

# Anti-War Independents

## W. SIDE PLP

## C.I.P.A.

By FRANK SCOTT

Wendy Nakashima, Progressive Labor Party leader on the West Side of Manhattan, has launched an independent campaign for State Assemblywoman in the new 69th AD. Her candidacy will be keyed to opposing the war: "U.S., Get Out of Vietnam Now!"

"We find a rising sentiment in our district against Johnson's aggression in Southeast

Asia," reports Miss Nakashima. "We are demanding U.S. occupation troops get out of Santo Domingo and independence for Puerto Rico, a colony of the U.S."

"While they spend \$50 million a day killing Vietnamese freedom-fighters, right here in New York they are raising subway and bus fare, taxing us blind, the schools are stuffed, the streets stink, and the housing is horrible," she charged.

"We plan to run a campaign that is not geared just to get votes at the ballot box, but to organize ourselves, the working people, in our own neighborhood against the politicians and the big businessmen who have gotten us into this mess and make a pretty penny out of it," she declared.

### FIGHT EACH OTHER

The 69th AD runs from 100th St. to 135th St., west of Central Park. It is the same district in which the West Side PLP Club signed up part of the 8,000 signatures that put Bill Epton, Harlem PLP leader, on the ballot for State Senate last year.

"One of the best times for organizing and fighting for our rights is at election times," pointed out campaign manager Ginger Weinberg. "The politicians are fighting each other. If we are well organized and independent of the politicians, we have a chance of making our strength felt."

The candidate herself stressed that "we don't put all our eggs in the election basket. However, this campaign—outside the control of the political bosses—gives us the opportunity to organize a fight for the things we need to improve our lives. It gives us the opportunity to take a step towards political control of our country."

"What we eventually must fight for is control by the working people, for socialism. Election campaigns are just one part of the fight."

Miss Nakashima is no stranger

to struggle. When a year-old infant in 1941, her family among thousands of Japanese-Americans, was placed in this country's first concentration camps — "internment camps" the government



WENDY NAKASHIMA called them," she says with a wry smile.

She spent the next three years of her life in these camps. Her family was completely disrupted, her father losing a job he never regained.

She grew up in New York City, danced professionally, but found time to visit revolutionary Cuba in 1961. There she found what it meant to a long-suffering people to kick out the United Fruit and Shell Oil Companies and start running the factories and farms for themselves. When she returned, she joined the Progressive Labor Movement, "to help make the same kind of change in this country."

She then became part of the vast number of American youth who went South to fight the semi-slavery enforced by Northern Big Business and their Dixiecrat lie-

tenants. She worked in North Carolina and in Atlanta with her husband, Jake Rosen, then a Southern organizer for the PLM.

### REFUSES TO "COOPERATE"

When she returned to New York, she went back to City College and immediately became involved in campus struggles there. When she was called before a witchhunting Grand Jury attempting to frame Progressive Labor in connection with the Harlem Rebellion, she refused to "cooperate." She then served 30 days in Civil Jail for "contempt," refusing to "purge" herself by answering the D.A.'s loaded questions.

While in prison she worked with many of defenseless women prisoners who had been jailed through no fault of their own and tried to give them an understanding of the system which had victimized them.

### W. SIDE PLP WORKER

When released, she immediately immersed herself in the problems of the people on the West Side where she lives. She mobilized the community during the Epton election campaign, speaking on street corners, and organizing on a district-by-district basis. She, and the PLP, won many friends among the Black, white and Latin American workers, who have pledged to work in the current campaign.

### SYSTEM FIXED

"It's a tough fight," she admits, "and the politicians have the system so fixed they'll probably be winning elections for a while yet. But the one thing they don't—and can't—have is the people."

### ONE STEP AHEAD

"After all, if they served the people's interests they wouldn't be rich. These independent campaigns are just one step on the long road to a society without exploitation of man by man—for socialism."

Talking to Wendy Nakashima one gets the feeling she won't stand aside until that goal is achieved.

By SARAH ARNOLD

West Side Committee for Independent Political Action (CIPA) is planning to run a Congressional candidate in the 19th CD this November. (The district includes the West Side, Chelsea, Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side). The candidate has not yet been chosen.

There are two other independent political groups in the 19th CD, one in Chelsea and one on the Lower East Side. West Side CIPA has one working class local organization which has been meeting monthly on a general membership basis and weekly on a committee basis since March 22. CIPA is organizing in two other working class areas and a middle class area. These projects should culminate in the formation of new locals in about a month or so. Chelsea will begin canvassing shortly toward the formation of its first local.

