

young socialist **the organizer**

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to make a revolution... ...it takes revolutionaries

Our expectation that the 1972 SWP presidential campaign would be enthusiastically received by a significant number of radicalizing young people has been confirmed by the fact that over 6,000 endorsers of the campaign have already been obtained—more than half of them since the YSA convention.

One important effect of the presidential elections is that most people become more aware of and more interested in political questions. In 1972, because of their experiences of struggle against the war and around other social issues, young people and especially students are more politically sophisticated than they were in previous election years. Many of those who are still supporting one of the capitalist candidates do so with the attitude that they are "giving the system one last chance." Among a certain layer of young people in the high schools and colleges, there is widespread disillusionment with the capitalist system and much broader interest in socialist ideas than ever before.

Experiences in building meetings for Jenness and Pulley and the YSJP coordinators on tour, signing up endorsers, and beginning work on local SWP campaigns have brought home to nearly all YSA locals the possibilities this campaign opens for winning large numbers of these young people to socialist ideas and eventually to joining the YSA.

The opportunities open to us this year for significantly increasing the size of the YSA are as great as they have ever been—possibly the greatest in our history.

To take advantage of the situation, however, it is essential that we have a clear understanding of where we now stand in building the revolutionary socialist youth movement and that we derive from this a realistic approach.

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YSA RECRUITMENT

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IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING THE YSA

While it is true that the YSA is at this time the largest socialist youth organization, and that we are the only socialist tendency carrying out consistent political activity on a nationwide scale on the campuses and high schools, we are very far from being the *mass* organization we aspire to be. We are very far from achieving hegemony in the student movement. Although we have accomplished a great deal with the small numbers that we have, we are still a tiny fraction of what is needed numerically to accomplish our goal of helping lead the socialist revolution in this country.

What we are doing now is laying the groundwork by recruiting and developing the cadre that can build the YSA into a mass organization. Our most important task is gaining and developing these new members.

Why do we consider this work so important?

Our desire to become *the* mass revolutionary youth organization in this country does not reflect some sectarian fetish about numbers on our part. It flows from our understanding of the historic role that such an organization can play and of the necessity for it based on past political experiences.

All the work that YSAers are doing against the war, for the repeal of anti-abortion laws, etc., would be virtually wasted if there were not a youth organization and revolutionary party that can analyze and integrate the dynamic of these different movements in an anticapitalist direction and prepare the masses for the final struggle necessary for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a socialist society.

The YSA is not a federation of groups involved in building one or another of the movements for social change, but a democratic-centralist multinational socialist youth organization fighting for hegemony among the youth.

The YSA is based first and foremost on a *program*—a correct program for making the socialist revolution. Without such a program, numbers alone would not make the YSA an organization capable of helping to lead the revolution. SDS in its time had tens of thousands of members, but lacking a revolutionary program it disintegrated and was swept aside.

But just having the correct program is not enough, either! The YSA must also have the *number of members*, the developed and experienced cadre, to put the program into practice, to demonstrate to the masses of students that our program—rather than that of any other group—is correct.

During the May-June 1968 revolutionary upsurge in France, the revolutionary socialists had the correct program—but the French Trotskyists were simply so small that they were unable to prevent the massive Communist Party from dampening and misdirecting the upsurge and thereby saving French capitalism.

During the vast working class radicalization in the U.S. in the 1930s and '40s, the Trotskyists had the correct program. But then, too, we were so small in comparison to the Communist Party that we were unable to wrest the leadership of the radicalized workers away from the Stalinists. While the working class won significant gains in that radicalization—most important, the building of the industrial trade unions—it was successfully confined within the limits of the Democratic Party on the political arena and thus the radicalization was eventually dissipated. The Stalinists played a crucial role in that process by their support for the Democratic Party, and we were unable to stop them.

