

# Johnson's Great Society: Higher Prices, Unemployment

by Jeff Sebastian

Stock market prices have recently tumbled to new lows for 1966. The Dow-Jones Industrial Average dropped over 20% from its February peak of 995. In a period of several weeks over \$100 billion dollars of paper values (an amount equal to the entire federal budget) simply vanished.

It is of great significance

that such a manifestation of uneasiness and instability can take place in the strongest capitalist country in the world. A little over a year ago William McChesney Martin, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board issued a dire warning concerning the possibility of a major economic crisis. The soaring inflation and chronic balance of payments

problem which so worried Mr. Martin has intensified in the recent period. The almost inevitable increases in war appropriations, the extreme tightness of money, a continuing outflow of gold, the weakness of the pound and an inflationary trend of about 3.5% per year have all contributed to these stock market declines.

A glance at recent pro-

duction figures clearly reveals the cause of inflation. The output of raw materials, the production of business equipment and manufacture of defense products have all risen at much faster rates than the production of consumer goods. No one can consume the airplanes shot down over Vietnam. The production of such items represents pure

waste, but their increased production does add to pay-rolls. The ensuing increased demand for consumer goods coupled with a relatively small increase in their production leads to the rising prices so familiar to the average housewife.

cause

The "real" spendable in-  
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# Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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Sept. 26, 1966

Ten Cents

## District 65 Struggles to Open Negotiations On Cost of Living Rise as Inflation Soars

by Sue Holman

District 65 (RWDSU), one of the more militant unions in New York City, has launched a campaign for a cost of living adjustment despite the fact that contracts do not come due at this time. With the ever accelerating inflation eating away at the gains of its membership--and in fact reducing the members' standard of living--the union has decided to fight for a hunk of the swollen profits of the bosses.

This struggle was first launched at the August District Council meeting (the council is composed of the officers and shop stewards of the District) with President David Livingston demanding the cost of living adjustment as a major goal of the union. It was suggested that the stewards should "feel out" their shop-mates or crews on the idea and make it clear to the ranks that the District leadership would back them up.

At the recent September District Council meeting the process went one step further with an announcement by Livingston that the union leadership would write a formal letter to all employers with District 65 contracts requesting the re-opening of negotiations for a cost of living adjustment.

response

The response by the ranks has been generally favorable, especially given the accelerating inflation, but the feeling was that leadership of the District (Livingston, Robinson, etc.) was needed. A certain hesitancy was expressed by the more cautious and conservative elements. Others called for a massive campaign to develop a united effort with the support of the entire District 65 forces--an effort to force the New York City government

to take action against price inflation in areas such as food, rent, public transportation, etc. This goal was projected in addition to a firm struggle for the demand with the bosses under 65 contract, and got measurable support from the union members.

Many 65 contracts, as in the Direct Mail shops contract with the Employers Association, run until 1968. In the Direct Mail contract negotiated last spring, the cost of living adjustment demand was struck out of the body of demands by the union negotiators as a concession. Some members of the "members negotiating committee" fought against this at the time. Now, union leaders shrug off their 'concession' with a 'let bygones be bygones' attitude.

struggle

The existence of these contracts that run for a length of time should not be a bar to the workers taking steps to get enough to keep with the price spiral. The stand of President Livingston and the other union leaders must be taken seriously which means struggle now and not waiting until '68. To the extent the 65 ranks move ahead with the demand for cost of living clause, they must expect to get involved in a lot of "wildcat" type of action including slowdowns, temporary slowdowns, temporary stoppages and all out strikes. The immediate aim of these actions should be the demand to reopen the contract in the area of the cost of living adjustment clause.

The union ranks will need to keep in mind in the coming period President Livingston's sell-out on the cost of living clause during the last negotiations. There is a great big question mark

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WHAT FUTURE FOR THEM WITH 32% OF MINORITY YOUTH UNEMPLOYED?

mora, avelo cases

### Two Puerto Rican Youth Refuse To Fight War Of U.S. Imperialism Against Vietnam Peoples

by Vincent Rodriguez

Events in the Puerto Rican community here as well as on the island are swiftly moving to a decisive stage in which all Puerto Ricans will have to stand up and be counted.

