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Towards a Socialist America

The Economy: Fight Back!

As Democratic and Republican politicians scramble to avoid the wrath of the people for the mess our economy is in, NAM is launching a series of projects around current economic issues that are designed to inform people about why we are in this mess and to take defensive measures that will soften the blow ittle for working people.

Recently all NAM chapters received materials to aid them for the "Week of Teach ins and Community Forums on the Economy," which is slated to begin February 2. The informational packet is being coordinated by Judy MacLean who can be reached c/o Pittsburgh NAM, P.O. Box 8224, Pittsburgh PA 15217. Many chapters already have plans under way for the teachins and forums.

At the recent expanded NIC meeting, two additional projects were adopted that will provide guidelines for following up the forums with action. These projects, proposed by Frank Ackerman of Middlesex NAM, include fighting utility rate increases and pushing to defend and expand human services.

Several chapters already have experience with actions against utility rate hikes. Such a project offers a number of advantages to NAM chapters. Utility companies are regulated which provides opportunities to affect price structures. This is not the case of other major industries. Furthermore, the utility industry clearly affects incomes of working people so that our projects will offer some cense for working people against inflation.

The second project area--defense and expansion of human services--is also a defensive

project. What is suggested here is an economic counselling program. Unemployment compensation food stamps, and public assistance are often administered by a maze of intricate and arbitrary regulations. These services are becoming increasingly important to large numbers of working people who are being hit hard by the recession.

Counselling in these service areas is analogous to draft counselling. Economic counselling centers will not only provide a defense for working people against recession, but they can also become political centers to fight service cutbacks and arbitrary regulations (such as the common practice of declaring pregnant women per se ineligible for unemployment benefits).

These projects should be viewed as priorities for actions around the economy. They will be coordinated by the National Office and packets of information will be forthcoming.





International Women's Day

March 8

NAM's National Interim Committee urges all chapters to sponsor a program in conjunction with International Women's Day. We see this as an important opportunity to express our solidarity with the struggles of women throughout the world and our commitment to the movement for the liberation of women within the U.S. The program could take the form of a film showing, a forum, or a party. It could also be a rally or public meeting with various speakers. Chapters interested in learning about appropriate films should write the National Office.

Socialist Teachers' Conference

The Metropolitan NAM chapter is sponsoring a conference for independent socialist college teachers from the New York area and the Northeast, February 28 - March 2.

The conference is aimed at teachers in nonelite two and four year colleges, though students and other campus workers are also welcome. The purpose is to get teachers together for communication and hopefully for an ongoing struggle organization or communication network. There has been a lot of activity in the CUNY, SUNY, and New Jersey systems around cutbacks and around the union, but very little coordination.

A rough agenda: Friday evening, a talk on the political economy of education and strategies for change by Sam Bowles, with discussion; Saturday morning, panel and long workshops on teachers as workers, unions, cutbacks, etc.; Saturday afternoon, panel and workshops on socialist teaching methods; Saturday evening, a party; Sunday, caucuses, reports, and whatever plans develop for continuing organization or communication.

We heartily urge all available NAM members to participate: we want as strong a NAM presence as possible. Please let us know immediately if you would like to come and especially if you would be interested in helping to pre-

pare a workshop.

Write NY Mets chapter, c/o Parmalee, Soci Relations, Ramapo College, P.O. Box 542, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430.

Discussion Bulletin

The NAM Discussion Bulletin #9 is still waiting to be printed. Our continuing financial crisis makes it impossible for us to get this issue of the Bulletin printed and out to chapters. The minimal cost for printing this issue would be \$1,000 (includes \$200 still owed on the last issue). This time the printer wants to be paid in advance. Right now we have \$600 in the bank. Within the next two weeks we need to pay some \$400 in taxes and over \$300 in staff salaries. This is not to mention a myriad of other expenses—both large and small—that are facing the organization.

The Editorial Committee is now considering whether to put into effect for this issue the new DB policy outlined in the NIC Notes in this Moving On. This seems the only way now that at least some of its contents can get out to the membership. Financial contributions to the Bulletin would help and should be marked as such.

End Aid To Thieu

A number of NAM chapters have increased their involvement in the anti-imperialist struggle in Indochina as the Pentagon presses for massive military aid to the faltering Thieu regime and hints at a possible renewal of military intervention.

