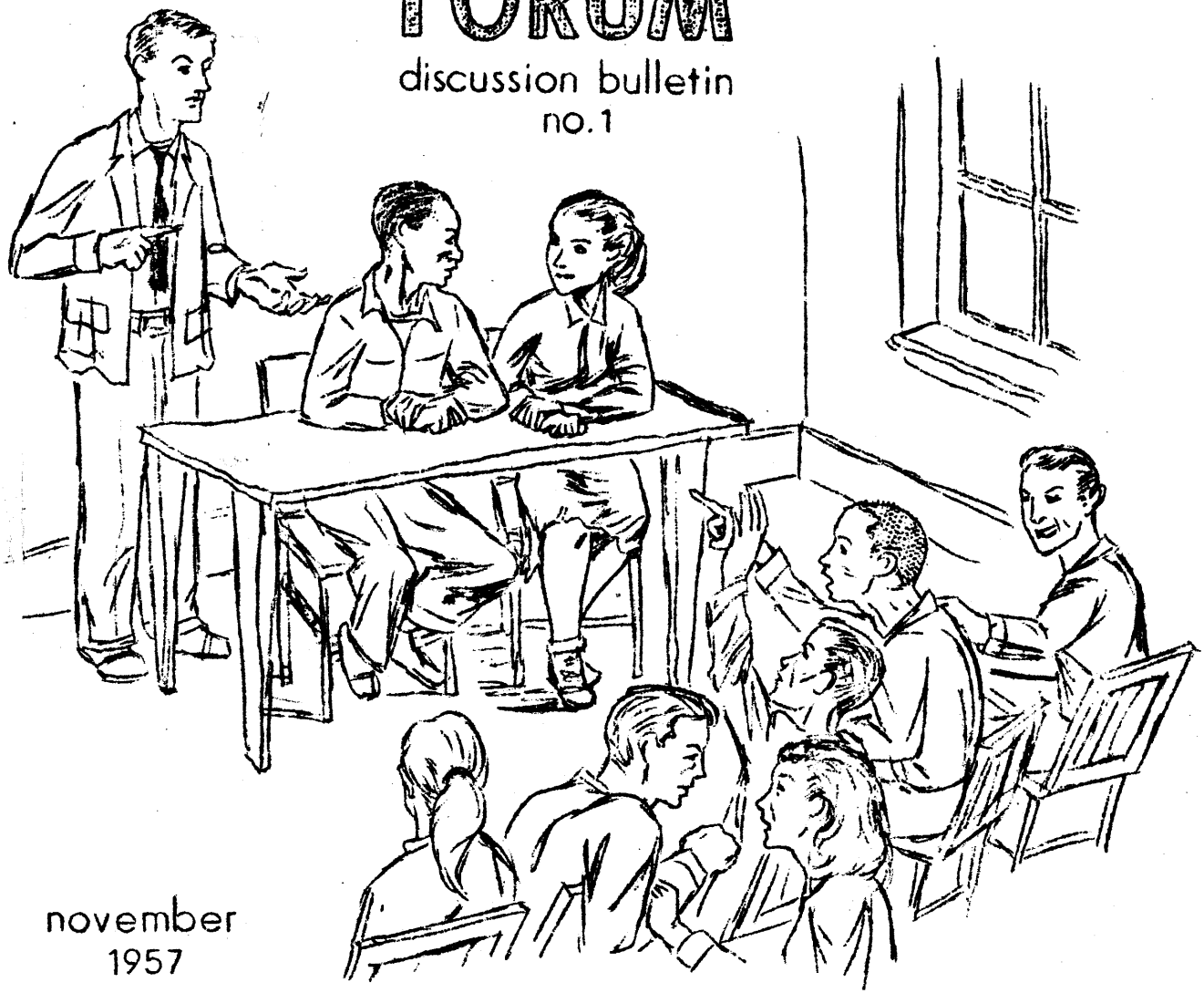


THE YOUNG SOCIALIST FORUM

discussion bulletin
no. 1



november
1957

CONTENTS

Perspectives for a militant youth movement- Tim Wohlforth.....	page	1
Proposed preamble for the YSF- Richard DeHaan.....	page	4
Three letters concerning a Detroit Negro Candidate.....	page	7
Detroit: Program and Constitution of the YSC.....	page	11
New York: Constitution of the Young Socialist Alliance.....	page	16
Wisconsin: Constitution of the Wisconsin Socialist Club.....	page	18
Philadelphia: Contribution to the discussion for a program of our youth group.....	page	20
Preamble and Constitution of the Young Socialist Club...	page	23
Chicago: Draft Constitution of the Socialist Youth Committee.....	page	25
Twin Cities Youth.....	page	27
Los Angeles: Draft statement of purpose.....	page	28
Founding meeting call.....	page	29

THE PERSPECTIVES FOR A MILITANT YOUTH MOVEMENT

by Tim Wohlforth,
Managing Editor, YOUNG SOCIALIST

This month marks the anniversary of two great events -- the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Both events have many characteristics in common, not the least important being the effect each revolution has had on the radical movement.