One of the most important differences between the current radicalization and those of the past is that in the beginning stages of the radicalization—the period we are going through now—the Stalinists do not have the overwhelming lead over the revolutionary socialists that they had in the '30s and '40s. The work we are doing right now to build the revolutionary socialist movement—the YSA and the Socialist Workers Party—can have decisive significance in determining who will lead the radicalization of the working class that we see as inevitable.

The major question confronting us, then, is how can we build the YSA in this period? What

measures can we take to make the maximum gains in new members of the YSA? For the rest of this year, the answer to these questions lies primarily with the SWP election campaign.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS FOR JENNESS AND PULLEY

The election campaign will get out our socialist program to more people than we are able to reach any other way. Thousands already support the campaign, and thousands more will before it is over. Our recruitment efforts over the next eight months will be directed primarily toward those people who support the election campaign.

We also expect to recruit many young people who now support one of the capitalist candidates. Their experiences through the course of the campaign will demonstrate the futility of working through the capitalist parties to achieve social change. Some will come to this realization after the primaries, some after the Democratic Party convention, and some not until after the election. We will eventually win over the greatest number of them by starting now to go after them aggressively with the SWP election campaign—that is, by discussing and debating with them the difference between the SWP campaign and that of McGovern, or Chisholm, or whoever they are supporting.

The YSJP is a vehicle for young people who support the SWP campaign but are not yet willing to join the YSA to become involved in socialist political activity. People who are becoming active in the YSJP are the most likely to join the YSA, so one important side of YSA recruitment is building the YSJP. This article will not go into how to most effectively build the YSJP (see "Building Young Socialists for Jenness and Pulley," in *The YS Organizer*, December 3, 1971), but will take up the question of recruiting directly to the YSA.

While it is true that young people today are radicalizing faster than at any time in the past and are more readily receptive to our ideas, joining an organization with a revolutionary perspective is often considered a big step to take.

Many young people have already reached the conclusion that this system does not work and are looking for an effective way to change it. Our job is to talk to them about our ideas and convince them that the YSA is the only youth organization with a program for effective change, and that joining the YSA is a worthwhile commitment for them to bring about the changes they seek.

There are two interrelated aspects to the question of how to bring people into the YSA, and both are crucial. One is personal, individual discussion with every single person who expresses an interest in our ideas; the other is systematic, well-organized YSA activities aimed specifically at recruiting YSJPers to the YSA. There are no shortcuts or gimmicks for convincing people to join.

INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

The importance of personal contact and discussion with people we think are potential new members cannot be underestimated.

Most people when they first come in contact with socialist ideas do not automatically understand every aspect of our politics and do not automatically decide to join by virtue of the fact that they have finally discovered us. They have questions and misconceptions. They are rarely ready to commit themselves right from the start. We cannot rely on one single "Join the YSA" type class, or one exceptionally good forum, or even

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the fact that a person has a *Militant* subscription, although all these things are naturally an essential part of the process of recruiting someone.

We have to spend time *talking* to people about the YSA. We want to impress upon them the fact that we think being in the YSA is the most important thing that anyone can do—that *they* have an important contribution to make, that their commitment can help significantly to advance the work of the YSA, and that it is by joining the YSA that they can be most effective.

Such discussions should be an integral part of our other activities. The time we spend selling *Militants*, staffing literature tables, working to build an antiwar demonstration, organizing an abortion coalition—all of which are standard YSA campus activities—is also the best time to talk with people about our politics and raise the question of joining.

The fact that we are involved in so many different activities is one factor that differentiates us from all other groups on campus and makes us that much more attractive to people who are serious about politics. Some sectarian political tendencies, which do not participate in building the antiwar movement, or the abortion campaign, or other campus struggles, do nothing but try to recruit people by talking to them about their politics.

We recruit people to our ideas not only on the basis of what we say, but also on the basis of what we do: we are in the forefront of ongoing struggles to win needed changes and we have the best strategy for advancing these struggles. Others who work with us in these movements can see how we function, see how we put our ideas into practice, see what kind of leadership we provide. But we cannot expect them to come to an understanding of the relation between these movements and the YSA entirely on their own.

