

**young socialist**  
**the organizer**  
10-1-71

**“Confined in prison, covered with ignominy, branded as criminals, they are not defeated. They are destined to triumph. They are representatives of an idea that will crack the walls of every prison and crumble them into dust.”**

**James P. Cannon**



**ATTICA**

**20 cents**

## Recruitment Campaign and Houston Convention

"Building the YSA means above all recruitment."

The Organization Report to the YSA National Committee plenum held in July projected the largest campaign in our history to build the YSA. Reports on the Black, Chicano, antiwar, women's liberation, and high school movements outlined ambitious tasks and perspectives for the YSA's activity in these areas. The projections for the October 13, November 3, and November 6 antiwar actions and the November 20 abortion law repeal demonstration indicated the intense activity we expected to be involved in in the mass movements.

The massive subscription drive, the campaign to increase **Militant** and **ISR** bundle sales, the expansion of our regional work, and the support activity for the Socialist Workers Party presidential campaign, all projected at the YSA plenum, signified the interrelationship of our increased activity in the mass movements with the expansion of all our propaganda activity.

Central to all our activity is recruitment to the YSA. We view the successful construction of a mass revolutionary socialist youth organization and party capable of leading the American socialist revolution to victory as our key task from

which all else flows.

The YSA's history shows that we have contributed significantly to the construction of the revolutionary socialist movement over the last 10 years. Not only has the YSA emerged as the largest radical youth organization in the country, but it has consistently played a key role in building the revolutionary party in this country, the Socialist Workers Party. Literally hundreds of YSAers have joined the SWP and have gone on to devote their lives to the building of the revolutionary party. Our goal is to increase our size and strength as rapidly as possible and to continue playing a key role in building the SWP. This fall we have the opportunity to take a major step forward in that direction.

Winning the largest possible number of radicalizing youth to the YSA means that we must take not only an open attitude toward recruitment, but an aggressive one as well. All barriers to bringing the actual rate of recruitment into the closest correspondence with the objective possibilities facing us must be broken down. The greatest actual increase in membership will come about through rapidly recruiting the largest number of people, and then consciously involving them in different aspects of the work of the YSA, and

educating them in the ideas, traditions, and norms of our movement.

### RECRUITMENT AND CAMPAIGN '72

During the 1968 presidential campaign the YSA experienced a qualitative growth, both in membership and geographically. We more than doubled our membership and dozens of new locals were established throughout the country.

We expect to experience another qualitative expansion of our membership and number of locals during the Jenness-Pulley campaign—at least equal to the gains we experienced in 1968, i.e., doubling our membership. The recruitment drive launched at the YSA plenum in July was not projected to last simply for the duration of the fall offensive and culminate at the YSA convention in December. Rather, it was projected to last for the duration of the 1972 campaign and run parallel to it.

At the YSA convention in Houston, December 28 through January 1, we will assess the progress of this drive. Our aim for this fall should be to make significant strides toward the goal of doubling the size of the YSA by the end of the presidential campaign.

continued on the following page

## Convention Call

The National Committee hereby calls the Eleventh National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance to convene in Houston on Tuesday, December 28, 1971, and to continue through five days (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 29, 30, and 31, 1971, and January 1, 1972).

The following is the proposed agenda for the convention:

- International Report
- Political Report
- National Campaign Report
- High School Movement Report
- Black Struggle Report
- Women's Liberation Report
- Chicano Struggle Report
- Antiwar Report
- Organization Report
- Financial Report
- The Young Socialist Organizer Report**
- Election of the National Committee

### PRE-CONVENTION DISCUSSION

Written discussion will be opened with the publication of the first bulletin. The pre-convention discussion bulletin is open to all YSA members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the YSA. All material submitted to the pre-convention bulletin must be received in the National Office no later than December 14, 1971.

Local membership meetings shall be arranged for oral discussion of the various points on the agenda and may also be arranged for discussion of any of the articles submitted to the pre-convention discussion bulletin.

### CONVENTION ASSESSMENTS

A convention assessment of \$5.00 shall be levied to help cover the expenses of the convention, the payment of which is obligatory for every member.

### BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. Representation from the locals shall be as follows: one delegate for the first nine members and one additional delegate for each additional nine members or major fraction thereof (five or more constituting a major fraction).

2. Each local having five or more members is entitled to a voting delegate.

3. Delegates are to be elected by the locals in accordance with the actual number of mem-

bers in good standing who have been admitted to the YSA prior to December 14, 1971, and who have paid their convention assessments. "Good standing," according to our constitution (Article III, Section 5), is defined as follows: "Any member more than one month in arrears in dues ceases to be a member in good standing. Only members in good standing may vote or hold office in the YSA. Any member more than three months in arrears may be dropped after notification."

4. Locals organized after December 14, 1971, are entitled to send consultative delegates to the convention.

5. Members admitted to the YSA after December 14, 1971, are entitled to a voice in the local discussion, but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

6. Members must be present and voting in person at the meeting where the election of delegates takes place. The only exception is for members whose absence is for a substantial reason such as being sick or working, and who send an unambiguous written statement of their positions or delegate choices.

7. Members transferred from one local to another after December 14, 1971, must vote in the local from which they transferred.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

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

The table shows the modified proportional system to be followed if division occurs.

In the event that a unit undergoes a more than two-way division, that unit will elect delegates on a directly proportional basis, i.e., in a unit entitled to  $n$  delegates, at least  $1/n$  fraction of qualified members must have voted for a position for that position to get a delegate.

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

### NATIONAL COMMITTEE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

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

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

\*\* For example, in a unit of 14 qualified members, 1/3 of 14 equals 4-2/3 members; therefore a minimum of 5 (not 4) would get a delegate. If the unit had 21 qualified members, then 1/3 of 21 equals 7 members, so 7 voting minority members would be the minimum to get a delegate. The same consideration holds true for figuring all other fractions in the table.

This projection is seen to be quite modest when we examine the situation we find ourselves in today compared to our position in late 1967. Between 1967 and today lies a qualitative change in both the objective and subjective factors affecting the current radicalization and the possibilities of constructing a mass revolutionary socialist movement in this country. The radicalization has significantly deepened over this period, as dramatically illustrated most recently by the Attica revolt and the angry protest triggered across the nation by the vicious slaughter of the prisoners. The expansion of the activities and influence of the revolutionary socialist movement have experienced a parallel growth, putting us in the best possible position for maximizing our growth in the coming months.

The effect of the wage freeze and the challenges it poses were discussed in "Nixon's Wage Freeze and the Tasks of the YSA," in *The YS Organizer*, September 17.

Over 500 young socialists joined our movement during the fall offensive one year ago. This spring over 450 joined the YSA. This fall, especially considering the extensive preparations made for the fall offensive and Oberlin, the possibility of winning even greater numbers of youth to our ranks lies before us. Recent reports on several "Join the YSA" meetings held at schools which opened early are indicators of the potential.

### YSA CONVENTION

The upcoming YSA convention provides an additional vehicle for recruitment of hundreds of Jenness and Pulley supporters, antiwar, women's liberation, Black, and Brown activists. In the process of building the convention and organizing young socialists from across the country to attend the convention—through regional blitzes, speaking tours, massive paste-ups, roving YSA and YSJP literature tables, etc.—we will come in contact with thousands of students and bring them closer to the YSA.