Two Puerto Rican youths, one from the island and one from the continent, have risen and thrown down the gauntlet to the Wall Street oppressors of their people both here and in Puerto Rico. Dennis Mora, college educated G.I. of Puerto Rican extraction, has defied the US government in refusing to serve in the Vietnam war calling it immoral and identifying it with the oppression of the Puerto Rican people in the ghettos of U.S. cities. For this act of unspeakable heroism he has been sentenced to three years imprisonment. In Puerto Rico another brave youth, Sixto Avelo has refused to take the oath of loyalty to the United States

which is necessary for his induction into the U.S. Army.

shaken

Both these courageous acts have profoundly shaken the Puerto Rican bourgeoisie both here and on the island. These lackeys of American big business had just been licking their chops over the deal they had engineered with the help of El Diario here and the great "friend" of Puerto Rican people, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, in getting the good Reverend to sponsor a special bill exempting Puerto Rico from the Minimum Wage law. The arguments of Powell, Puerto Rican business leaders and of course, El Diario, was that if workers in Puerto Rico had to receive a minimum wage this would destroy the booming economy of the island because many American business interests would withdraw their investments.

Congress passed the Powell bill quickly without protests here or in PR.

The challenge of Sixto Avelo however, is another story. His bold and moving statement that he owes loyalty only to his country, Puerto Rico, has so embarrassed the Puerto Rican government that rather than prosecute the youth, the Attorney General has filed the case in the hope that it will be forgotten. However this is not to be the case. Before the dropping of the case a Committee for the Defense of Sixto Avelo had been formed and now the committee has proclaimed that it intends to stay in business to defend the right of any other Puerto Ricans not to be inducted and take an oath of loyalty to the US government.

Doctor Fernandez de Lewis, the chairman of the committee, proclaims the function of the committee: "We  
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# LABOR SCOPE

by Dan Fried

## ELECTRICAL SPARKS

All indications are that there will be plenty of static and more than a few sparks generated in the conflict between the International Union of Electrical Workers and the electrical industry partners in oligopoly-- General Electric and Westinghouse. The union's contract with G. E. expires Oct. 3 and runs until Oct. 15 at Westinghouse.

Advance notice of the threatened fireworks was given last May when G. E. broke off negotiations because the union insisted that representatives of 7 other unions whose members work for G. E. be on the joint bargaining committee. It was clear then as it was once more made clear at the recent I. U. E. convention that the coordinated bargaining approach was the union's answer to the companies' repeated divide and rule practice of setting one union against another, settling with one and then pressuring I. U. E. to accept a similar settlement.

In response to the action of G. E., the union obtained a temporary injunction through the N. L. R. B. and a federal judge which required G. E. to resume negotiations. Just recently, this injunction was overturned by the U. S. Court of Appeals on grounds that the N. L. R. B. had not first ruled that G. E. was guilty of "unfair labor practices" before making application for the injunction -- and so, things were back to the status of last May with the contract expiration date less than a month off.

Meanwhile, at the I. U. E. convention in Florida, a declaration was made that the union would resume negotiations with a "committee of our own choosing." Undoubtedly G. E. will refuse to negotiate with such a committee and in any event G. E. has shown no sign of budging from what the union describes as putting forward

a take-it-or-leave-it type offer.

As in the airline strike, the issue of the cost of living escalator clause may be a key point of dispute. It is significant that the I. U. E. suffered a big setback when it was unable to renew the escalator clause in its last contract negotiations with G. E., following a long strike. The rank and file, who face sharp increases in the price of consumer goods will of necessity be more aggressive in fighting for the escalator clause, however the leadership tries to compromise things.

