

# young socialist **the organizer**

6-11-71

## **NATIONAL ABORTION REPORT**

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**New York  
YSA Division**

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**BUILD THE NPAC CONFERENCE!**

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## Southeast and Midwest Summer Schools

*Editor's Note: The following articles were excerpted from the Southern Regional Newsletter and the Midwest Regional Newsletter respectively.*

This summer, the Atlanta Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance will be holding their-third socialist summer school. The regional center is encouraging every single at-larger and member of a YSA local in the area to attend the summer school as part of an on-going educational program for YSA members.

Not only will this concentrated period of study be valuable to YSAers as an educational experience, but it will also serve as a practical lesson on how YSA locals should function. Comrades attending the three-month summer school will all receive assignments, working with the comrades in Atlanta as a team.

Comrades who attended the last summer school found that the earlier they moved to Atlanta, found a job, and made arrangements for their living quarters, the more they gained from the summer school.

The summer school will last from June 20 through August 28, and will meet two times a week. There is a \$5.00 summer school tuition to help pay for the invited guests and other expenses in organizing the courses.

Course #1: Strategy and Tactics for the American Revolution. This series will deal with the basic dynamics of the current radicalization and what this means in terms of the prospects for the American Revolution and problems of party building in the 1970s. The aim of this course is to develop an understanding of the revolutionary strategy in the imperialist epoch. What kinds of demands and programs do revolutionaries support in order to win the working class to a struggle against capitalism? How do revolutionaries avoid being coopted by the ruling class? The transitional program for Black liberation and students. These and other questions will be taken up in the seven classes of this series.

Course #2: The Rise of the New Feminist Movement. What is the revolutionary potential of the struggle for women's liberation? What is its rela-

tionship to other social struggles in the U.S. today? This series will deal with the independent and anti-capitalist nature of the women's liberation movement, the reactionary nature of the family institution, the forces that brought the feminist movement to life, and the role of the revolutionary party in the struggle for the liberation of women.

Today's revolutionaries have much to learn from the struggles and mass movements of women in the past. Consequently, this course will study the history of the women's movement since the 1800s and the background conditions for the rise of the women's rights movement during this period. In addition, three classes will discuss the nature of the family system—from pre-class society, through slavery and feudalism, to capitalist society today.

Course #3: Socialist Election Policy. Revolutionary Marxists have a long and rich history of utilizing the capitalist election arena for their own purposes. These traditions—the traditions of Marx, Lenin and Engels—in the area of electoral activity have been applied and enriched by the American Trotskyist movement. Since 1929 when the Communist League of America (Left Opposition) ran its first candidate—a city council position in Minneapolis—the Trotskyist movement has participated in the electoral arena with its own candidates.

A study of these campaigns—how they were organized and issues they raised—is important and necessary. This series of lectures will deal with the campaigns of E. V. Debs of the Socialist Party, the history of the Socialist Workers Party campaigns, the meaning of the 1972 election campaign, capitalist peace candidates, and independent Third World electoral activity.

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The only way in which the locals in the region are going to be strengthened and tooled up for the big campaigns in the fall is the development of all the comrades in the locals at the present time into Trotskyist cadre. Our summer program in the Chicago local is geared to do precisely that. It will include a 21-session summer school dealing with all aspects of revolutionary socialism.

There will be class series on the new radicalization, the history of the SWP, Stalinism, and the basic concepts of Marxism—historical materialism, economic theory, the theory of the state, and the transitional program. Special weekend sessions will be held on the questions of national liberation struggles, socialist electoral policy, women's liberation, and the working class and the youth radicalization.

In addition to the summer school, the SWP branch in Chicago will be conducting its pre-convention discussion, evaluating the developments of the radicalization over the past two years, and the policies, tactics, and strategy which the party has developed to deal with the tasks facing us in the radicalization. YSAers have been invited to observe the discussion and attend the SWP convention, and should find the discussion to be extremely educational.

On the organizational side of things, we are planning several workshops on various aspects of YSA work: how to run campus campaigns, how to make leaflets, getting on the ballot in '72, selling our press, doing Pathfinder representative work, etc. These will be especially valuable to comrades from smaller locals and at-large areas.

Finally, just the experience of functioning in a large local will be invaluable to comrades returning to the local areas in the fall. In addition to everything outlined above, an extensive recreation and relaxation program is being planned, including beach parties, softball, volleyball, picnics, barbeques, etc. So give some very serious political thought to how you are going to fulfill your primary political assignment for the summer—developing into a better revolutionary.

### EDUCATION FOR SOCIALISTS

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 14 CHARLES LANE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10014

## ASPECTS OF SOCIALIST ELECTION POLICY

March, 1971

\$1.35

## Towards an American Socialist Revolution

A Strategy for the 1970s

by  
Jack Barnes  
George Breitman  
Derrick Morrison  
Barry Sheppard  
Mary-Alice Waters



# Columbus Antiwar Defense

The Columbus defense work is different from that undertaken in Houston, Chicago and Los Angeles, because it is defense activity aimed at politically combating threats which have not yet escalated into violent attacks.

Harassment of the antiwar and radical movements in the form of such threats may be more commonplace than coverage in either the movement or bourgeois press would indicate. This is because in areas where there are no revolutionary socialists or others who understand the importance of defense work, such threats go by without becoming the occasion for a public defense.

Even antiwar activists sometimes suffer from the misconception, a remnant of the McCarthy era, that those who engage in political activity are exposing themselves to continuous harassment and can expect no support from the public. The end result of this misconception is that the chances are increased that such threats will escalate into physical attacks.

A lack of response is not "keeping cool." The antiwar movement must take the initiative in mobilizing masses of people against the official terrorization and brutalization that the U. S. government employs abroad. But the antiwar movement must also take the initiative in mobilizing public support for its right to function when threats to this right are received. Properly combated, these threats can serve as the occasion for building the antiwar movement.

The first threat in Columbus was in the form of a list of 93 names marked for "political assassination." The list included campus student leaders, YSAers, Black activists and even some people with almost no record of political activism. Subsequent threats, in the form of handwritten notes on the backs of various pictures of weapons, were taped to the doors of Julie Bingham, co-chairperson of the Columbus Peace Action Coalition (COPAC) and the SMC, and a member of the YSA, and Phil Schultz, co-chairperson of COPAC. A bomb threat was also received by COPAC during this period.

