

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

November 16, 1974

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

A call has been issued for a national march and rally to counter the racist offensive against school desegregation in Boston. The demonstration, to be held in Boston on December 14, was announced at a press conference by State Senator-elect William Owens a member of the Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus.

Initial endorsers include: Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., Chaplain, Yale University; Corky Gonzales, Crusade for Justice; Carlton B. Goodlett, Publisher, Sun Reporter; Bill Lucey, International Secretary Treasurer AFSCME and National President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; U.S. Congressman Parren Mitchell, Congressional Black Caucus; Lillian Roberts, Vice President of District Council 37, AFSCME and CLUW National Coordinating Committee member.

Through our press and SWP election campaigns, our movement has been explaining that the racist offensive in Boston is not simply a local issue -- the outcome of this battle will have national repercussions. We have agitated for several weeks that large-scale mobilizations are needed to beat back and defeat the racist offensive.

Now that a broad national call for action has been issued, the YSA should mobilize its resources to build the December 14 action as our single most important priority for the coming weeks.

By mobilizing the broadest possible forces on December 14, the action can begin to shift the relationship of forces in Boston and discourage racists across the country. Building the action also provides the YSA with an unparalleled opportunity to deepen our ties with Black student and community organizations and to become known as an important national organization in the struggle against racism.

National leaders of the YSA and Socialist Workers Party, including Maceo Dixon, will be going to Boston to help build the action. YSA locals from Chicago to the East Coast should plan to mobilize to go to Boston on the 14th. Buses should be lined up immediately for the "freedom ride" to Boston. Areas that are too far away to organize people to come to Boston should also go on a campaign to publicize this national action and organize local or regional support actions on December 14.

Immediately YSA locals and at-large members should help to initiate local ad hoc committees or coalitions by contacting the initial local endorsers, all campus organizations, Black community groups, trade unions, church groups, etc. Our aim should be to involve all forces in these committees who oppose the racist violence in Boston regardless of their opinions on the merits of busing or the question of sending troops to Boston. We should try to get student governments, trade unions and community groups to provide resources to build this action including to sponsor and finance buses.

Among the radical organizations that we should try to draw into these committees are the YWLL, CP and their National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. These organizations have not yet endorsed the national call. The fact that the YWLL's national convention is scheduled for the same weekend as the Boston demonstration is no excuse for them not to build this action and have their membership in Boston on the 14th.

We should also put pressure on the Revolutionary Student Brigade and the Revolutionary Union to endorse and build the action. In a few areas, Youth Against War and Facism has already taken some initiative by staffing offices and calling meetings to build the demonstration. In such cases, the aggressiveness of the YSA can ensure that they will not be able to maintain a sectarian hold on local committees.

There are several special ways that the YSA can help to build December 14 and identify the YSA with the struggle. First, comrades on national YSA speaking tours will be able to speak on "How to Fight Racism in Boston." While the national speakers are in local areas they can visit student groups and encourage the formation of committees to organize students to go to Boston. If local coalitions are organizing teach-ins or press conferences, these comrades can speak as national representatives of the YSA.

Second, YSA locals and at-large members should go on a big campaign to sell out their entire bundles of the November YS which contains the center spread article on Boston.

Third, the Young Socialist will bring out a special four-page supplement prior to the action. The front page will have a National Executive Committee statement calling on people to march on Boston. The center fold will be a reprint of the November issue's article on Boston by Steve Wattenmaker. And the back cover will publicize the YSA national convention.

We will want to distribute this at political events, especially December 14 building activities, give it to people who stop by YSA literature tables and stuff them in Militants that we sell on the campuses. This special piece of material will serve to clearly identify the YSA with the action and be a major tool in December to get new people interested in coming to

the YSA convention. It will be particularly valuable as the December/January issue of the Young Socialist will not be available before December 14. The special supplement will be available during the first week of December and will cost .3¢ per copy. Because of the urgency of getting the supplement out quickly, a special exception will be made to our pre-payment policy. Locals will be billed for those supplements ordered and should budget payment into their December budgets.

In addition, the National Office will be printing a special YSA button, "Stop Racist Offensive in Boston!" This will also help publicize the action and identify our organization with the struggle. It will cost 25¢ per button or 15¢ for orders of 10 or more. Locals will be billed for the button also. Orders for these materials should be called into New York by November 21.

Please keep the National Office informed on the progress of building activities for the December 14 actions.

Comradely,

Ginny Hildebrand

Ginny Hildebrand
for the National Executive
Committee