

February 22
1968

SDS

NEW ENGLAND REPORT

MOVEMENT NEWS

Boston Area Coordinating Committee:

Several decisions were made at the February 17th meeting.

- 1) A plan was approved to find a large lecture hall in the city for the March 18 Hayden-Aptheker speech as well as to schedule an afternoon speech probably at Brandeis.
- 2) The committee decided to sponsor the Greater Boston Committee to End the War in its protests during the International Days of Protests.
- 8) In order to properly coordinate the many diverse Viet Nam activities, BACC recommended that the Administrative Council approve the formation of a Viet Nam committee like that for labor.

Administrative Committee:

The meeting on February 7th made two major decisions.

- 1) It approved the budget and fundraising plans described in the last newsletter.
- 2) The council agreed to discuss with Clark Kissinger (formerly of the National Office) the possibilities of his working in Boston. The region is paying for his exploratory trip here.

Boston Area Labor Activities

Labor Unions and the War:

Students from MIT, Harvard, Tufts and Brandeis have begun organizing projects in Boston trying to build rank-and-file union opposition to the war. Initially, they are concentrating on the Packinghouse Workers. This week they are meeting with members of the union to draw up a leaflet which will be handed to some 8,000 union members as they go to cash their paychecks.

Other unions that are being contacted are the U.E., the I.L.G.W.U., the Almagamated Clothing Workers and the U.A.W. The plan is that this work will lead to a committee of unionists against the war.

(See Announcements No. 1)

Delano Grape Strike:

Sal Gonzales, the National Farm Workers' Association (NFWA) California office manager, has arrived in Boston. Sal grew up in the Delano area and has been with the NFWA since 1961. He is one of the strike's original organizers and is serving as coordinator of all strike support work in the Boston area.

SDS, SNCC, CORE and possibly several other organizations will be working together on the strike. At present they have plans to set up tables in various schools, selling literature, buttons and recruiting volunteers. There are now available several thousand copies of a leaflet explaining the strike, and plans for enlisting more volunteers are being discussed. Volunteers will be speaking to liquor store owners, asking them to observe the boycott, and coordinating those who agree to participate. In addition, pickets against Schenley products at those stores which do not want to cooperate are being organized. Already activities of this nature have been extremely effective in California and New York. Schenley has become disturbed enough to issue statements which mislead the reader to believing the workers are receiving high wages.

Sal is also in Boston for fund-raising. It costs \$15,000 a month just to maintain the strike. The only potential source for money is contributions. The regional office and Sal both have buttons which sell for a dollar each; they can be bought singly or in bulk.

Enclosed with the newsletter there is a three part card which can be used to show both Schenley and the NFWA the kind of support the strike has. These cards are also available in bulk.

(see Questions and Reminders No. 1)

Waltham Strike:

The strike against the J.L. Thompson Rivet Company continues. Students have been taking shifts in walking on the picket line with the strikers each day. The students are in this way getting to know the men and exchanging ideas with them. A rally is planned at Brandeis for strikers, their families and friends, supporting unionists, and students. At the rally, the first issue of a strike bulletin, a cooperative effort of the strikers and the students, will be distributed. If the response to it is good, students hope to expand it into a permanent local newspaper.

Labor Committee:

The SDS Labor Committee is considering holding a conference this spring about students and the unions. Plans are now being discussed to make this a joint conference since the New York region is considering a similar meeting.

In addition the labor committee has begun to discuss formulating study groups on unions, their practices and their possible relevance to the Movement.

(see Questions and Reminders No 2)

Chapter News

MIT Chapter:

During its first term at MIT, SDS has grown to about thirty members and at least the same number of interested people. Last semester we concentrated on internal education, sponsoring a Political Economy Seminar and several discussions. Most of our activity consisted of regional work on an individual basis.

We began this semester with two meetings to plan projects and to initiate action. The three main areas of interest were chapter meetings, discussions, university research/reform, and Viet Nam.

