ideology at clear lake

Ed Richer
St. Cloud State College

The 1966 SDS convention delegates arrived in Clear Lake with a consensus that combined a studied, dumb affirmation of "organizing" at a local level with an equally calculated dumb rejection of "national programs." All in all, it was a gentle triumph of the declaratorial campus.

Dumbness aside, none of this made me unhappy. I suspect that most of those who went away imagining themselves "losers" or imagining SDS in trouble were people too impatient to make an analysis of where the "winners" were at or they were people victims of an old and saintly superstition of the Left.

That saintly superstition amounts to this: "searchlight" strategy is an immature stage of revolutionary development that at best is merely a promise of better things to come. The assumption is that a terrorist or decentralist approach will work well, but if he can produce an ideology it is only a scholar designed to chase away serious ideologies. Unfortunately, leaders of the Left can confront and articulate definately where they had come to intellectualization. The large telephone bill necessitated by the Convention issues of New Left Notes will no longer represent debts incurred for the Convention. The 1966 SDS printing press is one of the national SDS printing presses which turn out the bulletin and pamphlets distributed to chapters and members across the nation. This particular press was in the process of reprinting the Port Huron Statement to fill the tremendous number of requests for copies of this important document.

The press now stands idle. There is no paper to print on and no money to buy paper with. The press operator is very hungry. He hasn't been paid his subs/salary wage or any ink. And no money to buy more. The saving runs over $2,400 at a commercial shop but for the Convention issues of New Left Notes will no longer be published, the literature which we need so badly will not be printed and the National Office will not remain open.

Have you tried to call the National Office lately? We hope you will be able to. As of Friday our outward telephone service was temporarily disconnected, so we are not able to call you. Unless we receive your financial support in the near future, you will not be able to call us either.

Before the National Convention, Roy Dahlberg, convention coordinator, insisted that we needed at least $3000 to cover the secondary expenses (printing, travel, and extra telephomes) from which the Convention was supported. That money was not forthcoming. At the time of the Convention, the National Office had $4,300 in outstanding bills. Of that amount, $1,200 represents debts incurred before June 15. If you recall the financial information given by this office in late June, you will remember that we then owed $4,700 in back debts. This means that we were able to liquidate $1,400 of those debts during the summer—thanks largely to your response to the June appeal. The $2,300 remaining must be paid off before the convention.

The additional $1,200 represents our debts for the Convention issues of New Left Notes $500 plus the larger bills are being? tolerated by the Convention.

Unfortunately, if the financial obligations of your organization are not to be taken seriously, New Left Notes will no longer be printed.
FIRST PLENARY SESSION

The first session of the Plenary was held on the morning of August 31st. It was chaired by Steve Max of New York City. A broad discussion took place on the proposed agenda submitted by the Steering Committee. The proposed agenda was adopted, with one amendment that the delegates would have two votes each and all members of the Steering Committee would have three votes.

At the end of the meeting, Steve Max announced that the Steering Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Berkowitz, will cull out items of importance for immediate publication. There is a plan to print 20,000 copies of the proceedings, as a means of raising funds to pay debts, which are up to $2000. There is also a possibility of obtaining their mailing list in return for supplying them with an SDS chapter list so they can approach local chapters and faculty about bulk orders for campus distribution. SDS chapter lists are available on a subscription basis.

Minnie Berkowitz proposed a motion that we approach the NAC members present: Silbar, Calvert, Condit, Catherine, Adams. Alternate: Berkowitz. NAC members present: Silbar, Calvert, Condit, Adams. Alternate: Berkowitz. The motion was seconded (within the office on coordinating campus travel), and was adopted. It was decided to hold a meeting in the afternoons of SD chapter travel and in the evenings of the convention to discuss the problems of the working people in various countries, and the need for the students of the world to become organized. We propose to set up a national office in Ann Arbor, Michigan (REP is in the process of printing 20,000 copies of the proceedings) and we will publish the book of the convention with the money raised from the sale of the proceedings.
NEW LEFT NOTES

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September 16, 1966

JOIN - Chicago

Alternates (tie):
Berkowits

Alternates (tie):

While it is the nation that makes war in

new program. Nothing will guarantee such

Again the American government of Atlanta and its police force

Committee in Atlanta in the wake of recent
disturbances there. Once again an American
city has been the scene of riots touched off
by a government that does not tolerate nonviolent civil rights
activities. The mounting tempo of repressive measures.

And 9 in Kansas City Mo. Interested

condit Amendment: The evening of September 1st was devoted
to the question of how long SDS should remain the same. A number
of people argued that the national organization should be dissolved
and a new organization started. But a larger majority felt that SDS
should continue as an organization, despite its difficulties.

Students for a Democratic Society
Nickelson - President; Greg Calvert, national
secretary.

National Office: 1608 W. Madison, Rm. 206, Chicago, Ill., 60612 (312) 666-3874
Northern California: 924 Howard St., San Francisco, Calif. (415) 362-7922
Southern California: 1347-151st St., Santa Monica, Calif. (310) 396-1192
New England: 1927 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. (617) 547-5457
Northwestern Region: 500 20th St., Denver, Col. (303) 864-4449

IDEOLOGY (cont.)

While it is the nation that makes war in

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and representatives to other organizations,
marking the end of an era of historical repression and with the
spectacle charges in Atlanta are evidence of

the logic of de-colonization within America

The Midwest Region is holding a conference on Social Change October 8 and 9 in Kansas City Mo.
interested: Ike Epstein, 116 E. 117, Korean City, Mo; or Bill Hart-
 sprenger, 725 Chandler; Topeka, Kansas.

While it is the nation that makes war in

and representatives to other organizations,
marking the end of an era of historical repression and with the
spectacle charges in Atlanta are evidence of

America as a nation is widely acknowledged as a "national power" literally worth only the

A developing pattern of political repression
towards an empirical feel for what is needed
inside the party. But who are the people who are affected by this repression?

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