

Regent Joseph Coors, known for his right-wing views, asked for the resignation of UC's President for allowing us to continue with the NC.

No class today, no ruling class tomorrow!

by Bernardine Dohrn
SDS Inter-Organizational Secretary

No bull shit now. At some points in history, we have a choice—a choice of style, direction, possibilities. Now, in these few months, SDS can either react out of the politics of containment—to hold in and hold on—or aggressively build a radical left movement. The choice is not made in a single decisive gesture, but in several months we will be able to look back and evaluate our cumulative response. The Boulder and Boulder election

program demands that we immediately involve thousands in SDS programs of agitation, education and action around the elections.

The national media coverage, the strength of the actions at Columbia and Chicago, and the accelerating polarization of society which requires interpretation—all offer us the possibility of recognizing and acting on the strength of the movement to reach out on campus and beyond campus. We have through the elections, a natural way of talking to people about power—to build up actions over the coming

weeks—to press on the urgency—to create forums for SDS politics and the alternatives to submission. SDS chapters everywhere have been flooded with new people, some joining, some looking for answers to the hard questions, some just listening. At too many chapters, the response to the possibility of becoming a mass movement has been to retract, to “consolidate” first, to hassle through factionalism for control of the chapter, to set up forms (constitutions, meetings), to possess the Left and the chapter, to continue the style and language of talking to each

other, to fear an SDS chapter with membership of McCarthy supporters (people who are not yet anti-capitalist revolutionaries), to vigilantly preserve the purity of our form. This “property” response toward SDS is death. When we are in motion (struggle) we MUST afford to keep pushing out the edges—to include larger numbers of people in actions, planning and ideological struggle. Large chapters can break into political brigades (RAPS, affinity groups) around power structure research, agitprop (wall newspapers, guerrilla theatre) high schools, labor, campus issues, study. An immediate focus for all work is the elections.

The elections program is not competitive with ongoing campus organizing. The elections are another institution, like schools, the army, the draft, which present the illusion of power, choice, potency. They are, in fact, another pacifying institution. Agitation and program around election time allows us to continue campus work with an added dimension. We can have people canvassing and holding rallies and using classes to talk not just about already discredited candidates, but about what the election apparatus and other controlling institutions mean in terms of power in America and what the Left is doing. SDS people must meet head on the questions about violence and the growth of the popular Right.

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Students for a Democratic Society 1608 West Madison Chicago, Illinois

SDS NEW LEFT NOTES

Vol. 3, Number 32 LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE October 18, 1968

Boulder NC calls for strike, demonstrations

by David Millstone

The National Council has called for a national strike of high school and college students on November 4 and 5. The strike, one of three parts of a resolution on strategy around the elections passed by the NC in Boulder, Colo., is seen as an important action denouncing the role of universities and schools, and at the same time, linking the attack on educational institutions to the broader issues of the electoral process in the United States and U.S. imperialism.

The “Boulder and Boulder” proposal also calls for “large militant SDS regional demonstrations in major cities” and support for National GI Week.

More than 500 members and

delegates attended the NC, with several hundred visitors from the host University of Colorado sitting in on workshops and plenary sessions. It was generally felt that this was the best NC we've held in several years, due to the high level of political debate on serious questions.

Debate centered largely around the election proposals and on the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), which called for more SDS involvement in working-class organizing. A panel on internationalism with Bernardine Dohrn, Ben Morea, Jim Fite, and Hilda Ignatin, a free-floating general political discussion kicked off by the national secretaries' reports, and a dance filled the rest of the agenda for the three-day weekend, October 10-12.

Problems with the press also took up lots of time. Several dozen newsmen showed up at Boulder as evidence of the media's new interest in the movement, and before the end of the NC, we saw several fights, heard a member of the Regents ask for the school president's resignation, and harbored National Secretary Mike Klonsky from a warrant issued for his arrest.

Press Policy Set

In the series of negotiations with University officials preceding the NC, SDS agreed that members of the press would be allowed to attend the meetings, a condition required by the University. We pointed out that electronic equipment, like cameras and lights and tape recorders, would disrupt the proceedings, and would therefore be banned, although newsmen would be allowed to take notes and even participate in sessions. At a meeting Friday morning, the University administration said all media representatives and their equipment would have to be allowed in. By Friday

afternoon, after the SDS representatives reiterated our policy, the administration agreed to let us establish the press policy for newsmen covering the NC. Most representatives from the press, except for two local stations, were satisfied, and signed a petition stating that they agreed with the SDS terms.