It is possible that further threats were also directed against others on the list of 93, but these threats were not reported to COPAC despite its appeal for information concerning the harassment of political activists. Several of the ultra-lefts on the list responded by painting cross-hairs on their foreheads, indicating either a sense of

frivolity about the threats, or a sense of doom, or perhaps both. When later threats were received, however, this attitude tended to vanish.

COPAC and the SMC attempted to set an example for the student movement at Ohio State University on how to conduct a defense and why it should be taken seriously. The Young Socialist Alliance sent its regional organizer into Columbus; the Cincinnati YSA local freed a leading comrade to work on the defense in Columbus; and the Ohio April 24 Committee sent its regional traveler into Columbus to ensure that the Columbus antiwar movement would not be slowed down in building the April 24 actions during this period.

COPAC and the SMC helped to turn the response to the threats from a joke into a concern of the entire OSU community. The Columbus police also regarded the threats as a joke. The police lieutenant who was in charge of the investigation stated in his initial release on the list of 93 names: "It is not beyond possibility that someone on the list circulated the list."

This statement was immediately exposed as a reflection of the police department's unwillingness to defend the civil liberties of the student and antiwar movements. Through publicly exposing the police, COPAC and the SMC managed to pressure the police department into stating its intention to carry out a serious investigation.

COPAC and the SMC were able to expose the police by demanding a full investigation of the right-wing threats. The fact that COPAC and the SMC were making evidence and clues available to the police was publicized by the OSU *Lantern*, so that the antiwar movement could not be accused of obstructing the investigation. At one point, an ultraleft told us that he could see that it was more effective to publicly call for police action, but, "It's against our morals to deal with the police." This ultraleft position was essentially a veil for abstentionism.

Before subsequent threats were discovered, various members of the press and elements within the student community raised the spectre that the antiwar movement was just "using" this issue to advance its name. We pointed out that if the struggle to extend the right of free speech and political activity won credit for those who fought for civil liberties and discredited those who would

limit them with threats of violence—then this was only as it should be.

The antiwar movement in Columbus has made great gains as a result of taking the initiative in combating these threats. COPAC has been able to involve lawyers, professors and community groups in its activity, and has consolidated itself as a coalition more quickly as a result of its appeals to various sections of the community for help in defense activity. In addition to this, Ohio State University YSAers have been able to distinguish themselves as leading student activists for their participation in the defense campaign.

Press relations between the local press and the antiwar movement were improved as a result of the defense work. The campaign received almost daily coverage in the OSU *Lantern*, which is distributed to over 46,000 students. On three separate occasions, COPAC received coverage on all three major TV stations in Columbus, during the one week period when defense activity was most intense. There were also several articles in the daily press and regular coverage on the radio.

One question that came up in the course of our defense activity was whether or not COPAC and the SMC should initiate a defense committee in response to these threats. The decision to call for a defense committee means the commitment of responsible political personnel to staff the committee, and the serious solicitation of funds and sponsors, as well as stepped up activity in the areas of publicity and research. For these reasons, a projection for a defense committee should be based on the probability of sustained defense activity over a long period of time and with national attention if necessary. In Columbus, the antiwar movement decided not to set up a defense committee, but it is prepared to initiate such a committee if right-wing activity escalates into further attacks on the antiwar movement.

DAVID SALNER  
Cleveland YSA

## Organizing an SMC Chapter

The New York University SMC began its spring offensive in a relatively weak position. While there had been 50 to 60 students at the SMC's first meetings in the fall, many of these students had become demoralized by the small size of the October 31 actions, failing to see the impact which these actions really had.

In order to turn this situation around for the spring antiwar offensive, the SMC chose every opportunity possible to be visible to the University community. At the beginning of the spring, there were only two YSAers active in the SMC; at the end, more than 75 persons were building the SMC.

First, we went after the press. During the year, over 25 articles were published on the antiwar movement and the SMC. At first, the YSAers contributed articles about the SMC; soon, however, the campus editors began writing articles for the SMC.

We found that a big banner is worth a thousand leaflets pasted up. (Don't ignore the leaflets, of course!) We utilized huge bulletin boards in our student center to advertise the SMC conference and April 24. We hung banners about April 24 across the halls of our Main Building.

We looked for ways to get to know and involve the student government types and the newspapers. We began going to every different student council and asking them to attend the SMC confer-

ence. We made the circuit again when we asked them to endorse April 24. Many of them came to the SMC conference and helped build April 24.

Every time a school council endorsed April 24, it would get mentioned in the school paper. We asked each council to publicize the action in their newsletters. Many did, and this meant that literally thousands of individual letters containing information on April 24 were going out to NYU students. This helped create the feeling on campus that April 24 was so big that it couldn't be ignored.

Most schools send out an alumni newsletter and a faculty newsletter as well. While we didn't think of this until too late, it's still worth mentioning, because these could be an excellent source of funds.

In March, we launched a "Sign an Antiwar Ad" campaign. We prepared a leaflet urging people to pay a dollar and sign our ad, which would appear in the *Village Voice*. We decided on this approach for several reasons. First, we needed a focus for our literature tables; people were less apt to fly by if we were asking them to do something on the spot to help end the war. We could build April 24 at the same time that we were collecting mailing lists and, of course, funds. This ad campaign also netted the SMC several new volunteers.

We sent out a mailing through the campus mail to the entire faculty about the antiwar ad campaign, and we collected over \$200 with no follow-up work. We collected another \$300 from 300 individuals who signed the ad. For the first time, a campus SMC financed an ad in the *Village Voice*; we also ran it in the school paper.

Perhaps most importantly, through all of this activity, we collected over 75 names on our volunteer lists and found a large number of activists who were willing to build the SMC throughout the semester. One of them organized transportation for April 24; another recruited many more people to staff the literature table.

Antiwar activity does not take place in a vacuum. The real impetus for the antiwar movement at NYU came from the government which was escalating the war on the one hand, and the national antiwar coalitions which were building April 24 on the other hand. But with the necessary organization, a viable campus SMC can be built on every campus in the country.

JUDY UHL  
Lower Manhattan YSA

# National Abortion Campaign Report

Over the past months, it has become clear that abortion is an issue that the rulers of this country have chosen to use to attack the women's liberation movement. Nixon's hypocritical attack on abortion as a violation of his belief in the "sanctity of human life," and the burgeoning "right to life" front groups set in motion by the Catholic Church hierarchy, are examples of this. These attacks represent a challenge to the women's liberation movement to respond and defend the right of every woman to have control over her own body.