CIPA is running a candidate to raise certain issues before the district's constituents and spread its program, to strengthen and build its local organizations. These locals plan to function on a year-round basis, fighting for better housing, increased welfare, more jobs and schools, as well as for the broader goal of the need for political power to change the basic structure of American society.

### SELF-DETERMINATION

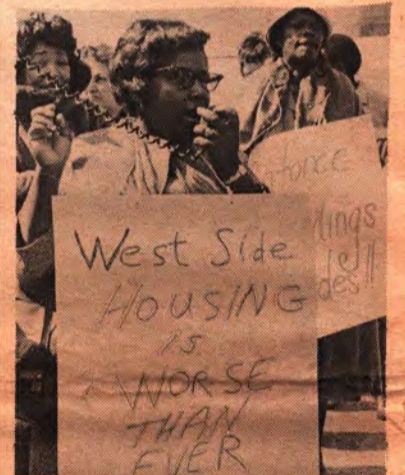
The cornerstone of CIPA's political platform is self-determination, both internationally and domestically. CIPA feels the presence of the U.S. in Vietnam is not an isolated incident but part and parcel of a foreign policy trend which has grown since the turn of the century and particularly since the end of World War II. It traces this imperialist and counterrevolutionary foreign policy to the control of American society by giant corporations dedicated to a perpetuation of their power and an increase in their profits.

CIPA sees this corporate control as the reason for wars, poverty, unemployment, racial and ethnic discrimination and bad living conditions. Therefore, CIPA advocates steps which will lead toward taking the control of our society and its institutions, out of the hands of the giant corporations and into the hands of the people.

It advocates an end to "defense" spending, withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam, the Dominican Republic and all foreign bases, the

end of military and economic aid to foreign dictators and defends the right of all nations to self-determination. Domestically, CIPA advocates programs in education, labor, health, welfare and housing which would not only benefit ordinary people economically but give us real control over the basic institutions which administer these programs.

The contest in the Democratic primary is between Reform Democratic candidate Theodore Weiss and incumbent Leonard Farstein, supporter of Administration foreign policy. Many people are curious as to why CIPA has chosen to run an independent candidate rather than work for Weiss who as Councilman led the struggle for a police review board and who has a program of reforms which would benefit constituents.



including the advocacy of withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. (CIPA is not running in the primary but intends to run in November regardless of who wins the Democratic nomination in this primarily Democratic district.)

CIPA says that a movement which is going to be able to change this society has to be built independently from the existing political parties, both of which represent corporate interests. Against a liberal candidate like Weiss the opportunities for education around a program with a socialist perspective are greater since the differences between CIPA and a reformist perspective can be sharpened.

It allows CIPA to talk about the underlying factors of control which explains why things are the way they are. If one is running against a reactionary candidate, then it is enough to take an anti-war position. Against a candidate who advocates the withdrawal of troops, one is forced to go further and point out that the presence of the U.S. in Vietnam is the result of a basically imperialist foreign policy.

Against a candidate who advocates better anti-poverty programs, the point can be made that with the elimination of corporate control, there would be no need for "poverty programs," since there would be no poverty.

In short, CIPA sees the campaign as part of a long-range program which will result in building a mass socialist party. It will begin to break the grip of corporate control over our nation and put that control where it belongs, in the hands of the people who make up the majority of our society—that is, working people—whether they be working class, middle class or unemployed.

## Stop the Fare Steal

A mass picket line to "Stop the 25c Fare" has been called to ring City Hall on Thurs., June 23rd, at 10 A.M. The demonstration is being sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee to Save the 15c Fare, an organization comprising

trade union, church and civil rights groups.

The Committee declared that "Transit workers and the riding public for the past 13 years have been victims of a transit system operated in the interest of the big real estate, banker and financial interests that control and dictate the policies of the N.Y.C. Transit Authority."

### HIKE PUSHED

It pointed out that a 25c fare is being pushed by these forces on top of the "elimination of nearly 15,000 jobs, the lack of maintenance of subway equipment causing a sharp increase in derailments, fires, collisions and delays over the system," and the "cutting of bus service all over the system" as well as "the closing of subway entrances on 175 stations."

### DEMANDS

It is the Committee's contention that the transit system is a public service like the fire department and can never be self-sustaining, as the law which established the



TRANSIT WORKERS PICKET CITY HALL

TA requires. It charged that the TA is now paying interest on \$200 million worth of bonds purchased from various banks, out of its gross revenues, the same money that is supposed to be used to pay

for the operating cost of the transit system.