Several members of the Board of Regents, notably Joseph Coors, a brewery owner famed for his right-wing views and political ambitions, opposed

the administration's actions, and demanded that all equipment be allowed into the meetings. Coors also demanded the resignation of U. of Colorado President Smiley. By Friday night, the administration had followed the Regents' demand, and said all equipment had to be allowed in. That night, one guy from Denver's KIMN, armed with his tape recorder, tried to force his way into the plenary session. He was turned back

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Meeting in the Glenn Miller ballroom, delegates vote on the SLAP proposal.

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Boulder and Boulder

(This is the text of the resolution on election strategy passed by the Boulder NC. It was submitted by Bernardine Dohrn, of the NO, and Jeff Jones and John Jacobs of New York.)

- 1) Call for, publicize and organize for a national strike of high school and college students on November 4 and 5.
- 2) Mobilize large militant SDS regional demonstrations in major cities—to make visible the wide extent of opposition to this election, making a direct focused statement, through action, about why all elections under the present system are fraudulent. Use our campus base to reach out to all sectors of the population, in particular, the working class support for Wallace.
- 3) Support National GI Week through literature, propaganda, local demonstrations.

Every national political action must raise the consciousness of our organization and the people we effect.

SDS believes:

—Elections are a fraud because they foster the illusion that people have democratic power over the major institutions of society. In fact, jails, courts, schools, factories, the army, and the election process itself are controlled by a ruling class. People must organize themselves to demand through direct action:

—Immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. We support the people's war in Vietnam. We support people's liberation struggles throughout the world.

—An end to racism, which divides the people. We affirm the right of black people to defend and liberate themselves by any means necessary. We demand that the police be disarmed.

BUILD THE LEFT

Last spring saw a new stage of political crisis for imperialism, stemming in part from the increasing defeat of US forces in Vietnam, from the failure of reformist solutions to the oppression of blacks at home, and from financial crisis within the capitalist world. In the present pre-election period, that crisis is manifested by an increasing political polarization: the 'center' has proven its failure—just as it can't either get out of or win in Vietnam, so it can't successfully change or preserve the status quo at home.

The failure of the 'center' is irreversible; it remains for the left not to cling to liberal myths, but to build its own strength out of the polarization, to build the left 'pole'. The growth of the right is a reaction to the threat of the left's real and potential strength here and internationally; it remains for us to make the threat real.

The growth of the right has two distinct aspects: the strengthening and use of the state apparatus of repression, and the popular support for Wallace and the politics enunciated by Wallace. We take the latter as a serious danger and failure of the left. We must intensify efforts to interpret our positions and actions at factories, subways, Wallace rallies, communities, and through our media.

Thus more people on and off campus are ready to be turned on to the movement, while at the same time the repression becomes an increasing threat. We cannot afford ourselves the luxury of lessening our efforts on campus, inasmuch as the movement is weak and shallow in most places, nor the luxury of turning inward to "consolidate"; we must attack, expand and consolidate at the same time. The situation around the elections not only requires that we do both, it also provides the opportunity to do both.

1) The Strike and Mobilizations allow campus chapters to reach out to greater numbers of students around focused programs which have sharper political analysis and content than strictly campus "student power" or "anti-complicity" issues.

2) The Strike and Mobilizations use the energies of the student movement to reach out beyond the campus on our own terms, to raise advanced political

positions in a context where large numbers of people are interested.

STRIKE

The student strike is an important political statement by the student movement to the rest of the country. It is possible to expand the politics of Columbia: to denounce the universities and schools as an intrinsic part of the capitalist system, and to link that assault to the broader issues of the electoral apparatus and the political parties of racism and imperialism.

1) The Strike and militant regional demonstrations locate ongoing local efforts in the context of national and international issues. The connections between local and national work are natural during the weeks when the American public is involved in a national spectacle and is encouraged to "vote" where they live and study and work—all over the country. Calling a national strike will create a consciousness of a national week of confrontations—a snowballing effect, more organically powerful than that which occurred last year during Stop the Draft Week, Wisconsin, Brooklyn and the Pentagon. In addition to the value of agitation and education around the elections, the Strike will actually further local activities, not compete with them.

2) A Strike, as an effectively symbolic or agitational action, has real political effects on the broader struggle. This political impact makes it a real, as well as symbolic, strike—an action which embodies our response and alternative to elections. The Strike is a precedent for high school students: a defiance, an organizing vehicle, a rejection of pacifying institutions.

3) The Strike is a rallying point for SDS politics: a forum for our position on the Vietnam war and other "vietnams", the draft, the exploitation of the black population, the role of the university and schools, the working class, drop-outs, capitalism—the occasion to affirm the politics and process of building a movement: action, study, power.

