

TO: GAY

FROM: BOSTON COMMITTEE TO FREE GARY TYLER

Dear gay:

This is a report of my impressions of our Tyler work. There will be another to follow. Our Free Gary Rally was both better and worse than expected. 93 people were counted at the peak of our demo. It was a rally of all white lefties, some group (Sparts, YAWF) and a good many lefty individuals. Many groups did not show up even though they committed 10 people (i.e. tenants groups). The 3rd World Construction Workers never came (except for one black construction worker who stayed a short while). The Construction Workers announced the Tyler demo at one of their rally's last week and gave us a good plug but they didn't get out their people. We even approached the one construction worker who showed up to speak, but he refused. We think these people are wary of us. They don't know very much about IS and see the left as CAR and PL who do a lot of work in Boston, but to many ~~to many~~ people, Car and PL just cause unnecessary trouble and break up workers' aims. The 3rd World Construction Workers are, however, bringing up the question of endorsing our committee at their next meeting. And by the way, they were impressed with WP centerfold on Tyler (Issue # 160). So they are not completely turned off.

Back to where it really hurts... NOT ONE high school student showed (black or white). We leafleted day in and day out around Dorchester, Jamaica Plains, Boston, and Cambridge High Schools. Although we got commitments from high schoolers, they did not show. In fact, I didn't expect a large number but I didn't think ~~it~~^{it} would be this bad. It came as a heavy disappointment to us working our ass off. *Perhaps we should have concentrated on 3 schools rather than covering many.*

During the course of the rally, I counted no more than 4 blacks in the crowd. EMBARRASING! About our sponsors - NAM was very responsible in their work. When they said they would do something they did it. And one NAM person, Dave, is about to leave NAM and wants to do union organizing in the South. We are urging him to join. He says he wants to do more reading before he joins. Although he's a Harvard student he wants to industrialize. He's going South this summer so I want to set him up to visit comrades.

YAWF, is another story. They said they did a mailing and promised to do a wheat pasting. The wheat pasting (downtown Boston) never got done. They did turn out their members to the rally but they never got their E. Boston Blacks, they brag so much about, to the rally. It leads me to believe they aren't too close to them. Their speaker Jane Katz was arrested in defending a black family in the Maverick Housing Project. We asked them if they could get the family to speak but all they offered us were their own members and no "ins" in the black community. Whenever we called YAWF for help or for an individual to leaflet they never put-out. There was a YAWF person at every committee meeting and they did help with security. Speakers- Larry from N.Y. spoke first, not the best speaker, his delivery was poor. There was a lot wrong with Larry's talk. No politics for one and he made a vague statement about the women's liberation movement evincing no interest in Gary. Women at the rally were offended. I knew what he meant, that Gary has no natural constituency to defend him like Joan Little and Reuben Carter, but he made it sound like the women's liberation movement was not interested in saving Gary. He did not speak about building the rank and file movement as a way to end racism. What he seemed to stress was that Hurricane Carter was different from Gary because Gary is not famous. It's true, but I'm not sure it's that important. Larry did follow what he believed to be the IS line...that we should save Gary because he is innocent and because no one else will do it. On the other hand, Larry was very helpful in a meeting with the branch in talking through our Black perspectives. Jane Katz (I mentioned) from YAWF was good for what you can expect from "progressive" rhetoric (Larry thought she was too radical).

We had a nice short speech from Gary Burgess, an x-prisoner from the North East Prisoners Association. I say short, because all the other speakers went way over their limit.

And Joan from our branch spoke about teaching at Charlestown and her firing.

We had entertainment, a comrade of ours, Bill, played the guitar.

About our work in getting the black community there...We did everything right! We hit all the black community groups that we knew of and went to black ministers and most places took

leaflets if nothing else. As I said previously, we hit the high schools, Interesting enough, the J.E. Burke School in Dorchester is all upset over the recent life sentence of one of their black students. The police arrested one of their students for the murder of a white youth. And the very day we leafleted, the school received word that this student was sentenced to life. We will definitely have more info on this and get in a WP article.

It's too late for Red Tide. Shit! Joan spoke with two of the students at the school

who were upset and angry. It's a tough school and we are zeroing in on this school in particular. Joan also substituted there, so we might find an inside contact with any luck. Why didn't these students show? We don't know why! They said they were coming.

