

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

September 25, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

The attached letter should be read at the next local meeting.

Comradely,

Rich Finkel

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YSA National Secretary

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

September 25, 1974

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

As determined by the July National Committee plenum, the pre-convention discussion period for the YSA's fourteenth national convention opens on September 29, 1974 -- 90 days prior to the St. Louis convention, December 28, 1974-January 1, 1975.

The Convention Call states, "The pre-convention discussion bulletin is open to all YSA members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the YSA. All material submitted to the pre-convention discussion bulletin must be received in the National Office no later than December 7, 1974." All contributions must be submitted in typed, triple-spaced format and should include title, author and author's local or at-large area.

The central tasks of our upcoming convention will be to assess the American political situation and to chart a course of action for building the YSA in the next year.

The National Executive Committee would like to encourage written contributions on topics such as how the current economic crisis affects youth, the impact of Watergate, the changes in the student movement, new opportunities for the YSA in the labor movement such as CLUW work and strike support activities, the state of the radicalization and recent struggles in the Black community. Other articles on YSA-building activities, such as recruitment classes, campus and high school work, our Watergate lawsuit, sales of the press, youth support for SWP election campaigns, finances and regional work would also be valuable.

The discussion prior to last year's YSA convention occurred during the international discussion period leading up to the World Congress of the Fourth International held last February. Because of this, the YSA devoted a significant portion of its pre-convention discussion bulletin and oral discussion time to the disputed questions within the world Trotskyist movement. At the convention itself, delegates voted on the general line of the key international resolutions submitted to the pre-World Congress discussion bulletin.

The upcoming YSA convention occurs during the post-World Congress period. The international discussion bulletin has been limited to selected theoretical and organizational questions, and a new international pre-World Congress discussion has not been opened. In this situation, the YSA will want to closely follow new International Internal Discussion Bulletins, but there are no new international resolutions that our convention must discuss and decide upon in order to select fraternal observers for a World Congress.

Thus the International Reports indicated in this year's proposed convention agenda will not be analogous to last year's debate, which was intended as a guide for the selection of the YSA's fraternal delegation of observers to the last World Congress. The National Committee plenum placed the point "International Reports" on the proposed convention agenda to indicate our intention to have informational world movement reports which will not be voted on by the convention. The NEC does not intend to submit or solicit written discussion articles on disputed international questions.

The YSA's pre-convention discussion period this year will be most valuable in discussing our current American perspectives. We want to begin now in thinking out our campus and high school perspectives, our tasks in the Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano struggles, and how we can best build the YSA through our support efforts for the 1976 Socialist Workers Party election campaign.

Comradely,
Rich Finkel
Rich Finkel
YSA National Secretary