

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
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TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Spring 1972 Educational Projections

Reports from the branches and regional YSA centers indicate that the areas that had most success with the intensive educational series held in November-December were those that had had thorough advance political motivation and sufficient preparation of the series to involve the largest number of comrades in the classes. The success in a number of areas this past fall indicates that it will be useful to repeat, with minor modification, the short-term intensive educational series this spring.

There are problems with educational series which run for too many sessions, or which require an amount of study which is unrealistic to expect of party members in the midst of our action campaigns. For that reason, and because of the closeness of the 1972 Socialist Summer Schools, which will provide for an extended intensive education program, the education department is projecting a similar 3- or 4-session series of intensive educationals this spring -- to be held during the period from March 18 to April 2. As before, the goal in these classes is to involve the entire membership (as in the summer schools) over a strictly limited time period.

One drawback with the fall series raised by several branches was that the classes were scheduled at the end of the "fall offensive," and many comrades were tired and unable to benefit fully from the classes. We are therefore proposing that the spring series be scheduled before the end of the spring actions, and before the socialist educational conferences.

We are proposing the following topics for the spring educational program:

1) the background, method, and current application of the Transitional Program. This series should be organized around the new Education for Socialists bulletin by George Novack, entitled "The Role of the Transitional Program in the Revolutionary Process." A reading list and course outline will be distributed by the national education department shortly.

2) The United Front and the Popular Front. This should cover the theory of the united front as originally formulated by Lenin and Trotsky, a comparison of the Stalinist People's Front with the original united front, and the current example of popular frontism as exemplified in Chile. A syllabus and course outline will be distributed shortly.

3) Socialist Electoral Policy. The outline distributed last fall on this subject should be used again. Many branches did not cover this important topic last time, and we suggest that wherever possible, it be fitted into the spring program.

In addition, there are reading lists and/or syllabi available on: The Character of the Party; The Dynamics of the Current Radicalization; The Economics of Nixon's Wage Freeze and A Marxist Approach to the Labor Movement; The National Struggles for Self-Determination; Women's Liberation.

The March series proposed should not be seen as an alternative which preclude continuation or initiation of other educational series. Such things as ongoing seminars, pre- or post-meeting educational programs, and new members classes should be continued. The March series, however, should be seen as the central focus for well-planned, intensive education involving the entire membership.

We are going to work out projections for the 1972 Socialist Summer Schools soon, so any suggestions you have for what the education department can do in helping to organize and coordinate summer school programs should be made now. Also, a communication on plans for the spring educational conferences will be forthcoming soon.

The SWP convention in August 1971 made projections for a continued expansion of educational work. An important aspect of this process is increased communication with the national education department. Regular reports of plans and ongoing educational activities should be sent to the national education department by educational directors and/or committees, as well as whatever materials are prepared and used locally.

Comradely,

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SWP