At the same time, we have seen the emergence of abortion coalitions and court suits in almost every state in the country. These make it clear that the fight to legalize abortion is surfacing as the issue that great numbers of women are beginning to relate to at this time.

A real need now exists to organize the fight for the right to abortion in a more effective way, on a national level. What is needed is a massive show of force by those women who are in favor of abolishing all laws which restrict the right to abortion, so that we can answer the right-wing attacks, as well as win significant victories for the women's liberation movement.

To answer this need, a group of women in New York City have initiated an ad hoc grouping—the Committee for a Women's National Abortion Coalition—which is working toward building a national action around the issue of abortion. This group has sent out a letter, signed by a broad list of individuals and groups, which includes the following points: 1) motivation for building a national campaign for the right of women to abortion; 2) a call for a national women's conference on abortion in New York City, July 16-18; and 3) a call for a planning meeting, June 12, in New York City, where all decisions about the structure and agenda of the July conference can be decided democratically.

Among those who got together at the preliminary planning meeting which initiated the letter were women from New Haven, Conn., who have been involved in the *Women vs. Connecticut* suit. (1500 women are suing the state for its restriction on abortion.) Last month, these women sent out a call for a march on Washington next October 30, around the demand for the repeal of all abortion laws. It was agreed that all decisions on proposals for action, such as the October 30 demonstration, will be made at the July conference.

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Thus far, the response to the idea of having a national campaign and action around the fight for the repeal of abortion laws has been overwhelming. It is already clear that there is a large grouping of women around the country, who have been active in building statewide abortion campaigns and who are extremely enthusiastic about building a national demonstration demanding that the federal government move to abolish all laws which restrict the right to abortion.

Such a campaign on abortion can be very important in helping the women's liberation movement reach out and expand itself. In the past period, we have seen a certain turning inward process in the women's liberation movement. There has been no outpouring of the size or breadth of August 26.

Many groups, frustrated by their failure to expand and win victories, have become cynical about the possibilities of winning masses of women to their demands and have turned away from a mass action approach. And because there has been no national perspective for the women's liberation movement, we have seen the growth of what we call counter-institutionalism. That is, feminists have taken it upon themselves to provide for the needs of women—for child care, abortion, housing—rather than demanding that the government carry out this responsibility.

What has been lacking is a direct confrontation between the women of this country and the U. S. government over the government's failure to pro-

vide for the needs of women. Through the experience of struggle this would involve, it will be made clear to the government and to everyone else in this country that, united, women are a powerful force.

The right of a woman to decide for herself if and when she will have children is a number one precondition to her liberation. As long as she remains a victim of state-enforced motherhood, she has no control over the basic factors determining her life. Abortion is an issue affecting millions of women in a most immediate way. There are few women who have not faced the fear of an unwanted pregnancy at some point, and realized what that would do to their futures. And the polls show that one out of every four women have had an abortion.

Furthermore, abortion law repeal is an issue around which significant victories can be won. All that is required is for the federal government to wipe all laws restricting a woman's right to abortion off the books, leaving the choice up to her—something that sounds totally reasonable to most women in this country. Such a victory would be very important in demonstrating the power of the women's liberation movement, and in proving to those women who are not yet consciously feminists that the women's liberation movement is serious about fighting for the interests of all women.

A national action calling for the abolition of all laws restricting the right of abortion would be aimed at mobilizing all women who want to take the first important step toward legalizing abortion, to make it possible for women to have abortions without being considered criminals. Such a campaign would focus in on what the next step in the abortion struggle must be, and would present the government with an ultimatum. It would put the capitalist government in the position of having to fulfill the demand for the repeal of all abortion laws or else be exposed for its unresponsiveness to the most elementary needs of women.

\* \* \*

In order to build an effective action, it will be necessary to build broad coalitions around the demands for the repeal of all laws restricting the right to abortion, and no forced sterilization. The demand for free abortion on demand has not been raised as the basis for the action for two reasons:

1) The next step for the movement on a national scale is to demand that the government legalize abortion, and get rid of the laws restricting abortion, and we want to focus maximum pressure on this particular demand so that the government will be forced to deal with it.

2) If agreement with the demand for free abortion on demand were made a pre-condition for taking part in this action, the support for the campaign to legalize abortion would be reduced. Concrete experience in abortion actions around the country has shown that there is more support for the legalization of abortions than there is for the demand that abortions be free.

We can anticipate that those who support the idea of a national action around abortion will be accused of "single-issuism," and of implying that the other issues of the women's liberation movement, such as child care, are of secondary importance to abortion. We will have to point out that in order to build a mass women's liberation movement, one of the most effective things we can do is to unite and build a massive campaign and focus in on one issue which is immediately relevant to masses of women.

The logic of a campaign around abortion, in addition, will be to build support for *all* of the other demands of the women's liberation movement, and the dynamic unleashed by victories on abortion will prepare women for taking on other issues at a later point.

Another advantage of this campaign is its potential for drawing new women towards feminism. Abortion law repeal, which polls show is sup-

ported by over 70 per cent of the women in this country, has the support of many women who do not now consider themselves to be part of the feminist movement. In the process of fighting for abortion, they will come to understand the concept of control over their own bodies and lives, and can be won to the women's liberation movement.

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The key to winning victories around this issue will be the building of broad-based coalitions for the repeal of all abortion laws and no forced sterilization. Because only a fraction of the number of women who support abortion law repeal in this country have been mobilized, these coalitions must be far broader than anything that has existed up until now. They must be able to include both feminists and women in trade unions, political parties, religious groups, etc., who do not yet consider themselves feminists but can be mobilized in objectively feminist activity.

Our work in the coming period should revolve around laying the basis for coalitions by taking the idea of a national abortion campaign and the conference call to all groups and individuals who will be key to such coalitions. We want to pay particular attention to the mass action oriented campus women's liberation groups that will be the backbone of this campaign.

Another significant aspect of this national abortion campaign is the role it can play in the 1972 election campaigns. We can expect that liberal politicians will pay a great deal of attention to the ferment around abortion repeal as part of their attempts to demobilize the women's liberation movement. And we are sure to see some forces in NOW attempting to counterpose electing women into office to independent mass action. An abortion campaign, and a call for a fall action, can help to counter this approach.

We must begin now to reach out to the groups and individuals who have been waiting for a concrete action perspective and draw them in on the ground floor. The way we can do this is to build for the July 16-18 national women's conference on abortion in New York City. This conference will take place on the anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, which launched the women's rights movement of the last century.

