

LOCAL BULLETIN--OUR WORK AGAINST THE ENERGY FREEZE

The Committee Against the Energy Freeze has been doing work in SF for about two months, as a small group--almost exclusively comrades. The Committee has been a regional body with people from the local areas taking care of details. This form has been viable as a beginning, but the response from the masses and the continuously rising needs of the struggle have led us to the decision that now is the time for the local areas to form LOCAL COMMITTEES to involve more people and really get some struggle going.

DUAL FOCUS

The two main aspects of the energy "crisis" that affect the people are 1.) the rising cost and possible rationing of electricity and home heating fuels, and 2.) the increasing cost and scarcity of gasoline and other transportation fuels. These will be the two main focuses of the Committee.

In the past month we have sponsored two demonstrations against PG&E, one on Jan. 28 (against power cutbacks) and the other on Feb. 6 (against PG&E's proposed rate hike). (For the second one, we worked in a coalition with some other SF political groups and some independants.) We put out a petition against PG&E, which has already been circulated widely. In the next month we will have to keep the pressure on PG&E and the Public Utilities Commission. We plan to continue the petition drive for a few more weeks and deliver the petition to the PUC one way or another. It is possible that we will wind up calling a mass demonstration at the home of a PUC member, to deliver the petitions. In our PUC work, we will try to continue (and broaden) the coalition we have worked with.

The threat of gas rationing, and the incredible problems already caused by the shortage of gas, are certainly affecting the people severely. Already several states have some form of rationing. (For that matter, so does Santa Clara County.) In Hawaii, a full fledged rationing program--with a computerized monitoring system--was shouted down by the people after only two days of operation. Of all the aspects of the energy freeze, this is probably the most "volital" one.

We are tentatively planning to have ~~an event~~ a local action on March 1, to begin the fight against rationing. On March 30, the Committee is tentatively planning a regional demonstration against gas rationing. We will try to call together a united front to build the demo, and we will propose five demands. 1.) No rationing, 2.) Roll back fuel prices, 3.) Oil companies produce more fuel, 4.) Support the fight of independant truckers and gas station owners against high fuel prices, 5.) Hands off the Middle East. Plans are not firm about Mar 30. More bulletins will keep comrades informed. We are also trying to establish liason between the committee and the Independant truckers and gas station owners.

BUILD A SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL COMMITTEE

All of these proposals must be discussed by the local committee we hope to build here in the city. We have already contacted several of the caucuses and some Third World anti-imperialist groups and the response has been enthusiastic. So the first meeting of the SF local committee will be on

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 at 1277 Hampshire. Comrades should take this seriously and try to involve friends from work, school, neighbors, etc. At this meeting we will try to deepen peoples' understanding of the energy freeze, make plans to pull together the actions needed to fight the "freeze, and take steps to broaden the committee.

While we expect participation from some of the caucuses at this meeting, ~~we~~ there will be another meeting of the caucuses themselves on Feb. 26, where we will put forward that the caucuses take up the campaign in their unions and participate in the committee. (Comrades should check with their chairmen to find out more about the caucus meeting.)

LET'S GET IT ON! THERE'S A FIGHT TO BE FOUGHT!

The campaign against the Energy freeze is proving to be a really successful form for involving intermediate and advanced workers in the struggle. Many comrades have found the petition and button to be excellent tools for deepening their mass work. We must use this crisis the decaying system has thrust upon us to expose the bourgeoisie and advance the peoples' struggle.

The Committee needs lots of feedback from comrades. How is the energy freeze affecting the people we work with? What do they think about the crisis, and the fight against it? Do we know anybody who is struggling and needs support? Do we know anybody who has had their power cut off?

Our work will only be as strong as the masses we can involve in it. It is very important that we build the committee actively.

There are other ways comrades and friends can participate, however. A good thing to involve friends in would be to go out collecting ~~massive~~ petition signatures--at work, in the community, or at a supermarket. Comrades and friends who have done this have really learned a lot from the people, and become very enthusiastic in response to the enthusiasm of the people.

This Saturday, Feb. 23, the committee will be doing a mass petitioning from 10:00 to 12:30. Comrades who can, should make an effort to participate. People should not hesitate to leave for the Farah picket line or the demonstration at Sears Geary, but everyone should try to get in a couple of hours. For assignments call 648-5426.

- CALNDAR: Wednesday, Feb. 20.....Meeting, 7:30, 1277 Hampshire
- Saturday, Feb. 23.....Petitioning--10:00-12:30
- Tuesday, Feb. 26.....Caucus meeting
- Thursday, Feb. 28.....Committee will participate in demonstration against Kissinger.
- Mid-March.....Return to PUC
- Saturday, Mar. 30.....Regional demo (tentative)

P O W E R T O T H E P E O P L E !

E N D T H E E N E R G Y F R E E Z E !