The 1917 revolution, signifying for the first time in history, the coming to power of the working class, caused tremendous tumult in every radical movement throughout the world. The end result was the regrouping of revolutionary socialists from different traditions in the new 3rd International. In this country the new Communist Party brought together the left wing of the SP, itself a heterogeneous grouping, and elements from the IWW and the SLP.

The 1956 Hungarian revolution likewise has shaken the minds of a large part of the socialist-minded workers throughout the world affiliated with the Communist Parties. This had led, in a country like England, to a regroupment of radical forces within the left wing of the Labor Party-- an event that has revitalized that left wing. In the U.S. there exists no major radical party of any significance. However those radical parties and groupings in existence have been affected by these events and their turmoil is reflected in the mushrooming of forums and symposiums throughout the country.

On the whole this is an extremely healthy development and has already advanced the radical movement in a period still marked by isolation and the witch-hunt. The atmosphere of regroupment, of discussion, has added life to the radical movement and has been a real attractive force. We must realize that while we haven't accomplished miracles we have in reality made significant headway in breaking down past prejudices and barriers between tendencies. It was not so long ago when it would have been inconceivable for the Communist Party to be on the same platform with the Socialist Worker's Party or any other Trotskyist group. However last May Day this occurred in New York and the experience has been repeated on many occasions and in many different areas since then.

It is also important to realize that despite the attacks of the Eastland Committee the American-Forum-for Socialist Education has been able to continue. It does not include all socialists, for the social Democratic forces in the Sp-SDF and the YSL-ISL have refused to join it. However virtually all major radical tendencies are participating, and by this signifying the desires of the rank and file members of all groups and the unaffiliated radicals to see discussions among all socialists on a non-exclusion basis.

All this has given hope to many people disillusioned with the events in the Soviet Orbit and helped to prevent them from leaving. Furthermore it has attracted new people, especially among the youth, who see life, controversy and hope in the left.

The concrete results of the regroupment discussion have quite frankly been rather sparse. The older parties have found that their basic political differ-

ences have made it impossible, at least at this time, for them to contemplate merger and no new national formation of any significance has been created on the adult level.

However, among the youth, who are more flexible and have the determination to build a movement despite differences and despite the disillusionment in adult circles, there have been tremendous and highly significant strides forward. This discussion bulletin is illustrative of this. Here we have assembled constitutions, preambles, and articles from around the country—from New York, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. There are the fruit of the formation of broad and independent youth groups in all these cities which have from the beginning contained almost all the militant young people in the area. They are not exclusive little groupings which have set up barriers to the entrance of one tendency or the other. These are clubs all of which are open to everybody and which collectively contain about every political persuasion in existence. These clubs contain former or present members of the Labor Youth League, Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Young People's Socialist League (SP-SDF), Fellowship of Reconciliation, Young Socialist League, Libertarian Socialist Committee, American Socialist Clubs, National Guardian clubs, etc.

In addition, a group of us connected with these clubs and instrumental in their formation have launched a nationwide youth paper—the Young Socialist. So far with just one issue out and another about ready to roll off the presses I must state that the response has been beyond our most optimistic expectations. We have received subscriptions and favorable comments from every corner of the country, from Canada, England, and Puerto Rico. The Colorado Daily, at the University of Colorado, devoted a front page spread to our paper. The Daily Bruin at UCLA, which is in the hands of right-wing elements, launched an attack on the paper for representing the 'enemy'—socialism—on the campus. Their fear of us is a sign of the impact of our ideas on the campus.

The paper hopes that all these local clubs will support it. Its editorial board is composed of diverse elements, including supporters of the American Socialist, National Guardian, Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist League (left wing) and its writers represent an even broader array of opinion. Our pages are open to all socialists and we will do our utmost to promote the formation of broad, militant and independent youth movement in this country.

I think that the present success of these broad clubs gives us verification in life of the way in which to rebuild the socialist youth movement in this country. When I was in the YSL the right wing opposed the formation of such clubs. They insisted that the only way a youth movement could be built was through the SP-SDF and its youth affiliate, the Young People's Socialist League.

We left-wingers pointed out that the YPSL today has hardly 20 members nationally and that the SP-SDF is likewise moribund. In addition the YPSL was under the domination of the right wing of the SP-SDF which would not allow other tendencies to join. It had done its best to prevent the formation of the American Forum and has taken a hostile attitude towards the entire regroupment picture.

However, in New York, we left-wingers in the YSL joined with the SWP youth, American Socialist supporters and other young people to hold forums and test out

in life whether or not there was attractive power in a broad and independent formation. The YSL right wing refused, of course, to sanction the venture or to participate in it. However this did not prevent the Forum from becoming the biggest thing on the New York youth scene, attracting up to 100 youth to each of its weekly meetings in the middle of a hot summer. As a result of this the YSL suspended me from membership and thus forced out the entire left wing. This action did little to promote unity among radical youth or to negate the fact that our ideas about the attractiveness of a broad, militant and independent youth movement have been vindicated.