## NY POST NEXT?

The movement toward monopolization in the U. S. communications industry advanced several notches when after more than 4 months of a strike which had shut down the newly merged World-Journal-Tribune, the company announced the cancellation of the projected continuation of the morning Herald-Tribune. This action was the prelude to a relatively rapid signing of agreements with those unions that had yet to sign a contract with the company. New York City is now left with two very large morning dailies, one small evening daily -- the New York Post -- and the immense World Journal, also appearing on an afternoon basis. Obviously, the new company did not need the morning Trib, from a business-competitive point of view. Thus, its demise, and with it the loss of 800 additional jobs (an estimated 1200 jobs had already been eliminated as a result of the merger). It is reasonable to conclude, as union spokesmen have charged, that the WJT never planned to publish the Trib at all, but kept up the pretense in order not to weaken its position in bargaining with the unions. It is also reasonable to conclude that this company, part of a giant cartel which has interests in radio-TV, wire services, book publishing as well as the other newspapers of the

"Hearst Empire", is aiming to buy out, merge, or otherwise eliminate the New York Post from the field -- and with it, more jobs.

## NO PARCELS

A dispute over the firing of an employee by the United Parcel Service Corporation in New York City has escalated into a major wildcat led by shop stewards of Teamster Local 804, thereby shutting down the entire operations of the company which has a franchise of the deliveries for almost all the department stores in the New York Metropolitan area. In all, 3,700 employees are out as a result of the strike. After the strike was about 10 days old, the company sued 4 leaders both from the local and from the international union (Hoffa was included) for \$10 million in strike damages because they had failed to prevent the work stoppage -- undoubtedly to their own dismay they had no way of preventing it, or they would have. If not displaying hostility toward the strike, these leaders have certainly expressed not the slightest support for it.

The strike has become an important test of strength between an immense trucking firm and a very militant union membership.

## CANADIAN CONFLICT

Hard on the heels of the Canadian Parliaments' strikebreaking settlement of the Canadian Railroad Strike, the President of the dissident 22,000 member Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers announced plans for a "work to the rule slowdown". At the same time it was reported that railroad service was sporadic across Canada over the Labor Day weekend because of dissident workers' defiance of the new bill.

Clearly, the Canadian workers, no less than the U. S. workers need political weapons to fight this sort of shackling intervention by the capitalist government.

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## SWP ENDORSES APTHEKER - WHY?

The Socialist Workers Party announced its critical support of Herbert Aptheker for Congress in a front page policy statement in the September 15 issue of the Militant.

The SWP stated: "A significant vote for Herbert Aptheker, the SWP believes, will be a blow to the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties" and that it is supporting Aptheker "as a Communist running independent of, and against, the two capitalist parties."

If Aptheker were running "independent of and against the two capitalist parties" then it would indeed be the duty of working class militants and socialists to support his candidacy despite political disagreements with his platform. The class character of a candidate is determined neither by which class votes for the candidate nor by the label the candidate may place upon himself (in this case "Communist"). The real question, to paraphrase James P. Cannon, is which class the candidate supports in his program, daily policy and practice.

In this case the Militant itself answers this question unequivocally. It states: "He is running on a liberal, and not a socialist, platform" and "his platform in general reads like something slightly to the left of the Americans for Democratic Action."

As far as Aptheker's actions and daily practice are concerned the record is even more damning. The Communist Party, including Aptheker, is tied to work within the Democratic Party. While running independently against a conservative Democrat in one district, the CP is actively plugging for the victory of Democrats, like Ted Weiss, in other districts.

This new policy of the SWP is a major change from its traditional stand. As recently as Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's last campaign, the SWP refused to endorse her because of the CP's support to Democrats -- the same policy as Aptheker's today. Since the Communist Party has not changed in the interim between Flynn's campaign and Aptheker's, we can only assume that this endorsement marks a change in the SWP.

The SWP's endorsement of Aptheker is one more step along the road to class conciliationism. In the past period, when the central need in the Southern Negro struggle was to expose the role of the Federal Government and raise the need for self-defense, the SWP called for U. S. troops to "enforce" civil rights in the South. When President Kennedy, the foremost imperialist leader of our times, was assassinated the SWP quickly sent his widow its "condolences" (Why not Verwoerd's widow, Farrell Dobbs?) and declared for "orderly processes." Today, when it is the responsibility of revolutionaries to support the victory of the National Liberation Front in Vietnam, the SWP limits its slogans in demonstrations to the single demand of "Bring the Troops Home Now."