The convention itself will be one of our best recruitment tools. At the convention activists can observe the YSA in action and get a thorough five-day condensed "educational" in revolutionary socialist politics. Last year one of the most exciting aspects of the convention was the daily report on the number of new members. More than 100 people were convinced to join the YSA during the YSA convention in New York last year.

The YSA plenum projected starting both the recruitment drive and the building of the YSA convention as early as possible this year. Already the first in a series of "Join the YSA" posters has been printed, and the second in that series will be out soon.

The convention has been officially called and the dates and site finalized. The first "Come to Houston" convention posters—in English and Spanish—are now being printed. Locals should place orders now for these posters so that they can be mailed out as soon as they are returned from the printer. The cost for these posters is only 7c each, so all locals should order plenty for thoroughly plastering the campuses.

In addition, a special folded leaflet urging activists to attend the YSA convention and giving all the necessary logistical information will be published soon by the National Office. The cost for these leaflets will be the same as for all our other folded leaflets—2c each for orders of 200 or more, or 3c each for less than 200.

The campaign to recruit new members to the YSA and build the convention will fill pages of *The Militant* until January. Gaining 30,000 new readers of *The Militant* and 6,000 of the *ISR*, in addition to reaching many thousands more through increased bundle sales, will play a crucial role in recruiting to the YSA and building the convention.

### CONVENTION-BUILDING TOURS

Following the completion of the fall organization tours, both Mirta Vidal and I will conduct special recruitment and convention-building tours through the South and Southwest. These tours are a first for the YSA and are designed to reach Black and Brown youth on campuses where there are no YSAers.

Each region will have important tasks to fulfill. The regional exchange speakers tours taking place following the November 20 actions should be organized not only to secure large honoraria, but also to reach out to new campuses, recruit to the YSA, and convince students that the thing to do over Christmas vacation is to go to the Young Socialist National Convention in Houston.

Each region should also begin planning huge mobilizations to build the YSA convention in an effort to reach every campus in every corner of the regions. If every YSAer in every region is organized to go on one or more special trips in the final weeks of school prior to the school break in December—armed with convention posters, recruitment posters, *Militants*, *ISRs*, YSA and YSJP literature, convention leaflets, information on transportation to Houston, and plenty of enthusiasm—then hundreds of activists can and will be brought into contact with the YSA, and many of them will decide to go to Houston and see the YSA for themselves.

The organization of the transportation to Houston should also begin early. Some regional centers are already looking into the various means of transportation, including chartering planes, trains, and buses.

### HOUSTON CONVENTION CENTER

Because of the tremendous amount of work involved in organizing a convention of this magnitude, and also because of the possibilities of significantly expanding our movement throughout the South and Southwest through holding the convention in Houston, the YSA National Office is establishing a Houston Convention Center, to be headed up on a full time basis by Jeannette Tracy. In addition to organizing the convention itself, she will be organizing convention-building activities throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma to ensure that the most gains are made from holding the convention in Houston.

Further suggestions on building the convention, reports from Houston, and full logistical information will appear in *The YS Organizer*.

### LOCAL ORGANIZATION

As in all of our work, the direction and leadership given by the local executive committee will be crucial for the success of the recruitment drive and convention building. Assignments of comrades to head up this work should be made if they have not been already. There should be regular reports and discussions in the executive committee and in the local on the progress of the recruitment drive and the convention building.

Regular reports on this work should be sent to the YSA N.O., and particularly interesting or successful projects should be written up for *The YS Organizer*. In addition, in order to be able to more closely follow the progress of YSA recruitment this fall, the N.O. will send every local a bundle of recruitment report forms. These forms should be filled out each week after the local business meeting by every local and regional organizer.

In all respects this fall promises to be the most exciting in the history of the YSA. Events since the Oberlin Conference, especially the open assault by the ruling class on the American workers and the Attica rebellion, indicate that we will be able to get out revolutionary ideas to broader layers of people than ever before and recruit them to our movement.

It is safe to predict that this fall the words of Hugo Blanco emblazoned on a banner at Oberlin will spring to life for thousands of revolutionary-minded youth in this country: "It is best to have been born in the age of permanent revolution."

**ON TO HOUSTON!!**

### NORMAN OLIVER

YSA National Organization Secretary

## Binghamton Recruitment Report

When the Binghamton local reassembled this fall, our first priority was recruiting to the YSA. Because of transfers out, graduations from college, etc., only four YSAers returned to Binghamton.

We decided to hold a "Join the YSA" meeting for incoming first year students. We produced an attractive leaflet to publicize the meeting, and also distributed a "Join the YSA" leaflet to all new students with our positions on all the major political issues.

About 100 persons attended the meeting, at which an hour long talk was given on our analysis of the current radicalization, our strategy for building the mass movements, and what the YSA is. The talk also took up many of the arguments raised by our opponents. The discussion lasted several hours, and afterwards six people asked to join. From follow-up work several more students have been recruited, and the local now stands at 17 members, with good potential for further growth.

### TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES

Once the new local had been formed, we held a Tasks and Perspectives discussion. Building the SMC, initiating an abortion coalition as well as continuing to participate in and build Binghamton Women's Liberation, and building the Young Socialists for Jenness and Pulley are our key political tasks. In addition, we plan to work with Arab students in a Palestine Solidarity Committee and seek campus support for an Angela Davis teach-in.

We also decided to hold weekly educational

classes and organize a biweekly campus forum series with both outside speakers and campus activists. We plan to publish a biweekly YSA newsletter to build meetings and other political events.

Our campus situation is generally excellent. Other than two PL-SDSers and a do-nothing ultra-left collective, the field is wide open to us. We are the largest political group on campus, known to all students, and have a real base in the political life on campus.

Many students are interested in working on the antiwar and abortion campaigns, and we expect to build massive participation in the fall actions.

**PETER GELLERT**  
Binghamton YSA

CONVENTION BUILDING MATERIALS		
LOCAL OR AT-LARGE AREA	_____	
ADDRESS	_____	
	NUMBER	COST
POSTER (ENGLISH)	_____	_____
POSTER (SPANISH)	_____	_____
FOLDED LEAFLET	_____	_____
TOTAL COST	_____	
ENCLOSED IS \$	_____	
____ PLEASE BILL US		
REMINDER: At-large YSAers, and locals that owe the National Office more than \$100, must include payment in full with orders.		

# Houston YSJP Plans

Youth in Houston will be looking more closely at elections now because of the 18 year old vote. What they see and do in relation to the elections will help shape their political consciousness and behavior during the coming period.

The '72 elections will provide the arena—through local, state, and national SWP campaigns—in which we will contest for the attention and adherence of young Houstonians to an independent, revolutionary socialist alternative to the Democrats and Republicans. The Young Socialists for Jenness and Pulley will be the vehicle through which we will attract youth to the SWP campaign.

In Houston we have a head start on our YSJP work. Interest has already been generated in our politics by the city campaign. While continuing to build youth support for the city campaign, we will now give youth supporters a national focus for their activity. The city campaign will provide opportunities for the YSJP to receive additional publicity, and until the city elections are over, a major area of work for the YSJPs will be to build support for the local SWP candidates by attending meetings with them, arranging speaking engagements, etc.

The campaign rally which we held at the University of Houston on September 7 is an example of the activities we can carry out to help establish YSJPs—and throughout the campaign. This rally was held on the steps in front of the student union at noon on the opening day of

school. Campaign workers staffed the campaign table and sold *The Militant* while the city candidates spoke. A crowd of 50-75 stood listening throughout the rally, while hundreds more passed by, saw the literature, and listened briefly. Seven people signed the campaign mailing list, and these people can be the basis of a YSJP on U of H.

