

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

January 29, 1972

TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

At its January 17 and 28 meetings, the National Executive Committee voted to increase the national membership dues of the YSA from \$1.50 per member per month to \$2.00 per member per month, and to stop charging YSA members for The Young Socialist Organizer. That is, each member will be paying for The YS Organizer through her or his dues, and will automatically receive a copy of The YS Organizer each week as a right of membership. The attached report to the NEC by YSO Editor Mark Ugolini explains why this action was taken.

The increase in dues takes effect as of February, 1972. As before, local financial directors should see that dues are promptly and regularly collected from the entire membership of the local and forwarded to the National Office.

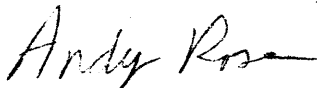
Locals will be sent a weekly bundle of YS Organizers equal to their membership as reported on the enclosed recruitment report forms. The fact that YSO bundles are set according to the reported membership underlines the importance of filling out and mailing in the recruitment report forms each week.

Since SWP members who are not members of the YSA should also read The YS Organizer, we will urge all branch bookstores to order a bundle for sale to SWP members. Branch bookstores will be billed at the rate of 14¢ per copy.

All locals with debts to The YS Organizer should include in their budgets gradual but systematic repayment of those debts.

The contents of this letter should be communicated to the next YSA business meeting.

Comradely,



Andy Rose
National Chairman

REPORT ON THE YS ORGANIZER

presented by Mark Ugolini-Editor

The Young Socialist Organizer Report given at the YSA convention pointed to some of the gains we have made since we launched The YS Organizer. During 1971, for instance, we saw a significant increase in both the number and quality of articles received from the field. YS Organizer correspondents have been assigned in many locals and in general there has been an increase in consciousness among YSAers of the importance of The YS Organizer and the function it serves.

However, one of the central points that was made in the report given at the convention was that even though tremendous progress has been made, The YS Organizer is not fully utilized, especially in the center locals. This is the most significant weakness in our publication.

For this reason, at the convention, we launched a campaign to increase the usefulness and readership of the YSO

Since the convention, in evaluating our financial situation nationally and drawing up a budget, we found that it would be necessary to reduce certain expenditures from the National Office. One reduction we found necessary was a cutback on printing and postage costs for The YS Organizer. This will be accomplished by alternating four and eight-page issues instead of publishing an eight-page issue every week as in the past. We view this as a temporary step. However, despite the fact that we have been forced to cut back on the YSO temporarily, we are still presented with the same challenge outlined at the convention--developing the YSO as a real organizing tool for the YSA.

The problem of YSA locals not fully utilizing The YS Organizer is indicated by the bundle sizes as well as by reports on how many comrades read the YSO. Just about every local has a bundle size that is significantly lower than its total membership. Since the YSA plenum last July, nine regional center locals have lowered their bundle sizes. We are finding that, due to financial pressures locals are under, this is becoming more of a trend.

On a national scale, our financial policy with the YSO has been to charge locals for weekly bundles at 17¢ per copy. We feel that this policy has created unnecessary barriers to the effective utilization of The YS Organizer by the locals. For example, during the rush of activity this fall, especially in large locals after The YS Organizer began to come out weekly, distribution of bundles became a real problem for locals. It became extremely difficult for a local to sell its complete

bundle to its entire membership. Due to financial pressures locals were already under with the fund drive and our overall financial campaign, the reaction of many locals was to lower their bundles. It also became evident that the fact that each comrade had to pay 20¢ before she or he was able to read the YSO limited its readership.

Another problem that has resulted from charging locals on a weekly basis for bundles is that it has presented a problem in the finances of the YSA nationally. As was reported at the convention, locals have back debts amounting to \$1,750 to the YSO. Also, although many locals had begun to regularize payments to the National Office, we are still receiving only an average of \$200 out of the \$500 per month we should be obtaining in income on YSO bundles.

For these reasons, the Editorial Board feels that the current policy of charging locals for bundles of the YSO should be discontinued. Instead, the cost of the YSO should be included in the 50¢ per member per month increase in dues. This way, locals will not be charged directly for bundles of the YSO, and single copies of The YS Organizer can be distributed to YSAers in each local free of charge.

Eliminating the direct cost to locals and individual YSAers will be an important step in the process of increasing the ability of the locals to effectively utilize The YS Organizer. The YSO will become more accessible to the entire YSA. Copies can be passed out at business meetings, forums, classes, and other YSA activities; also, they can be more widely used to familiarize contacts and independent activists with the YSA.

Although we see this as a necessary and important step to take, it does not solve the basic problem with the YSO. The reason many YSAers have not been reading The YS Organizer is not the 20¢ charge--it is the lack of understanding of the importance of this publication. By eliminating the charge, we can get copies of The YS Organizer into comrades' hands, but that does not mean they will necessarily be read.

By taking this step, the responsibilities of the local leadership are not lessened in any way. Significant gains in expanding the readership of the YSO, increasing its usefulness, and discovering effective ways to distribute the YSO to each member cannot be made unless serious attention is given to these problems by the local leadership.

Each local must continue to motivate the importance of the YSO in our day-to-day activities. The value of the YSO in the next few months will be exemplified by its coverage of the renewal campaign. This campaign will be a new experience for our movement, and The YS Organizer will carry valuable articles that will convey the initial techniques and experiences that we are finding successful in the early stages of this campaign. The local leadership and the membership as a whole must be reading these articles if

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we are to carry out this campaign in the best possible way.

Finally, YSO correspondents and executive committees should be conscious of following the suggestions and implementing the tasks outlined in The Young Socialist Organizer Report given at the convention and printed in The YS Organizer, February 4 issue.