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TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

This communication from the National Education Department contains information about experiences and ideas about carrying out our educational work that we have received from different parts of the country. For such mailings to have maximum value in the future, the National Education Department needs to receive from the branches copies of proposals, folded leaflets, study guides, and other educational materials, regular reports on the progress of classes, techniques being used, and suggestions for educational programs.

1. Fall Conferences

As was projected at the Socialists Activists and Educational Conference in August and in our letter of September 9, 1974, branches are considering ways to make the fall conferences a more effective recruiting tool.

The New York Local has developed a plan for the fall conference that is somewhat different from the series of forums which had become the customary format. The New York conference will be held on Friday evening and Saturday, November 1 and 2. It will open up with a talk on "The Prospects for Socialism" by Jack Barnes on Friday night. The Saturday sessions will consist of four different two-part series running concurrently. They are: What is Socialism, by congressional candidate Claire Moriarty; An Introduction to Marxist Economics, by Dick Roberts; Marxism and the Black Liberation Struggle, by Tony Thomas; and The Soviet Union and China--a Marxist Analysis, by Les Evans. The conference will conclude Saturday night with a major election rally.

This program is aimed at having a broad appeal to people interested in socialism, whether they are completely new to our movement or have already been drawn toward us by our campaigns and other activities. Such a conference can also inspire maximum participation by the comrades themselves.

We would like to hear from other areas about their suggestions for the socialist conferences.

2. Recruitment Classes

This has been projected as a major focus of our contact work in the coming months in order to take advantage of the rapidly rising interest in the basic ideas of socialism. Such classes are broadly publicized.

The Brooklyn YSA local is holding a class series at Brooklyn College this fall. This series consists of: two classes on the Chinese Revolution and Maoism; one on Feminism

and Socialism; and one on Chile and Portugal: Lessons of the Popular Front.

Another type of recruitment class is the nine-part series being sponsored in Detroit by Young Socialists for Maisel and Getts and the Young Socialist Alliance. This series, entitled "What Socialists Stand For" is being held at the local headquarters and takes up the following subjects: Why Socialism is Needed; How to Make a Revolution; Socialism and Democracy; The Decisive Role of the Working Class; What Role for the Student Movement?; The Revolutionary Struggle of the Oppressed Nationalities; Feminism and Socialism; What Went Wrong in Russia and China? An Analysis of Stalinism; and The Need for a World Revolution. The reading for these classes consists primarily of pamphlets.

3. Special Educational Weekends

One of the interesting efforts in the 1974 Summer Schools was carried out by the Berkeley-Oakland and San Francisco branches. Comrade Carol DeBerry described these weekend activities as the central events of the summer school.

Two weekend series were given by Dan Styron on the history of the labor movement through the 1930s and the history of the Russian Revolution. These were held in Berkeley-Oakland. The third weekend series, given by Fred Halstead on the recent history of the labor movement, was held in San Francisco.

These weekends were sponsored by the campaign committee and were built in a campaign manner. As a result, they were attended by many contacts and campaign endorsers as well as by the comrades. A major social event was held after the two weekends in Berkeley-Oakland. The educational weekends were financially successful.

As with other summer school classes, the primary goal was education of the membership, but the intensive building of the weekends among contacts proved no obstacle to this. Comrades read the material, profited from the classes, and recruitment to the YSA was aided.

While branches may find it impossible to hold weekend activities of this type with the frequency that the Bay Area branches achieved during the summer, when education was the number one party priority, it may still be possible to make use of such special events on a less frequent basis both for cadre education and intensive contact work.

4. History of Detroit Class Series

The Detroit branch is holding an eight-class series on the history of Detroit, as part of acquainting comrades with the class-struggle experience of the city. The Detroit series is held on Wednesdays and consists of a 15-20 minute presentation followed by discussion. This format may also be especially suitable for pre-branch educational in some branches, since no reading is required (although some key books like Labor's

Giant Step and Detroit: City of Race and Class Violence are suggested).

Branch educational committees may want to consider whether such a review of the major highpoints of the class struggle, including the history of our own movement, in their areas can be developed. Such a series might have considerable appeal to party members, in view of our intensified involvement in local struggles and election campaigns.

Comradely,

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