DEMONSTRATIONS

SDS can establish a national consciousness that an opposition to the government exists all over the country and that it is a fighting opposition, not a begging or parliamentary one. It is clear that large demonstrations and confrontations are helpful to developing awareness, involvement, and organizing. We believe that now is a time when the national political situation calls for our vocal, demonstrative presence more than ever. SDS now has a national identity and the election period is an opportunity to BOTH inject the ideas of SDS into the political arena AND to make the national image a local reality by simultaneously involving thousands in militant regional actions all over the country.

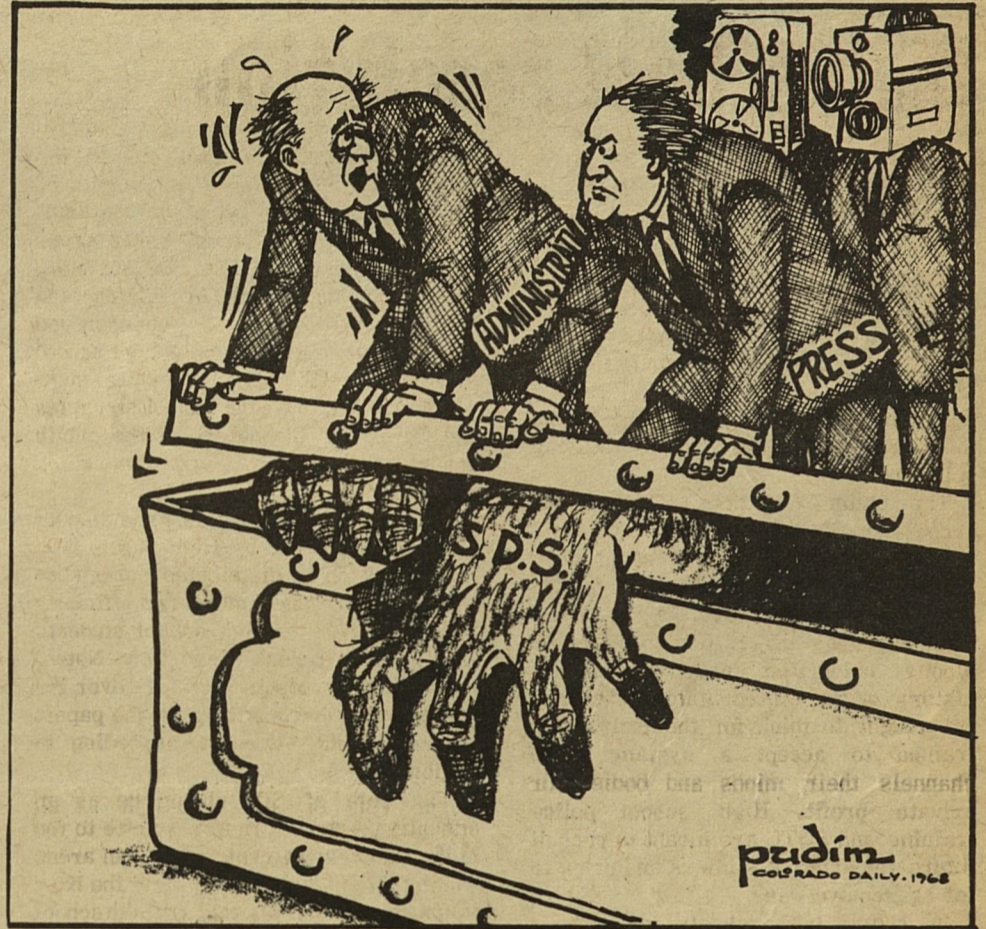
Because political conditions are very open right now, and may be increasingly repressive in the coming period, we should think in terms of what programs

now will develop the seeds of revolution most broadly. "Developing the seeds of revolution" goes beyond having large numbers of people understand or agree with our ideas. What's also needed is to turn masses of people on to looking at their own role as active agents of change. What does this is for people to decide for radicalism not in the abstract, but concretely through their own decisions to act in specific cases. Involving large numbers of people directly in decisive actions will make the difference between a movement which depends overly on its "leaders", and can be repressed easily, and one with resilience and depth which continues to multiply and grow under adverse conditions. The goal of regional mobilization is to build revolution by insuring the self-activity, involvement

election-action program is carrying our position to working people, communities, factories—through leaflets, rallies, debates with Wallace supporters, use of the movement media.