We want to map out a whole campaign to build the YSJP this fall, keeping in mind that building the YSA convention will be an important activity for the YSJP.

The YSJP's major task in the antiwar and abortion law repeal movements will be to actively build participation in the mass actions this fall. In addition, YSJPs can organize forums relating our campaigns to the fall antiwar and abortion law repeal demonstrations. This can attract more people to the SWP campaign and to the YSJP, and it can educate YSJPs to our strategy for the mass movements.

The 18 year old vote and high school rights, especially as it concerns 18 year old office-holding and the right to organize antiwar and abortion law repeal activities in the high schools, will be a major focus of our activities in Houston high schools this fall. In addition, the Chicano community is beginning to struggle for community control of the high schools as is evidenced by the high school boycott. The YSJP can play a role in supporting this struggle and introducing our ideas and candidates to its participants.

YSJPs can help build support for the cam-

paigned by selling the campaign newspaper, *The Militant*, and the *ISR*—both in sub blitzes and in regular bundle sales. This will, of course, be important in making our sub drive and spreading ideas about the campaign and will also be good experience for the YSJPs.

This fall we will attempt to organize YSJPs on the four main campuses in Houston. These YSJPs will be organizing a variety of activities, including distribution of campaign literature, selling buttons and T-shirts, setting up campaign literature tables, etc. They will also sell *Militants* and subs, do fund raising for the campaign, organize forum series, arrange speaking engagements for Andrew Pulley and Cindy Jaquith, and in general popularize the slogan "Make Your First Vote Count—Vote Socialist Workers in '72."

We do not intend to limit our activities to just Houston, however. In conjunction with the Austin YSJP and the regional committee, we want to build YSJPs in areas where we have at-large YSAers and contacts. This will be a necessary part of our regional expansion plans and will aid in our other regional work, such as regional sub blitzes, the regional antiwar demonstration, and convention building.

**DAVID ROSSI**  
Houston YSA

# Midwest Regional Work

In the last year the YSA has been moving from a rather abstract conception of regional work as something separate from the real activity of our movement—putting a YSAer in a car with some literature and sending him or her out on the road for two or three weeks—to an understanding that regional work really means carrying out all our YSA-building and mass movement-building activities on a regional basis just as we carry out these activities on a national and local basis. From our experiences in the Midwest last spring I want to outline some of the lessons we have learned about regional work.

There are four basic keys to successful regional work. First is having a regional committee in the center local that is on top of the situation in the entire region—that knows what the activities of the locals and at-large YSAers in the field are, what specific problems they may have, what opponents they have to deal with, what new areas are most promising for recruitment, etc. A necessary prerequisite for this is outlying locals regularly sending in the minutes of their local, executive committee, and fraction meetings, as well as reports on particular campaigns or actions they have carried out. In addition, local financial and sales directors should xerox the monthly report forms sent out by the YSA National Office and *The Militant* Business Office and send a copy to the regional center.

Another way the center stays in touch with the situation in the field is through regular tours by the regional organizer. We found that it is best for the regional organizer to spend at least five days in each local to get a full picture of the local's situation—working with the YSAers, attending local, executive committee, and fraction meetings, consulting with the local leadership on any problems which arise, etc. In a way the regional organizer must be a one-person executive committee; he or she must be fully acquainted with all areas of YSA work, internal and external. The regional organizer has to function as an organizer, an educator, and a public spokesperson. He or she must have a working knowledge of our financial norms and be able to help the local financial director in working out a budget and setting up books. I also tried to set aside one day in each area for visiting professors as a Pathfinder representative.

The second basic point on regional work is the importance of making the center local conscious of the regional aspect of YSA-building. This can be done through regular informational reports to the local concerning the growth of the YSA in the region, and through such visual aids as maps, tour schedules, and fund drive and sub

drive progress charts displayed in a prominent place in the hall. Sending YSAers not regularly assigned to regional work on regional trips periodically can also help in this regard.

The third point is that this region-building consciousness has to be extended to the locals and at-large YSAers in the field. In order to cut across the feeling of isolation which almost inevitably develops in a small local hundreds of miles from a center, the monthly regional meetings and regular tours are a must. Through regional meetings involving not simply one YSAer from each local but all exec members and as many other YSAers as could attend from each area, we have begun to develop in the Midwest a real regional leadership team. The monthly meetings we held last spring saw lively discussions on all aspects of our work in building the YSA in the Midwest region. We want to continue and deepen this process this fall.

Having the region as a whole financially responsible for regional work helps to make YSAers in the field more conscious of their role in building the region. We also want to include in the concept of region-building the importance of leading YSAers in the field transferring into the center local. This plays a dual role, both strengthening the center local and giving more YSAers in the locals in the field an opportunity to develop into leaders of their local.

The fourth and final point is the importance of organizing our internal campaigns and our work in the mass movements on a regional scale. The 1972 SWP campaign offers an unprecedented opportunity to reach out to new areas and recruit to the YSA on a massive scale. Regionally coordinated campaign tours, some kind of regional activity of the Young Socialists for Jenness and Pulley, and the ballot fights in many states are just some of the many ways the campaign can be used to build the YSA regionally.

In the mass movements it will be important for the offices in the center to have staff members assigned to regional outreach. This will be especially key in building the November 6 regional antiwar actions. We also project in the Midwest having a YSAer from each of the mass movement fractions—antiwar, women's liberation, Black, Latino—assigned to the regional committees.

The regional exchange tours will be key for making the fund drive this fall, and regional sub teams will help toward both making the sub drive and establishing many new contacts in areas where we do not as yet have locals or YSAers.

If these four points are kept in mind by YSAers doing regional work, we can continue to move

forward confidently to the time when no major campus or city in the country will be without a functioning local of the Young Socialist Alliance.

**FRED MURPHY**  
Chicago YSA

*Editor's Note: The following report by the Midwest regional traveler is reprinted from the regional newsletter, The Midwest Organizer.*

At the University of Missouri in Columbus, Missouri, I sold my entire bundle of 40 *Militants* in one afternoon—three and a half hours—and am quite sure I could have sold 100 more. I kept a mailing list and gave out SWP campaign literature, WONAAC leaflets, and "Join the YSA" brochures. The students were very receptive. I ran into some local women activists while selling *The Militant* who had not yet heard of the abortion repeal campaign. They were particularly impressed with the paper and promised to get in touch with WONAAC.

One point should be made about selling *The Militant* on a new campus: The first day I was there *The Militant* bundle had not arrived, and all I had were about 70 of *The Militant* poster strips. I took a stapler and plastered them all over the campus. I sold three or four back issues to people who asked me about the paper and gave out a dozen sub blanks to people who wanted to subscribe "sight unseen." The students I sold to the next day had seen the posters around and remarked about how good it would be to have a national radical paper on the campus.

I was somewhat apprehensive at first about selling the wage freeze issue on a campus and thought that the cover might hamper sales. The opposite was the case. Aside from the *Militants* that I sold in front of the campus bookstore, where the largest concentration of students were, I sold eight or nine after a class on "Twentieth Century America." A good line was, "Read about the largest socialist campaign in 50 years!" I sold most of these papers to women. They were in the majority not involved in women's liberation or the antiwar movement but were nevertheless quite impressed with the fact that we were running a woman for president and had a good program for women's liberation.

