

P.O. Box 471, Cooper Station
New York, New York, 10003

November, 13, 1968

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a letter received in the National Office recently from a comrade in DeKalb.

It describes the events that lead to the formation of a local in DeKalb. We are sending it to you for informational purposes.

Comradely,

Charlie Bolduc

Charlie Bolduc,
National Secretary

National Office
Young Socialist Alliance

October 28, 1968

Comrades,

On November 11 the YSA will have a new local in Dekalb, Illinois. At the beginning of the present school year there were only two at-largers at Northern Illinois University but through work in the International Week of Solidarity Against the War in Vietnam we were able to recruit the entire leadership of the antiwar movement on campus plus one or two high school contacts that have put Halsteads name on the ballot for their mock election and sold twenty dollars worth of literature in two weeks.

The activities that brought the YSA to the forefront were Ernest Mandel's tour, Dan Styron's tour and Fred's tour. With three major speakers in a period of less than six weeks, along with literature tables and Militant sales we were able to get our name around campus. Then we began organizing for the Solidarity Week. Under the direction of the at-largers and with the help of new people that had just begun to radicalize we set up an entire week of activity with only two weeks planning. Monday October 21, was a debate on "lesser evilism" (sponsored by the faculty), Tuesday was an open forum during the day for all political tendencies and a march-torchlight parade around campus at night. Wednesday was a GI panel that featured Howard Petrick, and Thursday was a series of GI training films.

The march was the most successful since about 300-400 spirited students marched for an hour around all the dormitories on campus chanting "join us". It was the most significant action on campus since the Student Strike last Spring.

Out of all this activity the YSA gained its reputation. Every one of the main organizers of the activity agreed with the thrust of young socialist action and decided to join the organization. Everyone of those organizers is a hard working , intelligent person who will make Dekalb an excellent local and establish the YSA on a permanent basis here at Northern. Already we have laid the plans for a GI Defense Committee, a Defense Committee for the Panthers, and a permanent staff on the antiwar committee to call actions and organize activities on campus between dates of international activity. We expect to get one of the major commercial antiwar films and publish sections of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for the benefit of students and faculty on campus.

In total beginning six weeks ago , we have moved from two at-largers in Dekalb to a local of at least six members. We have sold over sixty dollars worth of literature, established a mailing list of over 40, made contact with the high school which includes a speaking engagement for me this week, surpass and soon double our sub total, and get the university to cough up \$475.00 in speakers fees for Mandel, Styron, Halstead, and Lippman.

I might, in closing, point out the major political lesson we have learned here at Northern. Before we could really recruit anyone and firmly establish the YSA we had to first get beyond and around the old, established radicals. Continuing to rely on old contacts in SDS, PFP and independents both for organizing action and for recruitment failed and were doomed to fail. Every YSAer should be very clear that mass meetings called to build actions on issues like the war are the recruiting ground for the YSA. One should work with the old, established radicals if they are willing to do more than talk, but to look to them for leadership or expect them to change and join the YSA is a mistake. Build with or around them, then recruit without them. Don't sit at their established coffee tables and rap with them but reach out to the new people who are just now radicalizing.

Comradely,

(signature)

John Votava
Dekalb local

Box 471, Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

November 13, 1968

FUND DRIVE SCOREBOARD

<u>Local</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. Boston	\$750	\$795	106.0
2. Twin Cities	675	690	102.2
3. Ann Arbor	50	51	102.0
4. Los Angeles	600	610	101.7
5. Madison	400	400.50	100.1
6. Antioch	50	50	100.0
7. Atlanta	100	100	100.0
8. Champaign	50	50	100.0
9. Chicago	1000	1000	100.0
10. Cleveland	825	825	100.0
11. Detroit	850	850	100.0
12. East Lansing	50	50	100.0
13. Long Island	320	320	100.0
14. Manhattan	1040	1040	100.0
15. Newark	240	240	100.0
16. Philadelphia	600	600	100.0
17. San Francisco	700	700	100.0
18. Seattle	175	175	100.0
19. Washington	150	150	100.0
20. Portland		60.75	
21. At-large	50	44	88.0
22. Berkeley	1200	675	56.3
23. Bloomington	50	20	40.0
24. Kent	50	0	0

TOTAL	\$10075	\$9496.25	95.0
Should be to date	10,000	10,000.00	100.0

Dear Comrades,

This is the final scoreboard and as you can see several locals didn't quite make their quotas on time. Berkeley has indicated that they will pay their full quota shortly. Bloomington and Kent we haven't heard from but are confident they will come through soon.

We are \$500 short of our final goal but if every local that's not at 100% gets its quota in by the convention we will be able to announce a belated but completed fund drive.

Comradely,

Mary-Alice Waters
Mary-Alice Waters
Fund Drive Director