2) Regional demonstrations permit the common national political positions to be tied to positions peculiar to different areas and to stimulate ongoing work. GI Week, for example, should be an educational and agitation issue—a concrete way to reach working class men through a campaign around the military. But only in certain areas (near military bases, NYC, Bay area) can support for GIs and the demand for the immediate return of all US troops be the focus for demonstrations.

3) Regional mobilizations permit the greatest tactical flexibility. No demonstrations today can avoid the possibility



'They spooked it! They spooked it!'

and experience of masses of people.

1) Regional mobilizations, fed by the Strike, have the potential to involve tens of thousands more people than a single national demo, and the potential to be useful to many more chapters. They enable chapters to develop publicity, marshal their forces, reach into and off campus, transport people to a regional demonstration, and participate in a collective political experience.

Regional demonstrations offer the most realistic possibility of involving high school students and non-students (working people, drop-outs) in SDS initiated demonstrations against the parties and candidates of imperialism and racism. Similarly, regional demonstrations free us from total reliance on the mass media for interpretation of our actions. An essential part of SDS

of being attacked by cops unless they accept the cops' own parade route or picnic ground. If and when we are attacked for exposing the politics of imperialism and racism, we must best be able to defend ourselves. If they call out the national guard to suppress us, it will be in ten or twenty cities, not just one.

IMPLEMENTATION

High school students who are attacking their schools as jails will refuse to stay locked up when their schools are used as the location for the sham election ritual.

Communication and coordinated work among black, brown and white high school students.

Aggressive use of a variety of media and propaganda forms: wall newspapers, guerilla theatre, teach-ins, canvassing and leaflets, films, rallies at noon which create an agitational center on campuses and communities.

Canvassing of dorms and communities talking about Wallace, the Peggy Terry/Cleaver ticket, the role of political parties based on exploitation.

Opening movement centers in cities which will organize regional mobilizations to be centers for election action committees, education, liberated space.

Intensification of assaults on recruiting, ROTC, mis-education, university research and university profits.

Mass distribution of Vietnam GI and the Bond, literature on the political parties, the candidates, interpreting popular support for Wallace.

Contact and work with other groups: welfare rights organizations, insurgent labor groups, community control organizations, high schools, drop-outs.

A special election issue of NLN with samples of literature and propaganda from different geographic parts of the country plus articles directed to different sectors of the population.

new left notes

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After the NC, we held a press conference. Answering questions were, from left to right, Mike Klonsky, Bernardine Dohrn, Fred Gordon, and Tim McCarthy.

High school resolution

(passed as amended)

One of the most important divisions of the American Educational Industry is the high school. This public institution affects the lives of thirty million Americans. The atmosphere of the high school in America is repressive, non-productive and inhuman. Instead of education of young people, the high school attempts to press upon them bankrupt values of a decaying society.

The blatant attempts of American schools to "channel" and accelerate certain students into jobs which have no meaning make obvious the failure of capitalist education. Young men and women are fed direct lies to cover the bloody colonialist and expansionist history of the United States. They are not taught to think for themselves but trained to accept a system which channels their minds and bodies for private profit. High school police training and ROTC are meant to recruit future imperialist soldiers and prepare for aggressive wars.

In short, high schools in America act to repress creative desires in a group who are in some of their most creative years. Everything from sexual repression to grades, formal controlled classes, irrelevant tests, the Carnegies Unit System for graduation, the track system, and sequential development of material is aimed at preparing the student for life in a sick society. We therefore feel that high schools and the society that spawns them need drastic change. Knowing that the school cannot change to the extent we want unless we change the system which uses it, we will organize in the high school to move students to overthrow that system by confronting the issues that directly affect them.

Program

We feel it vital that the National Council of SDS supplement the Bloomington and Lexington resolutions by supporting the following program.

1) (as amended by the High School Caucus) That the National office hire a full time national high school coordinator to operate out of the Los Angeles Regional Office and such others as needed. The job of the coordinator would be to travel around the country, talking to people doing high school work in various areas attempting to develop an overview of what's happening nationally. The functions of the national coordinator are to fund raise for the high school movement and to be particularly concerned with areas where the high school movement is just beginning and with the help of local SDS chapters, set up high school organizing projects and educational programs. He would publish regular reports in the Free Student.

2) That the college and non-student chapters of SDS, and the ROs make high school organizing a large part of their programs. That they attempt to start high school movements where there are none and aid those movements already in existence. The college chapters should help in specific ways

such as (a) offering courses in the history of Vietnam and the struggles of oppressed peoples, (b) teach anti-draft and counselling skills, (c) hold conferences for nearby high school students, with work shops on organizing and issues, (d) organize underground papers (this means helping high school movements with their papers), (e) show solidarity with the high school struggles and (f) expose the nature of the public school channeling and moulding process.

