

# NEW YORK PARTY MOBILIZER



6th Floor ◦ 235 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10011 ◦ (212) 924-0550

September 6, 1988

## ON AND RUNNING

On Tuesday, August 23rd, the Independent Progressive Line filed 33,214 signatures for the candidacy of Charlene Mitchell for U.S. Senate and 5,856 for the candidacy of Mike Zagarell for Congress in the 19th C.D. According to the State Board of Elections, there have been no challenges and the petitions are in order. Mike and Charlene are on the ballot.

This petition drive was a tremendous accomplishment achieved under very difficult conditions, not the least of which was the weather. The response on the street was the best in recent experiences. Outstanding contributions were made to this drive by individual communists and party clubs throughout the District. At the same time, many weaknesses in organization and mobilization were evident in the work and needs to be discussed more fully by clubs, sections and the State leadership. The purpose of the rest of this article is to focus more on the next steps of the campaign.

### MITCHELL FOR U.S. SENATE

While nothing is finalized at this time, the Mitchell for Senate Committee is discussing a 4-part strategy for the rest of the campaign. Your ideas and proposals are welcome.

1. The first part is a mass agitational approach from the campaign office. This includes Media, production of literature and posters and direct mail. The first major direct mailing is a letter that would go out to 7,000 PDW readers, people interested in the Party, YCL and other contacts. At the state and club level, it's important to guarantee that our immediate circles are aware of and support the campaign. However, this is only a first step. Other mailings will be to organizations and activists involved in various movements, a dear new voters letter mailed to the people we've registered and mass mailings to registered voters in key E.D.'s.

2. The second aspect of the campaign is Harlem concentration. There is already a list of over 20 non-Party people in Harlem ready to work on Charlene's campaign. We believe we can get a big vote

out of Harlem, build a broad independent Mitchell For Senate Committee and initiate struggle and activity that will last well beyond November 1988.

3. The third part of the overall plan is work in the 19th C.D. coupled with the Zagarell for Congress Campaign. The impact of the petitioning in a concentrated area, the general campaigning that has been undertaken and the overall political situation in the 19th CD has already propelled the Zagarell campaign into a position far in advance than anyone would have projected when it first started. Mike is in the local Bronx papers regularly and his campaign is well known in many areas of the District. Incumbent Congressman and convicted felon Mario Biaggi remains on the ballot. Polls of registered Democrats show him with 70-75% of the votes against his two opponents in the Primary. This means that the main race in November could be Biaggi-Zagarell with the possibility of Mike gathering a large protest vote.

4. The fourth area of the campaign -- and the area that affects most of the Party is local grass roots initiatives initiated by campaign supporters in a given area. This means that Party clubs and other bodies need to think through from the beginning how to involve non-Party supporters of the Mitchell candidacy in the work.

The labor, senior, housing, Puerto Rican Equality, Womens and other Commissions need to schedule meetings to discuss how the campaign will be conducted in their fields. The YCL, not only played a major role in the petition drive, but has also already gotten agreement from a former president of S.A.S.U. (Student Association of State Universities) to be part of the campaign.

Party clubs need to have full and immediate discussions on a plan of work from now to November 8th (and follow-up). THE ELECTIONS ARE TO BE THE CENTERPIECE OF ALL PARTY ACTIVITY, the District is ready to meet with clubs to help develop their plans and there are a series of meetings scheduled which should also be helpful. Some broad outlines of some ingredients of a plan are discussed below:

Industrial and Shop Clubs: There are new possibilities in the labor movement that have not previously existed for left-independent campaigns. The example of Local 371 is a case in point. We have to discuss a multi-level campaign that will include public participation in a Mitchell (Zagarell where appropriate) labor committee, getting Charlene and Mike to appear before PAC meetings, their inclusion in surveys of candidates as well as rank and file publicity and activity.

For Community Clubs -- the guidelines are similar to what we've discussed previously. Clubs should discuss not what they alone will do on the campaign. The club discussions should start with how to initiate a broad Mitchell for Senate Committee, how to create an agitational presence throughout the AD or general area in which the committee functions and what will be the two, three or four ED's that we work in to win.