However, we still have a long way to go to become a nationwide militant youth movement. We must develop cooperation among members of all these clubs nationally, aimed at finding the political basis for building a united national movement. Local formations can function effectively in the meantime but only a united national movement can really be effective in bringing the ideas of socialism to America's youth.

We have a duty as socialists to reach out to new areas outside the reach of our local groups. We must send organizers out to every campus and to every major town in this country and begin to build. The opportunities are beginning to open up and we must seize them. For every local club now operating there are ten new areas where clubs can be built now. Only the united effort of all radical youth in a militant national youth movement can perform that task. If we can do it then we will be laying the basis for a revitalized socialist movement in this country.

In the meantime the Young Socialist will do its utmost to assist in whatever way possible each local club, to further discussion among these clubs, and to reach out with the ideas of socialism to new areas. We hope that this new discussion bulletin, which is open to all who wish to discuss any subject, will be of some service in this process.

#####

THE YOUNG SOCIALIST FORUM
A discussion bulletin for socialist youth

Vol. 1, No. 1

November, 1957

15¢

This bulletin is published by the editors of the YOUNG SOCIALIST as a public service, and is open to all socialist-minded youth, whatever their views.

All inquiries, letters and contributions should be sent to THE YOUNG SOCIALIST FORUM, 218 7th Ave., New York 11, New York.

#####

For the first time in the history of Detroit, a Negro was elected to the Common Council. William T. Patrick, Jr., a Negro candidate, was elected to the Detroit Common Council on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1957.

A Draft by Richard DeHaan of a Proposed Preamble or Statement of Principles
for the YSF

We live in a world of injustice, plagued by militarism, poverty, insecurity, imperialism, exploitation and authoritarianism. Man's inhumanity to man, wars and depressions, become increasingly frequent and increasingly destructive. Yet in the midst of degradation, we experience a swelling revolt against degradation. The world is undergoing the most complete revolution in history. All of Europe stands at the doorway to socialism. From the Ganges to the Nile, workers and peasants who have been oppressed by poverty, disease and tyranny for thousands of years are suddenly striking out for freedom. Independence movements rage through Asia and Africa. Capitalism and imperialism are in retreat where they have not already been overthrown. Both the Soviet Union and the United States belong in a fundamental sense to the past against which these people are rebelling.

The U.S. has alternately ignored the world revolution and sought to thwart it, supporting those governments and groups which could maintain the status quo, act as a bulwark against Communism and aid the military containment of Communism. The U.S. cannot support the revolutionary movements, partly because it is so intimately involved in the political-economic pattern of imperialism, and partly because it dare not risk freeing a nation lest it take an independent course in the Cold War. The domestic as well as the foreign policies of this nation force us to the conclusion that the longer men support the "American Camp", the more certain the prospect of war, the more inevitable the prospect of the garrison state.

Nor can we look to the heavily armed bloc of Russian totalitarianism and the regimes which it inaugurates in various countries as instruments to abolish war, end oppression and terror, and build a true community of free men. Communism has indeed recognized the significance of the great popular revolution, which largely accounts for its spread in recent years and still gives it a formidable appeal to multitudes of people, especially in the technologically backward and exploited lands. But Russian Communism has a history of the brutal establishment of totalitarian regimes wherever it has come to power, a regimenting of the masses into huge war machines in place of the peace which it professes. Thus Communism betrays the popular revolutions and in its own way is clearly a part of the undemocratic imperialist past rather than of the free society of the future.

As youth, we are particularly affected by these evils, and uniquely involved in the struggle against them. Not only are we obliged to fight the wars, but we are directly affected by the onslaughts on civil liberties and academic freedom which inevitably accompany them. As wage workers we are beset by exploitation and class struggle in their most fundamental forms. Our stake in the future is menaced by the forces of authoritarianism and totalitarianism.

The newest, and one of the most important factors of the revolutionary situation in which we find ourselves is the disintegration of the Russian Communist, or "Stalinist," regime. Beginning with the "June Days" in East Berlin and Czechoslovakia, this ferment spread throughout the Communist world in the period following Stalin's death. The Twentieth Party Congress, with its Khrushchev "revelations," gave the impetus to the heroic risings of the Hungarian and Polish workers against Stalinist tyranny. Dissident Communists and Socialists in virtually every country of the world have begun to re-examine their history in terms of true

socialist and Marxist ideals. Among the conclusions which have already come from this process are the following:

1. Stalinism has built up a rigid theology which is incompatible with the critical spirit of Marxism. Outmoded conceptions and facile apologies for raison d'etat must be replaced by truly socialist and humanist ideals applied to present society.

2. Socialism denotes far more than an economic system. Economic and social progress have moral value to the extent that they serve the liberation and development of the human personality. Technology must be the servant and not the master of the human race. Irrational support of technological efficiency for its own sake, of the centralization of power entailing the growth of bureaucracy and statism which necessarily accompany such a policy, violates the very essentials of democracy and destroys the possibility of a self-governing society of autonomous men.

