

YSA

DISCUSSION BULLETIN

Vol. 10 No. 10
March 1967

ORGANIZATIONAL BULLETIN

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2. Joe Johnson Case.....P. 18
3. Tour Report.....P. 20
4. Literature.....P. 22

25 cents

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

YSA, BOX 471, COOPER STATION, N.Y., N.Y. 10003

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AREA REPORTS

Antioch

There have been individual YSAers at Antioch for the past several years, but it was only several months ago that we became a local.

This is partly because of the special circumstances of the college's "work-study" plan. The student body here consists of two divisions of about 800 each. These divisions alternate in studying on campus and working around the country--on a quarterly basis.

As a result it is always necessary to begin everything all over every three months or so. The Antioch Committee to End the War in Vietnam, which has been our main area of activity, has to be re-started, primarily by us, each quarter. This peculiarity of Antioch has hampered us both in campaigns of any duration--such as building the Spring Mobilization--and in creating any stable periphery or united front with independents or opponents.

Antioch is a traditionally liberal school with an extremely permissive attitude toward students. Partly because of this the "hippy" influence has been strong here for several years, and there is considerable trouble with apathy toward politics. Consequently, YSAers have had to start and re-start the CEWV with the participation of only a few independents.

SDS, as an organization, has ceased to exist here and no organized political opposition has ever been formed.

The CEWV has had several successful demonstrations of between one and two hundred people and has participated in the large national actions.

Because of the difficult situation here, we cannot expect any dramatic successes for either the CEWV or the YSA. We should be able to continue to recruit slowly, to educate the good contacts we do make, and to maintain the antiwar movement at its present level. We have reasonable hope of modest progress.

Rick W.

Berkeley

Election Campaign: Since the next YS will carry an article on it, it isn't necessary to explain our election work in detail. Two factors make this campaign a little different than most and should be mentioned. One is the existence of the Community for New Politics (CNP). This is the group that emerged from the Robert Scheer campaign last spring. At present they are in a very grave downturn. Comrades report that their steering committee meetings are plagued with factionalism, demoralization, and lack of clear perspective. Their hope of developing

a grass roots constituency has gone up in smoke. The CNP has helped to raise the question of coalition politics and alternatives to it. This, coupled with the CNP's present situation, has helped set a receptive tone to our campaign. The CNP will be running candidates for city council, but shied away from running a mayoralty candidate because their orientation is to win. While they will undoubtedly get a much larger vote than our candidates, we are in an excellent position to expose their brand of so-called "independent" politics as a form of class collaborationism.

Since most of our "socialist" opponents have nearly lost themselves in CNP, we are gaining the distinction as the socialists. Our role in the antiwar movement and the excellent publicity we received helped counter the charge of sectarianism that is continually brought against us. We were the first to announce our campaign and we initiated the campaign for a Dearborn-type referendum in Berkeley and Oakland. The local radical and campus press has given us good coverage and space to present our views. In addition to that we have received wide coverage in the major papers, radio and TV stations.

The second factor is the referendum itself. Besides the publicity due to the referendum and our approach to the city council about it, the referendum makes much more of our campaign than otherwise could be expected. While our opponents are floundering, we have presented a double-edged sword. We promote independent socialist politics while at the same time helping to build the antiwar movement through the demand of getting out of Vietnam now and letting the people vote on war. There is widespread interest in our campaign as a result and hopefully we will be able to capitalize on the sympathetic interest.

Antiwar Work: The general situation in the Bay Area is characterized by a growing sentiment against the war coupled with a decline in the strength of the independent antiwar committees. We are directing our activities toward organizing the demonstration in San Francisco on April 15. We began by organizing a united front structure of all organizations. Kipp Dawson from San Francisco has been appointed Executive Director of the West Coast mobilization, under the chairmanship of Ed Keating. We already have over 75 prominent individuals and groups as sponsors. Perhaps the most significant development has been the willingness of the CP to work with us and help build April 15. A West Coast conference of sponsors and organizations will lay the groundwork for making this one of the widest and possibly the largest demonstration yet.

Committee to Support Lowndes County: The committee sent over \$1000 to Lowndes county. The committee played a role in winning student support for Black Power, as the contributions indicate, and good relations were established with the people in Lowndes County. Locally the committee was eclipsed, however, by a very widely publicized and successful Black Power Conference

organized by SDS. It was attended by 15-20,000 people.

Derrel M.

Boston

Our recent activities have been geared to taking advantage of the current lull by consolidating and educating the local.

Since the last convention two comrades left because of age limit, and eight transferred to other locals, leaving on December 31, 23 full members including one on leave of absence, and two candidate members.

Due to a previous year of extreme activism, especially by newer comrades, and a reduction of our comrades on campus by three-fourths, our main goal this year has been the consolidation of the local by expanding our educational program. Our summer school centered around the History of the Russian Revolution. From September to Christmas the local held weekly classes on the fundamentals of Marxism taught by a YSAer. Along with this we also held contact classes. Through the spring we will be holding weekly classes on the History of American Trotskyism.

Despite increased efforts, overall sales of publications have dropped about 20%.

