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February 26, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS, BOSTON WORK DIRECTORS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The Feb. 14-16 National Student Conference Against Racism was an historic event for the Black struggle and the student movement. At the conference teach-in, Thomas Atkins, president of the Boston NAACP, issued a call for a national march on Boston on May 17 to mark the 21st anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision and to demand the desegregation of the Boston schools.

Although some forces opposed to busing and a mass action perspective attempted to divide and disrupt the conference, the unanimity and enthusiasm for May 17 was the dominant theme for most conference participants. We should be aware, however, that the concerted red-baiting campaign against the YSA and SWP may have raised questions about the conference in the minds of some activists.

The best way to counter attacks on the National Student Coalition Against Racism is by building NSCAR into the broadest possible student coalition of individuals and organizations on the campuses and in the high schools. The top priority for YSA members participating in NSCAR should be seeking to involve independent students, and especially Black youth, in every aspect of local NSCAR activity.

The success of NSCAR and the May 17 demonstration will in large part rest on the full participation of a broad layer of students and especially the initiative and leadership role taken by Black youth. The participation of Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian YSA members will be particularly important in encouraging other nationally-oppressed students to become involved in building and leading the day-to-day activities of NSCAR and local citywide May 17 coalitions.

The racist conviction of Dr. Kenneth Edelin for performing an abortion demonstrates how the Boston racist offensive not only challenges the rights of the Black community, but the rights of women, students, and all working people. The protests by abortion rights activists and the Boston NAACP against Edelin's conviction indicate the importance of involving women's groups in building May 17.

We want to encourage chapters of NSCAR to initiate discussions with local branches of the NAACP on the best way to build May 17 into a broad and massive show of support for desegregation

in Boston. Local NAACP chapters can be instrumental in helping to initiate citywide coalitions that involve Black community groups, trade unions, women's liberation organizations, and other groups. In Boston, Tom Atkins has already called an initial coalition meeting that includes prominent individuals, Black community groups, political organizations, and NSCAR.

The authority of the Boston NAACP's call for the May 17 demonstration and the significant size of the student conference has forced the Young Workers Liberation League to become a formal part of NSCAR. The YWLL even nominated, and the conference elected, one of their Boston members, Annell Bond, as a national coordinator.

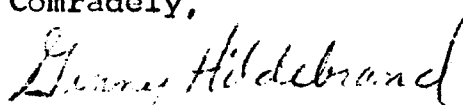
Although the Communist Party and YWLL are on the record in support of the NAACP's call for a march on Boston, they are opposed, for narrow factional reasons, to NSCAR's wholehearted efforts to build the action. We want to continue to pressure the YWLL to become actively involved in NSCAR. We also want to force the CP to work with NSCAR in building local April 4 or other build-up actions for the May 17 march.

Another important aspect of building May 17 is the general endorser and publicity work. We should encourage NSCAR chapters to immediately approach all those who endorsed the conference to support May 17, as well as to begin to reach out to other individuals and organizations. Black student unions, student governments and other student groups can be won to support NSCAR on the basis of local activities and the May 17 call to action.

NSCAR activities are already underway in several areas. In Seattle, for example, NSCAR supporters held a teach-in and organizing meeting on Feb. 21-22, deciding to hold a May 17 solidarity demonstration in Seattle and to support the fight against the racist firing of two Black professors at the University of Washington. April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, can be a first good target date for NSCAR activities including campus teach-ins, speaking engagements in high schools and Black community churches, and other reach-out events. As discussed at the conference, other groups may already be planning activities on or around that date which NSCAR can participate in.

The NSCAR National Office will be publishing a second issue of the Student Mobilizer, featuring Tom Atkins' speech at the teach-in. They would also like local NSCAR chapters to regularly send in information about their activities to the NSCAR National Office.

Comradely,



Ginny Hildebrand  
YSA National Office