Nationally, NAM is one of the sponsors of The Assembly To Save The Peace Agreement, a major conference to be held in Washington on January 25-27 to commemorate the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement. The Assembly promises to be a major national event which is geared toward saving the peace agreement through a protest of continued American involvement in Indochina and a demand that the U.S. end all aid to the Thieu regime. Plans will be made at the Assembly for further national action on Indochina.

Recently NAM called on all of its chapters to engage in local actions directed toward an end to military aid to the Thieu regime and to alert people to the possibility of a new wave of direct U.S. military intervention in Indochina. The call to action suggested leafletting or literature tables to urge people to write or 1 by their congresspeople, demanding an end of and to Thieu and expressing alarm over Kissinger trial balloons on direct intervention. Chapters were also advised to contact all active peace groups and establish networks of key people in case emergency action is required. It was also suggested that demonstrations, forums, films or other activities be held on the 27th to coincide with the anniversary of the Peace Agreement and the Assembly.

Several chapters are already engaged in such activity. In Minneapolis, for example, NAM is involved with three separate actions on the 26th 27th and 28th which include guerrilla theatre, a demonstration at Senator Humphrey's office, and a rally in a local union hall to "defend the peace agreement." Pittsburgh NAM is planning a film showing and Philadelphia Resistence NAM is mobilizing for the Assembly.

NAM's increased involvement in the Indochina struggle reflects, in part, some new developments in the Indochina war. The PRG has been engaged in an offensive designed to topple the Thieu



regime and force a cease fire. This offensive coincides with a growing resistence movement in South Vietnamese cities.

The U.S. has responded to these developments with increasing militance. Within hours after PRG victories in Phuoc Binh Province, Kissinger sent the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Enterprise and six warships toward the Vietnam coast, hinting that they may show up at Hanoi Harbour to demonstrate American conviction. Many believe that this move was designed as a trial balloon for more direct U.S. intervention, or as a wedge with Congress to get more aid for Thieu and Lon Nol.

It seems clear that aid to Thieu is critical to the present strategy and the Pentagon is asking a whopping \$11 million a day--enough to kill, wound, imprison, or dislocate about 4,000 Vietnamese per day.

Whether these actions are a prelude to U.S. intervention or an effort to scare Congress into granting massive supplemental appropriations for the Indochina war is not known. But it is critical that we continue to increase our efforts to demand an end to all U.S. support of the Indochina war and to thwart any moves toward an escalation of U.S. military involvement



Regional Reports

INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND

The second Regional Council meeting of the Industrial Heartland was held December 7-8 in Pittsburgh. Present were representatives from Yellow Springs, Dayton, Ann Arbor, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia Resistance, and the NIC. Bread & Roses NAM and a new chapter at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia were unable to send representatives.

Following chapter reports we agreed that written reports would be distributed to all members before all future meetings. Discussion at the meetings would concentrate on common problems faced by chapters. The major problems discussed at this meeting were a) working with coalitions (arising from experiences doing UMW support work) and b) scarcity of women in chapters. Although some people weren't certain that (given varying local conditions) a national strategy could be developed on working with coalitions, the NIC was asked to discuss this question at the Expanded NIC and move toward developing a policy at the National Convention. Concerning women in chapters, it was pointed out that when women choose to work in socialist-feminist groups, a tremendous strain is placed on the few remaining women to carry equal responsibilities to men, who may outnumber them 4 to 1. In addition, this situation fulfills the prophecy that NAM is indeed a male-dominated organization and, consequently, women don't join. It was agreed that more visible socialist-feminist programs might aid in involving more women.

Roberta Lynch presented a NIC report that included summaries of strategy papers written by NIC members. Although there was no time for extensive discussion of this report, those present found it extremely helpful as a mechanism for providing communication links between the regional and national levels.

The discussion of travelling resulted in a reiteration of previous positions: travelling plans should be made with great care. Most people who received letters from RC members over the past months have not responded with requests for travellers. On the other hand, some contacts have been made through informal travelling to Cleveland and Detroit, and people were encouraged to maintain their contacts in those places. We agreed to follow up on contacts made through campaigns in which we've been involved—UMW, IPC, etc. and to request contacts from the NO and the newspaper.

A regional conference is being planned in April (see details below). The next Regional Council meeting will be Feb. 15-16 in Pittsburgh.