Meetings to discuss the implications of the Free Speech Movement; democracy and expertise; technology and the individual; the student left in America, Canada and England; campus life; and a Free University in Boston--are being planned. A weekly seminar, "Education: What's Missing?", is being sponsored unofficially by SDS. It should serve as a nucleus for our university research. Presenting critiques of the narrowness and manipulation of American universities, it should draw together and inspire students interested in looking more closely at the issues. We plan to have it also serve as a foundation for MIT SDS research and action on our university. From this should come proposals for reform, papers for publication, and the "counter-catalogue" proposed at the chapter's regional convention.

Viet Nam projects will involve the chapter in New England regional activities and on- and off-campus work with the MIT Committee to End the War, a teach-out, the Hayden-Aptheker speech, the People for Peace Concert, and the draft board petition.

Finally, we are planning to establish, with other campus "Radical" groups, a combination office, library and social room.

Gerry Stahl

(see Announcements Nos. 2 and 3)

Wesleyan University:

During the week of March 7-14, Wesleyan Students for a Democratic Society is initiating an eight day fast for peace in Viet Nam, similar to one held in Pennsylvania earlier and reported in The New Left Notes. In addition to fasting there will be a panel discussion and speakers in the evenings, a day set aside for discussion of Viet Nam in classes, a rally with name speakers on Sunday afternoon, and contact with the churches Sunday morning.

Other New England schools are invited to join. Wesleyan writes, "We feel that fasting is a tremendously effective and relevant means of protest. We fast out of sympathy with the Vietnamese whose crops are destroyed by United States' bombers and with the poor in the United States who are suffering because of the war. Unlike mass demonstrations, fasting is a personal sacrifice which will arouse peoples' sympathy and make it impossible to avoid the point of the action, as well as allowing individuals who are distrustful of marches to participate." Coverage in the New York Times is expected. At least one-fifth of the Wesleyan student body is joining for at least part of the time.

(see announcement no. 5)

PROGRAM DISCUSSIONHouse Committee on Un-American Activities:

The House Committee (HUAC), armed with their highest appropriation ever--\$425,000--is gearing for an attack on the student, peace, and civil rights movements.

Resolutions have been offered in the House calling for HUAC to investigate SDS and the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs. A number of congressmen have asked for investigations of "all manifestations of public discontent with national foreign policy with respect to Viet Nam including teach-ins, peace demonstrations, etc." HUAC chairman, Edwin Willis of Louisiana, has indicated strongly that civil rights organizations will be the object of HUAC's attack following the "investigation" of the Klan.

Opposition to HUAC, in and out of Congress, has been growing rapidly, as evidenced by the forced postponement of votes on contempt citations for three Chicagoans, including the world-renowned heart disease specialist Dr. Jeremiah Stamler, who refused to testify before HUAC when subpoenaed in May, 1965.

However, HUAC and its Senate counterpart, The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) are sure to continue their activities in 1966. They are expected to intensify their efforts to split, red bait and intimidate the social concern and protest movement.

Blunting these attacks will depend markedly on the awareness of the threat and mobilization to counter it. All SDS chapters should investigate possibilities in their area to counter attacks by these committees. This includes planning for acting directly when the committees are in the area and also organizing sympathy protests and assistance in short-circuiting the committee.

(see Questions and Reminders no 3)

Draft Action Beginning:

The program of action against the draft has been launched with the circulation of a petition which was printed in last week's newsletter. The petition will provide a gauge of support and of interest in a demonstration opposing the draft. It should be returned to the regional office by March third. A large number of signatures must be collected quickly so that planning can be begun.

A faculty member at the BU Law School is researching the reality of various forms of civil disobedience and related legal problems. His findings will help determine the nature of any demonstrations.

At the outset, two distinct programs are being discussed. One is to have a number of different demonstrations at draft boards in local communities. The Brandeis chapter ~~is~~ could use its union contacts to get Waltham interested. Tufts and Newton High School Students are already working in their communities. The Action Center staff might organize a demonstration in Roxbury. And to face the problem of reclassification, an all-female sit-in at one center could be planned.

