

A LETTER FROM THE LOS ANGELES ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dear Friend:

What are the realities of the 1960's for young people? Racists and reactionaries have captured the Republican Party. Unemployment is growing all over and the national average has doubled and tripled among young people, both minority and white. All over the south the good people of the land are being harassed, tortured and murdered while the country cheers a civil rights bill that barely gives the necessities of social life. What are students and young people doing about these dangerous developments?

California is braced for the biggest civil rights fight in its history. The real estate association (CREA) is going to spend several million dollars to get the segregation initiative, Prop. 13, passed in November. Yet, while there are many people working for a "NO" vote they are organized into isolated groups with little coordination. What is more important there is little door to door voter education and registration. This task is especially urgent in the Negro and Mexican-American communities. What will happen after November? Those people now active in anti Prop. 13 groups are not organized to tackle other issues.

Finally, after three years of work the voter registration and educational work of SNCC, CORE and SCLC have hit the front pages. Why is it that the American people have just now learned the facts of Mississippi life? What did you do to get these facts before the American people 1 year ago, 2 and 3 years ago? Must just struggles become known only thru retaliatory acts of violence? Can we allow the American people to forget again when the news is blacked out this winter?

All of a sudden the government has decided that there is a little bit of poverty in America. To counter this the government is trying to start a very tiny War on Poverty. Is this a realistic view of America? Can and will this law affect the conditions of Harlem, South Chicago, Mississippi, the Southwest, Watts? Can this law help students in high school and college who are forced to drop out because they have to go to work? Will the war on poverty enable them to find jobs? You may still be in school, but what are your prospects of finding a job when you graduate? The many numerous ad hoc committees and limited perspective organizations cannot affect decisions made in the upper echelons of our government; we need unity and nationwide strength to get the things we want.

Since the limited Test Ban Treaty was signed the issues concerned with peace have faded into the background. Should the most important problem faced by the whole world be a back page story? The dirty war in Vietnam has been extended into Cambodia and Laos; it may be escalated into North Vietnam. The same problems that have caused friction and tension before are still present in Berlin, the Straits of Formosa and between the U.S. and Cuba. Yet where is the strong nationwide movement needed to tell the government of the fears of the American people? Should liberal and progressive young people react to newspaper headlines and public opinion or should they take the offensive and bring these issues to the people?

Groups exist to combat Prop. 13, rallies have been held for the unemployed, ad hoc committees are working on police malpractice; but what will happen to the groups and the activities when the initiative is defeated in November? Where will new people come from to continue the fight for jobs? Does the issue of police brutality end with the start of the winter school semester? Fragmented or transient single issue groups can not cause a basic change and cannot effect basic policy. They are unable to relate one issue to another.

The problems facing today's youth are monumental. The basic issues are long term ones. Our organizations must be long-lived.

The time of the ad hoc committee is passed.

The need now is for a multi issue national youth organization. Join with us to organize for a peaceful and free America.

For the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America,

The Los Angeles Organizing Committee