

## NEC REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Mary-Alice Waters, October 17, 1968

We are now nearing the end of our election campaign work which started over a year ago. In many ways, the culmination of this work will be the YSA convention at the end of November. Many new recruits have been won to our ranks during the election campaign, and many more can be recruited during the final weeks of the campaign and at our convention.

Reports from around the country indicate a rapid growth taking place. This week alone we have learned of new locals being formed in Albany and Binghamton, New York, and Carbondale, Illinois. Established locals are also growing fast -- Long Island recruited 10 at the last meeting, and Boston 6. Antioch has taken in 11 candidates in the past few weeks. These facts underscore our central task of recruitment in the coming weeks, and give some indication of what to expect.

This growth is reflected in the initial response to our convention. Numerous requests from several different areas of the country have already been received, asking for bulletins, travel information, housing, etc. And it is still six weeks to the convention!

All locals and at-large areas should be conscious of the importance of concrete organizational steps in publicizing the convention and arranging for transportation for all those wishing to attend.

Convention posters have already been sent to locals and at-largers. These posters will be sold to locals at the special rate of 15¢ and should be used as widely as possible to publicize and build the convention. If possible, they should be put up on every campus in each area. The printed convention call should be distributed as widely as possible. Most of the requests for information received in the YSA NO have been clipped from these calls, indicating their value. As soon as the convention agenda and schedule can be nailed down a little more concretely a new leaflet will be printed, including the proposed convention schedule, and emphasizing the various highlights, such as an international panel of revolutionary youth, (we already have commitments from England and Germany, and representatives from several other countries are virtually assured) and a panel of antiwar and socialist GIs.

If locals find it useful they should print up leaflets in their own areas and distribute them, or include convention advertising on other leaflets and literature distributed.

Concrete steps should be taken as soon as possible to organize transportation to the convention. New York and Boston and Champaign are already organizing bus loads to the convention. Remember, each local is responsible for arranging transportation for a whole region.

Information on housing will be sent out by the Chicago comrades shortly. Plans are to put up the bulk of those attending the convention at two convenient hotels. Comrades can expect the rates to range between \$6.00 for a single and \$4.00 each for a quad, per night.

### Delegates

The final decision on the seating of delegates will be made, as usual, at the convention itself. The NEC will propose to the convention that the following guidelines be established for the seating of delegates:

1. That delegates from YSA locals be seated according to the procedure outlined in the official call (i.e., one delegate for every five members or major fraction thereof).

2. That there be one fraternal delegate from every area where there are at-large YSAers.

3. That delegates from YSHB groups and AAHB groups be seated on the basis of one delegate for every five active YSHBers or AAHBers.

4. That in areas where there are less than five active YSHBers a fraternal delegate be seated.

In many areas there are YSA locals and also active YSHB groups. In these cases YSHBers should be urged to participate in the YSA local's pre-convention discussion and join the YSA. However, if there is a functioning group of YSHBers not yet in the YSA and they want to send a delegate to the convention, we should urge them to participate.

### Documents

The last two NEC draft resolutions, the Afro-American and the Political, will be out very soon. They have been delayed a little by the technical difficulties of getting documents out in photo-offset style.

Contributions to the pre-convention discussion will also be printed by photo-offset. However, the closer we get to the convention, the more difficult it will be to use this format because it is more time consuming and takes more work than mimeographing. For this reason comrades are urged to send in any contributions as soon as possible. Contributions that arrive too late to be photo-offset will be mimeographed.