The main opponent is one large SDS, dominated by Stalinists. Progressive Labor has found fruitful grounds there, as opposed to their previous isolation in the May 2nd Committee, but they initiate little activity. General political activity on all campuses is in a slump.

To meet new radicals we are planning socialist speakers and regular sales on two major campuses where we have no members. Our most recent activity is publicity for the Hugo Blanco case, working with SDSers on a petition campaign, hopefully culminating in a demonstration at the Peruvian consulate.

Antiwar work, especially the growth of antiwar committees and our recruitment from them reached a peak around the Washington convention of November 1965. Although general sentiment against the war has increased greatly, the importance of a student movement is manifested in pessimism toward demonstrations and a dwindling of CEWV's to skeleton crews. We initiated activities and basically control an area co-ordinating committee. The most recent activity called by the co-ordinating committee, the November rally, was small, built only by us. There have been small demonstrations (200-400) against Humphrey and McNamara, but antiwar activism has continued to slump.

Until things get busy our main antiwar activity is to continue propaganda against the war and imperialism through a bi-weekly paper, the Vietnam Petitioner, put out by ourselves and the few remaining activists in the three committees we dominate.

Eloise M.

Chicago

Since last fall, the Chicago YSA has been making efforts to increase its political influence both on the campuses and within the city-wide antiwar movement. We have carried on consistent activities at Roosevelt University and at the University of Illinois (Chicago Campus).

University of Illinois: At the U of I we have sold literature on a weekly basis with total sales since September exceeding \$100. We have been playing a series of Malcolm X tapes and also are very active in the U of I CEWV. More recently, we initiated socialist discussion classes on campus using America's Road to Socialism by Cannon as the text. There exists at the U of I a small group of about eight students who are very friendly to the YSA, but who are not willing to join yet.

Roosevelt University: At Roosevelt University, total literature sales have totaled about \$125. We have sold 25 subscriptions to the Militant and have played several Malcolm X tapes. At first we tried to carry on our antiwar work through SDS but now we think it is possible to build an independent committee to work on the Spring Mobilization. At Roosevelt we have recruited two people.

Neither U of I nor Roosevelt U. are ideal situations for the YSA. Neither has dormitories and the students are not concentrated in any specific area of the city. Instead, they are scattered and have very little social contact with one another. In addition, most students live with their parents and many have jobs.

In order to increase our influence on campus, we have released one member to work with the YSAers already active on campus. This has proved to be quite successful. With only one YSAer on each campus, it is surprising that we have been able to sustain such a high level of activity.

At Northwestern University we have had contact with a black militant who closely follows our press. However, manpower limitations and distance have prevented sustained work there. We have also had very little contact with political activity at the junior colleges or the University of Chicago. However, our involvement in the Spring Mobilization is changing this situation.

Our at-large member at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois, has been very active in antiwar activity, selling our literature, and in setting up a socialist discussion group. He also arranged a very successful meeting for Franz Lee, and has organized an informal group which discusses YSA's positions on various questions.

The city-wide antiwar movement in Chicago lags behind

developements in most other areas. The Chicago Peace Council is dominated by the Communist Party and progressives to the extent that most student groups refuse to attend meetings, thus insuring the political dominance of the older and more conservative leadership. Recently, an Ad Hoc Committee was set up to organize the Spring Mobilization. We hope student groups, especially SDS, will enter and participate in this formation, thus injecting greater militancy into the Chicago antiwar movement. A student mobilization committee has also been established to coordinate Vietnam Week activity on campus. This group also draws the students into a fairly strong formation which will tend to increase their impact on the political direction of city-wide activities which involves SANE and other more conservative peace groups.

Dan S.

Cleveland

In the four major antiwar demonstrations since October, 1965 participation in Cleveland has increased geometrically, each demonstration being roughly twice as large as the one before it. The largest was the recent November mobilization where we had a turnout of 1200. Our work in building the Cleveland CEWV, and our continuous pressure for single-issue, non-exclusionist, anti-coalitionist, and militant antiwar formations has been a major and sometimes decisive factor in the success of these actions. In the recent period two campus CEWVs have been established, as well as one high school group and a medical school group. The establishment of these four groups combined with the virtually complete withdrawal of local DBC and SDS from antiwar activity has resulted in a serious shortage of non-YSAers around the Cleveland CEWV. This in turn is forcing us to closely evaluate the future role of the Cleveland CEWV. This problem, while important at the moment, should not be over emphasized, however. It is, after all, only a growing pain of a dynamic movement.

Generally speaking, our serious approach and consistent hard work in building the antiwar movement locally have earned us the respect of leading independents. Another very concrete result of our antiwar work has been the development, both individually and collectively, of our leadership ability, and, of course, it has brought us most of our recent recruits.

Nearly half of our present membership was recruited since the last convention, and we have four close contacts who will probably be candidates before the convention. Half of our local works and the other half are students. But the half that go to school are distributed on four campuses and one high school. Thus we are spread thin and must establish priorities on which areas to develop first. This is, of course, a pleasant problem.

The YSA is the largest youth tendency in Cleveland but both DBC and SDS do exist. Their inability to attract independents

to their antiwar programs has been their major difficulty. This has been compounded by our size and the attractiveness of our program and has left them both demoralized and isolated for the present.