The recent evolution of the SWP has fully confirmed the position of the International Committee of the Fourth International. Once the Marxist method is abandoned and revisionism is embraced internationally, then conciliationism with one's bourgeoisie is inevitable.

## DISTRICT 65

(Continued from page 1) over how far Livingston will go in the fight for the members' just demands. Much depends on the militancy of the rank and file in the union.

Livingston has been very forthright in his condemnation of both the Democrats and Republicans attacking them for doing nothing to fight inflation while the bosses profit from the criminal war in Vietnam. But when at the September council meeting a member raised the need for labor to build its own party, a party

capable of struggling politically the way the union struggles on the economic front, Livingston was visibly unhappy.

## goals

The major goals of all unions in this period must be a renewed militant struggle for cost of living adjustments regardless of contracts combined with a struggle to build a serious political alternative to the two parties which support the war profiteering bosses while the workers' living standards fall.

## PUERTO RICAN YOUTH

(Continued from page 1)

will defend the right of Puerto Ricans not to be forced to serve in any war whatever in a foreign army."

## loyalty

The questions which the committee and its backers are asking is what will the government do when hundreds of Puerto Rican youths are called up for induction and take the same stand as Avèlo. Will the government force them to serve without an oath of loyalty, which of course, makes them mercenaries, not sol-

diers? Can the U. S. government afford to fill Puerto Rican jails with youths who refuse to take an oath of loyalty to the U. S. government?

In any case militant youths have already taken the initiative and reports are coming in showing marches calling on Puerto Ricans not to fight for any country but Puerto Rico.

## stand up

Thus the youth both here and on the island are moving slowly but surely to stand up against US imperialism in

its criminal war against the Vietnamese people.

This may be the beginning of a most effective struggle against the imperialist Vietnam war as well as a real beginning of the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for independence. It is a struggle which every Puerto Rican will be drawn into, if he has any feelings for the sufferings of his own people whose lives are every day blighted by slumlords, racketeers, sell-out unions, poor schooling, unemployment, broken homes, vicious police brutality and the despair of ghetto life.

**adventurism now - opportunism later?**

# Red Guard Frenzy Reflects Growing Crisis Within China

by Fred Mueller

The Chinese Revolution removed one quarter of humanity from the orbit of imperialism. Its development is of the most crucial significance to the world working class, and its defense against imperialism is one of the most urgent tasks facing all those who consider themselves revolutionaries. The path of the Chinese Revolution is by no means already charted. The developments surrounding the Red Guard movement signify a tremendous internal crisis facing the revolution, in spite of the confident-sounding pronouncements of the Chinese CP leadership.

There are many unanswered questions about recent events in China. We are of course dependent for information on only bourgeois and official Chinese sources. Lacking much information, we cannot pretend to have all the answers. But we can and must begin to assess the events, first of all putting them into a proper context.

**debt to stalin**

The Chinese CP leadership owes as much to Stalin as do the Soviet revisionists. It has raised many correct points against the policies of Krushchev and of Brezhnev-Kosygin, but only in the sense that Stalin's policy of 1939-1941, for instance, was a reversal of the previous popular front policy. Just as Stalin's apparently opposing strategies had a basic continuity, so does the Chinese policy have a fundamental similarity to the policy of the USSR leadership.

The similarity is based upon a rejection of the perspective of world proletarian revolution in favor of the perspective of socialism in one country. It is this nationalism, in spite of all the rhetoric, which the Chinese continue to share with the Soviet revisionists. It is this which led the Chinese to help in foisting the reactionary Geneva accords upon the Vietnamese revolutionaries; which led the Chinese into alliances with Asian CPs (Japan, Indonesia) which upheld Stalin's stages theory of revolution and absolutely refused to struggle for socialism against the national bourgeoisie (Indonesia) or even its own imperialist bourgeoisie (Japan); and which led the Chinese into outrageous maneuvers with openly reactionary forces like Boumediene in Algeria.

