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May 29, 1970

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND FINANCIAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

May 1970 Financial Notes

Along with all the other activities the party and its friends have carried out this month, we have made some important gains on the financial level. Most branches around the country responded immediately to our appeals to work off the debts to the party and The Militant. Since the phone campaign and May 13 letter from the N.O. the branches have sent in \$10,411 on their debts to the party and the paper. However, as of the end of this month, the branches owe \$16,614 to the party and the paper not (including June sustainer) -- mainly because of the increased bundle orders of The Militant. If we don't make special efforts to pay this off rapidly, we'll be facing another financial crisis with the paper.

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Another big step forward has been the results of the work on the special Militant mailing equipment fund. We now have in hand or firm pledges for \$4,324.35 of the \$5,500.00 we need to pay for this equipment. The \$4,324.35 breaks down as follows:

Austin	\$1,500.00
Madison	1,500.00
Detroit	500.00
New York	394.35
Cleveland	105.00
Washington, D.C.	100.00
Boston	100.00
Miscellaneous	125.00

A number of branches haven't reported to us yet what their prospects are and others have promised to send in more than the amounts indicated above.

The comrades in the business office report that having the new equipment has made a qualitative difference for the comrades in New York who have been working on mailing out the paper. The automation took place just in time. Between the extra issues we put out and the number of new readers coming out of the sub drive it would have been virtually impossible for us to keep completely up to date mailing the subscriptions without it.

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Detroit is the branch of the month. The comrades there responded to the opportunities brought to the fore by the mass reaction against the invasion of Cambodia not only by raising \$500.00 for the Militant mailing equipment, but also \$850.00 in contributions for the special expenses we incurred responding to the upsurge.

Other branches that took advantage of the objective situation during May have also reported how easy it was to get sizable donations from our periphery to help us carry out our campaign on the antiwar university and for mass action for immediate withdrawal.

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Two branches raised their per capita to the national office this month -- Cleveland raised to \$8.00 per member per month and San Diego to \$5.77. Modest increases but motion in the right direction.

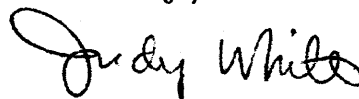
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One area we have to work much harder on is filling out completely and sending in promptly the Monthly Financial Reports. Only nine branches have sent in the April reports to date and of those, only six indicated the per capita sustainer base (marked in red on forms for May so you won't overlook it).

The per capita sustainer base, by the way, should be figured as follows: total pledges of members to the branch for the month divided by the number of members in the branch for that month. The significance of that figure is that, on the average, in a branch of 30-40 members, you need about \$30.00 per member per month pledged to the party in order to afford a \$15.00 per capita payment to the national office. Branches that are larger or that do significant outside fund raising can get by with a lower sustainer base and still maintain a \$15.00 per capita pledge to the N.O. Small branches require a significantly higher per capita pledge to the branch for them to be able to afford a \$15.00 sustainer to the N.O.

Let's shoot for getting the Monthly Reports for May mailed to the National Office by June 15.

Comradely,



Judy White
Financial Director