

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

May 29, 1970

To All Organizers, NC Members, and At-Largers

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are copies of the SMC fact sheet and statement concerning the attack by members of Progressive Labor Party and SDS on the May 24th SMC national steering committee meeting held in Boston. The June 12th issue of The Militant will contain an article on this attack, as well as a statement by the YSA National Executive Committee on the question of violence in the movement. A copy of the NEC statement is also enclosed.

The SMC has launched a major national campaign to get out the facts of this attack and to win support for the concept of maintaining democratic norms within the radical movement. As leaders of the SMC, YSAers can play an important role in this campaign.

In order to get out the facts of the May 24th attack as widely as possible, the SMC fact sheet and statement should be reproduced in local areas and circulated throughout the entire radical movement. We want to take the SMC statement to all kinds of organizations and individuals for endorsement: antiwar organizations, Third World and women's liberation groups, community organizations, high school groups, trade unions and civil liberties organizations, as well as professors, student government officers, and movement figures and activists. We should also try to get the SMC fact sheet and statement printed in movement and underground papers.

A vigorous campaign against this attack and against violence in the movement will create an atmosphere which will make it very difficult for PL and SDS to carry out such attacks in the future. It will have the effect of politically isolating them from the mass of healthy movement activists who oppose such hooliganism, and it can also cause divisions within the ranks of PL and SDS members and sympathizers who will be forced to take a position for or against such tactics.

We want to make it clear through this national campaign that a political response, not any physical vendetta, is the only way to prevent further attacks of this sort and is the best way to isolate those groups which resort to violence within the movement. The aim of this campaign is to put an end to such attacks and to prevent this problem from spreading in the movement.

An important effect of this campaign will be to help educate the movement on the role of and need for marshals. Marshals are not "cops" or people who are there to prevent others from doing what they want to do. Marshals are movement activists who accept the responsibility, for a given meeting, rally or demonstration, of making sure

that people can do what they decided to do, without fear of disruption or attack. Marshalling is one way the antiwar and other movements make sure that democratic decisions are carried out.

By taking the attack by PL and SDS head-on politically, and discrediting their goon-squad methods, we can help educate the radical movement on the important question of violence in the movement and how it must be handled. We can in this way further establish the authority of the SMC as a serious political organization.

In the course of this campaign, the YSA will also be able to win over and recruit many of the activists who become involved. Locals and at-large members can use the YSA brochure "On Workers Democracy" to help explain our position on this question, in addition to the NEC statement.

Comradely,

*Carl Frank*

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National Office