

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

April 13, 1973

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

A meeting of activists and leaders of the meat boycott from around the country, held in Washington on April 11, has called for a national day of protest against high food prices on May 5. The YSA should enthusiastically support these actions and participate in helping to make them as successful as possible.


The April 1-7 meat boycott showed the depth of anger at skyrocketing inflation and the willingness of large numbers of people to take action against it. The May 5 actions have the potential to provide an action focus for continuing the momentum of the boycott.

In many areas meetings will be held right away to plan May 5 activities. The YSA should help initiate these meetings, encouraging the widest possible spectrum of groups and individuals concerned about rising prices to participate. These will range from the consumer groups and ad hoc committees that organized the boycott to trade unions, student governments, Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican organizations, women's groups, and others. The YSA can play an important role in contacting various student groups and urging them to participate.

The meat boycott was not identified with any particular demand or set of demands, and the May 5 actions will probably have the same character, i.e., mass protest against high prices. Organizations and individuals that have been organizing opposition to other aspects of Nixon's economic policies, like student groups against tuition hikes, Black groups against cutbacks, women's groups for childcare, should be encouraged to join the May 5 protests and point out the link between these issues and inflation. Antiwar groups like NPAC and the SMC should be encouraged to point out the role of war spending in causing inflation and raise their demands against U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.

At the same time as building broad support for actions on May 5, the YSA should intensify its socialist propaganda activities to explain our view of the current economic and political situation and pose our socialist answers to problems like inflation. Increased sales of The Militant in shopping areas and where possible at factory gates and other workplaces will fit right into the current sales drive. The May Young Socialist will have material dealing with these questions, as well.

The Militant will carry further information on the May 5 actions.

Comradely  
  
Andy Rose  
YSA National Chairman

PROPOSAL PASSED BY NATIONAL CONSUMERS CONGRESS

A PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF PROTESTS AGAINST HIGH FOOD PRICES

The meat boycott last week was a spontaneous and dramatic demonstration of opposition by tens of millions of American people to high food prices. It showed that people are angry and willing to take action against skyrocketing prices. The question facing us is how to continue the protests most effectively.

In order to carry forward the momentum that has been created and to provide a focus for our activity, we propose that a National Day of Protests Against High Food Prices be set. The exact form of protests and demonstrations would be up to local initiative while national pressure and attention would be focused against the government's failure to do anything about high food prices.

United action in cities and towns throughout the country will help to bring together in massive common action all consumers who want to protest higher food prices.

This meeting should set the day here so that word can get out and grass roots organizing can begin right away. We suggest May 5, a Saturday, be chosen. This will give organizers, consumer groups, unions and the ad-hoc boycott committees time to prepare effective activities for May 5. Ongoing price protest actions and boycotts can lead up to, and generate interest in, the May 5 target date.