We now have a number of close contacts at UMC. The key to recruiting them will be a good "Join the YSA" meeting on that campus. I'm sure the situation there is typical of every other large state university in the Midwest where we don't yet have a local.

**MARK LAUSE**  
Chicago YSA

# Defend the Attica Prisoners!

As more of the facts about the slaughter at Attica become known, revulsion at the deceit and treachery of the government increases. Officials stated that the invasion of the cellblock held by the rebellious prisoners was carried out in order to "save" the hostages and, moreover, that the hostages who were killed during the attack died at the hands of the prisoners. Within twenty-four hours it was verified that not only were 31 prisoners shot down and murdered by the invading troops, but every single hostage who died as well.

The fact that top ruling circles were so obviously complicit in the slaughter, including Nixon and Rockefeller, has prompted immediate links between Attica and other government-executed murders at Kent, Jackson, and Mylai. The step-by-step complicity of high government officials also underscores the seriousness with which they viewed the rebellion, as well as their determination to make an example of the Attica rebels to other prisoners across the country.

Reporters and columnists from the bourgeois press, including Tom Wicker of *The New York Times*, are writing of the horrors they witnessed at Attica—in obvious sympathy with the prisoners and their struggle.

Already mass meetings and actions demanding that the truth about Attica be uncovered and amnesty for the prisoners granted are mounting on campuses in the East and Midwest.

The key task now in response to this slaughter is to expose the lies, treachery, and complicity of the prison officials and the government, and to get the truth out about Attica. A campaign to counter the propaganda aimed at indicting the prisoners must be launched. Almost unnoticed in the time since the attack has been the discrete removal of hundreds of Attica prisoners under the pretense of "easing the overcrowding." In reality the rebels are being dispersed to other prisons so it will be easier to victimize them. And in order to pacify public outrage, Rockefeller has organized a commission to investigate the massacre. It has not escaped notice, however, that this commission, appointed by the man who ordered the massacre, is a mockery of justice and is simply designed to whitewash the government atrocity. Our response has been to attempt to initiate an independent citizens' investigating commission which would have the sponsorship of many prominent individuals and organizations and which could seriously counterpose its investigation to that of Rockefeller's handpicked "official" commission.

Throughout the country the YSA should immediately launch an emergency campaign in de-

fense of the Attica prisoners. Teach-ins, or speak-outs, organized with the widest possible support, should take place in every local and at-large area. Below is a statement by the YSA National Executive Committee that briefly explains our perspective on how the student movement can best respond to the Attica massacre and defend the prisoners. The NEC statement can be used, either directly or as a guideline, for writing leaflets, articles for campus newspapers, etc., in the name of the YSA.

In areas where the YSA has already initiated mass meetings the response has been excellent. Black and Puerto Rican organizations are extremely anxious to act in protest of the slayings and can be drawn into sponsorship and the active building of these teach-ins.

These meetings, planned and organized with Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and Native American organizations in particular, should focus on the central concept of getting out the truth about Attica. While these teach-ins will take place mainly on the campuses, we should investigate every possibility of organizing meetings of this type in the high schools as well. At this time, these mass meetings are the way in which the greatest opposition to the slaughter at Attica, and to any further victimizations of the Attica prisoners or any other prisoners across the country, can be expressed.

In many areas it may be possible to organize and build significant actions—in some cases the teach-ins may project an action in protest of the Attica massacre. Along with the demand that the truth about Attica be revealed, the demand of "Amnesty for the Attica Prisoners—No More Victimizations!" can be put forward as well. The central focus of the campaign, however, must be to expose the lies and to get out the truth to the largest number of people.

Chapters of the Young Socialists for Jenness and Pulley should actively build these meetings, distributing campaign material, particularly Andrew Pulley's statement on the Attica massacre. YSJP chapters should also invite announced state and local candidates of the SWP to speak at the defense meetings, rallies, and other actions. In addition, YSJPers can help organize tours of local prisons for SWP candidates and, if this right is denied the SWP candidates, help build protest actions.

Another aspect of this emergency national campaign is the increased sales of *The Militant* during this period. *The Militant* is the only national newspaper which will get out the truth about Attica in order to counter the propaganda of

the bourgeois media.

Most *Militant* bundles were increased significantly since the campaign began to get *The Militant's* coverage of the wage-freeze into the hands of thousands of workers. The upcoming issues of *The Militant* will continue to cover Nixon's assault upon the American workers through the imposition of the wage-freeze and will feature coverage of the Attica events. Thousands of workers who bought the last two issues of *The Militant* will be interested to read what it has to say about the Attica slaughter.

We want to continue to increase sales of *The Militant* on the campuses and in the high schools. Large sales of the upcoming issues of *The Militant* will be an excellent way to continue to expand the circulation of the paper and will be another major step forward in our current campaign to increase the bundle sales of *The Militant*. Increased sales of the upcoming issues of *The Militant* will make it easier to gain 30,000 new readers through the sub drive as well.

Finally, the YSA National Office is in the process of publishing a button and poster in commemoration of the Attica massacre. The poster will be a quote from the September 9 statement of the Attica prisoners ("We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such . . . What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed.") over a picture of the prisoners defending a cellblock hallway. The button will simply say "Mylai, Kent, Jackson, Attica." Both will be available shortly so all locals and at-large members should place their orders right away. The buttons will cost 25¢ each for orders under 20, and 15¢ each for orders of 20 or more. The posters will cost 50¢ for orders under 10, and 25¢ each for orders of 10 or more.

Locals and at-large YSAers should send in articles covering actions in defense of Attica to *The Militant*. It is also very important that the YSA National Office receive regular reports from all locals and at-large YSAers on the progress of this campaign, plans for the teach-ins, demonstrations, and sales of *The Militant*. Reports on nationwide activity which YSAers are carrying out around this campaign will appear in *The Young Socialist Organizer*.

FRANK BOEHM  
YSA National Chairman

## National Executive Committee Statement

The Young Socialist Alliance strongly condemns the murderous assault on the Attica prisoners. The slaughter was a calculated decision from the highest circles of the government. Preparations were made days in advance to use overwhelming firepower against men armed with clubs.

This was the answer of those in power to prisoners—and to all others—who dare assert their humanity, and the fact that the overwhelming majority of prisoners were Black and Puerto Rican further enraged the racist rulers and their henchmen.

The real criminals are those like Rockefeller, who ordered the attack, and Nixon, who applauded it. It is these men who are the beneficiaries of and the defenders of the capitalist system that wages aggressive wars abroad, such as in Southeast Asia, and at home creates unemployment, denies people even the pitifully insufficient dole known as "welfare," cages them like animals when they choose the only course open to them, and then murders them when they dare protest.

The slaughter at Attica must not go unanswered! The calculated brutality used was not aimed only at quelling the rebellious prisoners, but was also meant as a warning to all who would resist the present order. The same attacks on "militants," "outside forces," and revolutionaries which were levelled by Rockefeller have been used against the Black, Chicano, labor, antiwar, women's, and student movements in the past, and will undoubtedly be used again in the future.

