

873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003
October 16, 1969

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

As the enclosed news release reports, the Berkeley Three, including Peter Camejo, are scheduled to go to trial on October 20. Their attorneys and the Berkeley Defense Committee were assuming that the trial could be postponed until early in 1970, but they were unable to win the necessary postponements. The attorneys estimate that the trial will last four weeks.

While at this stage, at least, we are not projecting a defense campaign of the scope of CABS or Ft. Jackson, it is important that comrades around the country do what they can to make the case, and the defense effort, known. The felony charges against the Berkeley Three are clearly an attempt to "make examples" of leaders of the student movement in Berkeley for the "benefit" of the entire country. It is another example of the "conspiracy" type frame-up being used against militants.

We should be able to obtain publicity and support for the case between now and the end of the trial throughout the country.

The branches, locals, and at-large members will receive mailings of literature, posters, and press releases from the defense committee for the duration of the trial.

Among the things that can be done to build the defense effort are:

1. Getting the local daily, campus, and underground press to carry news on the case and to print the press releases and stories which the Berkeley Defense Committee will send out.

2. Obtaining prominent sponsors for the defense committee, including well-known professors, civil libertarians, antiwar leaders, legislators, etc. Soliciting statements of support from prominent individuals and groups.

A few well-known sponsors and statements of support in various parts of the country will be very helpful.

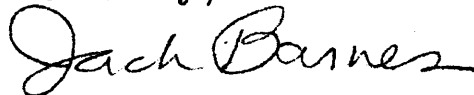
3. Getting TV and radio coverage for local comrades and endorsers speaking on the case and the trial.

4. Holding forums about the conspiracy laws and the cases that are underway, which could feature the Berkeley Three case.

- 2 -

More information and materials are available from the Berkeley Defense Committee, 2158 Emerson St., Berkeley, Ca. 94705. Comrades should send reports on progress in this defense work to the Berkeley Defense Committee with a copy to the national office.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Barnes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

B E R K E L E Y D E F E N S E C O M M I T T E E

NEWS RELEASE

For Release, October 6, 1969

On October 20, 1969 the Berkeley Three, Peter Camejo, Jack Bloom, and Paul Glusman will go to trial under felony charges of conspiracy to commit misdemeanors. The trial is expected to last at least 6 weeks. The prosecutor will be Richard De Vega; the defense attorneys will be Richard Hodge, Penelope Cooper, and Arthur Wells.

On September 15, 1969 the Berkeley Three petitioned Superior court to drop all charges because the indictment violates First Amendment rights. The three acts cited in the indictments were two public speeches and the chairing of a public meeting. Judge Dieden ruled against the motion to quash the indictment without as much as a single comment as to why the petition should be denied.

The charges against the Berkeley Three stem from the Moses Hall sit-in of October 1968 where the demonstrators charged the Regents of racism and political interference in violation of academic freedom regarding the Eldridge Cleaver faculty approved course.

If upheld, the political use of the conspiracy law would endanger the rights protected by the first amendment and turn all normal planning of protests (rallies, meetings, etc.) into potential felony conspiracies.

There is a national pattern of attempting to intimidate political dissenters through the use of vindictive conspiracy indictments. Such frame-up attempts include the Dr. Spock 5, the Oakland 7, the Black Panther 21, the Chicano 13, the Chicago 8, and the Berkeley Three.

A Berkeley Three victory will break this chain of conspiracy frame-ups and will bury this vicious conspiracy law in California. WE WILL WIN!

OUR TRIAL IS OCTOBER 20, 1969. CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR DEFENSE MAY BE SENT TO: THE BERKELEY DEFENSE COMMITTEE, 2158 Emerson St., Berkeley, California 94705. Phone: 845-8565.