The Cleveland local has undertaken two organizational changes since the last convention. First we have instituted a two month period of candidacy prior to full membership. This has worked out very well. It tends to underscore the seriousness of membership obligations and at the same time provides an intermediate step toward membership for those who are serious but still have some questions or reservations. Second, we have eliminated the local semi-annual fund drive by having each member divide his fund drive contribution by six and add it to his monthly sustainer. The local then sends an appropriate monthly sustainer to the National Office.

In the recent period there has been an educational weekend on "War in the Twentieth Century," two semi-public talks on "The Early Lives and Writings of Marx and Engels," and internal classes on The Dynamics of World Revolution Today.

In summary, since the last convention the YSA in Cleveland has grown in size, experience, and influence. And the prospects for the immediate future are for continued growth in all three areas.

Dennis S.
Jan. 19, 1967

Detroit

During the past 6-7 months, the Detroit YSA has recruited more than 10 new members. With five transfers to Detroit immediately following the May 16 shooting, the transfer of most of the Ann Arbor local into Detroit and a few additional transfers later, the growth of the local has been almost three fold since the last convention.

Antiwar Work: At the time of the last convention, the major antiwar committee, the Detroit CEWV, was dominated by coalitionists from SDS and NCC supporters. The Wayne State University CEWV was at that time mainly a subsidiary of the Detroit committee. With a favorable situation in the antiwar movement nationally in the recent period we were able to participate in and win the leadership and authority of the Detroit Committee, especially the support of the independents. The membership meetings vary from 25-40 with good participation by independents.

The Wayne Committee was already an active and viable committee prior to our entry into the Detroit CEWV. Both committees, with our strong influence, played the crucial role in building a very successful November 5-8 Days of Protest in Detroit. The November protest was a successful test of the leadership of the YSA in the antiwar movement here.

Opponents: The DuBois Club has never been able to get off the ground here. Since the change in the relationship of forces in the Detroit committee, they have completely pulled out. For a while they tried to maintain themselves within the committee by heading up a sub-committee on the draft

Since they left the antiwar committee they have reactivated SDS in their own name, their main activity being around the draft. Their membership meetings vary from 20-30. They have been able to attract very few new people. We haven't seen any signs of Progressive Labor.

Campus: We have, at present, a campus fraction of 10 at Wayne State University. The WCEWV is our main arena of campus work. Committee meetings vary from 30-60 people. We are presently expanding campus activities carried out in the name of the YSA with a series of Malcolm X tapes, regular forums on campus, literature tables and generally increasing the sale of literature on campus. Our literature tables generally net anywhere from \$15-\$25 weekly.

Ann Arbor: We presently have three members at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The radical milieu on this campus is still dominated by a large SDS chapter. The YSAers on campus belong to SDS where they promote and gain support for militant antiwar activity and try to win contacts and recruits for the YSA.

Contact and Recruitment: Through our work in the antiwar movement, we have been able to establish two very successful classes for contacts. The first one rapidly became a class for new recruits. The second one is following that example. Texts have been: America's Road to Socialism, In Defense of Socialism and Socialism on Trial. Each of the classes have varied from 5-10 contacts in attendance.

Negro Work: Gaining contacts and expanding our influence among black radicals has been the prime feature of Negro work in Detroit. It began with the Afro-American history petition campaign at Wayne State. Through the petition, a number of contacts were made among Negro students and provided us with a periphery to help initiate the Afro-Americans Against the War for the March Days of Protest. After the March 26 demonstration this organization became a multi-issue organization called the Afro-American Action Committee, which held meetings of about 20 people. Because of the wide variety of viewpoints and internal factionalism the group eventually collapsed. A lot of the new black radicals in the organization were limited by a lack of political education and perspective.

During the latter part of the summer the police tried to instigate riots in the East Side ghetto. The result was the arrest of over 200 people and we participated in the defense committee that was organized. Out of this committee the Afro-

American Unity Movement emerged and we participated in this organization until it became bogged down at the end of the year.

Right now we are presenting a series of Malcolm X tapes at Wayne State University. In addition there are three to four black contacts in a class we are running on basic socialism. We will hope to add to our Negro fraction of three from this class.

Internal Education: Our major task at present is to educate the whole layer of new comrades. With an immediate perspective of further recruitment and a period of intense activity in the antiwar movement (activity in which all our new comrades are an integral part) this is a task that cannot be averted or pushed aside.

Consequently we have been holding classes on the Struggle for a Proletarian Party and the History of American Trotskyism.

Philadelphia

Antiwar Work: In Philadelphia there is no broad united front antiwar committee like the New York Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee or the Chicago Peace Council that has sufficient authority to plan city-wide activities. For each national action we have had to form ad hoc committees. Between these actions there is little or no city-wide coordination of activities. The basic reason for this is the relative strength of the traditional peace groups and the small number of campus committees.

Our antiwar work is done almost entirely through our campus fractions. There is a viable independent committee to end the war in Vietnam at the University of Pennsylvania which has carried out consistent work and has been the most important force in forming a student united front committee for Vietnam Week embracing groups ranging from the Inter-fraternity Council to the YSA. As a result of our work at Temple University, SDS is becoming more of an antiwar committee and will be building Vietnam Week.

