

## Community Control

### Community Control of Police

The Radical Student Union does not believe that a petition campaign for community control of police in the white community is an effective way to fight fascism and repression or to advance the movement. That is not to say that we oppose community control in white communities. At this time, however, white communities do not see police as their enemy. In fact, because of prevailing racism, white communities tend to see police as protecting them from the onslaughts of the blacks and people like the panthers.

The way to break down white racism is to involve white people and blacks together in struggles of mutual interest. This is much more effective than some abstract discussion of why white people should abandon their white skin privilege. The way to build support for a movement and fight repression is to show that our movement serves the needs of the people. Then the people will want to defend our movement and help it grow. The petition for police control does neither of these two things.

The R.S.U. intends to go to the white community with a program that speaks to the needs of white workers and shows how their interests are related to those of blacks. We support progressive strikes in the area and we intend to begin a campaign against high rent and property tax—a tax which is regressive in this state, and hits white and black workers hardest. Such campaigns will do much more to fight racism and repression than police control petitions.

In the black community, of course, the situation is different. There people see the police as the occupying enemy. Demands for community control are demands for the withdrawal of the occupying troops, and for self-determination for the black community.

### The Conduct of the Convention

The Panthers, as callers of the convention, have the right to exercise considerable control over the format and details of the convention. However, we believe that the conduct of the convention has not helped the movement become more developed politically and has not provided an environment in which an already divided anti-fascist left could provide a United Front Against Fascism. We question in particular 1) The exclusion of the literature tables of ISC and Spartacist; 2) Physical prevention of ISC and Spartacist for passing out leaflets critical of the conference, even outside the convention hall; 3) The lack of workshops and discussions from the floor; 4) The central role given the bankrupt C.P. and to liberal Democratic party politicians. It would be most harmful to the movement for the Anti-fascist left to develop a coalition with liberal democrats for electoral politics. This is exactly what C.P.U.S.A. would like to see develop out of the United Front.

### National Office Sectarianism

Perhaps the most serious problem confronting the movement is the intense sectarianism evident in the over reaction of the NO to PLP's appearance at the conference. To the best of our knowledge, PLP was handled with preemptory strong arm tactics, all the more serious because such conduct might have provided for the disruption that PLP might have desired. It appeared almost as if certain SDS members went out of their way to pick fights with PL. On this matter the movement must be clear; the purge atmosphere and rigid sectarianism that pervades this conference and threatens SDS generally only serves the interests of the ruling class that depends on the fratricidal divisiveness of the left. Although we have little regard for PLP, we do not consider them to be the primary enemy of the people.

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