3. There is a necessary and intimate relation between socialism and democracy. Real freedom can come only with socialism, but socialism can never come without real freedom; on the contrary, it realizes and completes them. These freedoms -- as expressed, for example, in the American Bill of Rights -- are a very precondition of socialism, which is democracy in its highest form. It is therefore necessary to insist on the unqualified defense of these rights at all times and in all places.

4. Because socialism is properly democratic, it demands a personal contribution from its followers. Unlike totalitarianism, it does not impose a passive role on the people. On the contrary, it cannot succeed without the thoroughgoing and active participation of the people.

5. Because socialism is democratic, no socialist party, sect or individual can claim a monopoly on the truth. The transition to socialism is an objective historical process, and only society itself is entitled to take responsibility for it. Democratic socialism denotes both the sort of society which we hope to achieve and the mode of thought and action by which we hope to achieve it.

Socialists see a major cause of the evils described above in the class structure of the U.S., the U.S.S.R. and wherever the many are dominated by the few. In place of these exploitative systems we desire the establishment of a socialist society in which the industry and resources of the world will be used, directed and controlled by all who work with hand and brain, for the benefit of all.

As young socialists finding ourselves in the revolutionary situation described above, we have come to the conclusion that the immediate need is for a broad education and action organization basing itself on these principles of the contemporary revolutionary struggle. While relying on our socialist traditions, we shall at the same time orient ourselves toward the awakening which is taking place within the Communist movement. To this end have gathered adherents of several leftist tendencies and groups, many independent socialists and young people who have not yet made a definite commitment to socialism. We ally ourselves with the truly socialist dissident elements in the Communist Parties throughout the world. In order to unite for socialism, we groups and individuals of varying convictions who are in agreement on these fundamental principles have formed the Young Socialist Forum.

As a first principle of such a broad organization, we oppose the tendency -- commonly called "sectarianism" -- towards the elaboration of complete and perfect programs. This results in all departures therefrom being labelled counter-revolutionary errors, and leads to the splintering of the socialist movement by refinements of these verbal formulations. It further results in an aversion to co-operation with other radicals and to the immediately attainable.

To implement its broad objectives and its discouragement of sectarianism, the YSF requires no member to sever his affiliation with other bodies, and affirms that it shall not attempt to regulate his activities in other organizations. In exchange for their tolerance of being thus compromised, the members of the YSF have the right to expect good faith from their comrades. While a member of, for example, the Communist Party or the Democratic Party would be welcome to join the YSF, he could do so only with a moral commitment to its fundamental principles, and thus with the clear understanding that he is acting in a fundamentally deviationist and dissident role vis-a-vis his own party as presently constituted.

While membership and participation in our movement must be voluntary and in some sense spontaneous, it must yet be with a feeling of responsibility for the group sufficient to voluntarily subordinate personal likes and dislikes to the needs of organization adequate for the coordination of the group's activities. This commitment is defined as follows: When decisions have been reached following full democratic discussion -- including the freedom of minority organization and internal publication --, the position of the majority shall determine the policy of the group. Individual members and factions retain, however, the right to express differing opinions publicly, provided only that they make clear in doing so that theirs are personal or minority opinions not representing the policy of the YSF. It is the understanding of the founding members, furthermore, that, in deference to the broad nature of the group, action will seldom if ever be undertaken to which there is substantial minority opposition.

Proceeding from this minimal program, we hope to achieve a new unity of young people committed to the realization of socialism in our time, a movement which avoids the twin pitfalls of Stalinist totalitarianism and liberal acquiescence in things as they are, a mass movement of youth which will be, for the first time in the history of this country, truly catholic, militant and socialist.

The following three letters are exchanges concerning the candidacy of William T. Patrick, Jr., a Negro, to the Detroit Common Council:

September 17, 1957

William T. Patrick, Jr.
214 E. Hancock,
Detroit 1 Michigan

Dear Mr. Patrick:

Throughout the recent primary campaign for common council, members of the Wayne Young Socialist Club have worked vigorously in behalf of your candidacy. Along with a large number of other progressive minded Detroiters, both Negro and white, we young socialists feel that it is high time that the "lily white" monopoly on the Detroit Common Council ended. We offer our heartiest congratulations on your victory at the polls last week.

The real fight, however, is still ahead. As the circulation of racist propaganda before the primary election indicated, the white supremacist elements in Detroit are rallying the forces of bigotry in order to prevent the election of a Negro candidate this fall. If this effort is to be defeated the broadest mobilization of the Negro community and the labor movement is an absolute necessity. The campaign for Negro representation especially must be carried into the white community where the embryonic white citizens councils can be energetically met and defeated on their own ground.

We, of the Young Socialist Club, will continue to do everything in our power to help realize this objective. With Negroes comprising almost one fourth of the population of Detroit it is criminal, to say the least, that not one representative of this minority group occupies a seat in the local government. We feel that this situation must be remedied and remedied immediately.