The assault on the Attica prisoners was encouraged

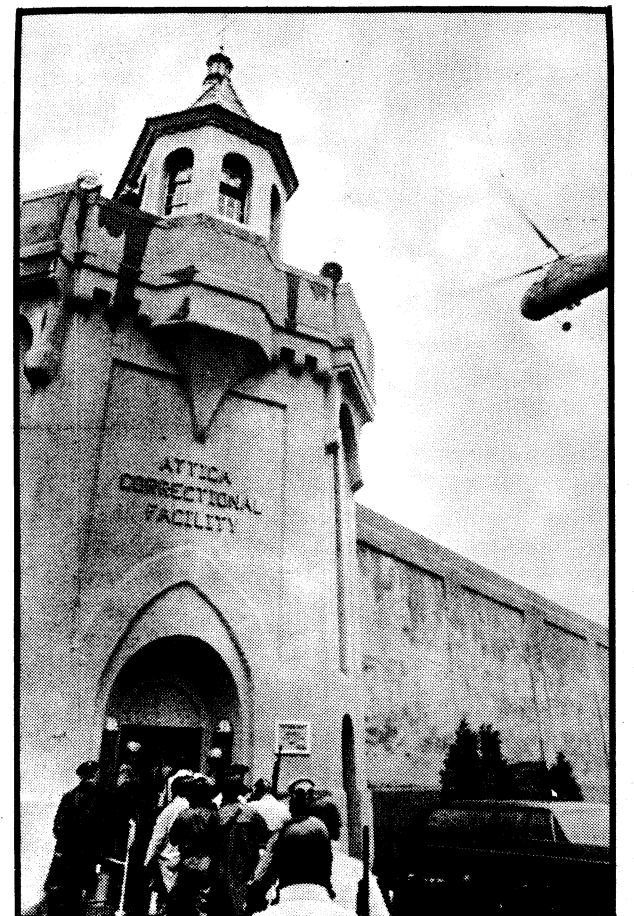
and supported by every racist and reactionary. It was the type of action designed to serve as a rallying point for these forces and to create a climate of fear and intimidation aimed at those who dissent, in whatever form, from the government and its policies.

A massive united defense of the Attica prisoners must now be mounted. Attempts to victimize activists in all social movements through police frame-ups is standard practice throughout the U.S. and must be fought. An injury to one is an injury to all!

The Young Socialist Alliance calls upon all youth to act together in behalf of the Attica prisoners. The commission chosen by Rockefeller to conduct the "official" investigation into the slaughter is a farce. The same man who ordered the massacre has selected troops who faithfully executed his order to conduct the "impartial inquiry." In order to uncover the facts of Attica and expose the treacherous complicity of the government, we urge that an independent citizens' investigation be made. In addition, it is imperative that teach-ins to get out the truth about Attica to masses of American people be organized on campuses, high schools, and in the communities throughout the country along with meetings and demonstrations of solidarity with the Attica prisoners.

Amnesty for the Attica Prisoners--No More Victimizations!

Support the Struggle for Prisoners' Rights--No More Atticas!



UPI Photo

# Response to Attica Massacre --New York

In the aftermath of the Attica slaughter Rockefeller and other liberals are asking for general prison reforms while the mass media are playing up the deaths of the hostages and playing down the murders of the inmates. Rockefeller, caught in a series of lies, has handpicked an investigating committee to try to whitewash the criminal actions of the state. It is necessary to uncover the truth about Attica and expose the murderous role of the Rockefeller administration.

Many demonstrations and protest teach-ins have been organized in New York City, and the YSA is participating actively in this work. On Saturday, September 18, a memorial demonstration was held in Harlem, sponsored by over 50 Black, Asian-American, and Puerto Rican organizations, including Black Student Unions, the Young Lords Party, Harlem CORE, and the United Front of Cairo. The demonstration featured eyewitness accounts of the massacre and relatives of the Attica rebels. Over 3,000 Blacks, Asian-Americans, and Puerto Ricans joined in two feeder marches to the rally site at 125 Street and Broadway.

The united front response to the massacre has the potential of continuing to mobilize masses of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Asian-Americans in defense of the rebels now under threat of harsh reprisals by the New York State authorities. The accounts now appearing in *The New York Times* and other papers about the atrocities committed after Cellblock D was stormed by state troopers and National Guardsmen—prisoners were systematically beaten, and some were shot in the back while lying face down on the ground with their hands behind their heads—will further out-

rage masses of radicalizing youth.

The formation of a united front and the mobilization of the Black, Puerto Rican, and Asian-American communities is a major step forward in the nationalist struggles in this country. One of the most important steps that could develop out of this initial action is the formation of a commission of inquiry based in the Black community that can uncover the facts about what happened in Attica and totally expose the role of Rockefeller and the state authorities.

By participating in the united front and putting forward our perspective we can help initiate the formation of such a commission. It is important that any move toward establishing a commission of inquiry be supported by a large number of the organizations representing the sentiments of the Black and Brown people in this city if it is to be effective in defending the prisoners.

A meeting is now being organized with representatives of the antiwar, women's liberation, student, civil rights, and prisoner organizations to protest the massacre and to discuss the formation of an ongoing committee to defend and publicize the truth about Attica. The ability to form such a committee will depend in large part on the lead the Black and Puerto Rican communities take in initiating and organizing the defense of the Attica prisoners.

On the campuses the YSA has already started to organize protest teach-ins along with the Black Student Unions, Puerto Rican Student Unions, student governments, professors, and other student organizations. The first such teach-in took place at Cooper Union, a small college in lower Manhattan, where a representative of the Black

Task Force of NPAC, a spokesperson for Young Socialists for Jenness and Pulley, a professor, and a representative of student government addressed the meeting.

During the week following the mass demonstration in Harlem, teach-ins will be organized at Brooklyn College, Queens College, New York University, and Stuyvesant High School.

The New York SWP campaign will provide an excellent opportunity for publicizing the events in Attica and building support for a broadbased investigating committee. The candidates will speak in schools and at public meetings. B. R. Washington, SWP candidate for congress in the 18th C. D. in Harlem, will speak to students on campuses across the state during his regional tour this fall.

The sale of *The Militant*, with its special coverage of the Attica rebellion, will be an important part of our effort to build support for an investigating committee and to expose the Rockefeller administration. All the New York YSA locals and SWP branches have bundles of the special Attica issue that are practically the size of their bundles of the first wage freeze issue. Over 350 copies were sold at the demonstration in Harlem, along with dozens of copies of *A Transitional Program for Black Liberation* and other pamphlets. The sales campaign will continue during the week on the campuses.

**BOB ROWAND**  
Lower Manhattan YSA

## --Chicago

Coming on the heels of the indictment of State's Attorney Hanrahan, the murderous attack of the New York State police on the prisoners at Attica is bound to have tremendous repercussions on the Black community of Chicago. The murder of George Jackson at San Quentin, the reopening of the Hanrahan case, and the increasing consciousness of Black and Chicano people over the defense of the Black community in Cairo, Illinois, have all served to deepen the militancy and nationalist sentiment of the Black community in Chicago. The events at Attica will undoubtedly intensify this sentiment and help it to reach explosive proportions.

The Chicago YSA has responded to the revolt at Attica with a massive propaganda campaign aimed at the Black community. Our activities will have two focuses: 1) The increased sales of our press in the Black community. One thousand copies of the special Attica issue of *The Militant* have been ordered by the Chicago YSA and SWP and will be sold at such places as SCLC Breadbasket, shopping centers in the Black and Chicano communities, and at political events in the Black and Chicano communities. These sales

can play a major role in familiarizing people with our press and explaining to them our analysis of the events taking place in America's prisons.