3) That the Los Angeles Free Student—a paper put out by High School SDS in LA, which is distributed nationally, be circulated much more and officially represent SDS to high school students as a high school New Left Notes. High school students from all over the country should contribute to the paper; issues should alternate according to region.

The role of SDS should be as an educational and political resource to the high school movement centers in areas where established and to build the base in unorganized areas through high school organizing projects and educational programs. High school students should work on and supervise literature programs for the high schools.

NC

(continued from page 1)

at the door.

Relations with most of the members of the press were friendly. They were willing to work within the framework we established, and joined with us in protesting the Regents' attempts to force a confrontation. The University administration was willing to co-operate, as were the campus cops (part-time students at the University), but the Regents kept interfering. One cop watched as a newsman's tape recorder microphone cord was cut, then flashed a V sign to the SDSers standing around. Several media men took part in a hastily called media workshop with movement media people.

Election Debate

Debate on election strategy centered largely on the "Boulder and Boulder" elections proposal (printed in this issue of NLN) and a proposal by PL calling for a national march on Washington on Election Day (see last week's issue). Much of the plenary discussion focused on the National Mobilization Committee, and our relations to that group. Many persons felt that we should avoid any alliances with the MOB (GI Week is a Mobilization proposal, and some of the regional demonstrations would be planned in conjunction with them) especially in light of the disastrous leadership provided by the Mobilization in Chicago. In addition to discussing the Mob's politics, people also pointed out that marching to Washington would be just another march which would accomplish nothing. Regional demonstrations, it was decided, would provide greater opportunities to plan strategic action, get our point across, and build SDS a strong regional base.

On the labor front, the SLAP proposal was defeated roughly two to one, in a chaotic vote Saturday night. Although SLAP was defeated, the NC seemed to agree that SDS had to develop deeper ties to the working class and a general working-class consciousness. What form this will take is as yet unclear.

Sunday's plenary session approved after some amendment the high school proposal, printed in this issue of NLN. Attacking American high schools as "repressive, non-productive, and inhuman", the resolution calls for organizing within high schools to move students there into action against the system which oppresses them.

The Up Against the Wall/Mother-fucker chapter of SDS held a Sunday afternoon session on the floor of the ballroom on "youth culture" which turned into a free-wheeling, open discussion about the meaning of the movement and the revolution in terms of our own lives.

Strike

(continued from page 1)

The STRIKE is not an ultimatum to local SDS chapters—it is an opportunity to build toward an action which fits local needs and will be multiplied by the strength of national and regional coordination. The issues we work around have common roots. Take over classes to discuss our analysis of the school industry, the war, our struggle which rejects pacifying roles. Move classes outside of institutions which should be closed down. Carry local issues to rallies, demonstrations, joint actions with high school students, GIs, people in the community. Create centers of activity: debate, guerrilla theatre, confrontations.

Because the STRIKE, regional demonstrations, and GI Week are national actions, they reinforce and multiply the effect of every local activity. Local work need not mean insular work. Every STRIKE action will be part of a broader political statement which reaches deeper into campuses and consciously reaches beyond campus. We must take seriously the potential—and necessity—of students to identify their own real interests in terms of the national and international liberation movements.

SDS' election program bridges the gap between national mobilizations and chapter work; coordinated actions, and propaganda on a regional level can offer cross-fertilization that will stimulate future chapter work and regional use of resources (newspapers, research, defense, staff). Election time is a national and international focus; it is a gauge for intensified activity. To act boldly now is to take advantage of this historical period to broaden and strengthen the movement. The stakes are up. SDS must involve people in actions which expose their own concrete roles in American institutions and reveal their possibilities as agents of radical change. Around the urgency, fear and anger of elections we must demand that a commitment to struggle is a necessity, not a luxury.

Report on the NIC

by Mike Klonsky
SDS National Secretary

The National Interim Committee (NIC) held a brief meeting following the Boulder NC which was attended by about 80 SDSers. What took place was for the most part a criticism and self-criticism evaluation of the NC and a division of labor for the up-coming SDS student strike and demonstration on election day.

Because of the situation in the understaffed National Office and print shop, several local organizers are coming to the NO to work for the next few weeks, until the elections. Speakers are going to hit the road, and fund-raising to meet immediate needs (estimated at \$10,000) will have to be carried out. NIC and NIC sympathizers volunteered to raise \$100 each in the next week. All local organizers are asked to do the same if this national program, the first since April's disastrous "Ten Days that Shook the Empire", is to be successful.