It should be made clear that our support of your candidacy doesn't imply agreement with all of your expressed views. As socialists we have some serious differences with you on many questions. For example, we feel that your statements about wanting to serve "all of the people" when you take office are not in the best interests of your campaign. A Negro representative on the Common Council can no more serve "all the people" than a union representative can serve both the members of his union and the members of management. We feel that your primary task, if elected, is to speak out boldly in behalf of the Negro people's struggle for full equality and to stand as a bulwark against the forces of racism, including their representatives in the city government. We feel that these interests would be better served if you raised the issues of segregation and discrimination more openly during your campaign. Nothing whatever can come of keeping these vital questions quiet. The anti-Negro groups in Detroit have not, and will not be, quiet.

Despite these criticisms, which are presented in a fraternal spirit, we strongly believe that your campaign represents the needs and desires of the Detroit Negro community and all white people who believe in democracy. We wish you the best of luck in the coming election. Please call on us for any assistance we can give.

Sincerely,
Harriet Talan, Chairman,
Bob Fink, Secretary, YSC

Harriet Talan, Bob Fink

HT/bf

Detroit, Michigan
October 24, 1957

Young Socialist Club of Wayne County
3737 Woodward
Detroit 1, Mich.

Dear Comrades:

In keeping with the deep questioning spirit of our times we, a group of young Communists, feel obliged to criticize, as fraternally as possible, the open letter which you sent to William T. Patrick, Jr., upon his victory at the primaries.

We cannot in all honesty commence with congratulations for good intentions. The intention of the letter is not clear. So let us begin with what sticks us in the eye as a glaring error in political judgement—that is that a Negro on the Common Council cannot serve 'all of the people'. Is it true, as that letter strongly implies, that the relationship between Negroes and whites is of the same nature as the relationship between labor and management?

We contend that there is no analogy between the two relationships. The latter-labor-management—poses against each other the two aspects of the greatest contradiction in capitalist society. If the analogy be valid then the interests of Negroes inherently conflict with the interests of whites. If this is what the Young Socialists mean we wonder why any white Young Socialist would want to vote for a Negro representative—to say nothing of working vigorously in behalf of his candidacy.

But apparently neither logic nor accuracy fence in our Y. S. friends. In the last paragraph of the letter in question an interesting academic distinction is made between the needs of the Detroit Negro community and democracy-believing whites on the one hand and other whites on the other hand. Quoting in part, "...we strongly believe that your campaign represents the needs and desires of the Detroit Negro community and all white people who believe in democracy."

To examine the above distinction let us pose a serious question, fellow socialists. Do racism and non-representative city government serve the best interests, the needs, of that sector of the people which is being misled by racist philosophy? We emphatically contend that they do not. The struggles of the trade union movement have taught many a worker that his fortunes are closely tied to the fortunes of the Negro workers and that Negro-white unity is a social condition necessary to his own well-being. He needs democracy whether or not he thinks so, likes it, fights it, or ignores it.

In view of the objective need for democracy among the workers, in whose hands lies the destiny of society, it is not only possible for a Negro councilman to serve 'all of the people,' but it is also beneficial to his campaign that he express his unqualified desire to do so.

The Young Socialists' criticism of Mr. Patrick's position is erroneous in its content, confused in its presentation, and destructive in its effect. The destructiveness lies in the 'schismism' suggested by the totally erroneous analogy which poses Negro and white as essentially in conflict, and the 'schismism' suggested by the totally erroneous distinction between the needs of the people on the basis (of) their color and political disposition. Both of these erroneous lines of thought are such as to undermine the Negro-white unity among the people and to isolate a Negro candidate from both large sectors of both white and Negro support. To propagate such thinking is morally unbecoming a socialist group, and the Patrick Committee would certainly be ill-advised in ascribing to this particular kind of campaign philosophy.

Negro representation in our city government is a serious matter. Let's endeavor to give it our best in thought and action. It is not enough to go on record as merely having done something, however energetically.

Fraternally,
A Group of Young Communists

Detroit, Michigan
November 3, 1957

An open letter to
"A Group of Young Communists"

Dear Comrades:

Your recent letter to the Young Socialist Club raises some important issues concerning the current Detroit election campaign. As you state, your criticism of the YSC's position in this campaign is "in keeping with the deep questioning spirit of our times." We, for our part, also welcome this opportunity to engage in fraternal discussion with other socialist-minded youth on questions that concern all of us.

In a letter to William T. Patrick, Jr., written shortly after the primary election in September, the Young Socialist Club put forward its view that the overriding issue in this campaign is putting an end to the all-white tradition on the Detroit Common Council. We said then, and it is still our opinion, that this end would be best served if Negro candidates raised this question in a forthright and energetic manner, striving to mobilize the Negro community and its allies in the labor movement, both Negro and white, against Jim Crow in the city government:

We further pointed out that it is wrong to soft pedal this issue by campaigning on the promise to "represent all the people." This slogan simply avoids the real issue of "Negro representation," and lessens the opportunity, as has been shown in the course of the campaign, to effectively raise the related questions of segregated housing and schools, police brutality and general racial discrimination in Detroit.