We should think of the campaign that will be initiated at this conference as being historic in the same way as that of our sisters in the suffrage movement. Although summer vacation will limit the numbers of women we can draw to this conference, we do want it to be national in scope and as large and representative as possible.

Groups and individuals should now be approached with the conference call and asked to endorse it. Attempts should be made to raise money for the conference, and it is not too early to begin organizing transportation. Women's publications in each area should be asked to reprint the conference call and carry free ads. Especially important will be articles in the campus press, and the active involvement of campus groups which function during the summer months.

Addresses of interested groups in each area should be added to the national mailing list. These should be sent to the Committee for a Women's National Abortion Coalition, 137 A West 14th Street, 3rd Floor, N. Y., N. Y. 10011; phone: 212-924-0894.

**RUTH ROBINETT**  
YSA Women's Liberation Director

# New York YSA Division

*Editor's Note: The following Tasks and Perspectives report was presented to a citywide convention of the New York YSA on May 23 by Steve Chainey, the New York citywide YSA organizer. This report marked an historic step forward for the New York local—its division into the Lower Manhattan YSA, the Upper Manhattan YSA, and the Brooklyn YSA.*

Today's citywide convention of the New York YSA marks the culmination of several months of careful planning and preparation for our division into three new YSA locals. The purpose of this report is to finalize what amounts to one of the most ambitious expansion projects in the history of the YSA and to project the general tasks of the YSA in New York City for the coming period following the division.

Several months ago when we first discussed the perspective of dividing the New York local, we felt that there were several key tasks before us in preparation for the division and I would like to review what concrete steps we've taken to pave the way for the division.

We stated that the foremost challenge before the local in preparation for the division was the development of a viable team leadership that could not only carry out the activities of the YSA on a citywide scale, but could take up all the areas of work that would be thrust on the new locals. We saw the development of the strongest possible leadership team *before* the division as the most important factor in enabling the new locals to develop successfully.

Along with the process of developing this leadership team, we focused on the centrality of our campus orientation and the strengthening of our campus and high school base. We also set out to develop a real spirit of professionalism in all our work and to concretely improve all aspects of our organizational functioning.

Since setting these tasks for the YSA, we have made tremendous progress in preparation for the division. Through the building of the YSA convention in New York and our continued campus work this spring, we now have 41 comrades on 14 campuses and 14 comrades in 11 high schools. The New York YSA has helped to build 25 campus SMC chapters, and the SMC has made contact with hundreds of campus activists throughout New York City.

We have now developed a real team leadership during these past months and every comrade has had an important assignment. We have maintained a full-time regional apparatus, strengthened our financial functioning, and successfully met New York's largest fund drive.

Today we will be taking an enormous step forward in moving toward the center of political life in New York City by establishing three new locals of the YSA in Brooklyn, the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and Lower Manhattan. Each of these new locals will be relatively equal in size and in political importance. Each of these locals will have as a primary goal the task of moving into the center of the political movements, groups, and issues of their own specific areas.

## CITYWIDE STRUCTURE

The citywide convention of the New York YSA will be the highest body of our movement in New York City. Following the discussion and vote on this report, we will elect a City Executive Committee which will be responsible for carrying out the decisions which we will adopt at this convention.

The City Executive Committee will then be the highest authority of the New York YSA between citywide conventions. The CEC will be the central political leadership of the YSA in New York City, overseeing all aspects of our citywide functioning.

At this time, however, we want to avoid setting up a whole structure of citywide fractions and work directors. We want to be able to gain experience right now in developing the new locals and concentrating the new locals' efforts on sinking roots into their own specific locality.

Although the YSA at this time does not have constitutional provisions for a citywide structure, this proposed structure is similar to the citywide structure of the SWP which is also dividing in New York. In addition, we are also aided by the fact that the YSA and SWP will be jointly establishing two new headquarters on the Upper West Side and in Brooklyn. The fact that the three new

YSA locals will be able to immediately function from new headquarters is a real advantage that we lacked when the New York YSA divided in 1968.

We can also clearly see that the expansion of the New York YSA that we are launching today is a real reflection of the deepening radicalization and our movement's strength in comparison to our political opponents. This division is not an isolated gimmick but a logical and scientific step forward for a revolutionary socialist youth organization that is striving to win the leadership of the youth radicalization.

The two key political campaigns that this convention must analyze and discuss are the building of the NPAC conference and the fall antiwar actions, and the construction of a broad-based abortion repeal coalition that will be able to call the first national women's abortion conference and a fall mass action demanding the repeal of all abortion laws.

## ANTIWAR CAMPAIGN

The significance of April 24 to our movement is two-sided. On the one hand, April 24 marked the culmination of an unmatched effort by the YSA and the SWP in helping to organize what were among the largest antiwar demonstrations in U. S. history. We were able to help politically lead the antiwar movement in carrying out the most powerful spring offensive yet, despite the divisions in the antiwar movement and the red-baiting campaigns of the government.

On the other hand, we must view April 24 as another key juncture for the antiwar movement in signaling a new stage in the confrontation between the American people, who now as a majority want the U. S. out of Vietnam, and the U. S. government which continues to seek to crush the revolutionary upsurge in Indochina.

This qualitative upsurge in antiwar sentiment in the U. S. has been markedly reflected in the growth of NPAC and the SMC this spring. We feel confident that the objective basis now exists for several fall actions that can be either equal to or larger than April 24 in Washington, D. C.

Our central tasks in New York in the antiwar movement will thus focus on two central areas: 1) the building of the citywide antiwar movement (the SMC, NYPAC, and the various task forces), and 2) our involvement in the day-to-day political life of the antiwar movement through building local coalitions, and campus and high school SMC chapters.

The NPAC conference in specific takes on even greater importance for us because it will be held here in New York at Hunter College. Our success in building the NPAC conference will be crucial for the future of the antiwar movement.

One key factor limits the possibilities open for the antiwar movement at this time—and that is the division that exists in the antiwar movement. The extent to which the fall actions will surpass April 24 in size and scope is contingent on our ability to help unify the antiwar movement behind the broadest possible antiwar coalition that is building the fall mass actions.

By holding the NPAC conference in New York and moving the national offices of NPAC and the SMC to New York, the antiwar movement will be in the best possible position to draw the Communist Party, the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, pacifist groups, and liberal politicians into a unified antiwar coalition. All of these groups have their strongest base in New York and will have to relate to a massive national antiwar conference.