Negro Work: There are several Negro organizations which came together to form a Black Power Unity Movement. They were mainly youth groups but for a short time everyone was working together from the NAACP to the Muslims. In the last few months this unity appears to have fallen apart.

Some of the black youth have formed a group called the Young Militants. They read the Militant and the speeches of Malcolm X but they haven't, as of yet, carried out much consistent activity. Late last summer members of this group as well as members of SNCC were framed up by the police on phony charges of "possessing dynamite" and "conspiracy." Defending themselves from police harrassment has drained off most of

the time and energies of these militants.

Recruitment: Last fall we had recruited most of the people around us and had lost a few members. In spite of going through a period of losing members the local grew stronger. Now as a result of the past few months work in the University of Pennsylvania CEWV we have attracted a whole new layer of contacts. We are recruiting from this layer and have good prospects for significant growth before the end of the school year. At Temple University we are involved in SDS and through our promotion of antiwar activity have gained some contacts.

Opponents: There is a sprinkling of most of our opponents in Philadelphia--one Spartacist, two or three PLers and about five "third camp" Social Democrats. These individuals do not really affect our work and are becoming progressively more difficult to find.

The DuBois Club is about twice as large as the YSA but nearly all of their members are at present totally inactive and demoralized. They have a small group at Temple U. that is presently falling apart. Even within the Student Mobilization Committee they have not been very active. Some of them are joining the CP but this does not seem to result in increased activity. Their biggest asset is a high school periphery with which we are beginning to make contact.

John B.

Los Angeles

Membership: At the time of the last YSA convention, there were 15 members in the local. Since then three were recruited, four transferred out and five were dropped. At present the membership stands at eight. The local was seriously hampered in the spring when four comrades transferred out and again in the early fall when another key comrade was unable to function due to health.

Campus: We have comrades at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) and Occidental College where they participate in the Vietnam Day Committee and SDS respectively. Since the convention, the YSA has had no public functions on campus. The only public activity in our name has been selling literature at occasional teach-ins.

Opponents: The DuBois Club has become considerably weakened and has only five activists. LA is a traditional stronghold for the Communist Party and we are somewhat puzzled by their seeming absence. SDS has about ten campus groups all of which are friendly to us. Our most serious opponent is Progressive Labor. They have eight youth and about six close sympathizers. They are active at UCLA and Los Angeles City College (LACC) and attract students we should be reaching.

Up until now they have boycotted the April 15 Mobilization.

Antiwar: Los Angeles rode out the lull in the antiwar movement that existed until the Cleveland Conference. In December the YSA took the initiative in organizing a Student Conference on January 5 for building Vietnam Week and the April 15 Mobilization. The Conference was addressed by Ed Keating and Kipp Dawson and attended by 85 persons of whom 10 were YSA or SWP, five were adults and the remaining 70 were students and young workers from 14 colleges and three high schools. Almost all the youth were new to the movement and quite enthused about April 15 and the February 4th planning meeting in San Francisco. Some people couldn't attend but have been reached since the conference and we now have contacts with 25 colleges in the LA area. A continuations committee was set up and a meeting of 18 started on the work for February 4th and eventually April 15.

The DuBois Club did not fully participate on January 5, but now has become involved. The bulk of the students are from the UCLA VDC and various SDS chapters plus a large group of young workers. An office is being set up for the Mobilization and this should help the student group. The reaction of the other peace groups has been just as enthusiastic as the youth. We are functioning, of course, openly as the YSA and have already made some good contacts.

Other Activity: The SWP and the YSA are running a candidate for Board of Education in the spring election. A regular series of classes is also being conducted.

Julius S.

Madison

A number of encouraging developments have taken place in Madison since the last convention. Our long record of principled politics and hard work in the antiwar movement has begun to pay off. Last summer (1966) we were elected into the Madison CEWV leadership for the first time. At that time, we had seven members. Since then, we have recruited four more.

Our major opponent problem has come, until recently, from the large Stalinist and progressive milieu on the University of Wisconsin campus. Until last spring they were always able to pack meetings and run the show. Their main leaders have graduated or left, and they have been hit hard by the recurring waves of demoralization and pessimism which have characterized the antiwar movement thus far..

All the best activists in the CEWV are around us and look to us for leadership. This is how we recruited our new members. The influence of the YSA has grown greatly this past year. Despite the continuation of a small DBC and the revival of Young People's

Socialist League, it can be definitely stated that when someone in Madison wants to become a socialist, he or she first comes to the YSA.

During the year, our internal education has included reading a number of basic works of the movement as well as a series on Marxist economics, based on The Living Thoughts of Karl Marx. We had begun a series of contact classes around basic pamphlets, but dropped them to concentrate on informal educational work with contacts.

We maintain a regular literature table in the student union at which we sell \$30-\$50 worth of socialist books and pamphlets a week and around which we meet contacts and spread the influence of our ideas.

We had a very successful meeting for Franz Lee during his tour, with some 250 people in attendance and over \$300 raised.