In addition to talking to people in the course of our work, all social events organized by the YSA or SWP, such as forum dinners, fundraising parties, or campaign banquets, should be seen as prime opportunities to invite non-YSAers and sit down with them to talk about joining the YSA.

For example, in Portland the SWP campaign has been conducting regular interventions at school board meetings, and afterwards parties are organized at which YSAers can discuss politics with others who participate in the interventions.

Every local is probably aware of several people who are particularly likely to join soon. Each member of the local should consider recruiting these people his or her personal responsibility—seeking them out and arranging to sit down over a cup of coffee, over dinner, or at some other appropriate time, to discuss our politics with them and bring them closer to joining.

Not everyone that we attempt to interest in joining will necessarily respond right away. People are different, and there is no set formula for recruiting them. Many may be willing to join right away—others will take months or even years to make up their minds. The important thing is to recognize that prospective members are not a homogeneous, defined category of people who will automatically join if we carry out certain routine activities. Building the cadre necessary to carry out the revolutionary struggle requires a flexible, creative, aggressive, and above all consistent attitude and consciousness on the part of every YSAer.

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ORGANIZATION OF RECRUITMENT

The other fundamental aspect of recruitment is its systematic and professional organization. One basic organizational step is to assign a person in the local to head up recruitment work. Having a person assigned to head up recruitment does not, of course, mean that he or she is solely responsible for thinking out and overseeing that work. Least of all does it mean that he or she is individually responsible for getting people to join. The recruitment director, however, can take responsibility for organizing various recruitment activities, keeping accurate and up-to-date lists of prospective members, and helping to see that the local as a whole is conscious of recruitment and organized to carry it out.

Some areas, particularly the larger locals, have established recruitment committees consisting of YSAers heading up campus fractions, internal committees, etc. These committees serve the function of keeping track of prospective members, informing the various fractions in whose activities they might become involved, and thinking out activities the local can organize to help convince them to join.

The Washington DC YSA, for example, has established a recruitment committee consisting of the recruitment director, regional secretary, renewal drive director, the Black fraction head, who is also on the campaign committee, the women's liberation director, the campus fraction head, and a member of the high school fraction.

Other areas have been handling recruitment through the campaign apparatus.

There are no set patterns for how individual locals can maximize the recruitment of YSJPers. That must be worked out in the context of each local's situation. Smaller locals, for example, may find it unrealistic to set up recruitment committees or even assign a recruitment director, because of size limitations. In such situations the organizer could be in overall charge of this work.

There are several elementary steps which locals might find useful in organizing this work.

1) Locals can keep a card file of YSJPers with their addresses, schools, phone numbers, and comments indicating their status in relation to the YSA, as well as any other pertinent information.

2) In larger locals, the recruitment director could then work out how these names should be divided up and utilized by the local to ensure that each one of them, in one form or another, is being followed up. All the names could be incorporated in mailing lists for forums, classes, and conferences, while certain key prospective members might be singled out for special follow-up.

3) The various fractions can then be given the names of those people each fraction is most

likely to come in contact with. Each fraction can then take responsibility for following them up with more direct contact, and seek to involve them in activity.

4) Locals should be conscious of which YSJPers are most likely to join the YSA soon. These individuals should be given special attention, particularly in terms of personal discussions.

The Oakland/Berkeley local, for example, is compiling a list of the 10 to 15 YSJPers most likely to join. These people will be included on a special mailing list and the executive committee members are taking responsibility for personal discussions with them.

5) Campus fractions, while they may not have so sophisticated a division of labor regarding recruitment, depending on their size, should still systematize and organize this work. Large campus fractions might keep a list of potential recruits to follow up, and in any case fraction heads will want to pay particular attention to this work.

6) Periodic reports and discussion in the executive committee and local can give YSAers a chance to discuss out the local's progress and perspectives for recruitment.

