

THE COORDINATOR

The Du Bois Club newsletter has failed to make its regular appearance because the coordinator has been too busy to coordinate. Things are happening in Los Angeles and the Du Bois Clubs have been an integral part on nearly every front of Peace and Civil Rights. There are two main fronts of struggle at the present and that is Vietnam and Watts. The two somehow fit very close together in their significance and underlying cause.

This newsletter will try to bring up to date a portion of the most significant waters that have flowed under the bridge since the last issue of the COORDINATOR. We will deal with what is developing in Los Angeles around the issue of Vietnam, Watts, the recent National Du Bois Club Conference in Chicago, and a few notes about the new clubs organized in the L.A. area.

VIETNAM

It is the opinion of a number of us in the Area Council that the Du Bois have become a decisive force in the city around the issue of Vietnam. We have gained a great deal of experience, have seen many problems develop and re-solve, and have won the respect of many people in the peace movement within the Left as well as on the outside of it. It was either on the initiative, leadership, or hard work of Du Bois Club people that the Student Committee on Vietnam, the Venice Committee ... and Echo Park Committees on Vietnam were established with the purpose of launching a community organizing campaign on the issue of ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnamese war. The report on Vietnam and Community Organizing inclosed was presented at the National Du Bois Club Conference that was held in Chicago over the Labor week-end. I needn't go into detail on our work since the report deals with it at some length.

But the community has not been our only focus. John Haag, Area Chairman of the Du Bois Clubs, has over a long period of time with a most consistent effort, worked in the Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The Committee is the Left coalition in the city consisting of Students for Democratic Society, Young Socialist Alliance, Du Bois Clubs, Socialist Party, and a large grouping of independent radicals, (and Los Angeles' lone Spartacist). The Committee has been a militant and action oriented peace organization and has conducted several demonstrations of worthwhile note.

Most of us in the Du Bois Clubs feel that the most exciting thing developing in the last week is the joining together of nearly every peace organization in the city for the coming International Days of Protest. ON the Thursday of the 16th there was a meeting called by the Committee to End the War in Vietnam that brought together nearly very significant peace organization in town. It included the Emergency Council on the Crisis on U.S. Foreign Policy which sponsored Senator Wayne Morse at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium and raised \$11,000.00 for the struggle to end the war. It includes persons from C.D.C., SANE, WSP, and many other liberal peace organizations. The Area Council of the Du Bois Club is proud of the fact that we are doing everything that we can to win a common line to which all peace organizations can agree. It is of

the utmost importance and of tremendous significance that such a coalition take place.

The meeting itself was called for the purpose of organizing a demonstration for the INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF PROTEST October 15th and 16th, which was called by the Vietnam Day Committee in Berkeley. This is not going to be a conventional demonstration of pacing up and down in front of the Federal Building however, it will organize a busing and caravan demonstration which will go into the community and do leafleting door to door. At the National Conference of Du Bois Club it was decided to have a national campaign on a peace ballot. We will try to persuade the new committee to adopt a similar ballot for the two days of protest at the next meeting. There are other things that need to be decided upon and hence everyone is welcomed to the meeting Thursday night, the 23rd at 8:00 P.M. at the Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church, 4601 Prospect Ave, Hollywood. Bring your ideas for the INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF PROTEST; each organization has one vote. We hear that Johnson will be in town on the 15th; we think he ought to be greeted with all the courtesy and hospitality that the Vietnamese people might.

WATTS

Since the two emergency area wide meetings of the Du Bois Clubs during the week of the social upheaval in Watts we have made some progress in developing an organized approach to the Negro community. However, the first task is to organize a Negro base for a Du Bois Club in Watts. There is no mistake that the power structure is alarmed by the events that took place in Watts, but it is also apparent that those who possess power are making no signs of bringing about a solution. With 36% unemployment (and probably double that for youth in the Negro Community, the most urgent task is the creation of JOBS, but the power structure has had nothing more to offer other than an increase of the draft in the ghetto areas of the country. Thus, the oppressed American Negro is now asked to fight for the U.S. in Vietnam to oppress the Vietnamese peasant.

The most important question before the movement as a whole today is the organization of the Negro community. It is certain that as long as the conditions which gave rise to the convulsions in Watts persist, it will happen again. There can be no doubt about that, the question for the movement is however, "in what direction will it go next time?" The Watts revolt has yet only struck at the symbols of oppression — the white cop and white small businessman. But the condition of the American Negro is the result of much larger forces, and it is not until this is realized that real basic changes in our kind of society will be made possible.

In this task we as the Du Bois Club have a role to play. When CORE put out its emergency call for food during the height of the crisis, the Venice Du Bois Club collected 27 boxes of food in three days of going door to door in the white community and asking for contributions. When thousands were arrested and the South L.A. Committee for Defense of Citizens was formed, the Du Bois Club was in on the ground floor helping establish it in the community. In Negro and White teams we went throughout the Watts area collecting legal forms that the families of the arrested persons had filled out. We have helped staff their office and hand out leaflets. Incidentally, for those of you

w. p worked so hard in Watts the Defense Committee has sent us a note complementing the Du Bois Clubs for our hard and consistent work. Well, enough chest beating, because the real job has yet to be touched. We must develop a realistic program for the youth in Watts centered around their most immediate problems -- police brutality and jobs..., and such a program can be led by a ~~the~~ progressive socialist organization such as the Du Bois Club.

All of these issues bring us to the National Du Bois Conference that was held in Chicago. On the weekend of the 4th and 5th over 100' delegates from all parts of the country came together to solve some of our most pressing problems. We decided on nation wide programs for the Du Bois Clubs on Vietnam and jobs for youth, elected new temporary officers, and established a finance program which will hopefully solve our pressing economic problems. We will have an area wide meeting soon to discuss the many things that were discussed at the conference. Some very exciting things are happening for the Du Bois Clubs nationally. Clubs are being organized in the youth sections of some trade unions in the mid-west, Chicago has become a Du Bois town. They have organized an all Negro club in the West side of Chicago ghetto with some 50 members and about 15 'actives'. The national office of the Du Bois Clubs will be moved to Chicago from San Francisco. Also in Easter we will hold a national convention in Chicago. Our new national president is a local fellow from Manhattan Beach named Hugh Fowler. A more complete report will be prepared for the area meeting and if all ~~the~~ goes well you will receive a leaflet.

NOTES:

An office in Watts was obtained near the Watts towers with the \$100.00 we raised from the Felix Greene film, CHINA. We will need help to set things up so we will need help. So take this for an appeal for your aid.

A new Du Bois Club was established at Leuzinger high school with 10 very young and enthusiastic high school students. As an old alumnus of Leuzinger I have a special nostalgia for this new group of young progressives. When I was in Leuzinger the only thing that I organized was a gang. Well, things are changing. (B.D.)

We have obtained Wilfred Burchett's film on the NLF from the national office. We plan to have a combined film, educational, and discussion. We also want to get the Shell Oil Company's film on Vietnam called NEKONG. The film will be shown at the LLWU hall on Figueroa, UCLA, Leuzinger high, and Central L.A. Watch for this exciting film.