

# PRAIRIE FIRE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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To the editors of the Daily News:

On Sunday, September 21, 1975, an article appeared in the Daily News that described underground organizations that allegedly have given support to the Symbionese Liberation Army. One of the organizations singled out in the article was the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee (PFOC). PFOC was described as "a national underground organization." We in this organization are outraged by the lies and misrepresentations in the article. PFOC is a national, open organization of women and men dedicated to bringing fundamental changes in this society. We take our name from the book Prairie Fire written by the Weather Underground organization which has been reprinted and has sold over 25,000 copies. The book describes the true nature of the U.S. government and big business and exposes their only concern: the race for more and more corporate profits. This leads, the book says, to "a system which includes unprecedented slaughter through continuous wars, the violent suppression of Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and Indian people, the subjugation of women, daily control and extraction of maximum profit from the people's work, the development of a fantastic arsenal of weapons (including nuclear arms) ..." In contrast, the book offers a vision of socialism, a new society controlled by poor and working people whose priorities are based on "human need instead of corporate greed." We, the PFOC, agree.

What does the PFOC do? We organize students against the cutbacks. We fight for quality education for all people. We organize in work places and on unemployment lines.

Why the distortions in the Daily News? When the power of the U.S. government and big business are threatened by people struggling to change the conditions of their lives, these powers try to isolate organizations committed to radical change in this society. As usual, instead of pointing out the real criminals, Nixon, Rockefeller, Ford and the rest, they lie to make people afraid of those who seek real changes in this society. We will not allow another era of McCarthyism, a time when people determined to have peace and justice were subjected to severe repression and witchhunts. We will not be intimidated by these attacks and will continue the struggle.

Sincerely,

*Shelley Miller Alan Berkman*

Shelley Miller  
Alan Berkman

for the National Committee of  
Prairie Fire Organizing Committee