2) A special Militant Labor Forum is planned by the SWP for Friday, September 24, dealing with the events at Attica. Speakers at the forum will include Rev. Reddick of Operation Breadbasket-SCLC, Samuel X of *Muhammad Speaks*, and Fred Halstead of the SWP.

This forum has the potential of significantly building the defense of the Attica prisoners by getting out the truth about Attica to a large number of people. We expect that it will attract dozens of Black and Latino militants. For many of them, this will be their first contact with our movement and our ideas.

The YSA is making a special effort to build this forum as large as possible. We will be leafletting Black and Chicano high schools with forum materials as well as personally contacting every Black and Latino activist we know.

The forum, combined with our work in relation to the Hanrahan trial and our defense of the Cairo United Front, can mark the turning

point in our Black work.

A clear indication of the reaction to Attica has been the call for a mass rally and picket line on October 2 at the Cook County Jail. The rally was called by a meeting involving the Black Panthers, People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, Chicago Peace Action Coalition, SMC, a prison reform group, YSA, and SWP. This rally will give us the opportunity to help mobilize a sizable part of the Black community into action around the defense of prisoners under attack by the government.

If other YSA locals around the country actively build similar campaigns in support of the Attica prisoners, it can not only significantly aid in the defense of the prisoners but can be a boost to our work in the Black and Latino struggles nationally.

**PETER ARCHER**  
Chicago YSA

## --Binghamton

On Monday evening, September 13, Binghamton YSAers attended a planning meeting for a proposed demonstration in defense of the Attica prisoners on Thursday, September 16.

The meeting was attended by over 100 students—activists from the BSU, SMC, Women's Liberation, SDS, PROBE (a local prison reform organization), and YSA. After discussing several possible courses of action—holding a demonstration, calling a student strike—the meeting decided to call for a mass meeting on Tuesday at noon on the campus and to immediately begin building a mass demonstration in Binghamton.

The leaflet for the demonstration raised four demands:

"1) Commissioner Oswald's resignation on the grounds of incompetency, inhumanity and dishonesty.

"2) Amnesty: no administrative or physical retaliation against prisoners.

"3) No transfers of prisoners to hide the mis-

carriage of justice in the aftermath.

"4) A complete public transcript of all proceedings of Attica negotiations to be released immediately and public hearings to be held on the post-rebellion 'justice'."

At the mass meeting on Tuesday, which was attended by over 300 students, the overwhelming sentiment expressed was that all work should center on building the demonstration, as opposed to ultraleft proposals to "shut down Binghamton" through civil disobedience. It was also decided that a student strike was not feasible.

A PL-SDSer on campus had in the meantime called for a sit-in at the president's office to demand that he call off school. This action received minimum support and further isolated SDS.

With two days to build the demonstration, we organized the most massive publicity job on campus since the Cambodia strike. We flooded the campus with thousands of leaflets, over 100 posters, huge banners, etc. In the community we dis-

tributed over 15,000 leaflets and received extensive press coverage.

The demonstration itself received broad support from a coalition of different groups. The NAACP, Urban League, PROBE, Opportunities for Broome (a local antipoverty agency), Women's Liberation, SMC, and the YSJP were among the groups that had speakers at the rally. It was a spirited, militant demonstration of over 300 people, mainly Binghamton students.

YSAers were involved in all aspects of the action, from the initial planning to the campus publicity to speaking at and chairing the rally. We played a leadership role from the very beginning, and were able to develop a good working relationship with activists in the Black Student Union.

**PETER GELLERT**  
Binghamton YSA

# Fund Drive Quotas Near \$46,000

At the end of the third week of the fall fund drive, \$45,950 has already been pledged by locals—almost \$1,000 over our \$45,000 goal!

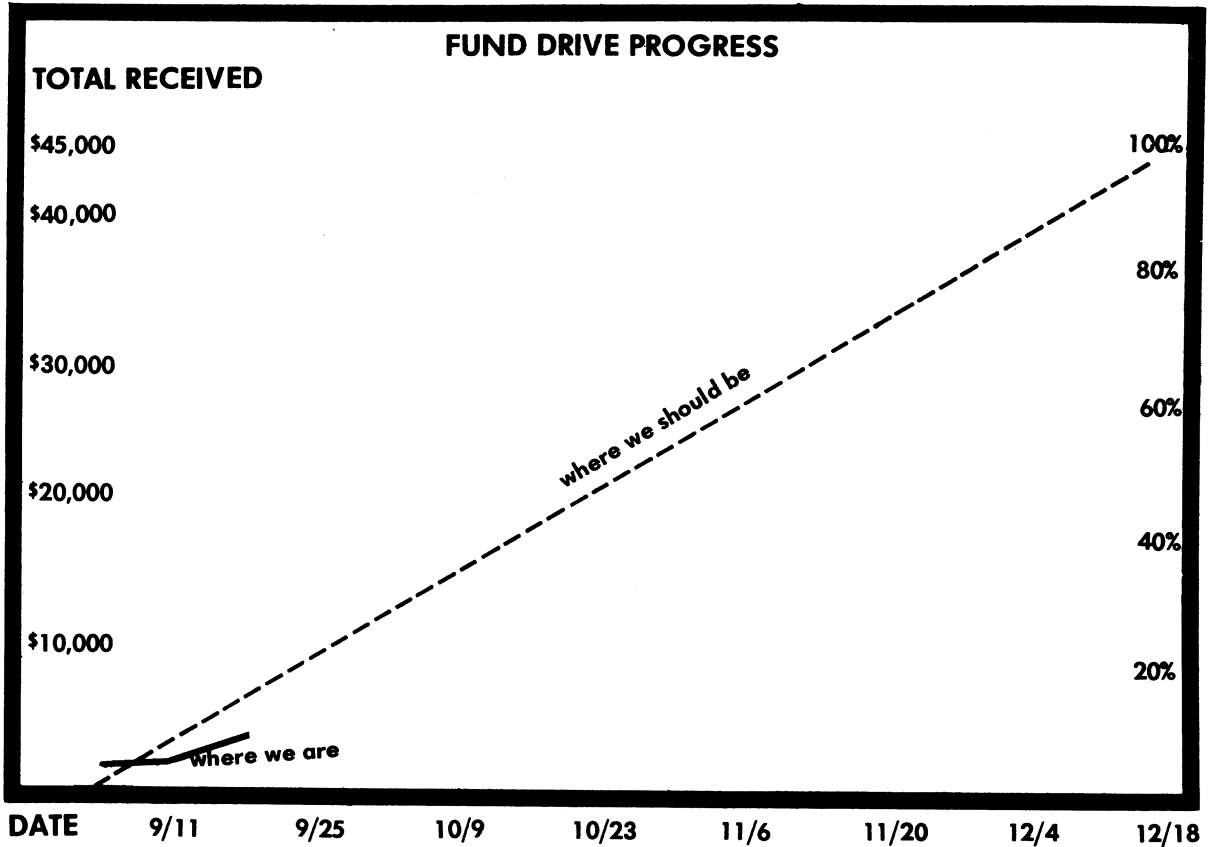
The Oakland/Berkeley local has increased its quota to \$3,600—a jump of \$900—because a number of transfers in have significantly increased the size of the local. At the same time the Philadelphia local has lowered its quota to \$1,800 because of a large number of YSAers either transferring out or graduating.