--Joni Rabinowitz



Conference

The Industrial Heartland will hold a regional conference on April 4-6 at Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The conference, beginning on Friday evening, will focus on the economy and will also include workshop time for discussion of other regional activity and NAM national questions. Saturday will concentrate on programs related to the economy that are going on throughout the region. These include, tentatively, strike support, unemployment and student organizing. Additional workshops will include imperialism and SEAsia, culture, socialist/feminism, socialist campus organizing, racism, and media. All NAM members and other interested people are invited to attend. Cost for the entire weekend (including Saturday and Sunday meals) will be \$25 with a limited number of free beds available. Advance registration (including 1/2 the registration fee) is requested by March 1st. Registration or requests for information can be made through your chapter's RC member or contact: Joni Rabinowitz, 2300 Pittock St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

--Joni Rabinowitz

Workplace Strategy

The January Expanded NIC meeting adopted a proposal on workplace organizing that will require input from chapters and members throughout NAM in order to be effective. The proposal has four parts: 1) The next Expanded NIC meeting will develop a minimal, reasonable, experimental position on workplace organizing and trade unions. 2) We will determine what industries and unions NAM members are now concentrated in and begin strategic discussions among people in those industries, both now and at the next National Convention. The Convention will select 3-4 industries (e.g. health. education, electronics, steel) in which to concentrate workplace organizing efforts, along with a tentative strategy for each industry chosen. (These industries could be those in which we are now concentrated, but need not be.) 3) A booklet will be prepared on workplace organizing, containing summaries of NAM's practice and that of others, suggestions and discussions of concrete problems, and articles on the relation of work-

ace organizing to other chapter activity.

4) Papers on long term theoretical and strategic issues of workplace organizing and trade unions will be prepared and circulated

through NAM for discussion.

Chapters will be getting a questionnaire on workplace organizing practice and experience, members' jobs and unions, etc. An swers to these questions will be very important if we are going to develop any kind of coherent national strategy. People should also write position papers on what the minimal position taken at the next expanded NIC should be (chapters will soon receive a sample of what a typical "minimal position" might be), and long range strategic and theoretical papers. Due to our financial crisis, we probably can't afford to send questionnaires to every at-large member. But if you're involved in or interested in workplace organizing, let the NIC Workplace Organizing Committee know.

The sooner people send in position papers, the sooner they can be circulated. People who can help organize discussions among NAM rombers in industries before the Convention ould also volunteer. The central address for sending things to and getting things from is: Mark Mericle, 321 Neal Ave., Dayton, OH 45405. —Steve Carlip

OFFICE MOVES FEB. 1

Please note the new address for the NAM National Office

New American Movement 1643 N. Milwaukee St. Chicago, IL 60647

CLUW

Since the Coalition of Labor Union Women was formed last year, NAM women have been active in local chapters across the country. In an effort to improve communication among women involved in CLUW and develop a joint strategy for action, NAM is initiating a CLUW newsletter. The newsletter welcomes all reports of local activities as well as viewpoints on directions for CLUW and the role that socialists should play within the organization. All articles should be sent to:

Marilyn Katz 850 Hyperion Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90026

Also you should contact Marilyn if you wish your name to be put on the list to receive the news-letter. Include a contribution to cover printing and mailing costs.



Dues Policy

With only a third of the membership paid up to date in dues and with the considerable confusion that seems to abound over what people owe, the National Office and the new NIC Political Administrative Committee have developed a dues policy. All NAM members should read this article carefully and write to us if you have questions.

Much of the present confusion has to do with the growth in our organization. Prior to the last convention, chapters tended to adopt the practice of paying dues in a lump sum at convention time so they could vote. At that time a list of people was submitted with dues to indicate who could vote. Our mailings went primarily to chapters so that detailed membership lists by chapter were not kept. Chapters were supposed to take on the responsibility of keeping records of dues payments themselves by using the membership cards, but by and large they didn't.

With a larger membership and with the monthly mailing of Moving On it is essential that we tighten up procedures. This is made even more crucial because we must know what we can count on financially in order to budget our expenditures. As things stand now we never know what funds will be forthcoming. In this spirit the following dues policy is now in effect.

