

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

March 15, 1968

TO ALL BRANCHES

Summer Schools

Dear Comrades:

Comrades Doug Jenness and Mary-Alice Waters have been assigned by the National Office to coordinate the joint party-youth summer school educational activities for the current year.

All correspondence relating to the summer school program should be addressed to SWP National Office at 873 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

Comradely,

Ed Shaw
Organization Secretary

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

March 15, 1968

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

The increased rate of recruitment makes it particularly important that our summer school educational program this year be a success.

The concept behind the summer school program as it has evolved over the past few years is that during the summer months, time is specially allotted for intensive reading, study and discussion in order to more fully learn the basic politics of our movement. Comrades who are assigned to be instructors are provided enough time to prepare their classes.

With considerable activity both in our election campaign and the antiwar movement this summer, it is very important that locals and branches plan ahead to avoid conflicts between petitioning, etc. and the summer schools. This means to start planning now.

There are many at-large members of the YSA whom we are encouraging to attend summer schools. As soon as the courses have been selected by the summer schools, and sent to us, we will notify all at-large members so that they can choose which schools they want to attend.

It is important to bear in mind that while there will be many new comrades who have never attended a summer school, the program is not necessarily a series of new member classes. The courses can be designed so that they are taught at more than one level at the same time. For example, the reading lists can include not only required readings but supplementary readings which will challenge more advanced students. In addition there are certain reading materials that students at all levels can learn something from (e.g. The History of American Trotskyism, Letters From Prison, etc.).

Lectures should be presented so that everybody will learn something from them, and sufficient time should be allowed for discussion so that comrades will have a chance to raise questions and clarify confusing points.

The main purpose of the summer schools is to teach the history and politics of our movement -- and to do it in as interesting and inspiring a manner as possible.

This can be done by designing the courses so that they deal with political questions and problems that we are particularly concerned with in our present activities.

There are several courses which we feel are very important and want to encourage local areas to consider seriously. We are planning to put out short study guides which will be useful to instructors of these courses. The study guides will break each course into specific classes with a short summary of what each might cover and will include reading lists for each.

These courses are:

- (1) Socialist Politics and Electoral Activity (a study of our labor party position, the 1948 Wallace movement, the 1958 United Socialist ticket, black independent political action, the tactic of critical support, and the 1968 election campaign);
- (2) The National Question and the Black Liberation Struggle (a study of the Leninist position on the national question and the right of nations to self-determination, Trotsky's writings on the relationship between the national question and the black struggle in the U.S., and the history of the SWP's position on this question);
- (3) Afro-American History (a study of slavery in America, the origins of anti-black prejudice, the role of Afro-Americans in the Civil War and Reconstruction, the defeat of Reconstruction, the rise of Jim Crow, and the Garvey movement);
- (4) Fascism and McCarthyism in the United States (a study of what fascism is, how socialists fight it, the origins of McCarthyism, why it was an "incipient fascist" movement, and how we fought it);
- (5) The History of the SWP (this is such a large subject that it can be broken into separate courses. The basic texts for courses on this topic are The First Ten Years of American Communism; The History of American Trotskyism, The Struggle for a Proletarian Party, Letters From Prison (supplemented with tapes of lectures by Farrell Dobbs, George Novack, Joe Hansen, and Tom Kerry), and the bulletin of four articles by Cannon on the Cochran fight);
- (6) Cuba and the Permanent Revolution (a study of the evolution of the Cuban Revolution and its confirmation of Trotsky's theory of the Permanent Revolution).

Some basic reading materials for these courses are out of print or not available in quantity at the present time. However, we are taking steps to make as many of these available as possible. If there are any back SWP discussion bulletins or out-of-print

pamphlets that you need for your summer school, let us know right away.

For nearly all of these courses there are tapes of lectures available that will be useful to instructors teaching these courses. A new up-to-date catalog of the national tape library will be available soon.

We will obtain national speakers for these courses and will coordinate their schedules for visits to the various areas. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Comradely,

Mary-Alice Waters
Doug Jenness

Summer School Coordinators
for the joint YSA-SWP summer
school committee