

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

September 10, 1971

TO ALL SWP ORGANIZERS AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The imposition of the wage freeze gives the antiwar movement expanded opportunities to build the November 6 demonstrations. There will be openings for significantly wider endorsement, especially from the labor movement, and wider labor involvement in the planning and building for November 6 than for previous demonstrations. Tying together inflation, the wage freeze and the war will help bring out more rank-and-file workers on the demonstrations.

The local NPAC coalitions should be encouraged to begin concretizing the details for the November 6 marches and rallies and publicizing these plans through news conferences and releases, leaflets, posters and stickers. This should include march routes and rally sites, speakers and special contingent information. The more rapidly NPAC is able to concretize the character of the demonstrations the more rapidly support for them can build.

The antiwar movement has always linked the war to its domestic consequences to try to involve the working class, the oppressed nationalities and women in its demonstrations. Now Nixon's action has forced attention on the economic dislocations exacerbated by the war. But Nixon was forced to ignore the war and even made the lying claim that his "New Economic Policy" was necessary because of his success at ending the war. This was so unpopular that he could not appeal to the American people to sacrifice on the basis of supporting the war, as has been done in past wars.

The day before Nixon's speech, Laird announced that the next Pentagon budget request would rise by \$3 billion to \$80 billion. Currently the United States is intensifying the air war and has launched a major new offensive near Laos. Nixon has no intention of stopping the war. The antiwar movement must spell this out and say that as long as the war continues the inflation will continue. To stop inflation, stop the war. This type of propaganda is not new for the antiwar movement, but it now takes on a new meaning and should become a central aspect in building the fall demonstrations.

As yet few union officials have attacked the war as a cause of the inflation. However, there are already over 150 signers of the union letter urging endorsement of and participation in the fall demonstrations (see the September 17 issue of The Militant). This letter can be used at local news conferences where local trade union officials to announce support for November 6. It should continue to be circulated in a campaign to get hundreds of union officials to sign as endorsers. In only two days, the Cleveland coalition got officials from nine different UAW locals to endorse, most of whom had never endorsed an antiwar action before.

The NPAC national office is currently preparing other materials

A leaflet is being prepared showing how inflation is caused by the war. There will also be a brochure with a list of endorsers, a poster and a series of leaflets with slogans such as "Stop Inflation, Stop the War" and "Freeze the War, Not Wages."

The Black Task Force, the Chicano Task Force and the Women's Contingent should begin similar endorsers campaigns and leafletting. The most oppressed sections of the working class are the most effected by the wage freeze and inflation. In the coming months we could see significant openings for an expansion of these task forces as the impact of the wage freeze deepens. Materials for the task forces will be a little slower in coming out of the NPAC office although some are currently being prepared.

In the new situation, the SMC faces new opportunities for growth this fall. Tens of thousands of students will return to school this fall with new questions they want answers to. The SMC must seize the initiative from the first day of classes to explain the new openings now before the student antiwar movement to expand the antiwar movement beyond the campuses. The SMC should prepare special leaflets, newspaper articles, organize campus meetings with union officials to educate and mobilize the student movement for November 6. The meeting held by the Berkeley SMC reported in the September 17 Militant is a good example. Materials are currently being prepared by the SMC national office including a special run of 100,000 of the Student Mobilizer. The Student Mobilizer will be shipped to all the local areas in one week.

The SMC should approach this as a campaign to win the use of university facilities to organize the student movement to reach out to broad layers of the population to build November 6. The challenge to the student movement is to link up with these other sections of the population that will be increasingly drawn into motion against the war.

This fall the SMC should organize regular leafletting of plant gates, shopping centers, transportation centers and other places where large numbers of working people gather. This can contribute significantly to building November 6.

In this context SMCs should also begin making concrete plans for October 13 and November 3. These both can be significant actions for mobilizing opposition to the war and building November 6. There can be a special focus on these days of linking the student movement with the labor movement. Large rallies can be organized with representatives from all layers of society followed by organizing hundreds of students to leaflet throughout the city for November 6.

The immediate tasks are:

1. Concretizing plans for the November 6 march and rally and begin to publicize them.
2. Get union officials to endorse the union letter supporting the demonstration.

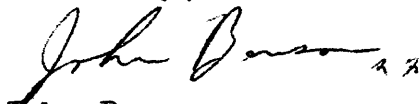
3. Launch a major drive to obtain endorsers of the November 6 action.

4. Prepare special November 6 materials tying together the wage freeze, inflation and the war.

5. Building the SMC when the schools open, and orienting the student antiwar movement towards reaching out to the workers, Blacks, Chicanos, women, etc.

Reports on the progress made in each area should be sent to The Militant and the national office, along with copies of all mailings, news releases, leaflets, etc., put out by the local antiwar coalitions and the SMCs.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Benson". To the right of the signature, there are two small, handwritten initials, possibly "AJ".

John Benson
National Antiwar Director