You think we are wrong in our opinion that a Negro candidate should be an outspoken representative of the Negro community. You take strong exception to our position that such a candidate should not purport to represent "all the people", and you react negatively to our analogy of union representative who tries to represent management as well.

Let us concede that this choice of analogy was a bad one, since it can easily lead to a misunderstanding of what we meant. We still must point out that our society is in no way homogeneous. Not only is there the basic conflict between capital and labor, which you call attention to, but there are a multitude of conflicts, although different in nature, which persist even within these two major classes. That's why there's a "Negro struggle", in addition to, and in many ways separate from, the struggle of the workers against the employers. Can you deny for a moment the reality of this "independent" struggle by the Negroes for equality?

It is nice in the abstract to claim that it is possible for a Negro councilman to serve all the people, since objectively the ultimate needs of both white and Negro workers are the same. But this is merely begging the question. You yourselves call attention to the fact that "Negro representation in our city government is a

serious matter."

We have to ask you, therefore, what do you mean by "Negro representation"? Does it just mean electing someone who is qualified to serve "all the people"? If this is true, then anyone who is qualified, whether Negro or white, can gain "Negro representation." We don't maintain that you hold this position, but your argument could lend itself to such a conclusion. Instead, we submit, Negro representation means precisely the election of a Negro to the common council.

You raise the additional question, in your letter, of Negro-white unity. You explain that the best interests of the white workers is not served by racist philosophy. This is absolutely true. As you point out, the white worker "needs democracy whether or not he thinks so, likes it, fights it, or ignores it." But the fact remains that many white workers still have anti-Negro prejudices. The first task of socialists is to combat these prejudices and to demonstrate to white workers that Jim Crow works against them. How can this be most effectively accomplished?

The racist forces have organized themselves to prevent the Negro people from making any gains on any front. They are conducting an energetic campaign in Detroit right now against the election of any Negro to the city government. Negro candidates should answer this attack, just as energetically, by taking a strong stand on the wrongness of discrimination and inequality and campaigning on this basis.

Not to do this, failing to combat the backwardness and prejudice of many white Detroiters, allowing the false notions of many whites to go unchallenged, would allow the racist propagandists to gain a greater foothold in our city. The purpose of this campaign should not be to cater to these notions, in the hope of possibly slipping a Negro candidate in unnoticed, but to educate people that prejudice against Negroes is bad for whites as well as for Negroes. An all-white common council is wrong for everyone, and whites and Negroes alike should unite to put an end to this wrong.

If Patrick, or any other Negro candidate, can get elected to the common council only by underplaying the fact that he is a Negro, and avoids campaigning against the racists because he feels it will hurt his election, then we will not get the kind of Negro representation we need, nor will we raise the educational level of many of our citizens. Since we don't believe that the working people of Detroit are this backward, we don't feel that this will be the case in the present election.

There is a good chance that a Negro candidate will be elected to the common council. But if this happens, it will be because a sufficient number of Detroit voters, both white and Negro, recognize the justice of a demand for Negro representation, despite the weaknesses of the campaign. If a Negro candidate is not elected to the council it will be a reflection of the failure, both on the part of the Negro candidates and their many white supporters, to raise the real issues of the campaign effectively enough, especially among the white people.

We hope that these ideas are taken the way they are meant. We wish to see Negro representation in Detroit and any criticism we make of the campaign of Negro candidates are solely for the purpose of making these campaigns as effective and as successful as possible.

Let us close by again hailing this opportunity to engage in discussion with fellow socialists on a fruitful and constructive basis. We would like an even broader discussion on all important social and political questions, between all pro-socialist young people, with the idea of unifying and building a militant and independent socialist youth movement in this country. We look forward to hearing from you again in the near future.

Fraternally, the Young Socialist Club-Wayne County

DETROIT - PROGRAM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST CLUB

Young people are told time and time again, "The future belongs to you!" In capitalist society this future holds only the promise of continued war, unemployment and insecurity. To those who have paved the way to this kind of dead-end future we say, "The future does belong to us - the socialist future of peace, well-being and self fulfillment."

Our generation has the opportunity - more, the obligation - to be in the forefront of the struggle to achieve this future. For those eager to grasp this opportunity, the Young Socialist Club offers full liberty of discussion, equality in making decisions and fraternity with youth throughout the country. Our generation has the task of formulating our own program, based on our needs and desires, without unthinkingly imitating our predecessors.

We call on all progressive-minded youth to join with us in promoting the following ideas:

CIVIL RIGHTS

FOR THE IMMEDIATE END OF "JIM CROW" AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION! FULL EQUALITY FOR ALL MINORITY GROUPS!

Time and events have proven that the interests of the majority are best served through the protection of the rights of minorities. We unequivocally support the courageous actions of the Negro people in their efforts to achieve first-class citizenship. We will work with them, inspired by their determination, to gain full access to the ballot box, equal job rights and integrated schools and housing.

