

October 19, 1965

Dear Friend of SDS:

We hope that this letter will be the first of a continuing series of informal Communications designed to keep you informed of SDS current programs and activities. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and if you have a friend whom you would like to have receive these newsletters, please pass along their name and address.

A. DRAFT PROGRAM UNDER FIRE: In the last week SDS's proposed anti-draft has attracted national attention after being attacked by several US Senators and the Attorney General. The proposed program, currently being submitted to the SDS membership in a general referendum, is aimed at building an anti-war movement among young people and students by addressing itself to that institution of the war which impinges most directly on the lives of the young people -- the draft. The educational program would consist in the mass distribution of pamphlets on the war, emphasizing the moral issues involved, the threats to democracy, the general nature of American foreign policy, and specific information about draft law. The protest program would consist of demonstrations at local draft boards and the homes of local draft board members, protest of cooperation by universities with the Selective Service System by providing information about students, and the urging of young people to protest the war individually by filling out SSS Form 150 requesting conscientious objector status. The latter action both opens up alternatives to young people to serving in the War and gives them occasion to articulate the nature of their own opposition. The Selective Service System is so sensitive about requests for CO Status that it refuses to reveal the number of requests for CO status which it receives.

B. DECEMBER NATIONAL CONFERENCE: The September Meeting of the SDS National Council, held in Bloomington, Ind., has slated a general membership conference to be held during the month of December. This Conference is seen in many ways as taking up the work left undone by the National Convention in June. The number of substantive issues which have arisen in the movement over the last two years have come to demand consideration in a structured and unhurried manner. To facilitate the delineation and discussion of the issues, a large number of prepared papers are being solicited which will be printed in the membership Bulletin in the months preceding the Conference. The issues involved include: Coalition and politics, organizational style and depth of membership involvement, ideology and strategy, organizational structure community organizing, and the role of leadership in democracy.

C. CHANGE IN SDS TAX STATUS: Since its founding, the SDS has been the student department of the League for Industrial Democracy, an educational foundation eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. However, the development of SDS into a general political organization, involving action as well as education, has led to the proposal that SDS and the LID be formally separated. This proposal will be submitted to SDS membership in referendum and to the LID Board in January, and if approved will take place next year. In the meantime, steps are being taken to create a new foundation to support those facets of the SDS program (such as education and legal defense) which can legitimately be supported by tax deductible contributions.

D. COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUFFER HARASSMENT: A series of harassment arrests and prosecutions against SDS community organizing projects has led to consideration of the creation of a new movement legal defense arm in the urban North. Of particular concern has been the recently applied tactic of placing convicted organizers on Probation with suspended sentence hanging over their head. Organizers are told that if they get into any more "trouble," they will have to return and serve their sentence. This kind of attempt to knock out leaders and militants is currently being applied across the country from New Jersey to Berkeley.

2. CAMPUS BASE CONTINUES TO GROW: Although SDS chapters now exist on about 90 campuses which include every major educational institution in the country, the growth of the campus base continues unabated. Just in the last few weeks chapters have been formed at the University of Nebraska, the University of New Mexico, and Notre Dame!

Sincerely yours,

C. Clark Kissinger
National Staff

The task of financing the movement is a task never completed. Every dollar you give now is a dollar that goes toward the creation of movement in America capable of reaching beyond rhetoric.

The current attacks upon SDS have necessitated large unexpected expenditures on publications, mailings, and defense. Will you give again to protect the right of dissent in America?

Detach and return to SDS, 1103 E. 63rd St., Chicago 37, Illinois.

I enclose \$ _____ to support the work of SDS.

Name _____

Address _____

"The responsibility for change falls upon those who feel its necessity."