One important general rule to go by in organizing the local's recruitment is that our perspectives should be realistic and in line with the overall projections of the local. While some locals may want to set a quota to be fulfilled over a period of time, others may find this method too rigid. Ultimately, the result of organizing this work should be achieving a real consciousness in the local about the importance of gaining new members and developing them into revolutionary cadre.

For example, we should avoid getting bogged down with lists so huge that the individuals cannot be realistically followed through step by step. Rather, an effort should be made to concentrate on those people that the local can feasibly follow up and eventually convince to join.

CLASSES

One valuable tool for getting people interested in our ideas in a class series on the basic concepts of our program. These classes teach people the elementary things they want to find out about the YSA, facilitate their integration once they join, and show them that we are serious not only about the practical application but also the theoretical aspect of our politics.

In some larger locals it is possible to organize these series on an ongoing basis so that new people coming around can immediately participate in such a series. Other locals may prefer to organize them as the opportunity to involve several new prospective members arises, such as right after building some action that

has brought several activists close to the YSA.

Whatever the case, these class series will be the most effective if they are aimed primarily at those people we are trying to recruit. That is, there is no all-purpose set of "contact classes." Classes should be creatively prepared to take up the specific questions that a specific group of prospective members are most interested in.

The Washington DC local has recently recruited two women who were attending a class on women's liberation, and the local is currently holding a class series on socialism at a high school where there are 50 YSJPers.

We should also keep in mind trying to schedule classes at a time and place that will maximize attendance by non-YSAers. Some locals have found it most productive to hold classes on a particular campus, rather than at our local headquarters if it is not near the campus.

While occasionally people with whom we have had no contact before will be interested in a YSA class series, usually such people are more likely to be attracted to other activities such as the election campaign, or working with us in the antiwar movement. Therefore, we want to set up these classes for specific people we already know are interested in our politics, rather than trying to project them as general public functions that we expect large numbers of people to attend.

The Spring Socialist Conferences will also provide an opportunity for large-scale recruitment (see article in this issue).

EXCHANGING RECRUITMENT EXPERIENCES

This article has taken up some general questions in relation to YSA recruitment. There are many other areas of our work that are closely tied to recruitment—YSJP election campaigns, renewal drive, sales—that could not be adequately covered. In future articles we hope to take up these subjects in relation to recruitment.

It would be useful both for the National Office and for locals around the country for locals to send in articles and reports—even brief reports—on recruitment activities for use in *The YS Organizer*. In this way we can begin to exchange ideas and experiences on a national scale about the most effective methods for organizing this crucial area of work.

MIRTA VIDAL
YSA National Secretary

Spring Socialist Conferences

Our primary goals over the next eight months are to continue building the election campaign of Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley on an ever-bigger scale and to recruit as many election campaign supporters as possible to the YSA. The regionwide Spring Socialist Conferences can play a major role in bringing one big levy of YSJPers into the YSA.

CHARACTER OF THE CONFERENCES

Semi-annual socialist educational conferences have become a tradition for the YSA and SWP. Over the last few years, these conferences have taken on more and more of an open character and have demonstrated a potential for recruiting people to the YSA. By now it would be accurate to say that the conferences are not really "educational" conferences in the sense of being part of our ongoing cadre education programs—intensive educational series, seminars, summer schools, pre- or post-meeting classes, etc.

In reality the conferences serve as weekend-long forum-type events, with leaders of our movement giving talks on various aspects of our program. By thus providing potential recruits who may have come around the YSA through one or another aspect of our work an impressive picture of more of our full program and activities, the conferences can be an important factor in convincing people to join us.

We consider it optional for local areas to call the spring conferences "educational conferences." Some areas may feel that "educational" sounds a little dry in publicizing the event; others may wish to retain it. What is most important is not

the name, but rather the concept of organizing the conferences with the aim of maximizing recruitment.

Like last fall, we project the political thrust of the conferences to be around the dynamic of revolution today, with talks designed to present our views on the central political issues.

