, after failing to arrive at a principled agreement with the members of a so-called "left coalition," the YSA ran four candidates for student council.

The program of our campaign centered around the demands for immediate and total withdrawal of U.S. troops from Southeast Asia, ethnic and women's departments controlled by the students of these departments, and student-faculty control of the college. We made it clear that only the mass movements of the American people could make the changes that are necessary, both on the campus and in the country as a whole, and our campaign was designed first and foremost to build these mass movements and not attempt to substitute ourselves for them.

We ran a serious campaign that aimed not only at educating students, but also at winning office. The YSA had its campaign literature out before all the other campaigns. Our campaign was the first to go into the classrooms to speak to students, and only our campaign really published what it stood for and presented a program for struggle, one that related to the movements of the oppressed.

Although our candidates were not elected to office, the campaign had a tremendous impact on the politics of the campus. Every other campaign, without exception, was forced to relate to ours. They all included at least one of our demands in their program. One group of candidates called themselves "the real *Sou*cialists" and ran on a program calling for student, faculty and administration control of the school. Some

campaigns offered us posts in the student government if we would support them!

In the past student council elections on the City College campus have occurred without the students ever knowing that they were taking place. The entry of the YSA into the elections resulted in the tripling of student participation. Our activity enabled the YSA to get a budget of \$50 from the school, the first that it has ever gotten on this campus. Most importantly, however, the campaign enabled us to fully involve the YSA in the political life of the campus and to publicize our name and program to the entire student body.

JOSEPH WARD
San Francisco YSA

Washington Black Action Coalition

We currently have a Black fraction of four YSAers in Washington, D.C., which is working to build a Black antiwar and anti-draft coalition. We feel that the potential for building such a coalition is high and that the progress made so far is encouraging.

The idea for the Black Action Coalition (BAC) came at a Malcolm X memorial meeting sponsored by the Third World Task Force and the Black Moratorium Committee in May. The meeting was small, but the people there felt it in the interest of the Black liberation struggle to carry out further united antiwar actions and called another meeting to explore this possibility.

Present at this meeting were members of the National Association of Black Students (NABS), the Black Panther Party (Newton's group), the Black Moratorium Committee and the Third World Task Force. Everyone agreed on a central orientation around the war and the draft, and we felt that the first task confronting us was to broaden the coalition around this perspective.

We sought out a number of Black student and youth groups that had taken public positions in solidarity with the struggle of the Vietnamese

people for self-determination or in opposition to the draft. These included the Washington Area Draft Information Center, whose perspective is to provide draft counseling to Black youth; the United Student Front, a coalition of high school BSUs in Washington, which has an activist character; and the Student Organization for Black Unity (SOBU), which is a pan-Africanist group centered in Washington, with members at Columbia University and a few other campuses.

On June 26, a meeting of about 30 people projected a campaign against army recruitment centers in the Black community which included petitioning. All of the above mentioned organizations were represented at this meeting, and the coalition adopted Black Action Coalition as its name.

The next step that the coalition took was to call a mass meeting for July 14 to involve greater forces from the Black community and discuss a picket line and rally in front of an army recruitment center in the Black community. Ron Dellums agreed to be the main speaker at the meeting, and *The Washington Post* carried an article which announced the formation of the Black Action Coalition, its campaign against

army recruitment in the Black community, and the time and place of the mass meeting that was being held that night.

In addition to Dellums, a YSAer active in the Black Moratorium Committee spoke on the coalition's perspective of building a mass movement that could rid the Black community of recruitment centers, oppose the draft, and force the government to bring all our brothers home now. The meeting had about 80 people in attendance, who were overwhelmingly youth, and unanimously approved as the next action a picket line and short rally at the army recruitment center on 14th St., the so-called "riot corridor."

The YSA plans to continue participating in and building the Black Moratorium Committee and the Black Action Coalition. The potential for building both the Black student antiwar committee and the coalition is very great, particularly when schools open in September and throughout the fall antiwar offensive.

KENNETH MILINER
Washington D. C. YSA

Cincinnati Women's Studies Struggle

Twenty women, representing five women's organizations (NOW, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Campus Women's Liberation, Cincinnati Women's Liberation, and the Council on the Status of Women) pushed forward in their struggle for women's studies at the University of Cincinnati at a meeting with the Dean of the Arts and Sciences College of the University on June 15.

The University of Cincinnati has been approached through every single available channel for almost two years to act upon the insistence of women that a women's studies program be developed. Dr. Betty Feriens, a long time feminist, presented a comprehensive program well over a year ago to all the existing channels and recently spoke with all the appropriate deans and heads of institutes once more. Throughout this entire period, there has been no response from the University administration.

The most recent and militant confrontation with the University administration flowed from this two year struggle. As one woman explained to Dean Crockett at the June 15 meeting, "We are not asking you for a program nor for a research

committee to draw up a program. We are not asking for advice or direction. We have our program and feminists to direct it and teach it. You have had every opportunity to begin and you have done nothing. If you cannot figure out where to get the money we will advise you where to cut existing programs. We are not going to wait any longer."

The Dean responded by asking for a further meeting where he could propose something to us. The women agreed to come back only if he promised a concrete proposal which involved the obtaining of funds, and he agreed.

The following day, 30 women met with Dean Crockett and Larry Hawkins, the Black director of the Institute of Community Services. The Dean offered a workshop on the "question of women's studies" to be worked out by the joint participation of the College and representative women. The group responded in anger.

"You don't seem to get the point," one woman shouted. "We will have workshops in our program, but they will be totally under our control. We came for money and a place to begin implementing the program now."