- 1. It is a responsibility of every chapter to send the National Office the following:
 a) a list of names and addresses of everyone in your chapter; b) what income category every member is in for dues paying purposes; c) what each member has paid in dues since the last national convention.
- 2. Members-at-large should keep us up to date on their income category and specify the period they are paying for when they send in their dues.
- 3. From now on dues will be payable in advance. In the past, people have paid off past dues at conventions, but this practice makes it difficult for us to budget our money for a given fiscal period. As a minimum people and chapters must send in dues for the period ahead no later than the beginning date of each period. The periods are: March 1 to July 1; July 1 to November 1; November 1 to March 1.
- 4. Chapters and individuals who have not been paying in advance will be billed shortly to be brought up to date.
- 5. For people who join in the middle of a fiscal period: if half the period has expired

we will credit you for the period ahead; otherwise we will credit you with having paid for the current period.

It can't be stressed enough how important is for people to pay their dues promptly or a least (if you are absolutely broke) to send us a letter saying when we can expect them. It is also essential that when chapters send us money they specify who the money is for, what income category the person is in, and what period s/he is paying for. Otherwise it is very difficult for the NO to maintain an accurate account of members and to plan out what we can afford. Following this policy is considered a responsibility of membership in NAM and should be taken seriously.



MASS PARTY

The National Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People (NIC/MPP) will hold its Expanded NIC meeting in New York on January 31. NAM will send delegates to the meeting which is expected to focus on the development of local party organizing committees. Guidelines for NAM participation are reported in the NIC Notes in this issue of Moving On.

The NIC/MPP recently began talks with Amiri Baraka and other representatives of the Congress of Afrikan People about possible cooperation in the party-building effort. The discussions with CAP are indicative of an important political shift in that organization from Cultural Nationalism to applying the principles of Marxist-Leninist-MaoTseTung thought to the struggle for black liberation. In addition, Walter Collins of the Southern Conference Educational Fund has been discussing the ideas of the NIC/MPP with his many contacts in smaller communities in the South. Both CAP and the Southern groups will send observers to the upcoming Expanded NIC meeting.

To a large extent NAM's participation in this effort depends on the response of local chapters. It is very important for chapters to discuss the implications of the moves toward party-building and left-unity that are taking place nationally. Is there a local MPP chapter with which you are working? Have you taken any concrete steps toward building greater unity on the left? How important does this kind of work seem relative to you other activities? Chapters should consider these questions and send a report to the National Office as soon as possible.

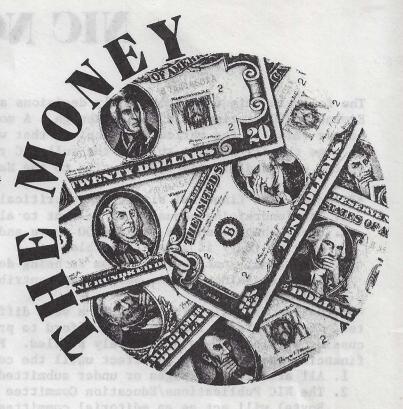
Finance Report

The contradiction between NAM's expanding practice and declining income continues to heighten. In order to maintain even our present level of operation, members are going to have to be diligent about paying dues, paying for literature and doing fundraising. The financial picture is as bad as its ever been in the history of the organization. As of the 15th of January, we had \$600 in the bank and \$1,200 in outstanding debts. These figures do not include our anticipated expenses for the next month which could run as high as \$3,500.

It is difficult to say how much money will come in to cover these expenses. Only a third of our membership are paid up in dues. Literature sales are soaring but payment for that literature is not forthcoming. Contributions to the organization are way behind what they were a year ago.

We were grateful for the \$400 received so far from our appeal for donations to cover our move to Chicago, but even this amount fell far below expectations. The implications of our financial crisis for the Discussion Bulletin and the dues structure are reported elsewhere in this issue. A summary of our financial icture is included below.

Financial ReportJanuary	15, 1975
Cash on Hand	\$600
Accounts Payable Printing (D.B. #8) Printingother Taxes Office supplies Rent Total	\$200 160 400 150 150 \$1,060
Anticipated January Expen	ises
Staff expenses	750
Printing (D.B. #9) Other printing	800 100
Printing (Moving On)	150
Utilities	100
Postage	250
Newspaper	200
Phone Moving	100
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SOCIALIST SCHOOLS

The Minneapolis and Bay Area NAM chapters have experience with socialist school programs and have reported some success. The expanded NIC thought such a school would be an "up" for any chapter that is wondering what to do or that is long on practice but short on theory, or that needs ways to reach out into the community.

