

Copy of the charges against Comrade Fred M. on October 26, 1964 by the Executive Committee of the YSA Uptown New York local.

Acting upon reported violation of YSA discipline, the Uptown New York YSA Executive Committee on October 21 passed a motion that: "the Executive Committee investigate reports about YSA members of the Wohlforth tendency selling Bulletin of International Socialism, Vol. 1, No. 3, which publicly attacks YSA policy, such action being contrary to YSA discipline."

Investigation by the Executive Committee established that Fred M. was seen by YSA members on the evening of October 9 outside the doorway of 116 University Place, before the scheduled Militant Labor Forum, selling Bulletin of International Socialism, Vol. 1, No. 3 to the public.

On October 15, at the "Anti-Facist" rally organized by Progressive Labor, Fred M. was seen inside the meeting hall, sharing a literature table with the Spartacist, selling Bulletin of International Socialism, Vol. 1, No. 3.

Both of these sales were made without prior consultation with the Uptown YSA. At both meetings, participating YSA members were to sell the first issue of the YS magazine, and at the rally they were also to distribute leaflets for the East Coast Conference. Fred M. did not sell the YS nor distribute the Conference leaflets at either of these meetings.

The section of Bulletin of International Socialism, Vol. 1, No. 3 in question is found on page 11 of that issue and is entitled "The Death of a Socialist Youth Newspaper." This article (reprinted in appendix): (1) publicly attacks the YSA Plenum decision to change the YS format from a newspaper to a magazine, calling it, "... a major step backward for the YSA." (2) publicly criticizes the new public organ of the YSA, (3) publicly criticizes the YSA as a whole, stating that the YSA is in a "political crisis." (4) discusses internal YSA matters in a publication sold to the public.

The Uptown New York YSA local Executive Committee charges that the above actions are deliberate violations of YSA discipline and policies. These actions violate the following sections of the YSA Constitution:

- 1.) "Article III, section 1: Membership in the YSA is open to those young people who agree with the Statement of Purpose and who accept the program and policies of the YSA, regardless of membership or non-membership in any adult socialist party."
- 2.) "Article III, section 6: Members shall be guided in their political work by the program and policies of the YSA. In pursuing their work they may not take action which is in contradiction with YSA program or policies."

The Uptown New York local will meet in trial at its regular meeting on Saturday, November 14, 1964, in the case of Fred M.

/s/ Howard Sievers - Uptown NY
Organizer, for the unanimous
Executive Committee

Charges personally delivered on October 28, 1964

APPENDIX

Below is a word for word reprint from Bulletin of International Socialism, Vol 1, No. 3 of October 12, 1964.

THE DEATH OF A SOCIALIST YOUTH NEWSPAPER

After seven years, the National Committee Plenum of the Young Socialist Alliance held Labor Day weekend decided to stop publication of the YSA's monthly newspaper, the Young Socialist, and begin publication in a new magazine format to be produced by voluntary labor 5 times a year.

The characteristic hard hitting style and format which a paper makes possible will be lost. Any possibility of bringing the Young Socialist to working class Negro and white youth appears to be tossed aside.

The dissolution of the Young Socialist newspaper is a major step backwards for the YSA. It is of course closely related to the political crisis affecting both the YSA and the Socialist Workers Party, with which the YSA maintains relations of fraternal political solidarity. It is significant that 7 out of 9 original editorial board members of the Young Socialist have either left political activity or been expelled by the YSA or SWP.

The problems of the Young Socialist newspaper were not ones of format, but of orientation and political line. To the extent that the Young Socialist duplicated the Militant, this was at least partly due to the complete lack of orientation of the Militant and the SWP itself towards the mass movement. There is a need for a hard hitting socialist youth newspaper in the United States. The cessation of publication of the Young Socialist newspaper is no solution to the problems of the YSA. It is a serious retreat, not an advance.

Article IX. Trial Procedure

Section 1. Any member or body of the YSA may bring charges against any member for violation of constitutional articles, program or policies of the YSA. The charges must be initially presented in writing to the highest body of which the accused is a member. That body may constitute itself as a trial committee or may refer the charges to a lower body of which the accused is a member. Charges may be dismissed at any time by the body having jurisdiction at that time.

Section 2. No body shall meet as a trial committee unless all the members have been informed in advance of the business at hand. The accused must be given notice of the trial date and a copy of the charges at least 15 days preceeding the trial. Failure to appear or to send a letter of defense in the absense of excuse for failure shall be grounds for conducting the trial in absentia.

Section 3. The disciplinary measures which are available in the event the accused is found guilty are, in increasing order of severity: censure, private or public, suspension and expulsion. These measures may be applied only as a result of the trial procedures outlined in this article. To censure or suspend a simple majority vote is needed, to expell a two thirds vote majority is required.

Section 4. The accused or accuser may appeal the decision (dismissal of charges, guilt or innocence, or the severity of discipline) of any body to the next higher one, up to and including the National Convention whose decision shall be final. An appeal must be filed 15 days after the action being appealed.

reprinted from the Constitution Of The Young Socialist Alliance, copy enclosed with charges