We want to particularly reach out to the various independent mass movements in the New York area in our building of the NPAC conference. We want to draw in hundreds of activists from the women's liberation movement, the Black movement, the Puerto Rican movement, and the gay liberation movement in building the largest and most representative antiwar conference ever.

Our work in building the SMC will of course be key to the success of the NPAC conference. In particular, we want to focus on building the membership and financial base of the SMC while publicizing the NPAC conference. The most massive student participation in the NPAC conference will be of central importance in countering any attempts by reformist forces to modify the principles that have built the antiwar movement.

## WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Our most immediate task in women's liberation is the launching of a mass abortion repeal movement. Our recent work in helping to initiate such a movement has already confirmed our conclusion that abortion repeal is the central issue that can not only mobilize the women's liberation movement but millions of women in this country who are not yet conscious feminists.

A letter which the Women's Strike Coalition received from the Connecticut Women for Abortion Law Repeal and New Haven Women's Liberation raised the idea of calling a national action for abortion repeal in Washington, D. C., during the fall. Their letter begins:

Dear Sisters,

It is becoming more and more obvious to those of us working in the field that abortion law repeal is not going to be won by simply going through the courts as has been tried already in several states. We are beginning to realize that, like suffrage, the recognition of abortion as a woman's Right is going to require nationwide political action and agitation by large numbers of women. A group of us met recently to discuss what kinds of things could be done. We decided to communicate our thoughts to Women's Liberation Groups all over the country in hopes that we can become a nationwide movement. . . .

Presently, we are working on initiating a broad united front formation in New York around the concept of "Repeal All Abortion Laws, No Forced Sterilization." We feel that such a coalition would be the best way to win the struggle for the right to abortion and at the same time build the feminist movement.

The women's liberation movement is currently under attack by the ruling class—ideologically, politically, and through the legislatures—and this attack is sharpest around the issue of the right of women to control their own bodies. A counter-attack, led by the women's liberation movement and aimed at winning the total repeal of all abortion laws is the most important action that can be carried out.

Thousands of women who are not yet involved in the feminist movement will be drawn into the struggle for the right of women to abortion and many of these women will be won to the overall perspectives of the women's liberation movement through such a campaign. Many will also reach revolutionary socialist consciousness and be recruited to the YSA. Our task is to spearhead the initial organizing of this campaign and to draw the broadest forces possible into an initial coalition that can help build the abortion conference in New York and the actions that this conference will call.

## BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN LIBERATION

Our intervention in the Black and Puerto Rican campus and high school movements will be most effective through our women's liberation and antiwar campaigns. Our division, and particularly the new locals on the Upper West Side and in Brooklyn, brings us much closer to the major Black and Puerto Rican communities, as well as Arab and Bengali neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

One of our first tasks will be to launch regular sales of our press at Black and Puerto Rican campuses and high schools. In Brooklyn, in particular, the upcoming July 4 convention of the Black Solidarity Party will give us the opportunity to reach large numbers of Black nationalist youth with our ideas.

In the fall, we can expect a major crisis to develop around the budget cuts and enrollment freezes, particularly as they most severely affect the predominantly Black and Puerto Rican colleges and high schools. Because of New York's financial crisis, we will have many opportunities through our press and our election campaigns to present a socialist alternative and our program calling for Black and Puerto Rican control of their own communities.

## GAY LIBERATION

At the last YSA convention, we projected finding out as much information as possible on the gay liberation movement, while reaffirming our support for the democratic rights of gay people.

During the spring we participated in the building of the April 24 gay task force, helping to

relate the question of the war in Indochina to the oppression of gays.

Under the leadership of the City Executive Committee and the new local executive committees, we will want to continue to find out more about the gay movement by participating in the June 27 Christopher Street Liberation Day demonstration. Judging from the success of the gay task force, this action has the possibility of being the most important mass demonstration yet organized by the gay movement.

#### SUMMER PERSPECTIVES

As a prerequisite for carrying out these major political campaigns, our first task must be of actually constructing three new viable locals of the YSA, locals that are embedded in the political life of their areas.

We have to immediately establish locals that are financially stable by setting up effective financial committees. We have to create a new and larger periphery for the Trotskyist movement in each area through forums, classes, sales blitzes, and public bookstores. Recruitment work must be planned out aggressively and systematically in each of the new locals.

We will need the total participation of all YSAers in the socialist summer schools and in observing the SWP pre-convention discussion. The summer school classes and the pre-convention discussion will arm us with the political ideas that enable us to carry out our program. Every YSAer should see our summer educational work as a major assignment and plan out the necessary time for integrating the study of revolutionary socialism into her or his regular schedule.

Lastly, and most importantly, the new locals must develop three leadership teams of newer and younger YSAers. Consistent teamwork and daily consultation will offset any weaknesses of the new leaderships and magnify their strengths. We will also be able to benefit by collaborating with the SWP in both our citywide and local work.

Comrades should pause for a minute to think what this division means for developing new leadership in the YSA. According to my calculations, nearly two-thirds of the new executive committee members will be comrades who have never before had leading assignments in the local. This sort of leadership development would have been impossible if we had not divided, and it will of course now happen all at once.

#### RESULTS OF DIVISION

In concluding, I'd like to reiterate what we feel will result from this division of the YSA in relation to both our political tasks and our opponents.

We have to view this division as a beginning—a first step in the establishment of many YSA locals throughout New York City and in making comrades available for accepting assignments to aid the continuing national expansion of the Trotskyist movement.

The successful struggle for power between the ruling class and the American working class is interrelated to the battle between our movement and our political opponents for hegemony of radicalizing layers of society—especially here in New York, the political center of U. S. imperialism.

New smaller locals will best be able to aid our campus, high school, Third World, women's liberation and antiwar fractions in waging an effective struggle against our opponents, both locally and throughout the city.

Three times as many people will hear our polemic with the Communist Party and the Young Workers Liberation League at the Militant Labor Forums. We will be able to track down YWLLers on the campuses and in the high schools, debating them in order to recruit their best members and expose the rottenness of their politics.

Just think what the Stalinists and the ultralefts must have felt on April 24, hearing our speakers on the platform and seeing hundreds of young

energetic Trotskyists selling *The Militant* and the *ISR*, and watching thousands of potential Trotskyists reading our press at the demonstrations and on the buses on the way back.

