

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
February 29, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND BOSTON WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Those who attempted to disrupt the National Student Conference Against Racism were led by a grouping from Brooklyn College, the Committee for Justice, in which a group called the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization is dominant. Some militants were disoriented by the disruption attempt, and in some areas, we have found that red-baiting charges leveled at the YSA and SWP by this group and others at the conference have had some effect on independents we have been working with. The best way this redbaiting attack on the NSCAR will be countered is through building the May 17 action, reaching out to involve Black youth in every aspect of NSCAR activity and in building the local city-wide May 17 coalitions.

The attached article from the Brooklyn College student newspaper, Kingsman, was written by The Committee for Justice. It might be useful to show to certain individuals disoriented by the red-baiting, because it exposes the real nature of the attack leveled against the conference by this group. Among other things, the article shows that this group planned its disruption in advance of the conference; that it planned this disruption because it disagreed with the political line of "stop racist attacks on children, and keep the buses rolling, no matter what. Even calling in of the National Guard to protect the children was seen as an acceptable method of achieving forced integration." They state that their position is that "forced busing to achieve integration is a violation of people's right to self-determination." Even their position on community control they label as "non-realistic." They define "community control" to include white control of schools in the white community. They make it clear that they are opposed to the May 17 march and counterpose "community organizing" to it. They attack the NAACP.

Thus, this article can be utilized to demonstrate that the red-baiting against the SWP and YSA is in reality a cover for an attack on May 17 and the whole fight to desegregate the schools.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
National Organization
Secretary

Kingsman

YSA Dominate In Boston

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Vote 'Yes' On Athletic Referendum

This year's student government election is especially significant, not because of the candidates running, but because of a referendum which, if ratified, will put the five-dollar portion of the consolidated fee for Athletics under student jurisdiction.

Students have every right to control the destiny of the Athletic fee, therefore, we wholeheartedly urge all students to vote "YES" on the referendum.

In addition, this year's elections will hopefully produce some new and motivated leaders in the student assembly.

As with all elections, candidates often promise more than they can deliver, and this, of course, dissuades people from voting. Hopefully the people vying for assembly seats are serious about their responsibility to the students that elected

The National Student Conference Against Racism was supposed to be a conference to bring together students to start a new anti-racist student movement, and to bring national attention to the busing issue, as well as racist attacks in Boston.

The Conference planning started in December, when all concerned students were invited to participate in a steering committee, and to help mobilize and organize students to attend the conference. However, students interested in working in the conference soon found out that the conference was to take only one direction. It was guided, planned and implemented to push the political line of the Young Socialist Alliance and their parent organization, the Socialist Workers Party.

Frustrated students and other independents soon found that they were not informed of steering committee meetings, and were not allowed to participate on a leadership level. The few students who were allowed to remain found that they were used to mobilize students, but were not allowed to make decisions. All the propaganda put out took one position: stop the racist attacks on children, and keep the buses rolling, no matter what. Even calling in of the National Guard to protect the children was seen as an acceptable method of achieving forced integration.

Naturally, most black students, and many others who were members of oppressed minority groups as well as whites who could not agree with this genocidal liberalism, decided to boycott the conference; we realized it was totally co-opted, and not in the interest of the people. However, we gradually began to see that we could not sit back and allow a National Student Movement, built around the issue of racism, to be controlled by opportunistic forces. Concerned students in the Committee for Justice analysed their position, and decided to take this to the conference.

Briefly, our position included the following main points: capitalism is the root of racism, and racism is the most advanced means of dividing working class people and preventing workers from putting their attention to the economic crisis in the capitalist system. Therefore, racism has to be taught, with the idea constantly in mind that the system of capitalism is also the enemy. This was clearly not the position of the

by said chair. We realised what was happening, and finally managed to force the chair to give us time on the mike. We managed to get in a protest against the way the conference was being run in that session. Although the YSA loyalists hissed and booed, support was built up among those who were not affiliated and could clearly see that the position taken by the organizers of the conference was not in the interest of Black people.

Throughout the day, at meetings with those people, we found that we could unite around the position taken. Since it was obvious that we would not be able to make decisions about racism at a YSA conference, we decided to commandeer the mike and attempt to expose the opportunists, as well as achieve some constructive results by getting students to work around the issues raised.

All day, the SWP became more panicky as it became obvious that something was afoot. They attempted to infiltrate our ranks in any way possible. They attempted to control every workshop in order to make sure that only acceptable proposals would come out to be presented to the steering committee at the evening plenary session. This attempt failed; their feeble effort to dominate the black workshop, for instance, was to no avail.

Anyway, the evening session went as planned. We did manage to control the mike for some period of time, and our speakers and sympathizers attempted to make our position heard. One important point that was raised, apart from the position on busing and the link between capitalism and racism, was the fact that no real community people had participated in the conference. The student elitist attitude was totally condemned.

A problem at that time however was the fact that in the confusion many opportunistic people who desired to push a political line, or simple to become superstars for a few minutes, grabbed the mike and confused many of the people. Despite this, our call for a caucus of those who felt the way we did resulted in most of the black people and many concerned whites joining us upstairs.

It must be added, nevertheless, that many of the people who walked out did not have a clear direction, as those interested only in pushing a line tried to disrupt the caucus. One point that did come out was the fact that we needed to caucus not on the campus, but in Roxbury with the

As with all elections, candidates often promise more than they can deliver, and this, of course, dissuades people from voting. Hopefully the people vying for assembly seats are serious about their responsibility to the students that elected them.

