

302 S. Canal St.
Chicago, Illinois 60606

October 12, 1968

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Caroline Lund
New York

Dear Caroline,

Enclosed is a list of meetings we've been able to set up for Carl Finamore, our 22-year-old Gubernatorial candidate. With the exception of the Roosevelt and Glenbard High School meetings, all these meetings were arranged and initiated by non-YSA kids -- kids who, in many cases, have come independently to support Halstead and Boutelle and are frequently actively defending them in mock conventions, school elections, political clubs, and social studies classes.

The most impressive aspect of these developments, however, is the sudden and enthusiastic activity among high school students in the Chicago area, not only in antiwar work, which is also a recent development, but especially in the support of our campaign. In one night, after a campaign meeting at our Headquarters, we signed up 12 people to join the YSA, and 8 of them were from high school, most from high schools we had never heard of or had never been in contact with.

Our most serious and most pressing problem right now is that we have only three weeks until the end of the campaign....

Comradely,

/s/ Naomi Allen

Report from Boston Local on New England SDS Conference, Oct. 3, 1968.

A New England regional SDS conference was held in Boston on September 20-22. Over three hundred people attended and a sizeable portion, perhaps one-half, came from outside the Boston area. The conference was billed as a knock-down drag-out fight between Progressive Labor, who had for the last year completely controlled the New England regional office, and Eric Mann, who is on the SDS NIC and closely associated with the SDS National Office.

The conference was divided into three parts: Friday night general discussion (uneventful); Saturday morning a debate between PL and Mann followed by workshops going on for the rest of the day; and Sunday decisions on the regional structure.

PL easily won the Saturday morning debate. Although political questions tended to be obscured, Jared Israel, the PL spokesman, presented a consistent line -- pro-industrial working class, pro-worker-student alliance, and anti-Red baiting. Mann on the other hand was made by Israel to appear confused and was not able to present any clear cut alternative program to PL.

On Sunday, during the organizational restructuring, the Mann forces got the upper hand. Mann had been organizing all summer what PL termed an anti-PL caucus. All 'new lefters' were welcomed to its weekly meetings and no one from the organized tendencies, particularly PL, was allowed in. The summer work proved fruitful for Mann, as he was able to muster a clear majority for the Sunday meeting. Eleven people, including Mann, were elected to the regional staff and of these people only one (Alan Spector) is closely associated with PL. The new regional governing body, made up of the staff and the regional interim committee (RIC), will probably not include any PLers either.

The CP, for the past year almost totally isolated within SDS, made a resurgence. They will have at least one person (Peter Orris, now from Yale) on the RIC, and they will have several people sympathetic to their politics in positions of various importance.

Our role was limited to the sale of literature (\$60 worth), and intervention in workshops.