Our opponents will be haunted again when they see our sales teams from one end of New York to the other and when they see YSAers participating in Brooklyn, Upper West Side, and Village antiwar coalitions and women's liberation groups and centers.

This summer and fall, our opponents, and this above all means the CP and the YWLL, will have two choices: either to participate in the antiwar and abortion conferences and in the building of the mass actions or to abstain from the mass movements that are reaching out to the most serious activists of our generation. In either case, we will be in the best possible position to take on and debate the YWLL in its national stronghold here in New York because of our division.

Another aspect of the division will be the ability of the three new locals to systematically recruit and educate new members. The three locals will undoubtedly face new problems, but these are problems of expansion and present a challenge to every single YSA member in New York. It will take hard work by all of us to ensure that our division will be a success.

We know that the youth of this country will play a decisive role in the socialist revolution and it is our task to win growing numbers of young people to the YSA—the revolutionary socialist youth organization that will be in the leadership of the coming American revolution.

**STEVE CHAINEY**  
Lower Manhattan YSA



# Spring Fund Drive Report

As this issue of *The YS Organizer* goes to press, there are several days left before the end of the fund drive. Because of this, the final scoreboard will be published in the next issue. Coming issues of *The Organizer* will also include a thorough evaluation of the spring 1971 fund drive, the largest the YSA has ever conducted.

In these last few days of the drive, payments have been pouring into the National Office at an extremely rapid rate—on one day alone (May 27) we received approximately \$2200!

Two factors have combined to make our chances of reaching the record-breaking goal of \$43,000 look extremely good. First, a number of locals on the lower part of the scoreboard which, because of lack of communications or payments, we had concluded would not fulfill their quotas, have recently sent in all or part of their quotas. Some of these areas had conducted last-minute fund raising; others had been raising money throughout the drive but simply waited until very late to send it in.

Second, the response to our request for locals to go over their quotas has been truly extraordinary, demonstrating a high degree of consciousness in the YSA of the necessity of making this fund drive.

New York City, on the eve of its division into the Upper West Side, Lower Manhattan, and Brooklyn locals, agreed to exceed its quota by \$500. Cambridge, because of "success in increasing our pledge level substantially and . . . our encouraging results in the area of outside fund raising activities," will go over by \$300. Riverside is going \$150 over its \$300 quota.

North Boston is going over by \$105, and the

following locals have all agreed to go over by \$100: Kansas City, Twin Cities (which had already raised its quota by \$250 earlier in the drive), Philadelphia, San Francisco, Denver, Cleveland, Phoenix.

The following are some of the other locals which will go over their quotas by smaller amounts: Houston, \$75; Amherst, \$50; Washington, D. C., \$50; Worcester, \$50; Boulder, \$50; Seattle, \$35; Ann Arbor, \$30; Logan, \$20. A number of other locals informed us they would attempt to go over, but at the time of this writing were not positive of the exact amount.

In addition, the at-large comrades have definitely met their \$1000 total quota and will probably go slightly over.

\* \* \*

Even before the final scoreboard and evaluation of the fund drive are prepared, there are three major financial tasks for the summer that we want to call to the attention of all YSA locals.

First, YSA campus fractions and campus locals should be putting in applications *now* for student government budgets or other funding for the next school term. This spring many locals missed out on this opportunity to obtain funding for their campus activities because of not applying soon enough. At most schools, the budget allocations for next term are being made up right now, and so now is the time to get our applications in.

Second, we should also apply *now* for honoraria for YSA and SWP speakers for the summer

and fall. A number of areas set up regional socialist speakers bureaus this spring, and these speakers bureaus should be putting out mailings this spring and summer listing their fall program of speakers so that the university student governments and departments will have this information while they are deciding what speakers they want for the fall, not long after they have already allocated all of their funds for honoraria. We should also look into any possibilities for getting honoraria during the summer months.

Third, locals should be making up summer budgets at this time that include regular payments to the National Office. The financial campaign for this spring included the proposal for all locals to begin making such regular budgeted payments to the N. O. as part of their year-round financial functioning. We set a target figure of \$5 per member per month for these payments.

Having all YSA locals follow up their spring fund drive success with such regular payments this summer is important for two reasons. First, the N. O. will need this income to be able to function over the summer. Second, since these payments will be credited to the locals' *fall fund drive* quotas when the fall drive begins, locals will find it easier to meet their fall quotas by starting payment now.

**TERRY HARDY**  
YSA National Office

## Houston Spring Financial Campaign

The Houston local achieved tremendous success through its spring financial campaign. We were able to accept a fund drive quota \$500 larger than last fall's and to increase this by \$75. The sustainer base of the local rose significantly and comrades are much more conscious about making weekly payments.

Because recruitment was slower than outlined in the spring budget the sustainer base did not expand at the rate we expected. Most comrades, however, are regularly paying the most they can afford.

Fund raising was lower than budgeted mainly due to the small size of our campus fraction. Only four percent of the total income came from this source. Campus forums, literature sales, socials, and *Militant* sales were not as productive as we had hoped. A stronger campus fraction, continued experimentation, and better organization should be able to correct this situation in the future.

Using the sample student government budget from the YSA financial handbook, we applied for funds for the socialist educational conference. The support of other campus organizations such as MAYO and the Young Democrats was enlisted before submitting the budget, and we received \$400 of the \$2300 requested. A budget for the socialist summer school and for our fall activities will be presented to the student government.

Since our income was regular and close to the budget, we were able to meet most of our expenses. The local spent eleven percent of its total income on regional work, two percent on local expenses, and three percent, or \$42, on the campus campaign. The largest expense was, of course, the fund drive. Also we paid off most of our debts.

Bills to *The Militant* now comprise the largest part of the Houston YSA's debt. The sales committee will use any profits to pay off these bills and keep *Militant* money separate from other income and expenses.

The problem of low *Militant* sales and slow recruitment are related. Our press is our best vehicle for expressing our ideas and program, and is therefore an important recruitment tool.