None of these developments can be explained without understanding the basic continuity between Chinese policy and Stalin's policy. While 'revolutionary' rhetoric is put forward, in actual practice the interests of the working class are subordinated to the narrow foreign policy interests of the bureaucracy.

The bureaucracy has learned nothing from history. Just as Stalin's Third Period adventurism led to disaster in Germany, the Chinese have their Germany -- the massacre of perhaps one million communists and militant workers in Indonesia. The Japanese CP is finding it so easy to shift over to a pro-Moscow position because it never really questioned the basis of Moscow's policies. Its alliance with the Chinese was never really a revolutionary alliance and the Chinese never presented a thorough criticism of the basis of revisionism.

**adventurism to opportunism**

It follows that we should not be too surprised if the Chinese leadership itself continued to follow the path laid out by Stalin 30 years ago. If they throw overboard their present adventurism it will be for the kind of opportunism espoused by Stalin from 1935 on. It will not require too much of a turnabout for the Chinese to modify their policies in this way, and some of the most sophisticated bourgeois political advisors may be keeping this in mind.

For the present, however, the CCP continues to defend the 'left' flank of Stalinism. This continues to be the policy both internally and externally. Externally the Chinese have tried to meet their crisis by a policy of ignoring or belittling the serious defeats for the working class in Indonesia and elsewhere. Although they have spoken about 'anti-United States' revolts all over the world, their main orientation has been towards the colonial and semi-colonial countries, and in this sphere, which they artificially separate from the world revolutionary struggle, their policy has been one of seeking deals and maneuvers with the national bourgeoisie.



OFFICIAL CAPTION: LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER IN CHAIRMAN MAO'S WRITINGS.

**vietnamese fight alone**

In addition the Chinese have continued, in practice, to let the Vietnamese fight alone against imperialism. Of course they are correct in accusing the Russians of tacitly cooperating with imperialism. But the fact is that the Chinese have been long on words and very short on deeds. It is not that we advise responding to every imperialist provocation. But the Chinese have not drawn the line anywhere. It is clear that the imperialists already would have had to reconsider and perhaps hold back if the Chinese had indicated more concretely their determination to defend the Vietnamese. Bourgeois commentators as well as policy makers are well aware that the Soviet and Chinese leaderships are simply scoring points against one another on the question of aiding the Vietnamese, while doing very little concretely and thus actually giving the imperialists the green light for escalation of the war.

The extreme caution of the Chinese has been the subject of much comment in the capitalist press. High ranking policy makers have cynically noted the mild reactions of the Chinese to the brazen escalation of the war by the imperialists. We can almost see the glee of the imperialists over the genuine appeasement with which their provocations have been met. One of the tragic ironies of world politics is the contradiction between the myth of the aggressive war-like China which the imperialists seek to build up and the reality of the cautious, nervous China which the same imperialist policy makers base their calculations upon.

The Chinese have allowed the Soviet bureaucrats to get off the hook by refusing to fight for a united defense of the Vietnamese Revolution. The Russians have been able to pose as the more sincere advocates of unity and aid to the Vietnamese. The Chinese have time and again refused to recognize the elementary distinctions between the need to fight revisionism on the political plane and the need to fight for a united front against imperialism's genocidal war in Vietnam. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the Chinese are not serious.

**meaning of red guards**

The internal policy of the CCP is of the same essential character as its foreign policy. It has a dual character at home, much as Stalin's policy did: The Chinese bureaucrats seek to defend the gains of the Revolution, but in their own way. In response to their growing isolation they have adopted more and more of an isolationist and nationalist policy. There are plenty of revolutionary phrases but the policy is the opposite of a revolutionary internationalist policy.

The Chinese do not seek aid through the international revolution, through aid from the workers of the world. Instead they emphasize nationalism and self-sufficiency.

The mobilization of student youth in the Red Guard movement reflects a tremendous internal crisis. Undoubtedly there are right wing and counterrevolutionary elements, in large part spawned by the regime's policies themselves. But there is also undoubtedly tremendous discontent among the workers and peasants who have supported the revolution. The combination of imperialist and revisionist pressure has isolated China and the bureaucracy is unable to show the Chinese people how this isolation can be surmounted.