We protest, with every means at our disposal, the cowardly attempts of the white-supremacists to resist school integration through terror and intimidation. Special note should be taken of the shameful role played by the federal and state governments, whose actions and decisions give aid and comfort to the racist mobs.

In marked contrast to this situation is the growing number of southern white students who have begun to express public sympathy with the aspirations of the Negro youth for full equality. Here in the North we have the task of mobilizing the widest possible support for this unfolding struggle, on the campuses and in the community.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

FOR THE RE-INSTITUTION OF ALL CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES! AN END TO INTIMIDATION AND WITCH-HUNTS!

We re-iterate the stand taken by the founders of our country. We repeat and insist upon the privilege of all to claim those rights guaranteed by the constitution; freedom of the press, speech, assembly and religion.

On the campuses loyalty oaths and blacklists have forced teachers to play the role of "brain washers." The aim of higher education has become the creation of technicians and unthinking supporters of a rotten and dying society. In the face of a crying need for more scientists, more teachers, more engineers, the demands of the witch-hunt discourage and prevent many students from serving the needs of the community.

We must wage an unceasing battle against every encroachment of the civil liberties of any individual or group. We defend the rights of every victim of witch-hunt persecution. Whether this persecution is directed against members or leaders of labor unions, unpopular political parties, or any other group; whether we agree or disagree with the ideas of the victim, makes no difference. Our basic premise is that a violation of the rights of one is a violation of the rights of all.

FOREIGN POLICY

AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIAL OPPRESSION! FOR THE IMMEDIATE END OF H-BOMB TESTS AND ALL OTHER WAR PREPARATIONS!

Capitalism has reached a point where it must feed on perpetual warfare in order to remain alive. The youth of today were born into a world where economic, military and social catastrophes are day-by-day events. Victims of a world we never made, we can become the makers of a new world.

We say, "We don't want to become cogs in the imperialist war machine. We don't want to police the world and drop H-bombs on defenseless people. We want to discover cures for disease, improve agriculture and build needed schools and homes."

We say, "Every nation has the right to decide its own form of government. Don't use us to crush national independence movements in Asia, Africa and the Middle East."

We say, "Every nation has the right to control its own national resources. Don't use us to protect capitalist investment in Guatemala, Egypt or Europe."

As the mothers and fathers of the coming generations we look with horror on the present uses of atomic energy which threatens to deform or kill our children, grandchildren and many generations to come. We want atoms for peace and prosperity - not for war. Ban all bomb tests now!

For us the struggle for peace begins at home. Our responsibility lies in militant opposition to every action of our own government that threatens to plunge us into another war. In this we have nothing in common with those, calling themselves "socialists" or "social democrats", who give grudging support to the reactionary policies of the American state department as a "lesser evil."

SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY

SOLIDARITY WITH THE DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE!

Our world grows smaller with every atom-bomb explosion. The events in one country vitally affect the welfare of persons thousands of miles away. One world, we live - or die. The needs and desires of the majority of people in this country are echoed throughout the world by people facing the same problems we face. A common aim is increasingly being sought around the world; the strengthening and extension of democracy. As socialists we understand that socialism is inconceivable without the fullest democracy in every sphere of life.

In East Germany, Poland and Hungary the youth have participated in, and even led, the fights to secure working class democracy in those countries. Their actions have been a revelation and an inspiration to young people everywhere. The best encouragement these students and young workers can receive from

us is for the American youth to move into the forefront against social injustice at home.

To the students striking against dictatorships in South America and elsewhere, to the youth of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who are questioning the bureaucratic policies and practices of Stalinism, to young people everywhere who are taking part in the world-wide struggle for democracy, we pledge to do our part here in America. Young students have the task of combatting thought-control on the campus. Young workers have the task of achieving full working class democracy in their unions by the extension of rank and file control of all union affairs.

POLITICAL ACTION

FOR INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL ACTIVITY BY THE WORKING CLASS! FOR A LABOR PARTY AND A LABOR GOVERNMENT!

The crisis of our times can be resolved only by the organized action of the working class and its allies; students, housewives, farmers, the Negro people and other minority groups. Together these groups constitute the overwhelming majority of society. This majority has the right and the responsibility to enter election campaigns in its own name and with its own program. This majority has the right and the power to govern in its own interests. This majority has the right and the ability to create a world of peace and prosperity.

We call on the labor movement to organize itself politically for the task ahead, the socialist transformation of society. We call for the abolition of private control of industry, based on production for profit, and the substitution of social ownership, based on production for use. We call for the conversion of the tools of war into tools of peace. We call for the democratic participation of all the people in every area of society. We are confident that our generation will play the decisive role in bringing about this socialist future.

THE YOUNG SOCIALIST CLUB OF WAYNE COUNTY

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: This organization shall be known as the Young Socialist Club of Wayne County, or, in abbreviated form, the Y.S.C.

Section 2: The purpose of the Y.S.C. shall be to unite young students, workers and members of minority groups who wish to build, and participate in an independent, militant, socialist youth movement. It shall engage in a broad program of political, educational and social activities, bringing socialist ideas to young people in an atmosphere of free and open discussion.

