

National Office, SWP  
873 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
March 23, 1968

TO BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND  
APPROPRIATE FRACTIONS OR MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

1. Malcolm X Memorial Meetings: The Malcolm X Memorial forums were generally very successful. Most cities found that the meetings attracted more people than last year and that the outside speakers were on a higher political level. In addition to the reports that have appeared in the Militant, the following facts may be of interest:

MINNEAPOLIS: Eighty people came making it "the largest forum we have had this year and by far the largest memorial meeting for Malcolm X." The speaker was Matthew Eubanks, a well-known community leader in the Twin Cities. The forum was reported in a two column article in the Minneapolis Tribune.

LOS ANGELES: Speakers included two representatives from Afro-American student organizations and a representative from the YSA. Attendance was 86. A collection of \$39.60 was raised for the L.A. Black Student Alliance.

NEW YORK: Speakers were three Afro-American students, including YSAer Tony Thomas. Malcolm's widow, Betty Shabazz, came to the meeting. Attendance was 180 including 49 Afro-Americans. \$98.80 in literature was sold. (Last year's memorial meeting drew 124 people with a literature sale of \$22.00.)

DETROIT: Speakers were John Watson, editor of Inner City Voice; Robert Higgins, chairman of the Black Political Study Group at Wayne State and YSAer Judy Watts. Attendance was 78. A collection of \$100 was raised for the Inner City Voice.

BOSTON: Clifton DeBerry spoke along with a representative from the Harvard Afro-American student group and two community leaders. Despite the fact that another memorial meeting was held elsewhere in Boston at the same time, 80 - 100 people attended.

READING, PENN.: Robert Vernon spoke in Reading at a meeting organized by an Afro-American youth group. He found copies of the Militant displayed in the group's headquarters. Vernon also spoke to 80 people at the memorial forum in Philadelphia.

SAN FRANCISCO: Speakers were Paul Boutelle, Elijah Turner, Treasurer of CORE; and Tembada Chijovanyika, a Rhodesian student member of the Tricontinental Progressive Student Ass. Attendance was 101.

2. Conference at Central State: Tony Thomas attended a black student conference at Central State in Ohio March 1-3. He reports that most of the 200 students who attended were from colleges and small towns in Ohio. A structure for a statewide black student organization was set up. Discussion at the conference centered around the questions of how black students can relate to the black community and how to organize on campus. Tony encouraged participation in NBAWADU and passed out registration forms for the national NBAWADU conference to be held in New York April 12-14.

3. Defense Cases: Comrades should send in reports to the Militant of any activities which take place on March 20 around the "Day of Support for SNCC chairman H. Rap Brown" called by SNCC. On March 2 the comrades in Los Angeles helped to organize a "Let Rap Rap" cocktail party.

The TSU Five and LeRoi Jones cases are two defense efforts which we can and should continue to actively support. Locals might consider the idea of sponsoring a defense forum similar to the LeRoi Jones meeting in New York where a poetry reading by Barbara Ann Teer was combined with a talk by Larry Neal on LeRoi Jones and his case. Most cities have a black theatre group which would be able to provide a person to do a poetry reading.

TSU Five defendant Floyd Nichols will be available to speak from time to time in the coming period. Stanley Wright, who is handling some of the TSU Five defense work, can also speak. To get in touch with them write to Defense Fund, 2024 Eastex Freeway, Box 21085, Houston, Texas 77026. San Francisco held a forum on March 22 at which both Nichols and Wright spoke, and Los Angeles held a similar forum on March 15.

4. People Are Reading Our Literature: The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense has published a "Ministry of Information Black Paper" which refers to the ISR article, "The Case for an Independent Black Political Party" and quotes from it. The "Black Paper" contains excellent arguments on why black people should not support the Democratic Party, but ends with arguments in favor of support to the Peace and Freedom Party. Comrades can obtain copies of the paper by writing to the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, P.O. Box 8641, Emeryville Branch, Oakland, Calif. The paper is titled, "Position of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense on the Seventh Congressional District Election and the Candidacy of John George in the Democratic Party."

An excerpt from the Merit pamphlet, "Myths About Malcolm X" by George Breitman and Albert Cleage appeared in the Michigan Chronicle Feb. 24. The quotes were from some of the better parts of Cleage's speech. Credit was given to the pamphlet and Merit.

5. Huey Newton Defense Rally: Los Angeles reports that while "the CP and PL handed out literature outside the building at the Newton defense rally, we were the only political group that set up inside. We sold about \$60.00 worth of literature, mostly Malcolm X literature. We got nine names for our mailing list and one sponsor for the campaign."

6. Paul Boutelle's Tour: Comrades are urged to continue sending in the most common questions asked of Paul when he tours in your area. These will be useful in helping prepare campaign literature and Militant articles.

Comradely,

Clifton DeBerry, Chairman  
Elizabeth Barnes, Fraction Secretary

Black Fraction in New York