The work of the YSA local in Madison suffered considerably during the fall of 1966 due to our being overextended in the antiwar movement. We were busy carrying heavy loads in the antiwar movement, doing school work, holding down jobs, and building the November Mobilization and, since the "Kennedy confrontation," have serious internal problems in the CEWV.

As a result of this, our local's ability to function and recruit was restricted. We were unable to maintain a forum series and even allowed YS bundles to pile up unsold. This must be remedied in the coming period and will in all likelihood entail our cutting back on positions of formal authority in the antiwar movement, so that we can put more effort into specific projects, i.e. dorm organizing, the Spring Mobilization, and so that we can put more sustained effort into recruitment and education of the local.

Walter L.

January 20, 1967

Milwaukee

The embryonic YSA local in Milwaukee, not yet through its first year and not without taking both forward and backward steps, is forging the frame for a solid organization. Although we had been the dominant force in the Milwaukee antiwar movement, our role diminished after our admission to the YSA. This was a result of the simultaneous demands of 'basic organization,' educational activity and heavy legal debts. Consequently the antiwar movement here became practically non-existent. At present we find the most activity coming from Negro youth.

Drawing on the lessons of our first educational, we have planned another which in its expanded free discussion format is designed not only to give aspiring young intellectuals an audience, but to provide young workers the means to apply Marxism to their immediate existence. Considering the need

for distributing literature by the class, we are planning a unique project of organizing a neighborhood mobile band. Summer parking lot audiences that come to hear the band will become arenas for soap box speeches and literature sales.

We have recuperated from the colossal demands of the Socialist Workers Party state-wide election campaign held last fall.

With increased theoretical and organizational maturity we optimistically look forward to growth and more developed cadre.

Duane W.

New York

The situation for the YSA in New York is generally very good. At the beginning of the summer, the Uptown and Downtown locals combined to attend the Summer School organized by the SWP and the YSA and to help build the August Days of Protest. At the end of the summer we decided that it would be advantageous to keep the locals together. We had originally split in order to free a section of the YSA to build a campus base and this was successfully accomplished on two campuses uptown.

With the increased intensity of antiwar activity and other work, we felt that we needed greater centralization and coordination. We found that the combined executive committees functioned together excellently, and developed a team of people who could take on major responsibility in the local. We also found that combining our forces enabled us to have a more effective division of labor in carrying out our work.

At the present time we have 33 members and 3 candidates almost all of whom are active.

We have recently completed a series of internal classes. We divided the local up into three groups, and studied The Third International After Lenin, In Defense of Marxism, and The Revolution Betrayed. The classes were conducted by young party comrades, seminar style. YSAers were required to give reports, and the smallness of the groups facilitated discussion.

The solidity of the local enabled us to improve our financial situation in the last period. We instituted a sustainer system whereby each comrade pledges a certain sum a week. The money is divided up between local expenses, national dues, and the fund drive. In this way we were able to overfulfill the largest fund drive quota in the history of the New York YSA.

Our candidate program has been improved. Candidates are assigned to an experienced comrade for several months. They meet weekly to go over an individually tailored reading list. In this way we have been able to more rapidly educate new people.

Antiwar: Our field of antiwar work has narrowed somewhat with the demise of the numerous community antiwar committees that used to exist in N.Y. Our work is mainly concentrated in the campus committees where our comrades play a leadership role. Our non-campus people have participated in the movement by helping to build the large days of protest.

A united front formation called the Student Mobilization Committee has come out of the recent Chicago Conference and gives us an opportunity to involve our non-campus people in more antiwar work.

Campus: In general we have expanded our campus work. In the last period we have had 12 comrades on five different campuses. Columbia University is our most promising situation. It has a large and viable antiwar committee which we helped to build. We have made a good number of contacts from our work in the committee and from a class we set up on the campus and are beginning to recruit there after several years of hard work. We will be sending more forces there this semester to bolster our work.

We also have YSAers at Queens College, City College of N.Y., New School for Social Research, and Manhattan Community College.

We have found that it is not necessary to be a student to intervene effectively on the campus. Two of our people have jobs on the Columbia campus and are able to intervene as if they were students.

Campaign: The YSA participated in the very successful state wide election campaign run by the Socialist Workers Party last fall. Through it we recruited several people, and have made many new contacts. In addition, the discussion over whether or not to support the Aptheker and other "independent" campaigns was a highly educational lesson on our approach to electoral politics.

Contacts: Consistent contact work has always been a problem in N.Y. Several months ago we started a campaign around contact work and began to concentrate on recruiting the contacts we made through our election campaign, and general campus and antiwar work. We set up three contact classes around the city. In addition, we systematically visited over 30 people who had been active in some way in our campaign. We are now in the process of building a large YSA sponsored East Coast Educational Conference, which will feature John Hulett as the main speaker.

The local's consciousness of the need to do consistent contact work has vastly improved and we are beginning to obtain results. In one week, recently, four people asked to join, and several others are close. The New York Student Mobilization Committee should further widen our periphery, and open the way

for us to get closer to and recruit members of opponent organizations.

Wendy R.