Several areas have found in the past that broadening the range of speakers by including speakers from outside our movement on panels, in debates, etc., adds to the success of the conferences.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

This spring the conferences are intimately linked to the SWP election campaign. We should project the conferences as providing a detailed picture of the socialist campaign's program—what our plan is for effectively changing this society. Candidates will be featured speakers throughout the conferences, and campaign rallies will probably be included in the schedules. The conferences should be cosponsored by the YSA and YSJP.

Furthermore, we should try to get YSJPers actively involved in planning, organizing, and building the conferences. By now every area probably has a list of the 10 or 15 or 20 YSJPers who are most willing to actually work on the campaign (and therefore most likely to be recruited to the YSA). We should make every effort to involve such people in thinking out the program and schedule for the conference, organizing publicity (not just leafleting, but also appearing at news conferences, designing posters, calling other YSJPers, going on regional trips, etc.), and conducting the conference itself (chair-

ing sessions, appearing on panels, staffing campaign literature tables).

Regional YSJPers can be encouraged to plan and carry out conference publicity in their areas and even organize transportation.

By the time of the conferences, many areas will have hundreds of campaign endorsers, and not all of them will become involved in or even attend the conferences. But if an area gets, for example, 150 campaign supporters to attend the conference, actively involves 15 in working on it, and thereby recruits five people to the YSA, then that is a significant gain for the revolutionary movement. In fact, in many areas the potential of the conferences will be much greater than the example given.

We should also recognize that the conferences themselves will draw many new people around the campaign. A concerted effort will have to be made to ensure that everyone attending is asked to endorse if they haven't already, is asked to buy a *Militant* and *ISR* sub, etc.

RECRUITMENT

The way that recruitment will be organized at the conferences should be carefully planned out in advance. Each conference should have one talk scheduled—probably near the end would be the best—that is especially designed as a "Join the YSA" talk, whatever it is titled. That is, one talk should address itself to the key question of why people who are in general agreement with and support the SWP campaign should take the step of joining the YSA. Perhaps following

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that talk a meeting could be held of all those who want to join, so that questions they may have about the YSA—aspects of our program, how we are organized, what they would be doing as members, etc.—can be answered and so that names, addresses, and initiation fees can be collected.

In any case, the crucial factor that can make the conferences successful is the consciousness of each individual comrade about engaging in political discussions with independents at the conference, answering their questions, and asking them to join the YSA. Of course, in order for the conferences to be most successful, all YSA and SWP members should attend.

DATES

There are very few options open for when the conferences can be held. In most areas the best possibility will be the weekend of April 29-30. That weekend has the advantage of coming right after the April 22 antiwar demonstrations, so we can bring antiwar activists we have been working with to the conferences, and we can publicize them in some way to the demonstrators on April 22. It has the disadvantage of coming just one week before the May 6 abortion actions. However, because of our evaluation of the scope of those actions and the level of activity required of the YSA and SWP in building them, we think the conflict between working to build the conferences and working to build May 6 can be minimized.

Another possibility is the weekend of April 8-9. This is too soon for most areas to do an adequate job of building the conference, but some

areas which have already begun planning and publicizing a conference for that date should be able to build large and successful conferences in the remaining three weeks. Also, some areas may consider holding the conferences on the weekend of May 20-21, if campuses in their area will still be open. Even if campuses are open, though, the May date has the serious disadvantage that there would be very little time remaining before summer break to involve new recruits in the work of the YSA and begin to integrate them into our movement.

FACILITIES

Local areas should try to obtain free use of the facilities of a major campus to hold and publicize the conferences, bearing in mind the impact a large socialist conference will have in recruiting students from that campus and in projecting the YSA as the central political organization on campus.

One possibility is for the YSA or YSJP to draw up a budget for the conference and request that the student government finance it. Even if student government is not willing to fund the entire conference, it may be possible to have it provide honoraria for some of the speakers, free ads in the campus paper, or free use of campus printing facilities to print posters and leaflets for the conference.

