

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

October 8, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a report by Jane Roland, New York regional organizer, on campaign work in New York State. This report may be helpful to other areas in planning out campaign work.

Comradely,

Jude Coren
Jude Coren
YSA National Office

CAMPAIGN WORK IN THE NEW YORK REGION

By Jane Roland

In New York State we've geared much of the YSA's work around the SWP statewide election campaign, especially through youth support work.

The spring team was a Young Socialists for Finch and Morrison team and distributed thousands of pieces of campaign literature. The team built meetings for Finch and Morrison in 10 of the 15 cities they visited. The team also spent an entire week in Buffalo, together with Derrick Morrison, SWP candidate for Governor, the regional organizer and the one at-large comrade in Buffalo. During this special tour, our expanded team of comrades set up literature tables and meetings for Morrison on three Buffalo campuses, several special meetings (with the Black Student Alliance at Buffalo State and the Law students at Buffalo SUNY), a downtown press conference and interviews with the media on campus and in the city. We culminated the week's activities in Buffalo with a social wine-and-cheese gathering to which we invited everyone we'd met all week. One person joined the YSA at the social, several others expressed interest in continuing campaign activities, and we set up an active YFSM group with projected activities for Rebecca Finch, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, for an upcoming visit. Although the group did not hold together over the course of the summer, we now have three comrades in Buffalo and several contacts, and with that stronger base we are planning a similar set of activities for our fall YFSM team.

We are discussing a possible Western New York educational weekend in Buffalo, again while the team, Morrison and the regional organizer are in that area. By encouraging comrades in Rochester, Syracuse, Geneseo and Ithaca to come to Buffalo for the weekend, we can strengthen the YSA in Western New York and project further tours for the candidates and campaign interventions by the comrades.

We have already begun planning for the fall socialist conference, which will be held right before the elections on November 1-2. It's a combination YSA and campaign conference, featuring a Saturday night campaign rally, and the team will publicize it throughout the region.

Because of the success of the meetings built by the spring team for the candidates--including recruiting a local in Albany and new comrades in three other cities--this fall we are including our statewide candidates on the team during part of its tour of New York State. The team will carry thousands of new campaign brochures, leaflets and YFSM materials as well as its general stock of socialist literature. We know that having candidates on the team will make it easier to speak in front of classes, obtain press interviews both on and off campus and talk to people about our socialist ideas.

Building support for the SWP campaign has been a major activity for all of the comrades in the region. Comrades in Albany, Buffalo and Ossining helped with the mammoth petitioning effort to put our candidates on the ballot, and the Albany comrades have been a link with the Board of Elections, doing research and participating in hearings around challenges to our ballot status. The new campaign platforms list YSFM chapters in three locations in the region. During the summer when Rebecca Finch and the regional organizer toured Buffalo and Binghamton, comrades there organized radio, TV and press interviews, leading to extensive media coverage. Comrades in the region always look out for campaign intervention openings, which has led to some very successful meetings. One was a "Meet the Candidates" evening at the gay community center in Albany where Derrick Morrison, as the only candidate to show up, spent several hours explaining socialism and its relationship to gay liberation, and was reported in both Albany papers the following day ("Meet the candidates...well, one, anyway," ran one headline). Regional comrades are using the campaign as a way to approach people, asking them to endorse the campaign, and help with campaign interventions, to involve them in our work and bring them into the YSA.

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