

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

September 20, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS, NC MEMBERS, AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Building the Student Mobilization Committee will be a central aspect of the work of the YSA this fall. Despite mounting election year pressures, the potential continues to exist to increase the authority and influence of the SMC. Although we can expect large numbers of high school and college students to play an active role in the McGovern campaign this fall, it would be a mistake on our part to assume that they will automatically counterpose their support for McGovern to building antiwar activities. We saw from the NPAC Convention and other summer antiwar activities that it is possible to win significant numbers of McGovern supporters to the perspective for independent action against the war. In addition, in a number of areas where campuses have opened large SMC meetings have been held. At the University of Texas in Austin over 50 attended the first campus SMC meeting. The SMCs at the University of Houston and the University of Pennsylvania have also had large opening meetings.

This fall we should make every effort to help the SMC to broaden its base and influence in the student movement by taking an aggressive coalition-building approach. The SMC should make a special effort to involve McGovern support groups and campus and high school student governments in its activities and in the building of the fall actions. The SMC will want to make a conscious effort to collaborate closely with new forces in or around the SMC and to involve these forces in the decision-making processes of the SMC.

As the campuses open this fall the SMC will want to project itself on the campuses and in the high schools as a strong and viable organization with ongoing activities and projects. Wherever possible the SMC should project campus complicity struggles, campus educational activities and projects, teach-ins, fundraising events and other ongoing activities in the course of building student participation in the October 26 picket lines and the November 18 mass demonstrations.

A major national focus for building the SMC and the fall actions will be the Expanded National SMC Steering Committee Meeting that will be held at Boston University on

October 7 (the NPAC Steering Committee meeting will take place the following day, October 8). The meeting will plot out a political course of action for the SMC through the fall and serve as an organizing tool for building the fall actions. Its agenda will include organizing workshops on education, logistics, fundraising, and campus and high school organizing. Local SMC chapters on the East coast and the midwest should view building participation in this steering committee meeting as a major aspect of SMC activity. Student government leaders, representatives of campus and underground newspapers, McGovern campus support committees, and other campus and high school organizations should be contacted right away to urge their participation.

Another important aspect of building the SMC this fall will be the tour of SMC National Coordinator Fred Lovgren. Fred will be visiting a total of 17 areas on his tour which began on September 18 and is scheduled to last two full months. The Lovgren tour will give local SMCs the opportunity to set up campus and high school speaking engagements, to hold SMC regional, citywide, or campus meetings for which Fred will have a prepared report to present, and to arrange news conferences and other media appearances to help publicize the fall actions and other SMC activities. In addition, meetings should be set up with student body presidents and other important student leaders and antiwar figures. These meetings can aid in the process of involving people in ongoing antiwar activity with the SMC and NPAC.

In arranging the Lovgren tour the SMC should give serious attention to how it can be used as a fund-raiser. A special emphasis should be placed on obtaining honoraria for speaking engagements. All honoraria will go to the SMC National Office. Also, special meetings should be arranged between Fred and potential big contributors to the antiwar movement as a vehicle for raising funds.

The fraction meeting for the October 7 SMC Steering Committee meeting will be held at the Boston headquarters at 8 am. Comrades should make every effort to arrive in Boston in time for the fraction meeting. The fraction for the NPAC steering committee meeting will be at the headquarters at 10 am on Sunday.

Comradely,

Mark Ugolini
Mark Ugolini
YSA Antiwar Director