

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

October 21, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

At the defense workshop at the Oberlin Socialist Activists and Educational Conference a special report on the status of the YSA recognition defense campaign being waged in the state of Florida was given. This report went over the history of the case, its political importance for our movement, and, as well, outlined projections to build the case in the fall and winter.

Presently, the case is being appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, and a ruling is expected at the earliest in mid-December.

At Oberlin we projected building the defense campaign being organized by the Committee for Free Assembly and Political Expression on Campus (FAPEC) on a national level -- that is, getting national sponsors and endorsers, letters of protest by prominent individuals, resolutions of support passed by student governments, etc. This campaign includes more extensive coverage of the case in The Militant and Young Socialist.

The following steps should be taken by each area:

1) Each local can attempt to solicit several prominent sponsors -- for example, professors, lawyers, and public officials -- for FAPEC.

2) Prominent individuals can be asked to send telegrams of protest to Burke Kibler, Chairman Board of Regents, 210 Collins Building, 107 North Gaines St., Tallahassee, Florida 32304, and a copy to FAPEC, P.O. Box 6693, FSU, Tallahassee, Florida 32306. Five or six individuals in each area can be contacted and urged to send such telegrams.

3) The enclosed sample letter of protest is being circulated by FAPEC and can be used as a guide for letters to be signed by academic figures, student government officials, civil libertarians, unionists, political figures, leaders of the antiwar, feminist, Black, Chicano and Puerto Rican movements, and others. These should be sent to the Board of Regents in Florida, and copies to FAPEC.

4) The enclosed FAPEC sample resolution can be presented for endorsement to student governments, civil liberties groups, and any other organization.

5) Student government election campaigns can feature defense of the Florida YSA. Whenever candidates speak at meetings or forums on campus, they should be conscious of publicizing the recognition fight and gaining support.

Also enclosed are factual brochures outlining the history and issues involved in the case. These can be circulated on the universities and colleges in each area. More can be ordered.

At the present time there are no projections on how this work can be organized in the local areas. However, we suggest that the campus fractions take initial responsibility for organizing the work. Further projections will be made at the convention.

Progress reports on the defense work should be sent to the national office.

Comradely,
Malik Miah
Malik Miah
YSA National Office

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SAMPLE LETTER OF PROTEST

Dear Gentlemen,

In the spring of 1970, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) at the University of Florida and Florida State University were denied campus recognition for allegedly presenting a "clear and present danger" to the educational system of the state of Florida. This policy was delineated in a letter mailed to state universities by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, Mr. Burke Kibler, on March 6, 1970. Despite the fact that the YSA has not broken any university rules or policies and has met the requirements for recognized student organizations, Chairman Kibler proscribed the YSA on the basis of its political beliefs.

We feel the position held by Chairman Kibler and the Board of Regents infringes on the constitutional rights of members and supporters of the Young Socialist Alliance. The fact that the Supreme Court ruled on June 26, 1972, that universities cannot deny recognition to student organizations because of their political views, places a responsibility on the Board to revoke your present policy.

We respectfully urge the Board of Regents to reverse your decision and grant the Young Socialist Alliance in the state of Florida the right of campus recognition.

(This sample letter of protest is distributed by the Committee for Free Assembly and Political Expression on Campus, P.O. Box 6693, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.)

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SAMPLE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the state of Florida has initiated a policy on March 6, 1970, that prohibits the Young Socialist Alliance, which is recognized in every state of the union where they have applied, from gaining legal recognition on campuses in Florida thereby denying the YSA the right to assemble publicly, organize activities, and have access to the facilities available to other organizations at the state universities,

WHEREAS, the basis on which this policy was made is the YSA has as its alleged goal the "destruction of the total educational process" of the Florida university school system, which the YSA denies,

WHEREAS, this policy was instituted solely on the initiative of the Board of Regents without any consultation, discussion or hearings with any other sections of the university community,

WHEREAS, this proscription of the YSA represents not only an attack on the YSA's democratic rights but the democratic rights of the entire student movement,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body support the democratic right of the Young Socialist Alliance in the state of Florida to be recognized as a campus organization with the same rights as other campus organizations.

TO, Burke Kibler, Chairman Board of Regents,
210 Collins Building, 107 North Gaines St.,
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

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