The mobilization of the Red Guard is thus aimed at both the right and incipient left. This is the contradiction reflected in the behavior of the Red Guard, in their excesses. The smashing of "Western" art, the destruction of all evidence of improvements in the living standards of the masses, all in the name of the 'great proletarian cultural revolution', are completely reactionary moves, and cannot fail to alienate advanced workers all over the world.

By appealing to nationalism, just as Stalin did, the CCP leadership hopes to divert the attention of the masses from their growing problems. At the same time they are warning the masses that austerity will be the rule for the indefinite future and that demands for improvements in living standards are to be regarded as counterrevolutionary. Instead of telling the truth to the workers, that it may be necessary to endure further sacrifices while appealing for aid from the world working class, the bureaucrats turn necessity into a virtue just as Stalin did. Poverty becomes a revolutionary trait, a good in and of itself. Thus the Chinese uphold Puritanism, nationalism and idealism -- and for their own reasons the capitalists would also have us believe that this is a revolutionary policy!

**the only solution**

The only solution for the Chinese Revolution is the construction of an independent revolutionary leadership, and recent events indicate that the struggle in China for such a leadership may be beginning, on the most elementary and least conscious level.

Our criticism of the Chinese leadership in no way implies a weakness in our support to the Chinese workers' state in its struggle for survival. The old Stalinist lie that the Trotskyist criticism of the Stalinist leadership is equivalent to an alliance with imperialism has been exploded by the Sino-Soviet rift. The best way, indeed the only way to defend China in the fullest sense, is to defend it, under its present leadership, unconditionally against imperialism, but also to show how the present leadership plays into the hands of the imperialists and drastically weakens the Chinese people in their struggle for socialism.

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## clear view from clear lake?

## SDS Searches for 'New Ideology' to Combat Old Left's 'Ideological Invasion'

by Bob Johnson

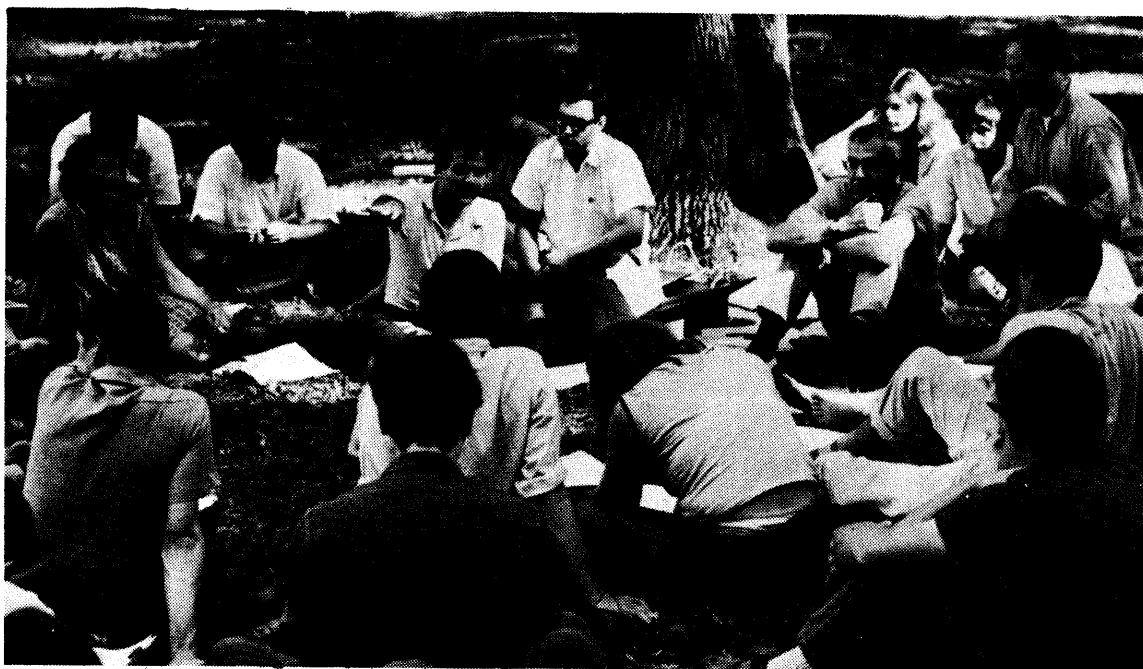
CLEAR LAKE, IA. -- At the convention of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) here, the need for a strategic perspective, for a political theory of change has become a central issue.

