

THIS IS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE POLITICAL RESOLUTION OF THE Y.S.A.

The Political Resolution of the YSA must attempt to relate our main political tasks to the objective realities which exist in present day capitalist America.

The Political Resolution that the NEC has submitted to the national YSA Convention is a very comprehensive and well thought out document. It has generally fulfilled the main functions of a political resolution, although there exists in it one inadequacy.

The Political Resolution is written within the context of a rapid growth in the size of our movement. In the last two years, the YSA has doubled its membership, and in the last six months the YSA has equaled the net recruitment of the last two years. In general, this recruitment has been on the basis of a minimal level of understanding of our program. Furthermore this recruitment has been from a middle class milieu.

This situation may cause complications in the years to come. Lenin said that "Consciousness is derived from being." The class background of a large section of the YSA may create blocks to their steady political development. For a student to begin assimilating revolutionary socialist ideas and to start the long and essential process of proletarianization, they must begin on an abstract level. Students cannot develop socialist consciousness through empirical experience, like the working class. Students do not experience the every day antagonism between workers and bosses. Students will not have to bear the brunt of the economic contradictions of capitalism. Students in the last analysis can only recognize class struggle and the economic contradictions of capitalism on an intellectual basis.

Our involvement in the antiwar movement and other areas of work primarily serve an educational function. How effective our participation in these movements is, depends largely on the political understanding of our program by the YSAers involved in these movements.

For these reasons, education is fundamental in retaining and developing YSAers.

The following is an amendment to the Political Resolution of the NEC as an addition to its general line of orientation:

THAT THE YSA AFFIRM NATIONALLY THAT ITS ACCELERATED GROWTH HAS BEEN DUE IN PART TO ITS POLICY OF RECRUITING ON THE MOST MINIMAL ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROGRAM. THEREFORE THE YSA MUST MAKE ITS MAIN POLITICAL TASK THE POLITICAL EDUCATION OF NEW RECRUITS.

ALSO THAT THE CONVENTION RECOMMEND TO THE NEC THAT IT FORMULATE AN OUTLINE PROCEDURE OF A CANDIDATE PROGRAM FOR LOCAL YSA CHAPTERS WHICH STRESSES EDUCATION AS THE FOREMOST TASK.

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