The pickets will demand that:  
\* Lindsay hold the 15c fare;  
\* A moratorium be declared on the transit debt to the banks;

\* The transit system be made a public service and not forced to be self-sustaining.

Information about the Committee and the demonstration can be obtained by calling 666-0787.

# Blast Two-Party Sham

## BROOKLYN QUEENS

By WALTER LINDER

Memorial Day: thousands of Brooklynites are waiting along Eastern Parkway for the parade to pass. Hal Levin, 27-year-old Instructor of Political Science at Brooklyn College passes through the crowd handing out leaflets.

He is helped by his wife Irene, a teacher in the New York City Public School system and by a number of campaign workers. Hal is running as an Independent for Congress. The leaflets say why—"While we mourn, more die."

The central plank of Hal's campaign is that the United States should get out of Vietnam now and spend the money at home. He says, "our soldiers are killing and dying to defend a dictatorship in Vietnam. This serves the interests of only a few—those corporations that profit from war. It does not serve the interests of the vast majority of the American people."

### MONEY FOR PEOPLE

"The interest of this majority is not to die in Vietnam but to see the money spent on replacing the slums with low rent, well-built public housing, quality schooling for all, including free college education, free medical care for all who need it—a decent way of life for all Americans."

Hal is running in the 12th Con-



HAL LEVIN

gressional District (Crown Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Flatbush and Boro Park) against Democratic Congresswoman Edna Kelly. Mrs. Kelly has consistently voted for an increase in the war in Vietnam and voted to seat the racist Mississippi delegation in Congress.

Asked why he was running as an independent, Hal said, "I feel there is a crucial need right now to build a movement to represent the voiceless majority. Both the Democratic and Republican parties are actively carrying out the Vietnam war and serve only the interests of the large corporations. I don't believe in the lesser evil theory that says 'vote for Johnson over Goldwater, because Goldwater was for bombing North Vietnam while Johnson

### RALLY

There will be a mass demonstration in solidarity with the fight of the Puerto Rican people in Chicago against police brutality on Saturday at 3 P.M. at the corner of 8th St. and Avenue C.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** An all-day beach trip to Heckscher State Park on Sunday, July 3rd, will be taken by the Lower East Side PL Club and its many friends in the neighborhood. A chartered bus will leave from 749 East 6th Street at 8:30 A.M. Round trip tickets are \$2.00 in advance, \$2.50 at the bus; children are free. Get your tickets now!

wasn't. Let's build an independent movement that will allow us to have our own base of power, instead of relying on the phony 'good will' of the corrupt two parties."

### LEVIN TRADE UNIONIST

Other planks in Levin's platform call for a \$2.50 minimum wage law and repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and all other anti-labor legislation.

Hal wants a real Civilian Review Board, elected by the people in each precinct and made up of the people of the area. And, he says, this Board must have the power to back it up its decisions.

Hal is Chairman of the Action Committee of the Student-Faculty Committee to End the War in Vietnam at Brooklyn College. He is a member of the Taxi Drivers Union and of the American Federation of College Teachers. His father is a member of District 65 where he served as shop steward. Levin was active in Columbia CORE when he did graduate work at Columbia University. He was in the U.S. Army and the active reserves from 1957 to 1960.

A great deal of community support for the campaign has been forthcoming. At Brooklyn College both the Student-Faculty Committee and the Students for a Democratic Society unanimously voted their support. All those interested in working on the campaign are asked by Mr. Levin to write to: Citizen's Committee for Hal Levin for Congress, 859 Franklin Ave., Brooklyn, New York.

"This campaign will not stop in November when people vote. We intend to work in the community for a very long time—to build a movement that will serve all the needs of the people and that doesn't just mean at election time. We'll need help in this; we mean to stay."

"We look forward to a labor party that will truly represent the majority of the American people." So spoke Mrs. Leslie Silberman, a 28-year-old mother of two who is running as an independent in Queens' 7th Congressional District.

"Johnson says this war may go on for another 13 years. My son is eight.

I don't want him in Vietnam at 18 and dead before he's 21."

The main issue in Mrs. Silberman's program is "U.S. get out of Vietnam now. Bring the boys home." She feels that these are not just empty phrases but represent a deep desire upon the part of thousands of neighbors in her district, which cannot be expressed through the two old parties.

As a leading founder of the Queens Independent Committee to End the War in Vietnam, the attractive housewife participated in a door-to-door canvassing of her neighbors in two areas—Fresh Meadows and Parsons Gardens. Using a questionnaire which searched out people's feelings on the war, the Committee found that many more opposed the slaughter than the poll-takers had indicated.

### FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

"Even those who were for the war, after having a serious discussion, agreed that the government was lying to the people about the nature of the war. Based on our own door-to-door 'consensus,' we decided that a choice had to be offered to the people other than the tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee of the Democratic and Republican parties.

"These big shots," she continued, "have not solved unemployment, have not increased real wages, have failed to provide good schools and decent housing and have stood by while minority groups have been brutally persecuted.

"Instead of fighting in Vietnam, we should be fighting for democracy, and an end to poverty and unemployment and racism here at home," she declared.

"It's necessary to vote against the Democrats and Republicans," she stressed, "because they are responsible for the war in Vietnam



LESLIE SILBERMAN

and these problems at home. It's time for a new kind of political organization that will truly give people a choice."

Mrs. Silberman's campaign committee is already hitting the streets. It is starting with about 75 active people, who will be trying to enlist many more as they meet the voters in this very large C.D. It covers Glendale, Ridgewood, Woodhaven, Ozone Park, So. Ozone Park, Rosedale, Howard Beach, Richmond Hill, Laurelton, Rochdale Village, So. Jamaica and St. Albans.

When she asked Mrs. Silberman if she thought perhaps they were "biting off more than they could chew," she replied, "It's very important that the two big business parties fool the people no longer. You've got to start someplace, and this is only one of four independent campaigns right here in New York."

As she looked at her children, Steven, 8, and Hillary, 4, she said determinedly, "I'm not raising anyone to become cannon fodder for Johnson's war in Vietnam, or for Robert Kennedy, for that matter, if he becomes the next 'lesser of two evils.'"

When asked how her husband Don, an English instructor at

Hunter College, feels about her candidacy, she smiled and said, "He's for Leslie 'all the way!'"

Her program includes demands for: a thirty-hour week with forty hours pay; minimum annual wage of \$5200; prison sentences for employers and landlords who practice discrimination; strict enforcement of housing codes by tenants committees, with no rent paid until all repairs are made; local control of schools and police; committees of parents and teachers to set education policies and neighborhood committees to select the police.

"We want no more Vietnams," declared Mrs. Silberman. "All foreign bases used to prop up unpopular governments and hold back movements for national liberation must be dismantled."

While a headquarters will be announced soon, her campaign committee can be reached at 454-6328.

A new wind's blowing in Queens, and from the looks of things, it's not something that will die down right after election day.

### EAST SIDERS CHARGE POVERTY VOTE FRAUD

by ALICE JEROME

Elections for an Anti-Poverty Board from the "poor people" of the Lower East Side on Sun., June 12, found stormy opposition to the church-and-state-controlled group that tried to capture the vote.

A coalition slate led by Edward Bedford, young black neighborhood leader, won more than 100 votes in the second district, east



GENOVEVA CLEMENTE

of Avenue B. The slate charged that the controlling bureaucracy rigged the vote and sabotaged the elections by not giving the neighborhood people enough advance notice.

The group's platform (distributed as a leaflet at the meeting) called for an end to the anti-poverty hoax that tries to make a small hand-out look like a solution to the massive problems of the people. It demanded that the stolen billions being spent on war in Vietnam be returned to the people to pay for decent houses, schools, nurseries, hospitals, playgrounds and jobs for the unemployed.

This coalition slate included Mitchell Kaufman, a leader of the Lower East Side Committee for Independent Political Action, Genoveva Clemente, Maria Jimenez, and three other members of Progressive Labor who have been active in neighborhood struggles against landlords and police brutality. In Section 1 of the Lower East Side, Linda Cusumano polled 68 votes.

## 'Two-Four-Six-Eight-Make the Boss Negotiate!'



More than 150 members of District 65 shook up the downtown financial district on Tues., June 14, when they picketed the Title Guaranty and Trust Co. at 176 Broadway. Office workers of the large financial corporation are pressing for a new contract that will give them a union shop, higher wages, better pensions and other benefits.

As they marched they chanted "Two-Four-Six-Eight; Make The Boss Negotiate!" causing hundreds of unorganized office workers to pause on their way to

lunch during the noon hour. The 65'ers shouted that "office workers are human too" in an effort to show their brothers and sisters around them that they, too, can fight for the advances to be gained by unionization.

As CHALLENGE went to press, the contract expiration had been extended but the workers reported they were ready to strike immediately if it appeared that Title Guaranty was stalling. —LINDER