

14 Charles Lane  
New York, New York 10014  
October 12, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND TRADE UNION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Attached are excerpts from correspondence about the upcoming miners' strike and possible support work that will be of interest to party trade union directors.

Comradely,



Frank Lovell  
Trade Union Director

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Bloomington, Indiana  
September 21, 1974

Frank Lovell  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y.

Comrade Frank,

The bourgeois press is full of news about a possible miners' strike in November. A miners' strike is presented as a threat to "national security."

The Bloomington YSA has discussed what we could do in the event that miners are forced to strike this fall. We would like your suggestions concerning strike support work.

The best vehicle for strike support work would seem to be a strike support committee. There are no mines in Bloomington's immediate area so there won't be picketlines anywhere close. But we could provide a platform for spokespeople from the UMW. We could also collect money and food for the strikers.

The strike support committee would probably be composed mainly of students. But we could contact the local labor council and individual unions and ask them to sponsor meetings and speakers. The local labor movement is extremely conservative so I don't know what their reaction would be. Two delegates to the council from the campus AFT are members of International Socialists. I am sure they would raise the matter if we asked them. Do you think this would be a good idea?

If the UMW goes on strike how should we approach them about strike support? Should we write the national union headquarters or go to their district headquarters in Indiana? Your advice on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

. . .

Comradely,  
s/Harold Schlechtweg

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y.

September 25, 1974

Harold P. Schlechtweg  
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Harold,

Your letter about support for the Miners' strike and other matters arrived today.

We here are talking about the possibility of a Militant reporter going into the mine fields for interviews and information on UMW preparation for the strike. It is not yet decided if we can afford this, but we are sure it will help Militant sales.

If we are able to get some on-the-spot reports prior to the strike, it will also put us in a better position to talk with the UMW leadership about strike support work. We would want to conduct such work in cooperation with them.

I think they will welcome the opportunity to send speakers on campus at meetings we can organize for them. Probably they will also be sending out appeals to local unions for support.

It seems likely that a responsible campus support committee could send representatives to other unions, explaining what the students are doing and urging union men and women to help the strikers in similar ways. We would want to see how this develops.

It is premature now to ask Central Labor Councils to pledge support. There is no certainty of a strike, and they don't understand or accept the fact that pledges of strike support at this stage helps the miners in their current negotiations. We don't know how the miners would feel about this either.

Later it will be useful to ask for help from other unions and from Central Labor Councils. Your idea about approaching them is very good, but probably the miners (at the proper time) will want to have one of their own people appear before the Labor Council. It is possible they would authorize some members of our student support committee, if they come to know and trust us, to speak for them at union meetings.

It probably will not be necessary to depend upon members of the I.S. to do anything for us in this respect, although there is certainly no harm in maintaining a friendly relationship with their members who are active in the union movement.

. . .

Comradely,  
s/Frank Lovell