News coverage was 100% better than expected. Three radio stations did a tape with us and continually announced the demo. Danny Schechter, a soft lefty, and newscaster did a whole show on Tyler (WBCN). With all ~~that~~^{that} coverage, why didn't we get more people? We don't know! The day of the rally, CBS and ABC showed up. I did ~~an~~ interview with one and later thought I should have had Larry do it. My mistake! CBS did something out ~~of~~^{of} the ordinary. They filmed our FREE GARY banner and all our picket signs~~in~~, but no faces. The photographer, a black, perhaps was ~~w~~mbarrassed that we were all white. Both T.V. stations gave a nice report with the facts of the frame-up and ABC even filmed our beautiful IS banner. We were quite pleased with the coverage.

The Sparts did their usual parasitic number, asking to come into the demo at the last minute and refusing to ~~w~~ork when they couldn't have a speaker. We didn't want them in the first place and were prepared to deal ~~w~~ith them. They showed up at the demo, wanting to announce the Mario Munoz campaign. I simply made ~~an~~ announcement myself at the end, rather than let them have the mike. They caused no trouble.

Where do we go from here? It's FRUSTRATING. The general feeling is to call for another rally the end of June... with top names, like Ruben Hurricane Carter. We have a lot ~~to~~^{to} discuss. We need to keep in contact with the high schoolers we've met. Get them to set up their own school committees with petitions, and contributions. It means getting out Red Tide ~~ag~~^ggressively as a chance to ~~t~~alk with high schoolers. And it means an active educational campaign to get into community groups and churches and schools as a way to win contacts. My feeling is that we have ~~to~~^{to} ride of the crust, for the Tyler case is breaking. And we in Boston feel we can do it better this time. We can start again to build for a bigger rally. I want to talk to Larry in NY and co-ordinate ties to Boston and see if we can get Carter. We ~~h~~ave to be affiliated to the National Committee because there is a huge potential in Boston. We got the news coverage and now we have some ideas as to get consistent news coverage for another rally. We ~~w~~ill not contact left groups but ~~w~~ouldn't turn them away. Now, we can say to the blacks in Boston that we organized the 1st demo...did you see us on T.V. **IS** is the main power center to get the wheels turning. This could be the

substance for the anti-racism march that was never held here. It's hot! Like the Portugal situation last fall when we had a big turnout with Antonio. Give us the OK. If we do go full blast into this, we need backing. We cannot possibly handle the expenses alone. We are in the hole over this and money is real bad. We have a \$100.00 bill at our printers. We only made \$25.00 in contributions and that did not even cover our mailing. We also paid for Larry's trip. Seeing Haymarket foundation sent off \$500. to New Orleans, can you intervene and get us any money? We exhausted all our energies for the past two weeks and two branch members are sick, including myself from being overworked. Maybe Pam could help us out. What do you suggest? Please Help!

Most Important... Larry's criticisms were most helpful. He made a point about our leaflet. Our leaflet announced the demo and on the back we listed the facts of the case along with a political perspective of Boston. This, he said, was wrong. If we kept the WP article on the back side (my first inclination, but I was voted down) it would have allowed liberals to make their own conclusions and we might have gotten new ground. What do you think? Larry also said, that in the long run community groups get the work done because that is their objective (in this case, to Free Gary). With lefty groups we waste more energy on our committee. We always have to worry about packing our meetings so we can win over our political perspective. Thus, working with community groups means convincing liberals of politics and not convincing leftys of the right politics. At this time I would like to stress that you people gave us no lead on IS politics. We had no base to head up our Tyler work. We need hard guidance and examples. What do you recommend? What do you see as our potential? Where do you think we will go? It's a shame that the only two political talks at the rally were by non-IS members. All you said was to build a non-secretarian movement and break new ground. That means different things to different people. One last gripe! I talked to Amherst 3 different times and they promised to get out all their people for our rally. Only one comrade showed up saying the other members were busy leafleting for their Tyler rally. They are on our shit list.

Again Gay, we need to become recognized as the official Tyler committee in New Orleans. Please get back to me on this.

*In Struggle,
Anne*