The alternative theory is that a single large demonstration would be more effective. A central selective service board in Boston could be the target. The final plan chosen depends upon the interests of potential organizers and the strength of support.

The present petition serves as a useful focus to rally interest and commitment. Changes in the petition, although decreasing the effectiveness of having a large number of signatures agreeing to one statement, should be encouraged if individuals and chapters are convinced that alterations will result in a significantly larger number of signatures.

(see Questions and Reminders no. 4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Leafletters are desperately needed to assist students and union members in attempting to build a union movement to end the war. This need is particularly acute this week with the plan to reach the Packinghouse Workers on payday. Leafletting at the State Street Bank on February 24 and 25 will attempt to reach these workers as they cash their checks; meet at Memorial Hall at 10:29 if interested in helping either day and contact the Regional office if you can offer time for this work.

2) MIT-SDS has begun a weekly discussion of university-level education in contemporary America with special emphasis on problems and ideas relevant to MIT's undergraduate instruction. All discussions are open to anyone interested in participating.

Saturdays at 2:00 PM

Fourth Floor

MIT student center

Discussion schedule:

February 19: "The uses of Education: Theory and Practice"

February 26: "Philosophy"

March 5: "Freshman and Sophomore Humanities"

) includes new faculty recommendations for MIT)

Future: "Economics"

"Political Science"

"Influence of Government and Industry"

"Campus Life"

"The Student's Role in the University"

"Prospects for Higher Education"

(includes discussion of Free Universities)

"The Student in Society"

Most sessions will be prefaced by short remarks of two resource persons (usually professors) to pose questions and define areas of controversy. The remaining time (approximately one hour) will be open to discussion and criticism of the points considered. The discussions should raise a number of problems and possibly proposals for improvement. Thus, plans have been made to assist any persons interested in research or action concerning the issues raised by discussion. These projects can be discussed informally at the end of each meeting.

Contact Gerry Stahl (262-0291) for further information or if you have any ideas about how to structure the seminar.

3) Gerry Stahl, the new president of the SDS chapter at MIT is anxious to contact students about SDS activities at MIT. Any information concerning the chapter and its activities can be obtained from him (262-0291).

4) Sal Gonzales of the NFWA is staying at the Co-operative Crafts Center in Roxbury (427-3699). He is here to co-ordinate boycott activities and to fund raise for the tremendous needs of the workers and their families if the strike is to continue.

Contact either the regional office or Sal if you have any ideas for fund-raising. If you can arrange speaking engagements for Sal or if you need advice for work at your school please let Sal know.

Sal will also be able to provide NFWA buttons to sell for \$1.00 as a fund-raising technique. If you cannot reach him the regional office also has a supply.

5) Fast for Peace, Box SDS, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, Conn-- is the address for coordinating of the March 7-14 Fast for Peace in Viet Nam (see article). Please let them know immediately if you plan to organize your school. They have more detailed information on the conduct of the fast and the physical and psychological effects of fasting which they will send. Further, they request that if you plan to join the fast you try to enlist comparative support on your campus.

6) Charles Sims, the director of the Deacons, is available for speaking in Western Massachusetts during the first week in March. Let the regional office know if you can offer him a time and place.

7) Peter Hildrew at 868-2898 is coordinating South African projects. Let him know of any plans or ideas you have in general or specifically with respect to the commemoration of the Sharpesville Massacre.

8) A tutoring and community organizing project is getting underway in Somerville. Working with junior and senior high school students, the tutors (each would have two students) will be doing more than only academic work. Information is available from Linda Kussmaul (623-9154).

9) The Fenway Park evictions making way for the latest BRA urban renewal project should be of interest to some Boston area members. The John Birch society is protesting but most of the residents might find our approach more desirable. If you are interesting in working with this project, let the regional office (547;5457) know.

10) Simmons is holding seminars on Viet Nam Wednesday from 5 to 6. Call Jennie Green (566-8999) for details.

QUESTIONS AND REMINDERS

1. NFWA three part cards are probably included with your newsletter. If so, fill them out as directed. Others are available through the R.O. in next mailing.