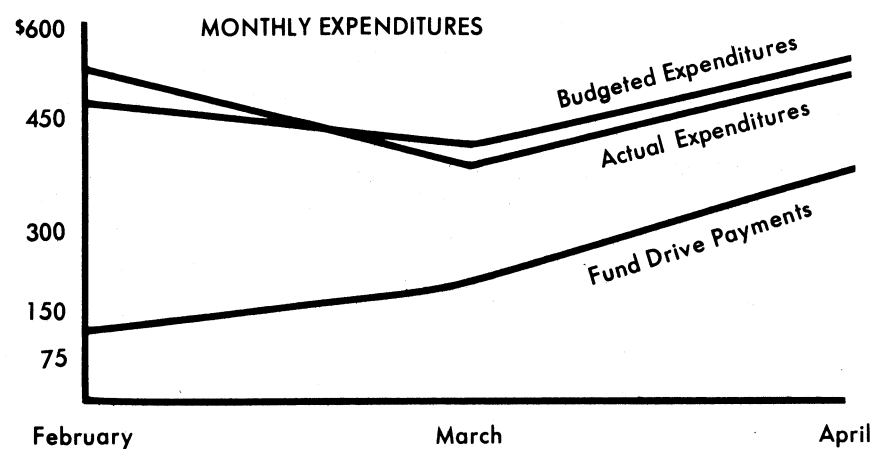
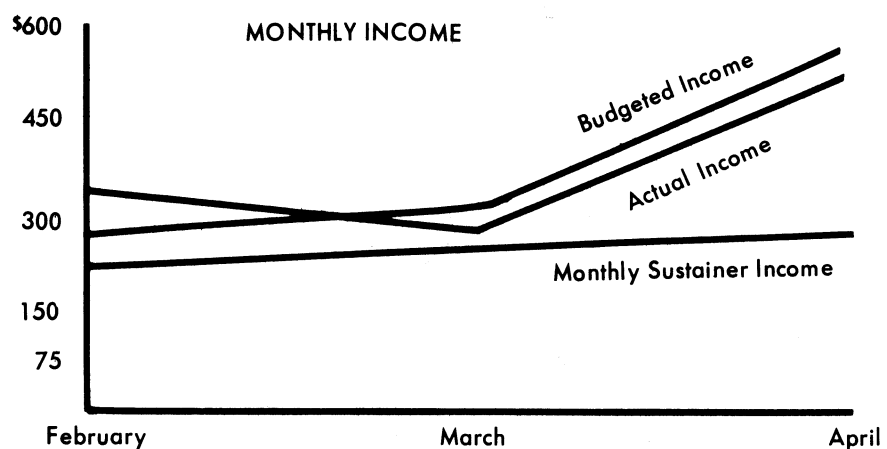
A key to Houston's spring campaign on finances was the involvement of the entire membership in the finances of the local. Financial reports were given every week and usually were mimeographed. They included itemized accounts of in-

come, expenses, and debts. Comrades' sustainer payments and debts were listed. At the end of each month, there was an analysis of our financial functioning and a projected budget for the next month. Graphs proved very useful in building the financial consciousness of the local.

The bookkeeping system outlined in the handbook made the local reports easy to construct and provided a quick answer to any questions.

The Houston local has ahead of it a continuing campaign to strengthen its sustainer base through recruitment and pledge increases, to clear up back debts, and to continue sending monthly payments in to the National Office.

**ELLARD YOW**  
Houston YSA



# Ann Arbor Women's Liberation

The two Ann Arbor women's liberation groups in which the YSA had been involved, the Women's Liberation Coalition and the Child Care Action Group, were dissolved in January as a result of several factors. The Women's Liberation Coalition was the main coordinating group on the University of Michigan campus, but the group had been incapable of organizing actions as many of the smaller groups would frequently veto decisions.

There were two major reasons for the dissolution of the Child Care Action Group. First, there had always existed within the group a conflict over orientation. Some of the women insisted that the group should be a volunteer labor force for the University child care center, an inadequate facility which has room for only 15 children, costs 50¢ an hour, and has no paid staff.

Other women in the group felt that the group should organize a movement on campus to demand free, 24-hour child care for all women in the University community. These differences proved to be irreconcilable. A second reason for the group's demise was the fact that the Radical Independent Party, a group formed last winter as an "alternative" to the Democratic and Republican parties, urged the remaining women in the group to help write its program. When written, this program called for abortion law reform.

With no action-oriented groups on campus and the desire of many women in small groups to participate in actions, abortion law repeal surfaced as an issue around which Ann Arbor women could be mobilized. At the end of January, a statewide planning meeting in Detroit called for a demonstration in Lansing for free and legal

abortion on demand, no forced sterilization. Women in abortion referral agencies, Zero Population Growth, consciousness-raising groups, and sororities were contacted.

Our forces were limited because in spite of the support for repeal of the abortion laws, we were unable to involve large numbers of women in building the march. Several women who had worked in Ann Arbor women's liberation groups expressed the opinion that women wanted to see a massive women's action — something which would be a first for the state of Michigan — before they would become committed.

High school women, however, did not express this hesitancy. Several women from Ann Arbor high schools were enthusiastic builders of the march. Their activity around the march inspired them to accelerate the struggles in two schools to establish groups and to distribute the *Birth Control Handbook*.

In building the march, we also had the help of the University Women's Advocate, who is paid by the administration to be a liaison between the University and women. She has the use of an office and is in contact with most of the feminists in Ann Arbor. In addition, she and a YSAer were given 25 minutes on the campus radio station to discuss abortion laws and the demonstration.

The YSA regional center in Detroit played a vital role throughout the building of the march in all areas of the region. Women from the regional center were working closely with us from January to the time of the march. They provided materials for publicity, helped set up a literature table at the February Peace Treaty Convention,

and freed a woman comrade to come to Ann Arbor for several days before the demonstration. This helped to impress the women in Ann Arbor with the broad support for the march. Thus, we were able to send two buses and several cars to Lansing on March 13 for the action.

Building the abortion law demonstration and selling our press at it increased the number of women who are interested in our ideas. Every woman on the buses to Lansing was offered a copy of the "Women in Revolt" issue of the *ISR*, and the entire bundle was sold within minutes. Before the action, the Ann Arbor local had only one woman comrade on the campus and one in high school in Ann Arbor. Now, we have two women on campus and three in the high schools.

The potential for further recruitment to the women's liberation groups being formed in the two high schools and to the YSA is excellent. High school women in the two groups and in the SMC were active in publicizing the United Women's Contingent as well.

The Student Government Council campaign at the University of Michigan was another good tool for reaching women with the ideas of the YSA. Three of the six major YSA campaign demands pertained to women's liberation. We used newspaper coverage and our own publicity to demand free 24-hour child care, a free birth control and abortion clinic, and a women's studies program.