San Francisco

Since the last convention the San Francisco YSA has recruited five members raising our total membership to seventeen. Two were recruited as a result of YSA antiwar activity at San Francisco State College, and two from other YSA activity there. Our educational activity in the last year has been quite intense, with classes on State and Revolution, Dynamics of World Revolution Today, the Marxist view of history, History of American Trotskyism, American labor struggles, and America's Road to Socialism, in addition to the somewhat more advanced classes in the Bay Area Summer School. Many of the classes have been held both on campus and in our headquarters. They played an essential role in recruiting one of our new members.

The YSA played an important role in San Francisco's extremely successful Militant sub drive, and we successfully completed our YS quota. However, we are not satisfied with our total YS sales effort, and thought is being devoted to improving it. Literature sales from the bookstore, Militant Forums, occasional street sales of pamphlets in the ghetto, and the YSA literature table at State College are generally brisk. Also two comrades have been having good success expanding our outside bookstore operations, and seven of these outside outlets sell our literature very well.

Bloomington defense work included a large and complicated mailing to professors at State College, with a letter signed by the Dean of Humanities; but the response was disappointing and only a small amount of money was raised. Benefit performances are being considered but plans have not materialized yet.

Our main arena of outside work, besides classes and a series of YSA forums on the State College campus, has remained the San Francisco State Vietnam Day Committee which is an affiliate of the Bay Area United Committee against the war. In the past year the DuBois Club has completely lost influence in the committee, regarding work in it as unfruitful. (There seems to be only two of them on campus at present.) Our main opponent is Progressive Labor which is the predominant influence in SDS on campus. They have a caucus of five to ten members and some independents around them. Their maneuvers in the VDC are in general unsuccessful and they have turned to dramatic campus reformism, including a cafeteria boycott, which was successful and have projected a bookstore boycott. These activities put the VDC in the shade for many campus activists (although the VDC and the YSA both made money selling sandwiches at the cafeteria boycott) but the April antiwar mobilization centered here has already begun to change the relationship of forces.

Fred S.

January 18, 1967

Seattle

The five YSAers sent to Seattle in the past year became a local in November. Since then we have recruited seven members and transferred one person out of the local and one person in.

We are active in the University of Washington Vietnam Committee, play leadership roles there and have won considerable respect. Off-campus YSAers participate in the regular Friday night discussions of the committee. These discussions usually break up into informal socials with political conversation. On campus, the committee is currently participating in a petition campaign to establish the right for organizations to hold literature tables in the student union building. (Tables now may be placed outside but in Seattle it rains all winter.) Our one high school member was instrumental in organizing a city-wide high school antiwar committee.

Three of the new members are students at the U of W and are currently working to gain campus recognition for the YSA so that we can hold campus meetings. Our literature finds a warm reception there and we are looking forward to holding our own literature tables.

We have begun to participate in the Free University of Seattle with three comrades coordinating classes on China, on the American University and on Trotsky. The Free University has an enrollment of about 300 and a catalogue that lists 41 courses. We plan to participate as students in some of the other political courses in order to meet more potential YSAers.

Internally, we have completed an educational series on China based around the Harold Isaacs book, The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution, and have now begun a series on the History of American Trotskyism, by James P. Cannon.

All radical tendencies have at least a representative in the city but only the YSA is attractive and viable. We are continually meeting new contacts and have the perspective of continued recruitment at a good pace for the next period.

Twin Cities

The Minnesota CEWV continues to be our main area of work. This continues to be the largest and most influential antiwar organization in the region. On November 7 a teach-in drew 1200 people, by far the largest event in the committee's history. However, the internal situation in the committee has been more difficult. We have played an influential role in the committee since it was formed but have had to contend with an anti-SWP-YSA bloc of CPers, DuBois Club members, liberals, Wohlforthites, and some right wing SDSers. Despite factionalism in the committee we have provided leadership for the independents that continually come around.

Recently we took the initiative, through the committee, for a demonstration at Ft. Leavenworth for the Fort Hood Three. A very successful demonstration was held under the sponsorship of the Kansas City Area CEWV and the national Fort Hood Three committee. We had a chance to meet with, and establish very friendly relations with people from Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri.

We have succeeded in establishing a separate campus committee at the U of M which meets in the afternoons in order to reach more students on this predominantly commuter campus. As this committee has developed, we have directed more and more of our efforts towards it. Of course, there exists a large number of antiwar students, and we are still only beginning to reach them.

Neither SDS nor the DuBois Club has been functioning at all. Some of their members are active in antiwar work, but neither group has held a meeting for some time. This, of course, gives us the opportunity to establish ourselves in the leadership of the radical movement on the campus. And, for the first time, we have a campus fraction of sufficient size to give it the serious sustained effort it requires.

We have continued to work on the Joe Johnson defense. While activity is still on a relatively low key, a certain amount of day to day work is necessary. The YSA helped with a very successful rummage sale for the defense this fall.

The comrades also campaigned for the Socialist Workers Party candidates in the November election, doing petitioning, leafleting, speaking, etc. The election campaign was a tremendous opportunity for us to reach out to new forces, but it was also an extremely effective political tool in our work both with contacts and opponents. The campaign gave us a chance to explain our position, and at the same time forced others to take a stand vis-a-vis our platform. In the antiwar movement, the burden of proof fell on those who did not support the campaign. We hope to be involved in more electoral activity in the near future.

