

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

November 8, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

This is a follow-up on the earlier correspondence of October 12 about support for the miners and should be appended.

It is now clear that there will be a mine strike next week (see Militant Vol. 38, No. 43). This strike challenges the economic policy of the administration and is different from others in the recent period in that it will serve as a measure of class forces in this country as a whole.

The attention of the nation is fixed upon this strike. The government is directly involved in the attempted settlement of it, and as the representative of the employing class will try to dictate the terms and conditions of employment in the mines.

At this time, we cannot predict the length of the strike.

The miners have some advantages that most other workers do not have. The coal industry is more crucial to the economy than a few years ago, prior to the "energy crisis." The mine operators have a scandalous record of neglect, mismanagement, and greed. They are responsible for the high death rate in the industry and the devastation of vast regions where coal is mined. The mine union has been democratized in the past year, has begun to expose the mine operators, and seems ready to withstand considerable pressure from the government to condone unsafe working conditions and substandard wages.

There is broad sympathy and admiration for the miners in the union movement, in the working class, and among the population as a whole.

The most important way we can support the strike is by helping to get out the facts about the miners' fight. One of the key ways we will do this is through The Militant, with on-the-spot coverage and analytical articles on the profiteering of the mine owners and the significance of this strike for all workers.

In some areas we will be able to sell The Militant to miners, but our main sales will be to other working people, who will be interested in learning about the issues in this strike. The Militant business office is also sending out complimentary copies of the paper to UMWA offices and contacts.

Militant Forums can sponsor meetings on the strike, its causes, and the stake of all workers in its outcome. There are UMWA districts near many of our branches, and officials of the union may be willing to speak at our forums, perhaps as part of a panel.

Viewpoint can be contacted to arrange for speakers on the strike.

On campuses, YSA locals can help organize meetings to hear speakers on the strike, cosponsored with student governments, other campus groups, and professors. Resolutions backing the strike could be passed at such meetings, and copies sent to the union.

Union locals can also pass resolutions, and invite UMWA representatives to address their meetings.

Chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women can play a role in building support for the miners. CLUW chapters could introduce resolutions in their unions for support, build meetings to hear miners or the wives of miners, and engage in other support activities. This activity, in addition to helping the miners, could be an important way for CLUW to reach out to new union women, involve them in activity, and recruit them to CLUW.

The UMWA has not yet announced plans for strike support activities. Strike support committees may spring up in different areas, and we should find out about their activities, and work with them where possible. A meeting to organize such a committee was recently held in Pittsburgh, initiated by the Communist Party. The CP-initiated November 16 actions will include support to the miners, and we should participate in them wherever they are significant.

Please keep us informed of all activities in support of the miners, or any discussions with local UMWA officials, their reaction to The Militant's coverage of the strike, reports of forums, and union and student support of the strike.

Comradely,

Frank Lovell @

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