**ELIZABETH HENRICKSON**  
Ann Arbor YSA

# Worcester SWP Election Campaign

Late last year, the Worcester local began to seriously consider running an SWP election campaign for municipal office in Worcester in 1971. Our decision to run was based on the favorable objective situation which we faced, and the success of the 1970 campaigns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The experiences of the Rhode Island comrades, who were faced with a situation similar to ours (a relatively small YSA local with no SWP branch), especially influenced our decision to run the campaign.

We also wanted to extend our influence beyond the Clark University campus and recruit fractions at other colleges and high schools in Worcester, as well as becoming known throughout the city. We felt that an election campaign was the best vehicle to do this.

Our early decision to run a campaign gave us plenty of time to prepare. We were able to research the local political and economic situation and produce preliminary campaign materials, so that once we actually announced the campaign, we were ready to utilize it to its full potential.

The work of the campaign has been organized by the campaign committee, consisting of five comrades. Three of these comrades are candidates. We have found it advantageous to appoint a campaign director who is not a candidate. This frees the candidates to specifically concentrate on speaking engagements and interventions, while the campaign director organizes press work, literature, etc.

One of the first problems we had to face was financing the campaign. Worcester is much different than areas like Boston or New York, where we have a large membership and periphery from which to draw funds. We have received money from three main sources: comrades, sympathizers and contacts, and general fund raising. We have met with tremendous success in all three areas.

Each member of our local contributes a set pledge (\$2/month) to finance the campaign effort. Since we began collecting this pledge three months prior to the start of the campaign, we had a fair amount of capital to get things rolling.

Our second area of fund raising has been from

contacts and sympathizers. At every public campaign meeting, we collect money for the campaign. This has been very successful and has brought in close to \$50 already. Also, several sympathizers at Clark have donated \$10 apiece.

Our third area has been general fund raising. We have had only one, but very successful, fundraising event. On May 1 we showed the movie *Cool Hand Luke* at Clark. The film cost \$65 and by carrying out a minimum of publicity work, we raised nearly \$300.

On March 17 we announced our first candidate. In the two months since, the publicity our campaign has generated has been unbelievable. We've been mentioned on radio and TV tens of times. We've had about ten articles in the Worcester newspaper, and we've had an article in the Clark campus paper almost every week for the past two months. We've been on one hour-long talk show, and should be on many more soon.

In general, the press has taken our campaign very seriously. They consider us a legitimate party with legitimate answers to the problems facing the people of Worcester. We've developed close working relations with various reporters in the bourgeois press. By personally delivering all of our press releases, we get to see and talk with them regularly. They've all expressed interest in our efforts and one reporter even said that he thinks the SWP is a great party.

There are a number of reasons for our success in the area of publicity. First, our candidates are the first socialists to run for office in Worcester. They are also the first nineteen-year-olds ever to run in Worcester. These two factors combined have generated a lot of interest in our campaign.

Two other events have really spread the name of the SWP and our candidates. The day after Eric Poulos was announced as our first candidate for City Council, the City Clerk removed his name from the rolls of registered voters. He claimed that students living away from their parents cannot register to vote where they attend school. The Clerk's arbitrary, illegal decision

has added an important civil liberties aspect to our campaign. We are vigorously fighting this ruling and may soon go into federal court to get Eric's name restored to the voters' rolls.

Another of our candidates, Brent Farrand, spoke in a junior high school on May 4, at the invitation of a sympathetic teacher. As a result, the teacher was suspended and will soon have a school board hearing to consider firing him. This action generated considerable publicity and massive protests by high school students throughout Worcester. The day after the teacher was suspended, 500 junior high school students at his high school walked out of classes, and 300 of them marched down to the school board headquarters demanding the revoking of the suspension.

The hearing date will be the target of a mass rally. It is clear that a real mass high school movement is emerging in Worcester. We have cemented good relations with a number of high school and junior high school activists who support our campaign and have worked very closely with them in planning defense actions. We have also put out a position paper on high school rights which we are mass leafleting.

We consider the campaign to be a success already, even before it is completed. We are able to speak about revolutionary socialism to audiences we never would have reached before. We have begun to establish contacts throughout the city via the campaign. Recruitment gains should not be far behind. By the time the election is over, not only will we have new recruits, and many more contacts, but we will have established the SWP and the YSA as *the* socialist movement in Worcester.

**ALAN EINHORN**  
Worcester YSA



# young socialist the organizer

A BI-WEEKLY ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, A MULTINATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

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Address all correspondence to YSA, Box 471 Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003. **The Young Socialist Organizer** is published bi-weekly. The publication no longer uses second class postage and is mailed at a higher rate to insure delivery within the time supposedly allowed for second class material. Subscription rates to all non-YSA members are \$2.50 per year.

Vol. 14, No. 11

June 11, 1971

## The Column

The discussion bulletins in preparation for the upcoming convention of the Socialist Workers Party are available for the information of all YSA members. Notices of these bulletins are sent to all YSA locals and at-large members from the SWP National Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N. Y. 10014.

Locals should order enough copies of these bulletins so that all the members of the local can follow the written discussion that precedes the Party convention. Every YSA at-larger should also be sure to order these bulletins as they are made available.

The written SWP pre-convention discussion will assess the current stage of the radicalization in the U. S. and the growing mass movements. Following this discussion will be extremely educational and all YSAers should take advantage of the opportunity to read this material.

Comrades should also be aware that these bulletins are *only* available for YSA and SWP members. They should not be sold publicly or given to anyone who is not a member of the YSA.

\* \* \*

The following article by Pete Magee, an at-large YSAer in Webster, N. Y., is from a letter to the National Office:

A few friends and I have been trying to start an SMC in our high school. The trouble is our

principal. We made up some antiwar posters urging students to join the SMC, and asked permission from the principal to put them up. He refused and gave us excuses about antiwar activity causing fights among the students.

I was able to deliver an editorial over our school TV. It was a general condemnation of the war taken from the "Join the SMC" leaflet. Unfortunately parts of it were edited by the principal and he refused to allow us to announce a meeting of the SMC after school because we are not yet an officially authorized club.

In trying to become a recognized club we have met with the principal several times, but he continues to give us excuses such as that the taxpayers wouldn't like an SMC in the school. He also told us that our faculty sponsor isn't valid because he won't be teaching at our high school next year, although we know a number of teachers who would be willing to sponsor us next year.

We have met with the district supervisor of schools to see if he could overrule our principle, but he said he couldn't, although he seems sympathetic with our right to organize an SMC chapter. Right now, we feel we'll just have to bring more pressure on our principle in order to become a formally recognized club.

— EDITORS