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September 1, 1970

TO ALL BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES AND FINANCIAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

August 1970 Financial Notes

One of the key themes discussed at the Oberlin conference was the ways and means of tooling up the finances of the party as a prerequisite to carrying out the plans we projected for the fall offensive. The most vital part of that financial tooling up takes place in the branches -- that is, the aspect of our financial structure which makes possible the day-to-day functioning of the party and our press.

Two main things emerged as the result of sharing our experiences on the day-to-day financial functioning of the party. We must begin to follow through on them to strengthen the financial structure of our movement for the period ahead.

One was the need expressed by comrades from around the country to continue the sharing of experiences that took place at the financial panel and in informal discussions at Oberlin. We hope that the Notes will aid in this regard. Branches should send in reports and tips on things that have worked out well in their branches or on problems that would be useful for branch leaderships in other areas to know about.

The second and most important conclusion we came to was the need to involve the leadership of our movement and the ranks in a much more profound way in understanding the financial needs, problems, and possibilities before us. Concretely this means having more frequent and complete discussions on finances at the executive committee level and among the membership as a whole.

This idea should be brought into branch functioning right away, since it has immediate relevance to the principal financial goal we have to set this month: getting caught up on debts to the national office. Many branches fell behind during August as a result of the conference. However, what are becoming more and more recurrent crises of capitalism -- our joy and Washington's headache -- continue to occur and the party's need to intervene in them to try to influence the direction of movements and events continues to make big demands on our finances.

The events around the Chicano Moratorium in Los Angeles and the August 26 women's demonstrations provide us with more big openings to reach and influence radicalizing sectors of the American population. However, the party's intervention in such events on a national scale could be curtailed by the fact that as of the August 31 financial statements (not including what the branches' sustainer to the national office will be for September, or August dues), the branches owe the national office \$12,000 in arrears. Not only haven't we worked down the debts from the end of July, but they are up almost \$2,000. The following branches have not yet paid any of their August sustainer: Chicago, San Diego, Oakland-Berkeley, San Francisco, Twin Cities, Portland, Atlanta, Austin, Denver, Houston.

This fact, taken in conjunction with the plans we enthusiastically made at Oberlin, makes it clear that executive committee discussions are needed to come collectively to grips with this situation and begin to map out plans to turn it around. Branches that did not remember to make attempts to collect sustainers in advance during the period of the Oberlin conference have to go on a campaign footing now to make up for it. It's always easier to get comrades to pay up in advance than to try to make it up afterwards. In this case, though, considering the boosted morale and spirit of all comrades who attended the conference, it shouldn't be too difficult to convince the comrades to pay back sustainers or even pay ahead so we can really move into high gear for the fall offensive.

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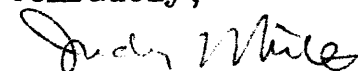
Enclosed along with the Notes are three items which financial directors and executive committees should direct their attention to:

1) Reminder on Jo O'Brien tour quotas which should be sent in from the branches where Jo spoke.

2) Letter summarizing our records on the Activists Conference voluntary assessment. Since we have already received the bills for the conference, branches should make an effort to pay the remaining assessment right away. Any assessment refunds that are owed to branches will be sent when we have received answers to Susan Christie's letter on this. Refunds on room and board are still being processed and will be mailed out shortly.

3) Chart that was distributed to the financial panel at Oberlin on the current status of the sustainer system.

Comradely,



Judy White
National Financial Director

PROGRESS REPORT ON SUSTAINER SYSTEM SINCE FEBRUARY SWP PLENUM

Branch	Per Capita to NO		Per Capita to Br.		% Total Sustainer Pledged to NO	
	1/70	7/70	1/70	7/70	1/70	7/70
Atlanta	7.50	7.50	28.25	29.95 ³	27%	24% ³
Austin	15.00	4.00	10.44	16.37 ⁴	100+%	21% ⁴
Boston	8.33	11.00	18.95	26.66	44%	41%
Chicago	15.00 ²	10.00	30.00 ²	unk	50% ²	unk
Cleveland	8.33	5.00	16.67+	14.50 ³	-50%	55% ³
D.C.	-----	5.00	-----	25.47	---	20%
Denver	-----	7.50 ³	-----	25.00 ⁴	---	30% ⁴
Detroit	8.54	8.50 ⁷	22.18	27.25 ³	38%	31% ³
Houston	-----	12.00 ⁶	-----	29.58	---	41%
L.A.	15.00	16.00	21.37	24.24 ³	69%	67% ³
N.Y.	13.21	13.00 ¹	23.59	22.36 ³	56%	58% ³
O-B	7.45	14.30	30.29	29.54 ³	25%	48% ³
Phila.	10.87	10.00	27.28	22.11 ³	40%	45% ³
Portl.	6.86	8.00 ⁵	14.14	11.96 ³	49%	50% ³
San Diego	4.20	5.55 ³	unk	unk	unk	unk
S.F.	13.00	13.00	20.83	21.11 ³	62%	62% ³
Seattle	10.00	10.00	18.89	20.00 ⁴	50%	50% ⁴
T.C.	11.22	10.25	22.19	21.80 ³	51%	47% ³
Aves.	10.80	11.11	22.82	23.38		

1 Raising to \$14 per capita as of August 1970

2 As of November 1969

3 As of June 1970; most recent report received

4 As of May 1970; most recent report received

5 Lowering to \$2 per capita as of August 1970

6 Lowering to \$10 per capita as of August 1970

7 Raising to \$10 per capita as of August 1970

Total monthly pledge to NO

1/70 \$6,415

7/70 \$7,085

Budget projected by 7/70 \$7,500 total monthly pledge to NO. Not based on \$15/member/mo., but on approximately \$12.50/member/mo. Still \$415 short.