2. ... committee ... at ... 2.

2. The labor committee's meetings are held on Wednesday evenings starting March second. Probably they are to be at Philips Brooks House at Harvard. Contact Hal Benison (868-5043) with questions. The next labor committee meeting is a special meeting with the Stanley Aronowitz and James Weinstein (see calendar) on February 27.
8. Information about HUAC can be obtained from the New England Regional Office of the National Committee to Abolish HUAC at 144A Mt. Auburn St in Cambridge, phone 868-3670.
4. For information on the draft board activity, contact Donald Alper at the regional office.
5. Oglesby speeches will soon be available at the regional office (World REvolution and American containment).
6. Posters will be available for the conscientious objection conference (see cal. 4-5). Please distribute them around your campus.
7. Plans for the regional convention ^{around} be being discussed: A place, issues, positions etc.

CALENDAR

February 24:

Harvard SDS general membership meeting.
welfare and Mothers for Adequate Welfare
7:25, Lowell House Junior Common Room

Leafletting Packinghouse workers about the war (see article)
10:29 Memorial Hall (call Regional office for details)

February 25:

Leafletting continued
Asparagus Valley Folk Festival
Western Mass (contact Steve Krinsky at 413 Mills,
Amherst, Mass)

Party

9:00 pm Caltha Crowe*s--95 Round Hill Road
Northampton
75¢ bring your own

February 26:

Stanley Aronowitz, and James Weinstein (Studies on the Left)
2:29 Holmes Hall, Harvard Law School
discussing Boston Associates for Studies on the Left
and Committee for Independent Political Action (NY)
8:00 B-46 Adams House, Harvard.
open meeting of the labor committee with Aronowitz
and Weinstein to discuss Labor.
Professors Dreyfus and Levensky of MIT
Education: What's Missing Philosophy (second of series)
2:00 MIT student center fourth floor

February 27:

Aronowitz and Weinstein: The New Left
4-6 in Adams House (Harvard) B-46
part of continuing seminar on the movement and social
change--open to all

February 28

Boston Area Coordinating Committee
7:25, Memorial Hall Basement

March 2:

Adult meeting in Brookline (contact regional office)
FFreedom Singers
Yale Law School Auditorium 7:29
one dollar contribution to SNCC

March 3:

Senator Gruening
8:29 Spaulding Auditorium Dartmouth

March 4:

Julian Bond, Senator ^{Stephen} Young, Sgt. Donald Duncan
8:15 Jordan Hall
one dollar admission--tickets available at Pax.
44 Brattle Street

March 5:

Professors Schalk and Steinberg (MIT)
Education: What's Missing? Freshman and Sophomore
Humanities
2:00 MIT student center fourth floor
Julian Bond
Harvard (contact regional office for details).

March 6:

Julian Bond
Afternoon reception: St. Paul's Church (near Boston
2 dollar contribution to SNCC Common)
(Contact SNCC office 868-1939)

March 11:

Judy Collins concert
the regional office has 200 tickets--the best seats
in every section for this Symphony Hall concert
priced from 3:75 3:50, 3:00, 2.50 front row center
and up. Buy your ticket at the regional office
(money goes to sds)

March 12:

Conference on Conscientious Objection
10-4:00 Tremont St. Methodist Church
7:28 Caravan Theatre: Make Love not War
Hadyn and Aptheker (12 and 13 - 18 (as on page one)
contact regional office to find out when meetings are

March 20:

Sharpesville Massacre Anniversary
contact the regional office with plans

March 25:

International Days of Protest
individual chapters should plan protests
Wayne Morse:
8:29 Atwood Hall, Clark (\$1.00 or \$2.00)

March 26:

International Days of Protest continued

April 1:

Community organizing conference
Dartmouth (contact John Spritzler 302 Cohen Hall
Dartmouth
Hanover, NH)

Part two in May in western Massachusetts

April 4:

General Hershey
7:29 Dartmouth Webster Hall