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

To take full advantage of the possibilities for bringing large numbers of people to the Spring Socialist Conferences, we should begin now to plan large-scale publicity campaigns, including:

- printing attractive, professional-looking pub-

licity materials such as folded leaflets, posters, and constituency leaflets;

- announcing the conference at a news conference, which could be tied in with the SWP election campaign;

- getting ads into local campus and underground press and *The Militant*.

- distributing conference publicity at every campaign activity;

- organizing high school and campus leaflet and poster teams;

- sending out special invitations to campaign endorsers and *Militant* subscribers;

- personally calling all contacts;

- organizing the entire regional YSA to get out publicity as widely as possible.

FINANCES

The conferences can easily break even financially or even show a profit if the finances are planned out in advance. A budget should be drawn up of all expenses, such as publicity materials, postage, transportation for national speakers, etc., and a reasonable admission price determined.

Various fund-raising activities can be incorporated into the conference, such as parties, raffles, literature sales, etc. Of course, gaining student government financing for all or part of the conference expenses will help significantly.

ANDY ROSE

YSA National Chairman

New York Recruitment Work

The three New York City locals were responsible for organizing the YSA's recruitment intervention at the recent SMC conference. We planned and organized four activities: setting up and staffing a "Join the YSA" table, a "Meet Andrew Pulley and Laura Miller" party, two "Join the YSA" meetings, and an endorser drive for the SWP '72 Campaign.

The organizers and YSJP directors of the three New York YSA locals organized a team of 30 YSAers to carry out the intervention.

A great deal of preparatory work was done. We made a banner for the table; mimeographed leaflets announcing the two "Join the YSA" meetings, the party, and the New York Pulley tour; and got together the materials for the table, which included posters, buttons, *Organizing the YSA*, and "YSA Program for the Student Revolt." The preparation took two and a half days.

The party that had been scheduled for Saturday night had to be canceled because the evening plenary session of the conference ran very late. Everything else went as planned.

The first "Join the YSA" meeting was held during the lunch break on Saturday. The meeting consisted of a showing of the YSA film, "To

Make a Revolution," followed by a short talk by a leading YSAer. Almost 100 people attended the meeting and several asked to join the YSA at the end of the talk. We were careful that the speech after the film was not too long and we encouraged a lot of discussion.

The second meeting was held immediately after the conference ended on Sunday. Again, a New York YSA member gave a short recruitment talk. Seven people asked to join the YSA.

Several YSAers were assigned to attend each meeting. This made it possible for us to talk on a one-to-one basis with people interested in the YSA and to adequately discuss any questions that were raised. The meetings were built by leaflets that were distributed during the conference. Teams were set up to make sure that every person attending the conference got the leaflet. We also distributed a leaflet that listed all of Pulley's New York tour meetings that were scheduled for the following week.

One of the most important assignments was to the YSA table. We wanted to take an aggressive approach to explaining the YSA to people at the conference and getting them to sign up for more information. We explained to each per-

son staffing the table that she or he would be introducing people to our politics, not just collecting money from button sales.

Sixty people signed up for more information. After the conference, the New York names were divided among the three locals and follow-up phoning was done. The people were invited to attend the New York campaign rallies that were to take place at the end of the week and were told about other activities they might be interested in. The names from outside of New York were turned into the YSA National Office.

As a result of our work, 16 people asked to join the YSA, and we can be sure that no one left the conference without knowing about the campaign of Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley.

NANCY ROSENSTOCK
Upper West Side YSA

The Militant Survey

The Seattle renewal committee has developed a *Militant* survey pitch that is useful in gauging subscribers' interest in *The Militant* and quickly sifting out those that are most interested in its ideas and most likely to renew. The committee organized phoning of all the subscribers in Seattle whose subscriptions were about to run out. The special pitch was mimeographed for each caller beforehand and reads as follows: "Hello, my name is _____. I'm from *The Militant* Survey Committee. You recently subscribed to *The Militant* through a 10 week for one dollar introductory offer. We are very interested in your reaction to *The Militant* and the issues covered in it, such as the Vietnam war, Black and Chicano liberation struggles, women's liberation, and the Socialist Workers '72 election campaign. We would like to meet with you to discuss what you feel about these issues. What time would be convenient?"