We have instituted a formal candidacy program, but have not yet had a chance to try it out. Recruitment isn't exactly overwhelming, but it has been steady enough to offset losses via transfers and drop-outs.

Larry S.

January 17, 1967

Washington, D.C.

The membership of the Washington local has varied from a low of four last winter to its present strength of seven. This summer we faced a problem when one member transferred and our organizer left. At the beginning of the school year we took steps to establish proper organizational structure and internal discipline. We elected an executive committee, established a

democratic centralist procedure and began regular meetings. Shortly afterward we recruited a new member and re-admitted a former YSAer. Five of our members are full-time workers and two are students on campus. Four have been in the YSA less than one year.

We have given more attention to antiwar work than to other activities because we feel it is important that antiwar forces be conspicuous and growing in the nation's capital. As the only organized, left-wing tendency in Washington, we have played a central role in building all the major Vietnam demonstrations. Despite the demoralization of independents, and efforts of National Coordinating Committee reformists to water down and confuse the program and forces of the movement, we were successful in convincing a large and diverse number of groups to join in a united front to build the strongest local demonstration yet on November 5th. One of the dividends of our organizing work for the November mobilization was the formation of a militant high school students' CEWV which supports immediate withdrawal, leafleted troops with facts about the Fort Hood Three, endorsed the Spring Mobilization, and plans to give a large fund raising party to help finance bus transportation to the April 15th march. Another gain was an improvement of the already good YSA position in the Washington Area CEWV, which is a city-wide coordinating body. On the basis of a YSAer's report on the second Cleveland Conference the moderate leadership submitted, and a strong resolution in support of the Spring Mobilization passed 24 to 1.

We have sold the YS, Militant, Bring the Troops Home Now Newsletter, and pamphlets at all rallies and demonstrations. Frequently we have been able to secure a place on the program for YSA and SWP speakers.

In the spring and early summer we conducted educationals on the Negro struggle, Malcolm X, and The Revolution Betrayed. Our small size, the loss of membership during the summer, and the demands of antiwar activity caused the local to suspend its educational program until mid-November when we resumed our studies. We read the Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International and have now moved on to the History of American Trotskyism.

Terrill B.
Linda W.

REPORT ON THE JOE JOHNSON CASE

At the time of the 1966 YSA convention, it was expected that the Joe Johnson deportation case would soon be going into the federal courts, and that an important task of the YSA would be to assist the defense effort. The national office of the Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson was moved to New York, and preparations were made for the federal court actions.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), however, had other ideas. In keeping with its common practice of dragging deportation cases out for long periods of time, and because of the strength of Joe Johnson's legal defense, the Board of Immigration Appeals (the highest stage in the INS appeals system) refused to rule on the case and sent it back to its St. Paul office for further hearings to strengthen its case.

Several locals carried on continuing Joe Johnson defense work, but most found it difficult due to the change in the legal status of the case to follow up on the gains of Joe's spring 1966 tour.

At present there are three legal actions under way: 1) an appeal of the case back through the Immigration Service to the Board of Immigration Appeals and then if necessary into the federal courts, 2) an application through Justice Department channels for suspension of deportation proceedings, and 3) a passport challenge.

The first action is the main line of legal defense. The second is based on a new law that makes possible an application for suspension of deportation if the defendant has a record of "good conduct" and is a "desirable" person. The decision rests entirely with the Justice Department, however, and we are not assuming they want to drop Joe's case at this point. The third action is a new approach that may speed up the legal process. Joe has applied for a passport, which will probably be turned down on the grounds that he is not a citizen. Joe can then sue the State Department on the constitutional grounds upon which the defense is based.

Future defense efforts will in large part depend upon these legal developments. In the meantime the defense committee in New York is continuing to probe for possibilities to reach out and expand. The committee is attempting to broaden our sponsor list.

The defense committee, because of the drain of carrying the defense through long periods when there were few opportunities to raise money, is now approximately \$1700 in debt. Its main project will be to attempt to reduce this debt through mailings

and other fund raising efforts.

YSAers should bear in mind that Joe Johnson, as a member of the SWP, is being prosecuted for his socialist politics. Until the case is over we will bear part of the responsibility for his defense. Although we don't expect that large scale action by the YSA will be necessary in the immediate future, this case will be with us for a long time. YSAers should keep informed on it through the Militant and through defense committee literature and communications. In addition, the YSA should be prepared to swing into action to help the defense if that becomes necessary.

Paul Eidsvik
January 22, 1967

TOUR REPORT

Charlie Bolduc's spring speaking tour has two aims: to build the spring mobilization and to spread the ideas of the YSA, gaining contacts and possible recruits. The tour concentrated on areas away from the large antiwar centers and went to 15 cities and towns in the East, South, Southwest and Midwest, most of which had been contacted by earlier Newsletter tours.

In preparing the tour we devoted special effort to getting as many speaking dates confirmed as possible. We sent out a poster giving the basic information about the speaker and the topic and leaving space at the bottom for the local contact to fill in the time, place and sponsorship of the meeting. We found that the correspondance and follow-up phone calls payed off by preparing the tour areas well in advance so that Charlie's visit was anticipated and made into a special event rather than just a quick trailblaze "blitz attack" on the campus.