The Durham, N. H., local has been dissolved, and the remaining YSAers in Durham will make pledges toward the at-large quota. A local has been reconstituted in Paterson, N. J., with a fund drive quota of \$150. The net result of all these changes is a \$500 increase in the total national quota in the last week.

The main task now for all locals and at-large YSAers is to send in regular payments to the National Office. We should have reached the 13 percent mark, but in the last week we have only gone from 5 percent to 7 percent paid. This situation must be turned around early in the fund drive.

A major part of the local Tasks and Perspectives reports that are now being discussed deals with local finances. In a number of areas separate financial T and Ps are being given. These reports should include budget projections through the end of the fund drive (December 18). The fall fund drive should be included as a part of each month's expenses—not in a separate budget. The financing of our national organization is an integral part of local finances. In an upcoming issue of *The YS Organizer* we hope to print a local financial T and P.

If locals carefully plan out their finances for the fall, taking into consideration their expected growth through recruitment, there is no reason to fall behind schedule. The National Office should be receiving checks every week until December 18 from every local in the country. This is crucial if we are to stay current with the fund drive.



DATE	9/11	9/25	10/9	10/23	11/6	11/20	12/4	12/18
<b>MIDWEST</b>		5,850	400	7	(ORANGE)			(1)
CHICAGO		3,600	400	11				
KANSAS CITY		700	0	0	<b>TOTAL AT-LARGE</b>	1,200	204.27	17
MADISON		500	0	0	<b>TOTAL</b>	45,950	3,061.92	7
BLOOMINGTON		375	0	0	<b>SHOULD BE</b>		5,850	13
DEKALB		375	0	0				
MILWAUKEE		300	0	0				
(KENOSHA, WISC.)			(42.50)					
(ST. LOUIS, MO.)			(24)					
(FT. WAYNE, IND.)			(2)					

SCOREBOARD COMPILED SEPTEMBER 18, 1971

## LOUISE GOODMAN YSA National Office

### FALL FUND DRIVE SCOREBOARD

REGION AND LOCAL	QUOTA	PAID	%
<b>MARYLAND/VIRGINIA</b>	1,800	450	25
WASHINGTON D.C.	1,800	450	25
(CRISFIELD, MD.)		(21)	
(COLUMBIA, MD.)		(3.50)	
(RICHMOND, VA.)		(1.49)	
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	2,650	350.50	13
ATLANTA	1,400	320	23
KNOXVILLE	200	28.50	14
JACKSONVILLE	200	1	0
TAMPA	300	0	0
TALLAHASSEE	250	0	0
GAINESVILLE	150	1	0
NASHVILLE	150	0	0
(CHAPEL HILL, N.C.)		(0.50)	
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN</b>	1,500	188	13
DENVER	1,000	188	19
BOULDER	250	0	0
LOGAN	250	0	0
<b>OHIO/KENTUCKY</b>	2,550	260	10
CLEVELAND	2,250	250	11
EDINBORO	150	10	7
OXFORD	150	0	0
(LOUISA, KY.)		(1.50)	
<b>TEXAS/LA./OKLAHOMA</b>	2,300	210	9
HOUSTON	1,300	125	10
AUSTIN	850	85	10
SAN ANTONIO	150	0	0
<b>UPPER MIDWEST</b>	2,300	200	9
TWIN CITIES	2,300	200	9
(MADISON, S.D.)		(4)	

<b>NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY</b>	5,750	302	5
BROOKLYN	1,700	102	6
LOWER MANHATTAN	1,700	100	6
UPPER WEST SIDE	1,700	100	6
LONG ISLAND	350	0	0
BINGHAMTON	150	0	0
PATERSON	150	0	0
(NEW LONDON, CONN.)		(2)	
(WEBSTER, N.Y.)		(1.05)	
(MANCHESTER, CONN.)		(1)	
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	3,050	175	6
DETROIT	2,600	175	7
ANN ARBOR	300	0	0
EAST LANSING	150	0	0
(GRAND RAPIDS)		(21.75)	
(FLINT)		(0.50)	
<b>PACIFIC NORTHWEST</b>	1,650	60	4
PORTLAND	500	60	12
SEATTLE	1,000	0	0
EUGENE, ORE.	150	0	0
(PULLMAN, WASH.)		(1.50)	
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	4,500	153.15	3
WORCESTER	600	141.15	24
CAMBRIDGE	1,750	12	1
BOSTON	1,750	0	0
PROVIDENCE	400	0	0
(N. ANDOVER, MASS.)		(10.98)	
(PLYMOUTH, MASS.)		(7)	
<b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>	5,600	100	2
SAN FRANCISCO	2,000	100	5
OAKLAND/BERKELEY	3,600	0	0
(MODESTO)		(4.50)	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	1,800	9	0
PHILADELPHIA	1,800	9	0
(STATE COLLEGE)		(52)	
<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>	3,450	0	0
LOS ANGELES	2,550	0	0
SAN DIEGO	600	0	0
CLAREMONT	150	0	0
TUCSON	150	0	0

## Michigan Regional Finances

A crucial area of YSA regional work that must be strengthened is regional finances. Our plans for expanded regional work this fall in connection with the 1972 SWP campaign—for example, the projection of having both a full time organizer and a full time traveler in every region—will require a strong regional financial base.

The importance that we place on regional finances, and on regional work in general, is shown by the fact that strengthening regional finances is a major focus of the fall financial campaign.

The Michigan YSA regional committee assessed its financial situation after the July YSA plenum and drew up a budget for regional work for the entire fall—August through December. Expenditures for this period were projected to total nearly \$2,000. This includes \$1,100 for organizing, \$505 for travel, \$262 for phone, and \$110 for office expenses. We consider this a *minimum* budget, since it does not include funding a regional traveler.

We expect to receive income from five major sources. The first is regional dues. All of the YSAers in Michigan have agreed to pay voluntary regional dues of \$1.50 per month to the regional office. The locals are responsible for collecting these dues from their members and

sending them in. At-large YSAers will also send in dues.

Each local and at-large area has pledged a weekly sustainer to regional work out of its regular local income from sustainers, fund raising, etc. The amount of this sustainer varies, but we are planning to reach a level of \$1.25 per member per week.

In addition to setting this general goal, we have established definite totals that we expect to receive from each existing local and at-large area over the fall, in the form of a regional fund drive. In this way the entire Michigan YSA has a clear picture of what the financial requirements are for regional work, and locals and at-large areas can budget in advance how they will meet their regional financial obligations.

The regional fund drive quotas were established in consultation with the YSAers from each local and at-large area, and local finances will be geared toward meeting both the regional and the national quotas, as well as all local expenses. We see this regional fund drive as an experiment designed to help stabilize regional finances.

A third source of income for our regional work is a regular contribution from the Detroit SWP. Although this subsidy was necessary for a time,

we have planned our budget with the intention of eliminating it as rapidly as possible.

We also expect income from two other sources, a Michigan Socialist Educational Conference this fall and the Socialist Speakers Bureau. We did not include this income in our budget for covering regular operating expenses because we could not reasonably estimate how great it would be. We plan to use this additional income—which may be quite large—to 1) reduce the contribution from the Detroit SWP, and 2) initiate a fund for putting a regional traveler on the road as soon as possible.

A regional budget will not work, of course, unless the regional committee has finances that are completely separate from YSA local finances. *All* income and expenditures for regional work should go through the regional receipt book, the regional checkbook, and the regional ledger. If this is not the case, it becomes very difficult to make financial projections or even know what the financial needs of regional work are.

