

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

May 29, 1970

To All Organizers, NC Members, and At-Largers

Dear Comrades,

The Socialist Activists and Educational Conference being held August 8-15 at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, is open to all members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance. It will be an excellent opportunity for comrades from around the country to come together to discuss the unparalleled opportunities for the growth of the revolutionary movement.

The conference sessions and pre-conference written discussion will center around the best ways of maximizing the gains that we can make in this period of increased radicalization and rapid growth of the SWP and the YSA. The purpose of the conference and the pre-conference discussion is not to determine political orientation but rather is designed to aid in implementing the decisions of the National Conventions of the YSA and SWP.

Both the SWP and the YSA will hold workshops in which there will be an opportunity for all the comrades to exchange experiences in the various fields of political work and put forward suggestions for making the campaigns in which we are engaged more effective. Some of these workshops will be YSA workshops, others will be held jointly with the SWP.

Among the points taken up by the workshops will be such aspects of our work as finances, forums, election campaigns, education, Militant sales, publications, local organization, regional work, The Young Socialist Organizer, campus struggles and our work in the antiwar, Third World and women's liberation movements.

The educational sessions will be a major feature of the conference. Presentations and discussion will take up the key questions relating to the problems of building the revolutionary movement. Leaders and educators of the Socialist Workers Party will prepare many of these talks.

With the next issue of The Young Socialist Organizer the YSA will initiate a special pre-conference written discussion on questions of an organizational nature. YSAers will be participating in the discussion through The Young Socialist Organizer while SWP members will be exchanging reports through the Party Builder, a special SWP publication for the pre-conference discussion. YSAers will be able to purchase the Party Builder and should follow the discussion in it along with the discussion in The Young Socialist Organizer.

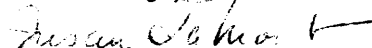
With the initiation of this discussion it is especially important for YSA local and at-large members to discuss and prepare articles dealing with the various aspects of implementing our program. These reports should be triple-spaced and 40 characters in width, and should be sent in as soon as possible.

Experiences in regional work, in particular the maintenance and structure of the regional apparatus, not only in large locals which act as the regional centers but also in smaller locals, would be an important contribution to the discussion. Evaluation of the experiences of the student government election campaigns that have been waged by YSAers on the high school and college campuses across the country this spring is another topic that should be well covered. Many YSAers have built support actions for labor struggles--this is another area of work that will continue to be central in the coming months and would also be an important contribution to the discussion. What are the best ways that YSAers have found to distribute our literature, sell The Militant and the International Socialist Review? What experiences have at-large members gone through in trying to build a local? What do at-large members find is the best way to sell our literature, build the SMC and participate in campus struggles? How should smaller locals set up educationals, how can they best use the resources of the SWP branch nearest them? These are other topics that should be written about.

The role of the YSA in the recent antiwar upsurge and the concrete gains that were made should be a prominent part of the discussion. These are only a few of the concrete organizational questions that all YSAers are confronted with while trying to implement our program and they should be thoroughly discussed.

Every YSAer will be able to participate in the discussion on the organizational questions as well as in the educational part of the conference. This entire week of intensive discussion and exchange of experiences with comrades from around the country, preceded by a thorough pre-conference discussion through The Young Socialist Organizer, should be a big help in preparing us for the great opportunities that lie ahead--the fall offensive.

Comradely,



Susan LaMont
National Secretary