



**FROM
PROTEST
TO
RADICAL
POLITICS**

BUILD:

● **VIETNAM WEEK**
APRIL 8-15

● **The Spring Mobilization**
in San Francisco
and New York

-- April 15

A YOUNG SOCIALIST BROCHURE
YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE
P. O. BOX 471
COOPER STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003



"From protest to radical politics"—this problem, formulated by Lee Webb and Paul Booth of SDS in a bulletin over a year ago, is a burning issue for radical youth today. Sooner or later almost every newly radicalized youth must decide upon a political perspective which goes beyond mere single-issue protest. Such a perspective, which of necessity must have socialism as its ultimate goal, must, in developing its tactics, take a realistic view of the social forces and institutions of this country and at the same time must be based on a principled political stand that cannot be co-opted by the system.

The 1968 elections and their bearing on the future will make the question of which road to political power an even more important one for every radical youth.

The key to developing a meaningful program for independent political action is understanding the nature of the two-party system and especially the Democratic party, which is considered by many to be the more progressive. The Democratic party owes its very existence to the large numbers of working people, Negroes, and other oppressed minorities which vote for it on election day. Naturally, in order to win their votes, the Democratic party must appear to be what it is not—a party of the common people.

Despite its dependence upon the votes of the working class and oppressed minorities, the Democratic party remains an instrument of the ruling capitalist class. In fact, it is more than an instrument; it is a basic social institution of American society today. It is controlled completely by the rulers of this country and can no more be changed into an instrument of the working people than can the present police forces, Defense Department, or CIA.



Pete Camejo, SWP Candidate for Mayor of Berkeley speaks to meeting of campaign workers.

Its whole purpose is to carry out the foreign and domestic policy of U.S. imperialism while giving the appearance of being the party of progress. No better example exists than the Goldwater-Johnson election of 1964. Many people who could not swallow Goldwater's crass talk of war were willing to accept Johnson, who talked of peace, but represented the same basic imperialist policy.

Even sincere reformers who hoped to change society while working within the Democratic party soon find themselves unable to achieve their goals. There is not a single example of a social protest movement that has achieved its aims by dependence upon Democratic politicians.

The Democratic party is not an organization of the oppressed, but only a machine to capture their votes. The Democratic party is not like a trade union or civil rights organization which holds membership meetings and in which voters take an active part. It is not an organization controlled by its members and devoted to further the interests of the working class.

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Protest actions—picket lines, rallies and demonstrations, and grass roots organizing are political actions, for they are organized for political ends. The black power movement, the anti-Vietnam-war protests, and strikes against government-imposed wage guidelines are all examples of independent political activity. These movements are independent of the institutions of the ruling class. They are basically oriented towards a different social force—the working class.

When protest moves to politics, when independent protest action moves onto the political arena, then it should also orient towards the working class in its political forms. It makes no sense to picket against the ruling class one day and vote for it

on the next. Independent political action must therefore be independent working class political action.

The Black Panther party in Lowndes County, Alabama is a good example of independent political action. It is an example of the struggle for black power in the electoral arena. The Black Panther party is organized by and for the black people of Lowndes. It is totally independent of the institutions of white oppression, especially the Democratic party, local or national. The Black Panther party has its roots in the real struggles of the black people of Lowndes and has no need for dependence upon white liberals.

Thus the black working people of Lowndes have a political instrument of their own class which is both politically principled and socially meaningful. Their example of independent political action should be followed by the entire American working class, black and white, by forming a labor party to put politics on a class basis.

Another example of independent political action are socialist campaigns such as those run by the Socialist Workers party—like the current mayoralty campaigns in Berkeley and Oakland. These campaigns are not sterile exercises in rhetoric. The socialist candidates are always active participants in the labor, civil rights, and antiwar movements. The purpose of socialist campaigns is to utilize the increased opportunities for political discussion during election time.

These campaigns always point out the importance of the working class and Negro people engaging in political action in addition to protest activity. In addition, they also explain the ultimate necessity of socialism as the solution to the problems of war, poverty, and racism.

Following the April 15 demonstrations the question of the 1968 elections will begin to become important. The problem of raising protest to politics will be faced by every activist in the movement. Undoubtedly pressure will arise to field some version of a Kennedy-Fulbright ticket, which if supported by the antiwar movement would derail it into liberal Democratic party politics.

The job of antiwar activists is to expose the reactionary role of the Democratic party and refuse to go along with any attempts to reform it from within. The end of the war and the road to political power lie in orienting the antiwar movement toward a future alliance with the working class, black and white.

The Young Socialist Alliance and April 8-15

The Spring Mobilization Committee and the Student Mobilization Committee, two broad groupings of organizations with diverse political philosophies, have called for massive national demonstrations in New York and San Francisco on April 15 to protest the Vietnam war. The Student Mobilization Committee, in addition, is planning a week of campus protest, April 8-15, to culminate in the April 15 marches.

The Young Socialist Alliance has fully participated in these organizations and their plans and we are currently campaigning nationally and locally to build the actions. The YSA's magazine, the *Young Socialist*, is giving extensive coverage to the events. A National Committee member and the editor of the *Young Socialist* are on national speaking tours in support of the actions. Thousands of copies of this brochure will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Won't you join in the efforts to build April 8-15? And, if you agree with the ideas in this brochure and want to help build a movement to achieve a socialist America, join the foremost young socialist organization in the U.S., the Young Socialist Alliance.

Read a weekly socialist newspaper, THE MILITANT, and the foremost socialist youth magazine, the YOUNG SOCIALIST. One dollar gives 4 months of THE MILITANT and 3 issues of the YOUNG SOCIALIST.

YOUNG SOCIALIST PAMPHLETS

War and Revolution in Vietnam, Doug Jenness	.10
Malcolm X Talks to Young People	.35
GI's And The Fight Against War, Mary Alice Waters	.25
Revolution in the Congo, Dick Roberts	.25
Che Guevara, Two Speeches	

Available from the YSA

YOUNG SOCIALIST BROCHURES

Free from the YSA

Militarism and the Draft
From Protest to Radical Politics
Is the Antiwar Movement Effective?
Introducing the YSA

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON APRIL 8-15 . . .

FOR BUTTONS, POSTERS, CALLS . . .

WRITE:

Spring Mobilization Committee
857 Broadway
New York, New York 10003

Student Mobilization Committee
29 Park Row
New York, New York 10038

Young Socialist Alliance
P. O. Box 471
Cooper Station
New York, New York 10038

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Young Socialist Alliance
P. O. Box 471
Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

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I enclose \$1.00 for subscriptions to THE MILITANT and the YOUNG SOCIALIST.

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