Three important campaign dates: Saturday, September 11th, PDW picnic, Mike and Charlene speaking -- good opportunity for members and friends to hear the candidates. Sunday, September 12 -- Afro-American Day Parade -- Charlene will be marching and mass literature distribution. Saturday, September 17 -- back to the streets. This should be the target date for all clubs to resume street corner or ED work similar to the petition drive. Counting the 17th, this gives us 8 weekends to Election Day. We should resume the weekend and evening mobilization style tha we had during the petition drive. For industrial clubs, this means resuming and/or assuming work in concentration ED's in specific neighborhoods.

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IMPORTANT MEETING

Wednesday night, September 14  
6:30 P.m. District Office

The 1988 Elections - Now to Nov. 8  
All Resident State Committee Members  
All Club Chairs

(out of town welcomed if possible)

Additional club activists on the elections are welcomed  
but club chairs and state committee members are expected.

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Volunteers needed to work at 11 John Street -- Mitchell for Senate Committee -- call 212-732-2025 to volunteer.

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Reaching Out, by Clara K., Fort Greene Club, Brooklyn

On Sunday, July 17, the Fort Greene Club held a birthday party for Nelson Mandela. This was not your usual house party. The idea was to invite the entire neighborhood, and that was just what was done.

First. leaflets were printed in English and Spanish announcing the party, and that Charlene Mitchell and a representative of the ANC would speak. These were distributed house to house in the immediate neighborhood and mailed to a contact list. Posters were placed in neighborhood stores. Before the event, telephone calls were made to the contact list.

The day of the party dawned hot and humid, one of the worst days yet -- and you know what a hot summer this has been! However, there was nothing to be done but to go ahead.

The area of the party was the front yard of a member's home. Across the front of the building was a 15-foot banner in red and blue letters that read: "Happy 70th Birthday, Nelson Mandela." We set up a giant birthday card for everyone to sign, and we piped anti-apartheid and other progressive music out the windows. We sold barbecued chicken, ham, potato salad, green salad, desserts and drinks.

There was no way that anyone could miss this party.

Sixty-seven people signed the birthday card, which was sent to Mandela's lawyer in Johannesburg. More than thirty people signed Charlene's nominating petitions. The ANC sold six t-shirts (at \$12 each) and about half a dozen posters. And seven people signed up to work on Charlene's campaign.

The next step was to follow up. A meeting was set up at once for the following week with Atiba, Charlene's campaign manager. Three of the seven contacts came. And they weren't kidding when they said they wanted to work on the campaign. All of them took petitions, which they are circulating to neighbors and co-workers. They are also getting their friends to circulate the petitions. One of them joined us downtown on a Saturday and collected 51 signatures in 2½ hours, more than anyone.

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PDW PICNIC -- FUN, SUN AND WORK

Volunteers needed -- please call the office to volunteer individually or with a list of comrades from your clubs.

PARTY FUND DRIVE TO START

October First will be the start of the Party Fund Drive. We intend to kick it off with a renewal of the Friday Night at the Movies and Dinner series. Proposed club goals will be similar to last year's, so please contact us if you have questions and/or proposals on different goals.

Clubs should be making plans now based on full membership pledges and outreach activities.

No one will complain if clubs start sending in their money now.

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REMINDER

Party Literature Conference  
Septemer 24 & 25 -- Unity Center

Enclosed is a statement made by Mike Zagarell at the Yonkers City Council. Because of the importance of the Yonkers struggle as a Statewide issue, we are enclosing the complete statement.

CHARLENE MITCHELL TO ADDRESS JEWISH AFFAIRS DINNER

Charlene Mitchell, chair of the Peace and Solidarity Commission, CPUSA, and candidate for the U.S. Senate on the Independent Progressive Line, will address the 16th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner, to take place Sunday, October 2, 1988 at 12 Noon at the Roosevelt Hotel at 45th and Madison Avenue.

The theme of the Dinner is: "1988 -- Year for a People's Electoral Victory."

