

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

February 9, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The National Black Assembly has set March 14-17 as the date for the second National Black Political Convention. It will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas. The first of these conventions was held in Gary, Indiana in March 1972 and was attended by 8,000 Black people. The Black Assembly is the 427-member grouping that was formed at Gary to carry out the tasks of the Black Agenda which the convention adopted as "an Agenda for Black needs in 1972 and beyond."

In preparation for the Little Rock convention, state and local Black assemblies have been holding planning meetings around the country. At these meetings, delegates are being chosen and political resolutions and questions of structure are being discussed. One hundred people attended the meeting held in New Brunswick and 35 attended a similar meeting in Philadelphia.

As we did in 1972, we will want to send as many comrades as possible to the Little Rock convention. It is also important that we attend the planning meetings wherever they occur around the country. Reports should be sent into the national office indicating who is attending these meetings and what kinds of discussions are taking place. Comrades should also send in articles to The Militant on these meetings where this seems warranted.

At this point, it looks as if this year's convention will be narrower than the last one. The convention will not get the support of the Democratic Party politicians, union officials or other groups that endorsed the Gary convention but who walked out at or previous to the convention. Thus far the turnout for the various pre-convention organizing meetings has not been as big as in 1972. Nevertheless, significant numbers of Black people are involved and the convention organizers are predicting that as many as 3,000 people will be in Little Rock. We can assume that there will be people at the convention and the planning meetings who are fed up with the policies of the Black Assembly leaders and will be open to our ideas.

It is expected that the leadership of the Little Rock convention will again push an orientation toward support for various capitalist politicians and we will want to counter this line with our projection of a Black political party. We will also want to talk with people about our election campaigns. This can be done through our literature, through individual discussion and, where possible, from the floor. Last year, Norman Oliver was able to speak at a meeting of the New York Black Assembly and similar openings may exist for us to speak this year. There

may even be a situation where we would want to be elected as a delegate to the convention in one or another city on the basis of our position in favor of a Black party. The possibilities for intervening with our ideas will vary from city to city.

All correspondence concerning the Black Assembly should be sent to Malik Miah, c/o the YSA National Office.

Comradely,

Malik Miah /ref

Malik Miah
YSA National Office

Betsy Stone

Betsy Stone
SWP National Office