Charlie went out with massive amounts of our own literature as well as sizeable quantities of mobilization material. Because he was traveling by plane and bus for the whole distance he was only able to carry enough to take him through half the tour. He was resupplied at the midpoint in the tour in Atlanta.

The tour began in Worcester, Massachusetts at Clark University where the local SDS chapter acts as the antiwar group on campus. Charlie found about 15 freshmen who were very interested in the mobilization and quite willing to get right to work. They were disappointed that the person who set up the meeting at Clark had not prepared a larger gathering.

In a number of places Charlie's tour brought the first real news of the mobilization to reach the campus, aside from rumors. At the beginning of the tour meetings averaged between 25 and 30, overwhelmingly made up of the activists on campus. As the tour progressed the meetings grew larger.

The most dramatic meeting was in Atlanta, Georgia, at Georgia State College where Charlie spoke to 300 students and faculty. Georgia State College is a white school which had never had an antiwar speaker before. He received four minutes of television coverage over the evening news in Atlanta with both his name and the YSA's flashed over the picture screen.

In Nashville Charlie spoke with a number of the leaders of the Southern Student Organizing Committee (SSOC) and had a meeting with about 50 SSOC members. There is a tremendous amount of interest in the speeches and history of Malcolm X and the black power struggles going on today, such as the Lowndes County Freedom Party. A bus load from Nashville is expected to come to New York and perhaps another bus load from Memphis.

New Orleans was a bit disappointing, opponent groups effectively preventing a meeting with the antiwar committee. Houston, however, produced two meetings of 50 each, one with SDS and one with SNCC.

In all Charlie covered more than 5000 miles in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois in the space of 33 days. The cost was less than 10¢ a mile for the whole tour, including the cost of organizing the tour, printing, transportation, and living expenses.

The tour was generally very successful. Charlie spoke as a YSAer who is a leader in the antiwar movement, and with the authority of being a builder of the antiwar movement. He was able to distribute large amounts of YSA literature on the war, including the new brochures and the Vietnam pamphlet and to spread our ideas on other topics, such as black power and the socialist conception of how to change society.

Robin M.

LITERATURE

The table below summarizes the orders filled by the YSA National Office for YS pamphlets since May of 1966. (We have used the cut off date of May 1966 as we reorganized the books at that time.) The orders filled since then, unfortunately, give only a partial picture, as many locals still have stock on hand.

We are now on our fourth printing of the basic Vietnam pamphlet. After selling out two runs totalling 10,000 of the first pamphlet, The War in Vietnam, we printed 15,000 copies of War and Revolution in Vietnam. That run was sold out by last November, when we reprinted a run of 3500. Thus, altogether, we have sold over 25,000 copies of our basic propaganda pamphlet on the war. This probably comes close to a record for any single piece of literature put out by our movement and represents a lot of hard work by YSAers around the country.

At the present time, with many new forces coming into the antiwar movement who are unfamiliar with the background to the war we should be able to continue the large scale sales of War and Revolution in Vietnam and reach another new layer with our basic analysis.

Malcolm X Talks to Young People is also in its second printing. At the time of last year's convention we had sold 1855 out of a run of 4500. By November the run was sold out and we reprinted the pamphlet with a run of 5300. As the table indicates, it continues to have very good sales and remains one of our best pieces of basic propaganda.

The newest in our series of YS pamphlets, G.I.'s and the Fight Against War, was printed only two months ago. The initial run was 3000. Judging by the requests we have received for the post World War II "Going Home Movement" article, the pamphlet should play an important role in getting out our general position on the relationship of the antiwar movement to the troops.

In addition to these pamphlets, since the last convention we have sold out of Revolution in the Congo, and have sold approximately 450 of the 500 educational bulletin, Two Essays on Imperialism.

Out of a run of 15,000 "Introducing the YSA" we have distributed 7250.

To help build the April mobilization the YSA has also printed a total of 54,000 free brochures for wide spread distribution, giving our basic position on the draft, the antiwar movement, and independent political action.

The scope of our literature sales and distribution in the last year is a good indication of the increased activity and influence of the YSA.

Mary-Alice W.

YS PAMPHLET SALES MAY 1966-MARCH 1967

OUTLET	VIETNAM	MALCOLM X	G.I.'s
Locals			
Antioch		7	15
Berkeley		150	
Boston		5*	50
Chicago	200*	600	
Cleveland		15	50
Detroit	60*	105*	100*
Los Angeles	25*	50	50
		125*	50*
Madison	20	10	20
Milwaukee			
New York	160		
	15*	20*	50*
Philadelphia	100	50	100
		25*	
S. Francisco		250*	25*
Seattle		5*	
Twin Cities	75		75
			10*
Washington			30
Outside Bookstores			
S. Francisco	77	15	50
Philadelphia	25	70	
New York		125	
Detroit		100	
Foreign			
Montreal	50		10
Toronto	250	42	20
Vancouver			25
England	75		25
Miscellaneous	675	169	20
TOTALS	1832	1939	775

* - Bookstore or SWP branch