The current struggles of the Palestinian People for self determination and independence will be discussed by Zehdi Terzi, head of the PLO Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Dr. Herbert Aptheker, editor of Jewish Affairs, will appraise the Jewish American scene today.

Frank Rossi, popular vocalist will offer a repertoire of operatic and light classics.

For reservations, at \$30.00, contact Jewish Affairs, 235 West 23rd St., New York City, 10011. (212) 989-4994

CALENDER

Sept. 5 .....	Labor Day & Caribbean Day
Sept. 10 .....	PDW Picnic
Sept. 11 .....	Afro-American Day Parade
Sept. 14 .....	State Committee and Club Chairs meeting on the elections
Sept. 15 .....	Primary
Sept. 24 & 25 .....	Literature Conference
Oct. 1 .....	Opening of Party Fund Drive
Oct. 2 .....	Jewish Affairs Dinner
Oct. 8 .....	Last day to register for elections
Oct. 9 .....	Art Shields Memorial Tribute 2:00 PM
Nov. 8 .....	Election Day

# *Restore the pride*

## *Government that serves the people*



### **MIKE ZAGARELL FOR CONGRESS, 19th C.D.**

*Address to the Yonkers City Council*

*August, 30, 1988*

Members of Yonkers City Council,

As you are well aware, the eyes of the nation are on Yonkers. At question is the role this city will play in our nation's struggle to provide quality, integrated housing for all the people of our country.

At stake is a precedent that will effect the future of our country as deeply as did the battle for school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas. Today, as then, no official must be allowed to stand in the doorway of change. In the historic struggles that swept our country during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s, every politician was called on to show their true moral fiber. Some pandered to racism and backwardness, thinking that they would make political mileage from it. Yet others stood firm for what was right and based their careers on the dream of democracy and equality.

A look at the South today shows that in the end the voters appreciated those with moral courage to fight for what is right.

At stake in the Yonkers housing desegregation struggle is the future of thousands of families, Black and white, who face skyrocketing rents due to housing shortages.

At stake is the the welfare of thousands of small homeowners who face a lowering of property values if those obstructing this order succeed in forcing the city into bankruptcy.

At stake is the pride of millions of Americans who take our Consitution seriously and believe that no person should be excluded from a neighborhood because of the color of their skin or the kind of job they hold.

As a candidate for the Congress in the 19th CD, covering large sections of Yonkers and the Bronx, I can assure you that the people of our district are both disturbed and concerned by the continued attempt to block the construction of this desperately needed housing in the district.

The claim that people who would occupy this housing are not industrious or honest enough because they are lower and middle income families is a despicable slander against all working people.

The majority of our nation's people fall into this category. And we are neither crooks nor loafers!

Those who are now stirring up hatred in Yonkers claim to do so in the name of the city's residents. In truth, only the real estate interests and the extreme right-wing have anything to gain from continued obstruction. By keeping our communities segregated the real estate interests have made extra millions through redlining, block busting and the manipulation of rents and homeowner prices — all at the city's expense.

By stirring hatred and building division, the extreme right-wing is able to divide the progressive movement and elect pro-Reagan, anti-labor officials to office — officials who have consistently opposed allotting funds so that millions of people, Black and white, could have decent places to live. Is it any wonder that the labor and civil rights movement in Yonkers are joining hands to support the desegregation order?

According to official figures, over 2,000 residents in Yonkers are homeless — 400 of them are children. Many thousands more are living doubled up in homes because the only alternative is to live in the streets.

Yet the four obstructionist councilmen would rather bankrupt the city than to allow Black and white working people to live next to one another in well built, attractive, permanent homes. This is nothing less than a crime!

The only solution to homelessness and rocketing rents is a massive program of government sponsored housing construction. The law correctly provides that these funds can not be used if the housing they provide promotes segregation. Consequently our nation will solve its housing problems with Black and white united, or it won't solve it at all.

Years ago President Eishower was challenged by officials in Little Rock, who stood in the school house door to block integrated eduction for our children. Eisenhower stood firm and history has acclaimed him. Today Governor Cuomo is also challenged. His announcement yesterday that he intends to remove the obstructionist councilmen indicates that he is moving on the right path. He, and the councilmembers that have supported the law, should be congratulated.