Over the past months SDS has increasingly felt the need for program, for a theory of change in America, more often expressed as the need for "ideology". Members have come to see the need for theory which, for example, relates their local community organizing projects to the broader questions of political change in America as well as the theory which relates the goal, partially undefined as yet, of a "democratic society" to today's struggles.

This was first articulated to the convention body by retiring president, Carl Oglesby, on the third day of the convention. Briefly, Oglesby saw "Old Left" elements in SDS as part of an "ideological invasion" against which SDS has not been able to defend itself because of its state of theoretical crisis or chaos. To defend itself against this ideological invasion, this "reasoning coming from Europe", SDS must develop its own ideology, its own political theory of change.

Members' "intuition" tells them that this ideology for the "new radicalism" will be different and can only come from the "New Left", that is from the experiences of SDS and SNCC.

Lack of space prevents us from exploring the full implications of this, especially



SDS MEMBERS DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION AT CONVENTION.

by putting it in the context of the objective development of SDS. Let our comments be construed as part of a dialogue with SDS which it has expressed a desire to carry on with others "on the left".

**theory**

The need for theory is felt. For whatever reasons SDS embarks upon serious political discussion, whether to protect itself from "invading" Communist or to carry forward their political work we are happy to see the process started.

Of course, there is something of a SDS ideology, certain underlying assumptions holding the group together as a community of alienated student radicals. However, there is no common political perspective unifying and guiding SDS. To the degree

SDS grows politically, studies and works to develop a political theory of change, to that degree the bonds holding SDS together will loosen.

**growth**

Thus far, SDS has grown rapidly in local areas. Local projects have local perspectives. There is always the attempt to broaden the local perspective, but without a national perspective this has been difficult. SDS has projected a hodge-podge of activity. It has been try this-try that, and while this pragmatic approach to political activity has seen its successes, it also has its limitations. It is over the limitations of local projects, community organizing as well as campus work, that SDS will eventually see most acutely the need for theory.

"Where to go from here?", will be the problem, rather than how to defend itself against Communist "infiltration" within the group.

If SDS does not develop theoretically, and try at every turn to relate its activities to its goals, its tactics to its strategy, it will, no matter how "active" or involved it becomes, play in the long run an "abstentionist" role. Abstentionist in the sense that it accepts today's struggles as they are, rather than trying consciously to change present struggles through its involvement in ever broader and deeper struggles against the system.

**constituencies**

SDS talks of constituencies - areas within which to do work. Thus far it has posed

this in tactical terms. That is, poor white neighborhood -- let's try that; middle class white neighborhood -- try that; working class area, ghetto, campus -- try those. Behind all this is the belief that the degree of alienation from decision making processes is the key to social revolution in the U. S., hence SDS's fixation on participatory democracy. However, for all the meaning SDS ascribes to "democracy" the term has no content in and of itself. It is a form which power can use. But democratic or undemocratic the basic nature of power, of class power, is the same. Just as the ruling class in America did not come to power by forms like democracy, but rather by the substance of its class position in society wielding economic (real) power, so it will not be overthrown except by forces with real power.

**class**

Marxists thus see the working class as the only social class capable of making the revolution that is coming in America, and political work within the working class not as a tactical alternative but as a strategic necessity.

We do not propose that SDS as a whole get jobs in factories. What we do propose is that SDS seriously study theory. We believe that SDS, if it is to have any role in changing America must relate itself to the working class struggles of today and tomorrow.