If the subscriber has been interested at all in *The Militant*, an appointment is usually set up. A canvasser is then sent to visit the subscriber with a packet of material, including leaflets on

classes, forums, and campaign activities, as well as a bookstore schedule.

Subscribers who live on campus are usually easier to reach by renewal blitzes than by phone. The pitch is used in a modified form, however, and is still useful in gauging interest in *The Militant*. When we go on campus dorm blitzes, each canvasser takes a clip board that holds a set of campaign endorser cards, leaflets, and a survey sheet. The survey sheet is to be completed by the canvasser and has spaces for name and room number, and boxes to check for the various reactions to *The Militant*. The information gathered by the canvassers is collected and filed for further reference.

A large number of the subscribers live in the region and we plan to contact many of them through the Washington State SWP '72 Campaign. Candidates will be touring many of the areas where there are a good number of subscribers. The subscribers will be notified of the tours by a mailing and the candidates will bring packets of the renewal materials with them. The renewal committee is also going to try to arrange a meet-

ing between subscribers and the candidates on a campus where a large number of people have *Militant* subs. We feel that this will both build the candidates' tours and increase the number of renewals.

The fact that at this point nearly 50 percent of the people that we have contacted have endorsed the Jenness-Pulley campaign indicates the effect the SWP campaign is having in the Seattle area.

PAT HAYES
Seattle YSA

Using the YSA Film

"To Make A Revolution" can be a valuable recruitment tool for locals. The film provides a visual expression of our ideas and illustrates the impact and importance of building the mass movements. The footage of August 26 and April 24 is especially good in motivating activists to continue the consistent hard work needed to involve the majority of American people in struggle around the antiwar, feminist, and nationalist demands. Overall, the movie portrays the seriousness of the YSA and its strategy for building a socialist America. The scenes of the YSA convention outline the democracy of our organization and the fact that the YSA is a national organization that is growing throughout the U. S.

Our experiences with the film in Philadelphia have shown it to be useful both as an initial introduction to the YSA for people that know little about it, as well as an aid in convincing others to join.

* * *

In Philadelphia, we used the film to help break onto a campus where few students were familiar with the YSA. In order to begin to draw people

around the campaign and the YSA, we set up a meeting that included a talk on the coming American revolution and a showing of the YSA film. Our publicity featured the film, since it is generally easier to draw students to a movie than to a public talk. Opening with the film set an enthusiastic tone for the discussion and also gave the speaker and the audience a common frame of reference. The meeting gave us an opportunity to talk with a number of people that we hope to involve in the SWP '72 Campaign and recruit to the YSA.

We also showed the film after a forum that dealt with the 1968 student strike in Mexico. The film showing was preceded by an introduction about the role of the YSA in the student movement in this country. Several of the people attending were drawn closer to the YSA and at least one has asked to join.

We plan to use the film throughout the region. The regional traveler will be showing it on campuses where there are *Militant* subscribers and YSJPers. Pulley's role in the movie helps campaign supporters understand that the SWP candidates are activists who help organize people to fight their oppression, rather than personalities who offer the American people promises.

Another opportunity will be to use the film as part of the Philadelphia YSA's Introduction to Socialism classes. The last seminar will focus on the role of the YSA in the new radicalization and the film should add to the discussion. We have also been thinking of using the film to round off a weekend socialist conference we are projecting for the spring.

We have found that the film has had a positive effect everywhere we have shown it and can be an important tool in building the YSA. We have only begun to think out how we can use the film and hope to read articles in *The Young Socialist Organizer* on ideas other locals have had and their experiences.

young socialist the organizer

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