Such schools can be very popular and are an excellent way to bring NAM's own socialist analysis to new people, some of whom will end up joining NAM. Schools would probably be directed at adults, especially at workers; sometimes it may even be possible to offer courses in cooperation with progressive unions.

It is not expected that all chapters will have the time for such a project, but even if only five or ten do, we can develop a national core curriculum for NAM and use it to help further our internal theoretical development as well as developing structures that integrate the more and less experienced NAM members.

The New York Mets chapter will send out suggestions for courses and practical hints on how to set up a school, based on the experience of chapters that have already done it. Please send us your ideas: c/o Parmalee, Social Relations, Ramapo College, P.O.Box 542 Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

NIC NOTES SER SOMENTE

The following minutes include only decisions and announcements forthcoming from the Jan. Expanded NIC meeting held in Pittsburgh. A more complete version of the minutes that better reflects the various discussions that went on there has been sent to each chapter. We urge chapter members to read the full NIC report. Anyone else who would like a copy of the expanded minutes should write to the National Office.

*Finances--The financial situation is critical. (See report in this Moving On)

- 1. The fundraising manual will be sent to all chapters to encourage local fundraising.
- 2. Every chapter should raise \$100 above and beyond dues before the next Expanded NIC meeting (May) if at all possible.
- 3. A national sustainers program is being developed. Chapters should also try to develop local sustainers, i.e. people who contribute a fixed sum each month but are not actual NAM members.

*Discussion Bulletin--The DB is in a very difficult bind. Because it is completely unedited, it is so large that we can't afford to print it. And so its purpose--stimulating discussion within NAM--is effectively stifled. For this reason the NIC passed an emergency financial measure to be in effect until the convention. The provisions are as follows:

- 1. All articles two pages or under submitted by NAM members will be printed in the DB;
- 2. The NIC Publications/Education Committee (MacLean, Stanley, Judis, Parmalee, Lynch, Boyte) will act as an editorial committee for the Bulletin;
- 3. All articles three to seven pages will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee. Decisions will be made about what to print based on current relevance, lack of duplication, etc. Every attempt will be made to stimulate political debate and include differing views;
- 4. All articles not printed will be listed in the DB so that interested people can obtain them directly from the authors.
- 5. The Editorial Committee will decide on a specific focus for each issue and publicize this in advance.

*The NIC will prepare a NAM position on bussing to be published in the April newspaper.
*Newspaper

- 1. Chapters are encouraged to send articles on local strategy or problems for the Building NAM page of the newspaper. Chapters should also send articles or short reports on activity that will go in the body of the paper.
- 2. Middlesex NAM is interested in having the newspaper move there if staff people can be found.

*Political-Administrative Committee--The NIC voted to establish a Political-Administrative Committee (Richard Healey, Roberta Lynch, Mark Mericle/Julia Reichert) to meet regularly between NIC meetings. The Committee would have the following functions: coordinate NIC work; make emergency decisions; direct National Office work; outreach (financial and other groups). The PAC will be fully accountable to the NIC as a whole and will prepare a report on its activities for each NIC meeting.
*Regional Development

- 1. Regions will bring proposals for geographic reorganization to the next Expanded NIC.
- 2. The NO will keep in touch with geographically isolated chapters.
- 3. Each region will receive names of those who inquire about NAM from the NO and the news paper.
- 4. Guidelines for regional activity were drawn up.

*The community organizing workshop is preparing a paper to summarize the discussion in that workshop. Paul Bermanzohn (Durham Health Collective) is the contact person.

*The workplace organizing workshop resolutions were adopted by the body and are reprinted



... continued

elsewhere in this issue of Moving On.

*The NIC adopted three national projects which it recommends for chapter activity:

1. Socialist schools--PattyLee Parmalee will prepare mailing on existing NAM schools to help chapters develop this project.

2. Campaigns around utilities——For initial information on this see the packet that was sent out for the forum/teach—ins.

3. Defend and extend human services—with an emphasis on economic counselling, particular—ly unemployment counselling.

*Bobby Nelson (Pgh. NAM) will prepare further discussion on a proposal on the economy for the next NIC meeting. The proposed program calls for 1) price freeze; 2) no layoffs; 3) reduced military spending and increased public sector jobs.