We have seen too often in the past where assemblypeople just take up space or grow disinterested before their term of office is complete. These conditions linger, and the result is apathetic student leaders.

We urge all student government officials to make 1975 a year of achievement for the student body and themselves, and we implore them to do their damndest to insure that the students of BC will get a fair shake from the administration of the school.

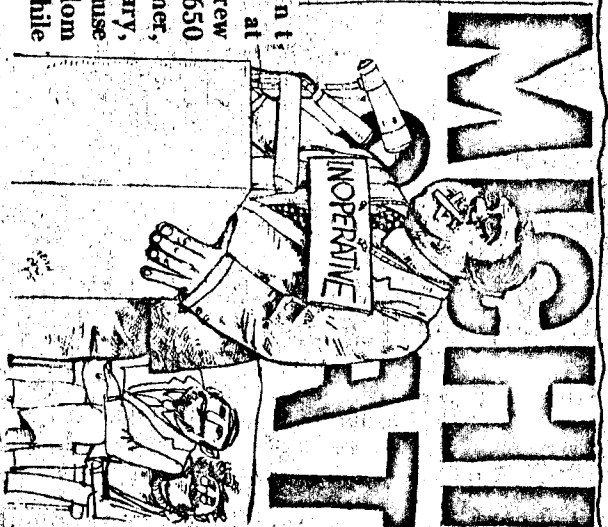
There are enough potent issues, (Governance, budget cuts, PHS controversy, to name a few) to keep the assembly on its toes, and we sincerely hope that this year's officers will merit our votes in the next election.

Security and The BC 44

Proving that students must be at all times vigilant of their rights, news has surfaced that college security has retained photos of the so called BC 44 from their November sit-in in the registrar's office which the administration had promised to be removed from the files.

Kingsman strongly urges that these photos be removed as promised and that any political dossiers on present and former students also be done away with. The filing of such materials on students would stand a far greater chance of being abused than being put to any useful purpose by security or the administration.

The student government board at Michigan State withdrew its offer of a \$2,650 lecture fee, to former, Nixon Press Secretary, Ronald Ziegler, because he had abridged freedom of speech and press while in Washington.



capitalist system. Therefore, racism has to be taught, with the idea constantly in mind that the system of capitalism is also the enemy. This was clearly not the position of the conference organizers. Our position is that forced busing to achieve integration is a violation of people's right to self-determination. Forced busing is a way of increasing, not decreasing, the antagonism between the races; a way of preventing people from attacking institutions and the system, as they become caught up in confronting each other.

However, since many people mistakenly believe that busing will help achieve quality education, and since the buses are rolling, the people being bused have the right to self-defense when attacked. People also have a right to quality education. This goal cannot be reached in the capitalist system which needs to have a continuous supply of poorly educated workers. A better way to move towards this goal is for people to control education on a local level, whether their communities be black, white or mixed.

Community control, of course, is a non-realistic goal, but fighting to achieve this does educate people towards fighting for control of government, and causes them to understand the evil of the capitalist system. We also included the fact that concerned white students would have to begin to organize and educate people in these racist white communities, something which has not been done by political whites thus far.

The implementation of these policies of course, would depend on the elimination of the National Steering Committee, which would implement no programs in the interest of oppressed people, and the FAIR selection of a new committee that would allow participation of non-bourgeois students and workers. The group and the students holding this position went to Boston with the intention of making their voices heard.

The program began on Friday night with a so-called teach-in, at which black and white POLITICAL SUPERSTARS from all over the country expounded liberal philosophy to the polite applause of the mainly SWP, mainly white audience. So far, grass roots community voices from the city of Boston had not been heard. We did, however, in the course of Friday and Saturday, find that many others were as disenchanted as we were with the YSA convention that was being masqueraded as a student convention against racism.

The plenary session on Saturday morning began with the chair (ALL YSA) informing the audience that participation from the floor would be limited to those recognized

pushing a line tried to disrupt the caucus. One point that did come out was the fact that we needed to caucus not on the campus, but in Roxbury, with the community people.

On Sunday, many of the students went to the YMCA in Roxbury to meet with various grass roots community organizations. We found the worst of our suspicions confirmed. None of the people we met with had been contacted concerning the conference. Everyone understood clearly the opportunism of groups such as the YSA-SWP, and was in fact very cynical about such attempts to "help" them. They asked that we publicize their opposition to the liberals' attempts to popularize themselves in the national media, that we keep in touch, and that we strike a blow against racism by going home committed to fight racism in our own communities. We also promised to discredit the so-called march against racism to be held in Boston on May 17th. This march, sponsored by the NCAAP, the SWP, and other opportunistic politicians, does not have the support of the community. The slogan "keep the buses rolling" does not in any way reflect the needs of the community.

Minority people realize that they are just being used again by people trying to build popular support for themselves. The unfortunate thing is that these people act under the guise of socialism, and their contradictory practices alienates the community from the principles of socialism. This makes such people dangerous enemies of forces truly concerned with the bringing about of a socialist society.

We also found that most people were against forced busing, especially from one interior school to another. The white community to which the children are being bused has a history of overt racism. The irresponsible people who uphold that children should continue to be bused there (despite that fact that they are afraid to go there themselves), and who call for the National Guard to protect black children, have to be condemned. We have to understand that racism can be destroyed only with the destruction of capitalism. We have to move towards this goal, while educating people to their human rights to true economic equality, as well as the right to govern themselves.

The backwards opportunists have been exposed; we now pledge ourselves to continue the fight against racism here at Brooklyn College and in our own communities. —The Committee For Justice