

873 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10003
May 1, 1967

TO ALL ORGANIZERS:

Summer School

Dear Comrades,

This year, as in the past, we will be using the summer for intensive education. The summer schools held in the past years have proved to be extremely successful. Our increasing activity in the antiwar movement and the number of recent recruits make it important to take time again this year for this concentrated period of education.

We have learned a number of things from past experience which are good to keep in mind when planning the schools.

1. The schools are aimed at comrades, not contacts. The primary aim is to educate young people already in or extremely close to our movement, and the program should be selected with this in mind. It should not become a twice-a-week forum series, nor a broad contact class for those becoming interested in socialism for the first time.
2. It is sometimes necessary to curtail other activity in order to enable comrades to participate fully in the planned educationals. In some cases this will mean a decision to cut back on other work in order to allow comrades time to study.
3. Members at large are urged to move to a center which is holding a school. If a local knows of the move in advance, they can help with summer employment, housing, etc. Where this is not possible, comrades in isolated areas can arrange to take part in schools during weekends or whenever possible.
4. Various organizational forms for the schools have been tried in the past. One of the most common, particularly when there is an outside speaker, is to have a lecture, and general discussion. Another is to have a large lecture, then break into small discussion groups with thoroughly prepared discussion leaders. A third has been to run classes on an informal seminar basis. Regardless of the form, the important thing is thorough preparation on the part of the speaker, discussion leaders, and comrades participating.

The following educational material can help in planning the schools:

1. The national tape library: The tape catalogue is available from the SWP National Office and the recommended tape lists for studying Stalinism, party history, and the history of the labor movement are available from the youth National

Office. Of course the tapes cannot substitute for a live talk or experienced comrades teaching, but it can provide a supplement in areas where experienced lecturers are at a minimum.

2. The educational outlines put out by the Education Department of the SWP: They can provide a guide for the reading and a starting point for the discussion. A list of available outlines can be obtained from the Education Department.

3. Educational bulletins and discussion bulletins: Two Essays on Imperialism, and Cannon's speech on the Progressive Party in 1948, available from the youth office; the bulletin on the Cochran fight, the 1965 discussion bulletin (Vol. 25, No. 3) codifying our basic organizational principles, and the compilation on Eastern Europe can be used.

4. Articles in the Militant, ISR, and past articles in the Fourth International are good sources of basic material. The Militant index for 1966 and ISR index can be obtained from the Militant business office. The recently published bibliography of Trotsky's writings in our press will also be an aid and this is available from the Education Department.

A few suggestions on material: The large number of new recruits indicates a need for studying the basics; party history, Stalinism, and the history of the labor movement. Books like the Third International After Lenin, and the Permanent Revolution, although studied many times in the past should be gone over again. The current articles in the Militant by Farrell Dobbs, along with Labor's Giant Step, can be used as a basis for studying the role of the working class in changing society.

The Negro struggle -- both Negro history and our position on the Negro struggle -- is an important area and locals should make an effort to devote time in the school for the study of this subject. Many young people in the movement today did not go through the 1963 discussion, nor follow the evolution of Malcolm X, and older comrades who did go through these experiences can help in explaining our analysis.

The 1968 elections, the rise of "peace candidates," local CIPA's, etc., make it important to study our attitude toward independent political action. Cannon's 1948 speech on the Progressive Party can be a good starting point.

The Detroit petitioning campaign should be kept in mind when planning the summer school schedules. Detroit has asked for help from other areas, particularly from July 5 to August 1. Areas near enough to give significant help should not schedule main events such as educational weekends which would conflict with the Detroit campaign in this three week period.

We will again be coordinating the speakers from New York who will be available to teach in the Midwest and East Coast. This is being coordinated through a summer school committee. Please let us know as soon as possible: 1. What the plans are for the summer school in your area; 2. If you have specific requests for speakers; 3. What topics you would like to have them speak on. It is not always possible to schedule speakers at the optimum time, but we will do our best to share the available speakers equitably. Also branches can obtain speakers from other locals who are preparing talks for the summer schools in their areas. As in the past, locals will be expected to pay the transportation costs for speakers. In some cases this can be divided among several locals.

We will give whatever help we can from here, and we welcome ideas and suggestions.

Comradely,

J. Daniels

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For the Summer School
Committee