*A group of people interested in developing a program around food is being formed. Anyone interested should contact Saralee Hamilton.

*Women's Caucus

- 1. NAM is going to publish a newsletter on the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Articles should be sent to Marilyn Katz, L.A. NAM.
- 2. All chapters are encouraged to sponsor some activity around International Women's Day, March 8th.

*NAM will continue to plan for a conference on the economy in the spring with the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee. Joel Blau is the official liaison.

*NAM will participate in a Coalition on the Economic Crisis which is primarily based in N.Y. and was initiated by former PCPJ groups. PattyLee Parmalee, Barbara and John Ehrehreich will act as NAM representatives.

*It was decided that NAM should participate fully in the January Expanded NIC meeting of the National Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People with the following guidelines:

1. Emphasize the need for local practice among constituent groups;

2. Any formation should be based on organizations rather than "key individuals;"

3. Maintain our firm commitment to feminism and gay liberation;

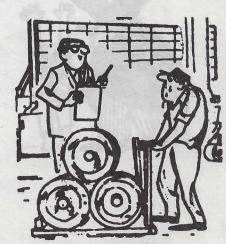
- 4. The planned organizing conference for a party should not take place until after the NAM convention;
- 5. Whatever formation emerges should transitionally permit groups to retain their own identities.

*John Welch, Linda Elston, and Miles Mogulescu introduced a motion to make NAM an "organization of organizers." It called for greater discipline as a requirement of NAM membership and the development of a full-time national leadership for the organization. The motion was not presented for an immediate vote, but to be circulated within the organization for discussion and debate. The NIC felt that a basic problem with the resolution was that it failed to provide a political rationale for the suggested measures. John Judis will prepare a paper for the next NIC meeting that will try to define organizational problems that any proposed changes need to address.

AIM Tour

The Ellen Moves Camp tour has been completed with visits to Durham, Boston, Providence and Chicago. By and large the tour was a success raising over \$1000 for American Indian Movement defense work and bringing information about Native American struggles and Wounded Knee to parts of the country that are not geographically close to it.

Of course, harder work and better planning would have made the tour a bigger success. Chapters that hosted the tour and have not sent full reports to the Minneapolis Chapter Wounded Knee Task Force are reminded to do so. Financial information as well as political impressions are needed. Chapters owing transportation money are reminded to send that in too.



"You've been overworking yourself lately, Burrows. Keep it up!"

NAMLIT

Political Perspective -- statement of NAM's basic political principles. 25¢ a copy; 15¢ for 10 or more.

Revolution and Democracy--pamphlet by Frank Ackerman and Harry Boyte. 50¢ a copy; 30¢ for ten or more.

Discussion Bulletin--bimonthly compilation of articles on topics of importance to NAM & the Left. #2-50¢, #8-\$1.

Attica -- pamphlet prepared by Amherst, Dayton, and Hocking Valley chapters. 25¢ a copy; 10¢ for 10 or more.

On Integrating the Personal and the Political--paper written by Judy Henderson for 1972 socialist-feminist conference. 10¢ Party and Class -- reprint of the Boyte/Ackerman-Silber debate in the Guardian plus the Lexington party-building resolution. 50¢ a

copy; 30¢ for 10 or more. New American Movement -- monthly newspaper of NAM, providing a Left analysis of the news and reports on activity around the country. 35¢ a copy; \$4 for l yr. sub. Available from 6025 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94609. Miletal Interin Condition for a Massally Con

*For Sale...Fox River Valley NAM has silkscreened T-shirts available. "New American" Movement" printed over a clenched fist in

red. White shirt--\$2.50. Colored shirts--\$3. Specify size and color. All orders plus postage prepaid. Order from: Fox River Valley NAM, P.O. Box 311, Dundee, IL 60118.

*For Information... The People's Bicentennial Commission has available some materials that might be useful to chapters in local organizing. You can write for a copy of their paper or other info to 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, Columbia (Washington DC) 20036.

For assistance... The organizing manual, Building a People's Movement, put together by the Durham Health Collective of NAM is now available. Cost is 50¢. Write to NAM Health Collective, Box 1301, Durham, N.C. 27702 or the. NAM National Office to order your copy.

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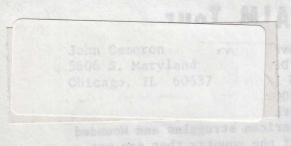
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