After an analysis of the Boulder NC, it was decided that the next NC, scheduled for the week of December 25 through January 1, should also be held on a college campus in the Mid-west.

A planning committee for the December NC was set up to deal with resource people, literature and an internal education day. Suggestions were made to a labor panel to educate "new people" about the issues to be discussed. Suggested also were some educational sessions on economics. Coming under attack was the "false

dichotomy" made between education through action and dull "intellectual bullshit." The NC planning committee will examine new forms and attempt to make the December NC less artificial. Because of the extra available time because of the Christmas holidays (and Chairman Mao's birthday on December 26) we will be able to devote more time to internal education. Suggestions for the NC should be sent to the NO.

It was generally agreed that this was the best NC in a long time, due to the high level of political discussion that went on during the plenary and some of the workshops. Criticisms generally reflected the problems of the whole organization and the Movement in general. These problems are symptomatic of our uneven political development and an inability to deal with the enlarged chapter meetings taking place all over the country.

A coordinating newsletter for regional travelers was called for to help regional organizers and travelers keep in touch with each other outside of New Left Notes. John Johnson from the Los Angeles regional office will coordinate this communications system. All regional organizers should get in touch with John.

The press was the subject of much discussion during the NC and NIC meetings. Allen Young of LNS suggested to the NIC that we not just tell media people to get fucked because they work for the bourgeois press. During the NC we had cooperation from most of the reporters because we dealt with them

directly (not through the regents) and organized the hell out of them.

The NIC gave tentative approval for the NO staff to begin looking for a new location: We have troubles with the office being in a black community; the Man is provoking trouble by encouraging young kids to harass the office staff; we're threatened by urban renewal within a few years. It was decided to look for a new site somewhere in the Midwest.

Because NAC and REAC selections were not made at the NC, the NIC approved of a plan to make the usually dysfunctional committees useful, until they can either be disbanded by the next NC or revamped so as to be relevant. It was suggested that the NAC could raise funds and look for new ways to develop resources for the organization. The REAC was redefined by the NIC as people who would be recruited around the country to develop and criticize new literature. If, for example, a new high school pamphlet is written, a group of high school organizers would criticize it and make necessary changes and corrections.

Don Newton of Los Angeles was assigned to travel to New Mexico, after contacting the local organizers there, and speak at the convention of the Alianza.

The next NIC meeting will be the weekend of November 16 near Chicago. It is hoped that those NIC members conspicuously absent from this NC and NIC (Eric Mann, Mike Spiegel, Carl Oglesby, and Morgan Spector) will be present.

Toward a class perspective

by Les Coleman

The discussions over the SLAP proposal were better than those of the workshops last June—which were mostly polemics—and not half as good as we needed. In that SLAP was an attempt to define a working class perspective for the student movement, the discussion must go on. So a few points of the discussion should be raised.

Most people in the discussions supported the section called tactics of SLAP. These were examples of students linking up their struggles with working people, e.g., support of university employee strikes, confrontations with the university over university exploitation of the community. Other programs were suggested around a summer work-in, support of black rebellions, and educational programs fighting against anti-working class ideas on the campus. Different people had different points of disagreement with different sections, wording, contradiction of this or that experience, but on the whole

the examples were things that had been done, were important in building the organization, and should be done again in other places. And yet the proposal failed two to one.

So the problem was in the analysis. The basic principle in the proposal was the student-worker alliance: students should build an alliance with workers in struggle. SLAP was a proposal to see that all SDS chapters saw "that alliance" as their goal.

But as an overall strategy for the student movement—to build an alliance with workers—it failed because it gave no analysis of which workers, in what places and in what organizational forms. People felt you could not talk about an alliance with workers without some analysis of the working class.

Second, some objected that there was no adequate definition of "working-class interest". Our struggle must always be in the objective interest of the international proletariat if it is not counter-revolutionary, but what does that say about supporting American workers in their struggles? Maybe it

does say something, but that must be spelled out. The question of American workers as a labor aristocracy to the rest of the working people of the world must be dealt with in this context.

Third, some objected to a lack of adequate analysis of black working people. American black people are "exploited" but they are also colonized; their struggle is also one of liberation and we must deal with that or we will never understand the black movement, never correctly understand the fight against racism.

