

AMENDMENT TO CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Submitted by New York City TEACHERS BRANCH

RESOLUTION A : THE FIGHTS TO COME

ADD as point 3:

New York City is a spearhead of a nationwide attack on all public employees and their unions, and through that an attack on all workers. The bankruptcy of the union bureaucracy is apparent as every attempt to push their only strategy, reliance on the Democrats collapses in the face of the Democrats' intimate involvement in passing on more and more cutbacks in the UFT, the largest union local, the strongest and at present the hardest hit municipal union, there is for the first time since the formation of the union, a crack in the support for the leadership. Through the efforts of the NEW York City UFT branch and friends we have been able to take advantage of the situation to build a rapidly growing and successful rank and file group, which is gaining widespread support throughout the union. This work will continue to be considered a local priority. The national organization will commit resources to aid the work of these comrades.

MOTIVATION:

Since the establishment of the NYC Teachers' Branch in January 1976 we have been able to initiate a rank and file group of growing strength and importance in the UFT. In February, with two comrades plus ~~two~~ four teachers who ~~shared~~ shared in our conception of a rank and file group, we published and distributed 6,000 newsletters. The reception was so good that we moved to a monthly newspaper with 22,000 distribution in UFT mailboxes (5 issues have been published to date). New Directions now is a group of about 50 active teachers (few of them political in the past) with about 150 other contacts who help in distribution. An excellent caucus program has been approved and the group has initial plans to run against Shanker and his caucus in next spring's elections. A ready members are running for office in their school chapters under the name of New Directions.

The importance of the group extends beyond teachers in NYC. Its success would prove that the rank and file can organize successfully against the entrenched bureaucracy. Also, ~~the~~ put up a real rank and file fight against Shanker in his own backyard will be a shot in the arm to all rank and file movements in the AFL-CIO in view of the fact that he is a Vice-President of that organization.

*in municipal unions in an attempt to reverse labor's collaboration with the govt offensive against public workers.*