Larry Hawkins then stated that he was listing a course on the status of women in his Institute and that if there was enough response he would hire someone to teach it. At this point, another woman who teaches a course on women in the College of Arts and Sciences explained that the tactic of the University for two years has been to attempt to divide our struggle by offering these token measures and that we would not accept anything less than a full women's studies program controlled by women.

By this time, Dean Crockett stated that he had offered all he could and that he had to leave. Several women questioned whether he should even be permitted to leave, but after discussion the consensus of the women was that he be allowed to leave. The women saw that this was not the end, but the beginning of a serious struggle on the campus and that our main task now is to organize mass support to force the University to implement our demands.

JULIE HALEY
Cincinnati YSA

Experiences of the Colorado Springs YSA

Colorado Springs is sometimes pictured as a bastion of conservatism — a center of the John Birch Society, the Minutemen and Texas millionaire H. Ross Perot's pro-war P.O.W. campaign. The local newspaper, the *Gazette-Telegraph*, is so reactionary that it supports the political philosophy of John Locke and laissez faire capitalism. Yet the fact that there are three campuses, along with nearly 30,000 GIs at Ft. Carson and Ent Air Force Base, in a metropolitan area with a population of about 250,000, clearly indicates that opportunities for effective political work exist.

At its largest the Colorado Springs local had seven members, nearly all of whose political activity was severely restricted by heavy work and/or study schedules. Yet throughout the academic year we were able to carry out a series of activities which have established the YSA as the leading revolutionary organization in the area.

We took the lead in building an SMC chapter last fall. The SMC was able to get ten to fifteen students to a regional antiwar conference at Boulder and organize car pools to the October 31 demon-

stration in Denver. It helped in cutting across the cynicism and pessimism which prevailed among many antiwar activists because of their isolation and the conservatism of the community.

One of our most successful activities, however, was carried out around building campus meetings at Colorado College, a small liberal arts school, at which a number of well-known comrades spoke. The first of these meetings was for SWP gubernatorial candidate Jim Lauderdale last fall. His talk drew about 50 people, was taped by the campus radio station and received very favorable coverage in the campus newspaper. The YSA local was formed out of this meeting.

Next we succeeded in obtaining sponsorship for a talk on the Mideast by Peter Buch from a college speakers committee. The meeting was publicized at both Colorado College and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, drawing 50 people on short notice. Once again *The Catalyst*, the school paper, printed an extensive interview which touched off a controversy which raged for several weeks on the letters to the editor page.

The meeting for Phil Courneyeur on Quebec was the most successful of all. Nearly 100 attended, including a reporter from the *Gazette-Telegraph* who did an article on the meeting. This time the college speakers committee paid for the leaflet and the meeting was publicized on all three Colorado Springs campuses.

The final meeting was held this spring for Cindy Jaquith. Once again about 50 people attended, including some feminist contacts interested in the YSA. In the course of holding these meetings we became known to certain faculty, local student activists and radical international students. The YSA is seen as part of the international revolutionary movement and respected for the socialist ideas and analysis we have brought to Colorado Springs.

Although the local has dissolved for the summer it will be rebuilt this fall in time to pitch into the antiwar and abortion campaigns, the sub drive and the SWP election campaign.

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Denver YSA

young socialist the organizer

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NPAC Raza Workshop

The Raza workshop at the NPAC antiwar conference on July 5 was attended by over 20 Raza activists from Houston, Denver, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Oakland, New York, and Atlanta and was the largest Raza and the war workshop ever held at a national antiwar conference.

One of the most important aspects of the workshop and the convention in terms of Raza participation was the attendance of Carmen Pola and Tito Lucero, who were both La Raza Unida Party candidates in Berkeley. Their participation in the NPAC conference will help add considerable authority to the proposals that were passed concerning how to involve Chicanos and Latinos in the fall antiwar offensive.

Almost a dozen YSAers from all over the country participated in the workshop, and in addition there were two Chicanos from the University of Houston MAYO and two Chicano students from Berkeley MECHA. Other participants in the workshop were mainly Puerto Ricans from MPI and the Committee to Defend Carlos Feliciano.

The workshop lasted close to four hours. It was led by Arturo "Bones" Rodriguez and Arturo Montoya of the Denver Crusade for Justice. The agenda they presented was accepted by everyone in the workshop. It included points on the political situation in the Chicano community, the political situation in the Puerto Rican community, and Raza and the war.

The discussion on the political situation in the Chicano community centered around La Raza Unida Party. Tito Lucero and Carmen Pola, along with the Denver Crusade participants and ourselves, led the discussion. Lucero and Pola

were also very interested in getting the reaction of the Puerto Ricans present to the ideas of La Raza Unida Party.

The discussion on the political situation in the Puerto Rican community centered around the independence movement. It was led by Juan "Tito" Melendez of MPI.

All of the workshop resolutions dealt with Raza and the war, and a resolution was passed asking NPAC to give its endorsement to the defense of Carlos Feliciano and to demand his release and the dropping of all charges against him and Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales.

The antiwar proposals gave full support to the NPAC projections for fall mass actions and called upon all Raza organizations to mobilize support among La Raza for these actions. The workshop also called for the formation of independent Raza task forces to initiate the building of these actions and called upon NPAC to support the antiwar and anti-draft actions on September 16 that were projected at the Denver Chicano Liberation Youth Conference.

The YSA's participation in the workshop was met with enthusiasm from the other participants, and no other socialist tendencies were present. Chicano and Latino comrades in addition played an important role throughout the conference, speaking during the sessions and aiding in the defense. One YSAer from Houston, Tank Barrera, unfortunately was injured by a glass bottle thrown at the marshalls by the PL and SDS goons.

OLGA RODRIGUEZ
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