Fourth, some objected to the proposal as dealing mostly with a kind of student "racism" toward working people: "Workers are no-good sweaty racist pigs and only intellectuals have any grace and delicacy." Now all of us have heard statements just like that one come out of the student movement, and students' attitudinal racism towards working people must be fought as part of the disease of class privilege of capitalist individualism. But building liberal programs to fight against it has the same dangers as building

liberal programs to fight racism against black people: it is not necessarily building an anti-capitalist movement. It is still very possible to support some working people while helping to crush the germs of the anti-capitalist working-class movement.

The point is that the analysis was either too grand and dangerous because the analysis was wrong, or it was unspecific, or the principle was just one of fighting a "liberal" battle against attitudes of privilege. But, SDS analysis in resolutions being what it is, the proposal would not have failed if other things weren't involved.

Constant Barrage

People thought the constant barrage of the student-worker alliance line on their chapters was killing chapter participation and chapter growth, was inhibiting campus programs. This was the overriding reason for the defeat of the proposal. Students must construct programs which appeal to students. We have learned at Columbia, that students will fight over such issues as IDA or the gym when they are linked organically with a movement fighting against student oppression. Perhaps a better analysis of class interest would have left people feeling free of the narrowness they were afraid the proposal represented.

The proposal failed also, it must be said, for bad reasons. Many people did not feel even the need to build a class perspective, or to deal with the problem of relating to American working people. Other "no" votes came out of student "racism" against working people that was mentioned.

Young and Old Workers

Finally there was a lot of discussion about "young workers and old workers". At its worst, it said young workers are more revolutionary than old workers. Nobody but those arguing for the SLAP proposal really took the argument that way. Some did say however that WE were in better position to move and attract young working people than older working people. That is because we are a youth movement, not because youth is more oppressed or more revolutionary than age. Along these lines it was suggested that we reach out to community colleges, trade schools, working class based universities and working class high schools. Also, National Organizing Committee staff talked about the possibility of organizing young people around neighborhood and street scenes. Real connections could be built by both doing that organizing work and by constructing the kind of mass actions—like Chicago—which involved them with the student movement.

Many voted for the proposal because it outlined at least the beginnings of a working-class perspective, and because there was no alternative proposal that was any better. I don't think we have to get in a panic about NC resolutions determining the direction of the organization: that leads only to stupid and unproductive factionalism. NC resolutions on perspective have limited meaning to most people in SDS. It is vital that we should have discussions in many forums which get us further into the development of a class perspective.

The fall issue of Caw! magazine will be sent free to paid-up national SDS members. This issue contains detailed coverage of the events in France last May. Please send contributions to cover printing and mailing expenses to Caw! Box 332, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Chapters should write the NO with their requests for bulk orders of NLN. Tell us how many copies you want each week, and send lots of money to cover costs.

Support GI Week

SDS gets drafted

At the National Council meeting we passed, as part of the "Boulder and Boulder" proposal, a resolution calling for support of the National Mobilization call for GI Week, November 1-5. We can leave that support in the form of a paper resolution, or we can get to work and greatly increase the effectiveness of GI Week as a national program.

SDS experience with GI's has been tremendously inadequate. For an organization beginning to concentrate more and more on non-student sectors of the working-class—primarily people of our age—we're sure draggin our asses. We had very little information in NLN during the summer about the coffee houses, Vietnam GI and Summer of Support activities. This is partly because last spring many of us thought that the coffee house, be-in style of organizing was not anti-imperialist and not too important a use of people's time. We figured our work with resisters, mainly outside the Army, was more important.

Now that type of work is no longer sufficient. Reports coming into the National Mobilization Office indicate that there will be activity on at least 20 bases around the country, and most importantly, several GI's have contacted the MOB office saying that they would like to do organizing from within. With this increased activity on the part of GI's it is imperative that such organizing not be left up solely to the MOB and other organizations involved in GI organizing, like YSA and YAWF.

At this beginning stage of organizing, a master plan is not crucial. What is

important is that we spread around ideas for actions and analyses of experiences. People should send immediately to NLN any information that will be helpful to this work. Our involvement in the project will increase the chances for its success and will help us begin to implement the sense of the Boulder NC that we wanted to increase our non-student work.

New York Plans

In New York there has been some talk of a demonstration at the Times Square Recruiting center. That's nice because it attacks the military and creates a militant confrontation situation, but it's not really what we have in mind for GI Week and our future organizing. Direct contact with GI's is the main point, and showing that the Left supports the soldiers and that the soldiers support the Left is the key to making the GI Week a success.