**TOM VERNIER**  
Detroit YSA

## More Campus Blitzes

As part of the tasks and perspectives of the Boston area YSA we projected a massive blitz campaign covering all of New England. Prior to the opening of the New England campuses and high schools we mapped out exactly what we had to do and obtained the dates of registration for the major schools in the region.

We plan to hit about 30 colleges and eight major high schools and have worked out blitz teams composed of at least five people each. A special effort has been made to draw independents into this campaign. Each person on the team is assigned to a particular area of work—this includes setting up an antiwar table, an abortion coalition table, a YSA and Pathfinder table, and a *Militant* table. In addition, we have people selling *Militants* and subs, a person distributing SMC leaflets, another handing out leaflets on the YSJP, and one more distributing abortion coalition leaflets.

The blitz teams usually go out for the entire day, and YSAers who cannot do this because of jobs will be leafleting and selling *Militants* at high schools before work as part of our blitz operation. The blitzes are being organized on a citywide basis with the Boston headquarters as the center. The New England locals outside Boston are taking responsibility for the schools near them, and the regional center will cover the rest.

Each team has a team captain and is organized as far in advance as possible. In addition to the tasks outlined above, each team investi-

gates the political life of the campus and the openings we might be able to take advantage of. The team captain must fill out a report form answering such questions as: What political organizations are there on campus?; What opponents?; Key contacts made (for all areas of work); Size and composition of the school; Prospects for a *Militant* blitz through the dorms; Prospects for a speaker from our YSA speakers bureau; Fund raising prospects. By compiling this information we can better coordinate our regional work, set up YSJPs, meet the sub and fund drives, build the SMC and the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition, and get out the name of the YSA to thousands of students.

**MARK FRIEDMAN**  
Boston YSA

San Francisco City College is an industrial trade school with 16,000 students. It is 70 percent Third World and just within the last year has begun to come to life politically.

This fall the SF City College fraction of seven YSAers conducted an intensive intervention in the three days of registration, concentrating on four areas. We worked with the campus SMC in setting up a literature table; we worked with the San Francisco Women's Abortion Coalition in setting up a literature table; we set up a YSA and SWP

campaign table; and we sold *Militants*.

Campus registration blitzes should not be left entirely up to campus fractions, and we geared the entire local into the intervention. We signed up YSAers to sell *Militants* and to sit at literature tables, plus we called contacts and supporters of the YSA to help in the work.

We blitzed the campus from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. We leafleted students with a "Join the YSA" flyer, and everywhere students went there were *Militant* salespeople.

The results of this campaign proved that it was well worth all our work. In the three days we sold 78 *Militants*, a considerable amount of Pathfinder literature, and signed up people interested in the YSA.

The Women's Abortion Coalition signed up 30 women willing to start an abortion group on campus, and the SMC attracted enough activists to plan its first meeting.

We knew it was important to be visible the first days of registration. We wanted to make sure that in those first days every student on that campus knew the YSA was there, saw *The Militant*, and knew that we were the campus activists.

**JOSEPH WARD**  
San Francisco YSA

## Malcolm X Classes

Last year the Boston Third World fraction organized a series of classes on Malcolm X and his ideas at Tufts University. To publicize the classes a leaflet was distributed with a list of endorsers—Black Student Union members from several campuses and Puerto Rican sympathizers—and a description of each class. The classes were held in the Afro House at Tufts every Thursday. They consisted of Malcolm X tapes, discussions of his books, and general rap sessions.

We set up the classes as a three part series. The first was the tape "Message to the Grass Roots," in which we discussed such questions as the African-American nation, the positive and negative aspects of the civil rights movement, and other related topics. Second was "The Ballot or the Bullet" in which we discussed how we could wage a political struggle to win our liberation, and what it means and why it is necessary to form an independent Black political party. The third part consisted of excerpts from

"Malcolm X at the Militant Labor Forum." In this we discussed the revolutionary features of Black nationalism and the relevance of socialism to the nationalist struggles. We also discussed the YSA's position on nationalism and the necessity for a multi-national revolutionary organization.

A theme that ran through the three classes was what it means to be a Black member of the YSA and what the YSA was doing in the Black struggle.

In general the classes were a success. The minimum we can expect to get out of such a series of classes is an opportunity to discuss our position on nationalism and the transitional program for Black liberation, and to familiarize a number of Blacks with the ideas of Trotskyism.

Although we recruited no one through the classes, we have developed a Black periphery at Tufts and have a working relationship with them. We hope to run these classes again this year on

several campuses. They are an excellent way to recruit Black and Brown youth and to get them involved in the antiwar and abortion campaigns. We are going to try to set up an African-Americans for Jenness and Pulley in Boston from this base at Tufts.

**JOE MILES**  
Cambridge YSA



# Defending the Right to Sell

*The Militant* dated July 2, 1971, carried an article about two *Militant* salespeople being arrested in Providence. We eventually won the case in court and this article will describe how that happened.

Two YSAers were selling *The Militant* at a shopping center near Brown University where many students and Blacks shop. We had been selling there irregularly for about one year.

Shortly after they arrived, a security cop asked the salespeople to leave the shopping center. The cop claimed it was illegal to sell newspapers on private property. The two YSAers left and reported the incident to the YSA organizer, who then phoned the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for advice. The ACLU suggested we return and, if hassled again, tell the cop, "We have talked with our lawyers and we are within our rights to sell *The Militant* here. You should think twice before asking us to leave or arresting us.

We returned the next day and began selling. The manager of the shopping center came out and told the salespeople that if he let them sell *Militants*, he would have to allow vegetables and used cars to be sold in front of the market. The manager was not persuaded by our arguments and proceeded to call the city cops. The cops arrested the two YSAers after telling them to leave.

After being held in jail for two hours, the two YSAers were charged with obstructing a passageway. One of them phoned the YSA organizer and explained what had occurred. We wanted to get as much publicity on the incident as possible, so after the YSA organizer visited the two salespeople in jail, he went to the *Providence Journal* (the largest newspaper in the state) to give them the story.

The main political points we made to the press were: 1) The arrests were an attack on all Rhode Islanders. (If they can ban *The Militant* at one shopping center, they can more easily ban other political material at other places.) 2) The reason we were arrested was because *The Militant* is an antiwar newspaper that also champions the struggle of Blacks, Chicanos, women, gays, students, and the working class.

The *Providence Journal* printed a good article the next day bringing out the political points we had made in our interview with them the day before. The YSAers were let out of jail the next morning, and they immediately phoned radio stations and read statements about the arrests and their political implications.

The court hearing was anticlimactic. The judge dismissed the case on a technicality and the hearing ended in five minutes.

Our next move was to write a statement to be read to the media. The statement stressed that the favorable decision was a result of free speech sentiment among Rhode Islanders and was a victory for all Americans.

The success of this defense case has set an excellent precedent and will enable us to expand sales locations for the fall sub drive and the sales campaign.

It is important to note that, prior to sending the two salespeople back to the shopping center to face possible arrest, we made sure that a competent lawyer was willing to take the case for free and fight it on a civil liberties basis. Whenever faced with such restrictions on our right to sell, YSA locals should—before taking any action, *especially any action that might result in a YSAer being arrested*—be sure to 1) contact a lawyer, and 2) consult with the YSA National Office.

**DANIEL FEIN**  
Providence YSA

## young socialist the organizer

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