Yet there are still indications that those opposing the ruling are looking for new ways to obstruct the law.

The surest way to defeat this is for the people of Yonkers and New York State to unite and to force the four Councilmen standing in the door of progress to resign and never run for office again.

I urge the people of Yonkers and the 19th Congressional District to make their views known.

Like the Governor, we too face the challenge of history.

*Michael Zagarell*

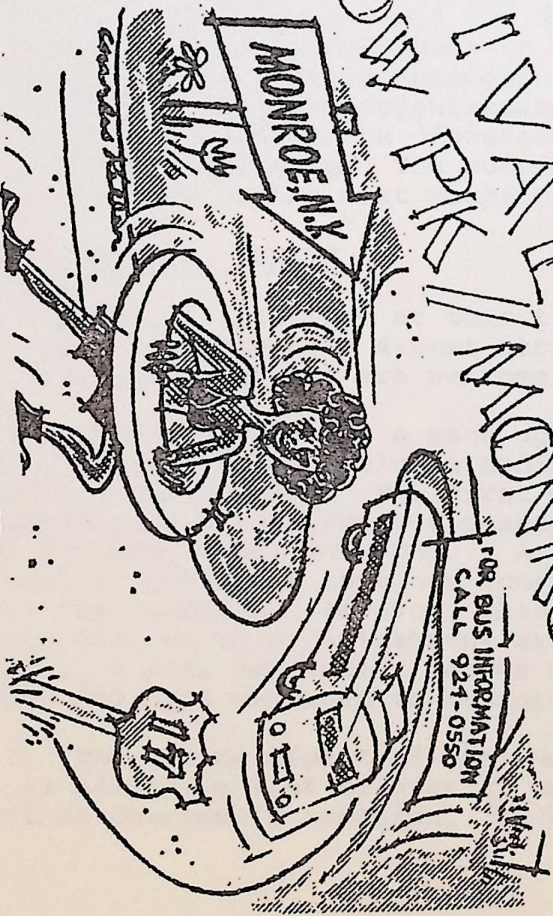
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RAIN DATE:  
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TRANSPORTATION: PH. 924-0550  
Festival (es-tr-väl) adj. Of, or pertaining to, summer

Special (see p. 121) 241. Or. or business card 200000  
IRVING BLOOM: Bld. 254-0220

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NEW YORK FRIENDS OF

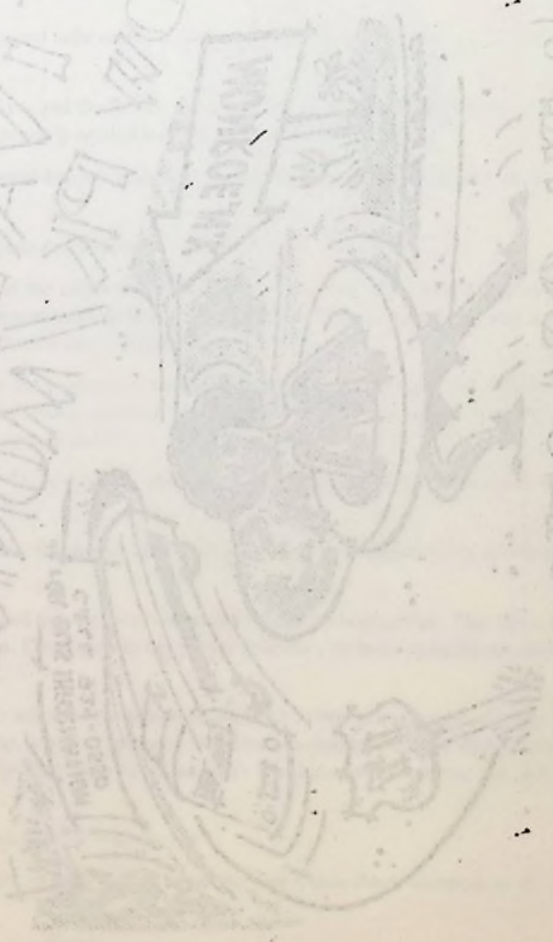
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