

1958

Interim Motion on Organization

General Considerations

Ordinarily the codification of organizational forms and procedures, ie. Constitution and by-laws, of a more-or-less fully elaborated organization would deal with three levels: (1) the individual member, (2) the local organization, (3) the national organization; and would define the relationships and obligations mutually existing between these three categories.

Furthermore, the various rights and duties so set forth in a constitution must be applicable to conditions of stress between elements within the organization and upon it as a whole, eg. under such conditions as internal factional struggle, competition between revolutionary socialists and other tendencies within the working class, or active involvement in class struggles. If it were otherwise, with the organization possessing a constitution good only for "peace-time" conditions, the group would have to have recourse to hasty and perhaps ill-considered improvisations in its standards of practice at the very times that its modes of conduct should be crystal clear. Much better practice is to have a "tough" constitution and tolerate a certain amount of laxness at those points and at those times that no harm is done and work may even be facilitated.

For the present the Young Socialist Supporters are unable to act effectively in the light of the above considerations in establishing permanent organizational procedures. This is so because in several senses a situation of rapid transition and accompanying uncertainty exists. Politically and personally many even of the most active YS Supporters have only a tentative relationship to the paper and to one another hence are reluctant to make commitments of a permanent character. In the various localities there is a high degree of diversity in the kinds of clubs and committees to be found. And while an overall common pattern of experience is beginning to emerge across the country heterogeneity is yet strong. It would be arbitrary and harmful to impose uniform organizational forms upon the local areas at this juncture. In short the forces around the Young Socialist are still at a stage reflecting their very recent formation, their diverse origins and their wide range of local situations.

Therefore rather than seeking to draft at this time a full-blown, hence either imprecise or inoperable, constitution, the YS Supporters should restrict themselves to a series of interim motions revolving around national organization, dealing with individuals and locals only in so far as is necessary in relation to setting up and defining responsible national bodies for guiding and strengthening the paper.

1. Young Socialist Supporters

(a) The basic direction of the Young Socialist and its work shall rest in the hands of its Supporters.

(b) A YS Supporter is any young person who seeks to further the aims and work of the Young Socialist in common with other Supporters and who contributes financially to the support of the YS to the extent of at least fifty cents a month.

(c) A majority vote by the local body of YS Supporters will grant a young applicant the status of YS Supporter. Where no local body exists decision rests with the YS Editorial Board or its representatives.

(d) Any YS Supporter more than three months in arrears in financial contribution shall cease to be in good standing. Only Supporters in good standing may vote in any meeting of YS Supporters.

2. National Conference

(a) The YS Supporters shall meet annually in a delegated National Conference. The Conference has the full and final power to adopt all political and organizational policies for the YS and to elect the National Committee of YS Supporters.

(b) The National Conference shall be called by the National Committee which shall allow for at least sixty days of pre-conference discussion in issuing the conference call. The sixty day period shall begin only when the principal majority resolutions have been published.

(c) The number of Conference delegates shall be elected in the local areas in such a ratio to the number of Supporters in the areas as is set by the National Committee. Delegates will be elected at the conclusion of organized pre-conference discussion held in each area among YS Supporters.

(d) Where there is a division between factions in electing delegates to the Conference, election shall take place on the basis of a proportional representation system as established by the National Committee in the Conference call. A faction shall be considered established and defined by the presentation for vote of a written document as the basis for representation.

(e) In electing the National Committee by the Conference a proportional basis shall be followed if factional divisions are present.

3. National Committee

(a) Between Conferences, the National Committee of Young Socialist Supporters shall be the highest body. It shall consist of (15) full members and (10) numbered alternates.

(b) Any National Committee member may appoint any alternate member to replace him for all or part of any meeting of the Committee.

3. National Committee, cont.

(c) The National Committee shall elect from among its members an Editorial Board to serve as its resident sub-committee. It shall also elect all nationally appointed officers.

(d) The National Committee may coop members to itself in the event its list of alternates is exhausted; or if it is so required in order to maintain the strength of recognized factions, as established at the preceeding Conference; or in order to maintain the Editorial Board up to size.

(e) The National Committee may delegate any of its authority to the Editorial Board; and as it sees fit may dispose of its business by referring it to the Editorial Board or by mail polling of the Committee members or by plenary meetings, regular or special.

(f) The National Committee shall meet at least three times yearly, including immediately after and before Conferences.

4. Editorial Board

(a) The Editorial Board shall be the body immediately responsible for the Young Socialist and for acting on its behalf as well as undertaking such work as is delegated to the Board by the National Committee.

(b) The Editorial Board shall meet at least twice monthly and shall send full minutes of its meetings to all members and alternates of the National Committee.

(c) Any Editorial Board member may appoint any alternate Board member to replace him for all or any part of any meeting of the Board.

(d) Subject to approval by the National Committee the Editorial Board may appoint as it sees fit Corresponding Editors, not necessarily themselves YS Supporters.

(e) Any decision of the Editorial Board may be taken by any member of the National Committee to the National Committee for final decision.

5. Officers

(a) The Editor of the Young Socialist shall in addition to his editorial duties act as principal national spokesman for the YS and its Supporters.

(b) Other officers may be appointed by the National Committee or the Editorial Board.

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submitted by -

James Robertson

San Francisco

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