## JOHNSON'S GREAT SOCIETY

(Continued from page 1) comes of factory workers has actually been falling in this period and this has contributed greatly to the current upsurge in labor militancy. Even more damning to the "Great Society" program is the fact that in a period when the economy is at the boiling point, government unemployment figures (which are very much underestimated) remain at 4% while the figures for Negro unemployed are double this and growing. Negro youth unemployment reaches the astronomical figure of 25%. Johnson has achieved the worst of both

worlds, soaring inflation and continued unemployment.

**dilemma**

This then is the dilemma facing Johnson. How to maintain "prosperity" while coping with the deepening indications of recession and runaway inflation. Johnson constantly speaks of prosperity and the need for labor to restrain its demands in order to assure well being. Now, when the working man thinks of prosperity, he means a period in which he can supply himself and his family with an adequate amount of consumer goods. That is to say -- a period of higher wages and low prices.

What is Johnson's program? He speaks of the necessity to raise taxes and hold down wages in order to insure prosperity. A strange contradiction. Johnson's prosperity and ours must be different. And of course they are. His concern is not with the well being of the working people.

When he talks of prosperity he means higher profits. His main concern is to insure continued dividends to the bosses and in order to do this he fully intends to solve their financial crisis by scraping the money off

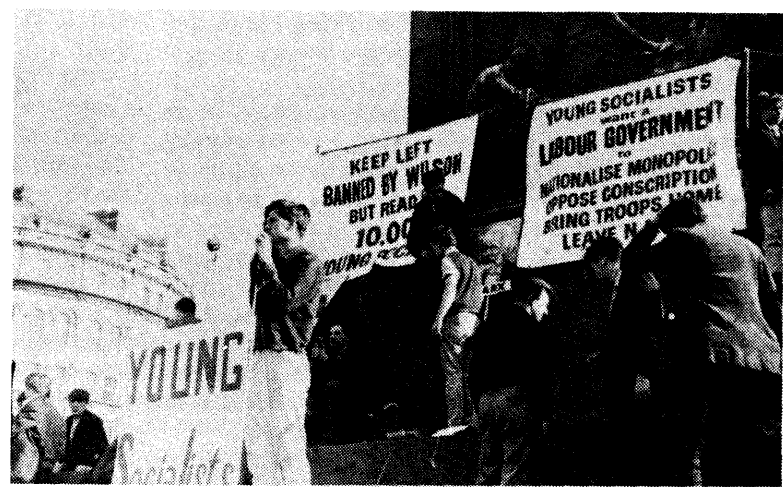
our backs with a major tax increase after the congressional elections. We can be assured that the lion's share of the money needed by the government will come from the working people and from an increasing attack on wages and working conditions.

**too much**

There we have it. In a period in which inflationary prices are outstripping wages Johnson tells us that the problem is that we have too much money and that the solution is to take away a chunk of it. Other proposals for increased "prosperity" include major slashing of "Great Society" poverty programs and welfare measures.

The money raised from taxation and "saving" will find its way right into the pockets of the big corporations through increased appropriations for the Vietnam war. This is Johnson's program and in the long run it means increasing confrontation with the working class and the trade union movement who can have no interest in such a program.

The Johnson program means more than simply a confrontation with American workers. The U.S. government is preparing to



U.S. YOUTH WILL BATTLE LIKE BRITISH YOUTH NOW

take on the working class of the entire world. The international position of the dollar is threatened. The amount of dollars in foreign hands far exceeds the gold reserves the U.S. has to back them up. A continual drain of dollars can lead to a situation in which dollars are turned in for gold with a major crisis ensuing.

Efforts to hold back the flow of dollars will mean increased deprivation for millions in the underdeveloped countries. Johnson's answer to their protests is obvious in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and in the wave of military coups in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It is obvious that American workers with their

brothers abroad have every interest in fighting such a program. The increasing militancy of the unions as evidenced by growing strikes (particularly wildcat strikes), the demand for a cost of living escalation clause and the great difficulty experienced by the old union bureaucracies in containing rank and file unrest are signs of the big change taking place.

**militancy**

It is the task of socialists here to deepen this struggle by fighting for a sharp break from the capitalist program of the Democratic and Republican parties and the creation of a labor party to fight for a worker's program as a real alternative.

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