Another plan which is being talked about in New York is for an action at Fort Dix. We want an action that shows our support for the soldiers, but not for the lifers, the brass or the institution of the military itself. Two types of proposals have been suggested. One is a militant march on the base demanding the release of all the political prisoners (that includes draftees), the other is for a large disciplined force of our people to spend a day in the town near Fort Dix, announcing in advance to the soldiers that we are coming. We would say that we are anti-war movement people, that we want to talk to soldiers about work we're doing to try to end the war and destroy

that system that caused it, plus we'll be bringing rock bands, copies of Vietnam GI, and similar stuff.

Both actions have strong and weak points. In the march we'd be met by armed MP's and it's with them and New Jersey state troopers that we'd have a confrontation. Weekend passes would be cancelled, and we'd probably not have much personal contact with the soldiers. The press would pick up our demand for the release of political prisoners.

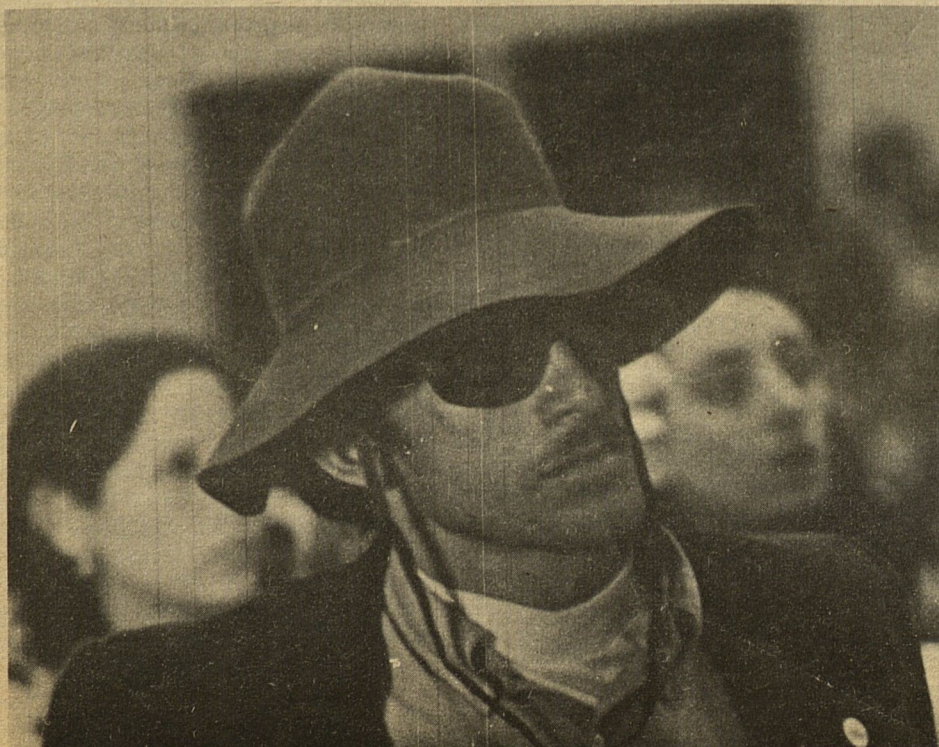
In the other action, our political statement in the press would be less direct but our chance to talk with soldiers would be greater. It's possible that if we come in a seemingly less-militant manner, like a be-in or a "liberation fair", the brass would still shut down the base and cancel all leaves. Then we wouldn't get to talk with the soldiers, but the brass would be in a position of total repression. If they don't, and we can rap with the GI's, the lack of an initial confrontation will make it more clear that we're not attacking the short-term soldiers; if a confrontation did develop, then some soldiers would probably fight on our side against the MP's and against the cops.

More GI Activities

There's more to this GI Week than these base confrontations. Delegations of people are going to go to different bases to demand to see the conditions in the stockade, the hospitals and the barracks. A group of famous people is going to go to Sweden to meet with the American Deserters Committee and then come back to speak and raise the demand for amnesty for political resisters. November 3 will be Vietnam Sunday with churches and synagogues holding special services for soldiers (in some cases these may take place on bases). Many churches will be declared sanctuaries for draft resisters and deserters.

The MOB has contacts and information about activities in many areas and on every major base in the country. People should write to them at 5 Beekman St., NYC, but this should also indicate to us that we should pull together our own resources for this kind of organizing.

The next few issues of NLN should have other ideas for things that SDS chapters can do. Some obvious ideas are: leafleting airports, bus and train stations, places where soldiers congregate; teach-ins on the military in the United States; guerilla theatre programs for GI's in USO's; Vietnam veterans against the war to speak on campuses and high schools.



Mike Klonsky, cleverly disguised, listens to some debate.