

Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003
May 30, 1968

To All Organizers, NCers, and At-Large Members

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is an edited transcript of a presentation by Harry Ring to a combined meeting of the New York YSA and SWP on the current fight in the antiwar movement. Supplementary remarks by Jack Barnes are also attached. These reports should be summarized to the local meetings and made available to comrades to read.

The initial response to the opening statements by Kipp and Syd and to Howard's letter has been very encouraging. Statements from many of the local committees where we are active have arrived. Additionally, we have received copies of many protests from outlying areas which were activated for the first time by the work of the Student Mobilization Committee. The Berkeley Barb will carry articles, and articles have appeared in several campus papers.

These initial protests are only the beginning of the struggle. In the coming weeks we will want to use the petition (enclosed) as the keystone in our efforts to win support. The two demands included in it are the central ones for us at this stage. While the differences in this fight run deep into questions of electoral action in 1968 and others -- differences we want to bring into the open -- we want to concentrate at this stage on attracting maximum support for our protest around the call for a national conference and the re-establishment of non-exclusion.

It is also important for us to get maximum circulation for Howard Petrick's answer to Linda Morse's "invitation" to him to join the SMC staff. Not only is it a strong protest, but it also clearly spells out an orientation toward antiwar sentiment in the armed forces.

In the case of this letter and other material sent from here, comrades should feel free to reproduce it locally and circulate it on a broad scale. Howard's letter and other material by Kipp and Syd should be made available to the antiwar movement as a whole.

Material forthcoming in this struggle includes copies of the protest letters, and a position paper on the character of SMC and prospectives for future action. The May 31 issue of the Militant should be utilized for factual background. Forthcoming issues of the Militant will give complete coverage and the Militant should be used as one of our key tools in this fight. Our job is to get the paper into the hands of activists in each area as part of our circulation drive.

In the next few days comrades should:

1. Send in any names and addresses that should be on our national lists, that are not now receiving material.

2. Raise money from committees or individuals and mail it to us. Since the right-wing exclusionists refuse to allow Kipp or Syd to mail out their side of the dispute, the mailings that have gone out so far have been paid for out of our treasury. This type of subsidy takes money away from other things and cannot continue for long.

3. Mail in reports of local activities in this fight so that we can better assess the national picture.

4. All correspondence, money, copies of protests, etc. should be sent to Lew Jones, 873 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Comradely,

Lew Jones
for the National Antiwar Fraction