ARTICLE II: OUTSIDE RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1: The Y.S.C. shall be organizationally independent of all "adult" socialist political parties and tendencies. It shall take no action which would

tend to weaken this independence.

Section 2: While retaining its independence, the Y.S.C. may, from time to time, engage in joint projects and activities with other political groups around specific issues when there is sufficient agreement to warrant such collaboration.

Section 3: When undertaking such activity the Y.S.C. shall attempt to broaden the base of this collaboration by demanding the inclusion of many diverse labor and socialist tendencies, rather than limiting it to one or a few.

Section 4: The Y.S.C. may affiliate to, and participate in, any national youth organizations and/or publications, whose objectives are consistent with the views of the club as expressed in this constitution.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in the Y.S.C. is open to all youth, regardless of other affiliation, who are in general agreement with the objectives of the club as stated in this constitution.

Section 2: Membership may be obtained by making application to the executive board of the Y.S.C. and, upon acceptance by the membership, paying dues as outlined in Article VI, Section 1, of this constitution.

Section 3: Membership in the Y.S.C. in no way implies membership in any other socialist organization, although individual members are free to join any such organization of their choice.

Section 4: The right of a member to dissent from any specific decision or action of the Y.S.C. shall be held inviolate. Provisions shall be made for the free public expression of any disagreements which may occur within the Y.S.C. and any member may, at any time, publicly state differences with club policy in a manner consistent with a basic loyalty to the Y.S.C.

Section 5: No member of the Y.S.C. shall be compelled to participate in any action of the club which is in conflict with his/her conscience or political philosophy.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular membership meetings of the Y.S.C. shall be held at least once a month throughout the year. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, the executive board, or upon the request of 10% of the membership.

Section 2: Notification of all meetings shall be given to members at least three days prior to the date of such meeting.

Section 3: A quorum for the conduct of business at meetings shall be 25% of the regular, paid-up membership.

Section 4: All meetings, nominations and elections shall be conducted under the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure.

Section 5: All regular membership meetings are open to non-members of the Y.S.C. Non-members shall have voice at such meetings providing that a request for such privilege is approved by a majority of the regular members present. Non-members shall not be given the right to vote under any circumstances.

Section 6: Special closed meetings may be called at the discretion of the executive board or at the request of 10% of the membership.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The officers of the Y.S.C. shall be as follows: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2: These officers shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties customary to their offices and consistent with this constitution.

Section 3: All officers shall be elected at a regular election meeting. This meeting must be called during the first month of each calendar year. All officers shall have identical terms of one year. Vacancies occurring before the expiration of a regular term of office may be filled by election at a regular membership meeting.

Section 4: Additional offices and posts may be created by the membership as the need arises.

Section 5: There shall be an executive board which shall direct the affairs of the club between membership meetings. This board shall include the officers of the club. The minimum size of the executive board shall be based on a 1-5 ratio to the membership. When the number of officers causes the executive board to fall below this ratio, additional members shall be elected directly to the board by the membership.

Section 6: Special provisions shall be made for the representation of all political viewpoints within the Y.S.C. on the executive board in general accordance with their strength in the club.

Section 7: The Chairman may call a meeting of the executive board at any time or at the request of any member of the board. A majority of the members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8: All decisions of the executive board shall be submitted to the membership for approval.

Section 9: National committee members, officials, or other representatives of national youth groups to which the Y.S.C. affiliates, who reside in Wayne County, shall be ex officio members of the executive board.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

Section 1: Dues shall be 50¢ per month, payable on, or before, the date of the first membership meeting of each month.

Section 2: Monthly financial reports shall be given to the membership by the club Treasurer and an audit of the books shall be made once a year by the executive board.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Permanent and temporary committees shall be established by the executive board as required for the efficient functioning of the club.

Section 2: Chairmen of these committees shall be appointed by the executive board with the approval of the membership.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to this constitution may be introduced at any regular meeting by any member of the Y.S.C., but may not be voted upon until the following membership meeting. All members must receive copies of amendments in writing before the date of the meeting where they will be voted upon. Amendments require a two-thirds majority of regular members present at the meeting where they come to a vote.

ARTICLE IX: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section 1: All officers of the Y.S.C. are subject to immediate recall by the membership for any default of their duties. The procedure for the recall of officers shall be the same as that in Article VIII, Amendments.

#####

New York — — CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Young Socialist Alliance, hereinafter referred to as YSA.

II. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

The YSA favors the abolition of our present capitalist system which derives its life blood from the exploitation of man by man in the name of profit. We advocate the replacement of this system by a socialist system in which the means of production are owned and the political power controlled democratically by the people. We firmly resolve to direct our energies toward bringing about this transition.

The YSA supports the struggles of the working people of all races and nations against their oppressors. The YSA places itself in unalterable opposition to imperialist policies on the part of any nation on earth and upholds the right of all peoples to self determination.

As youth, we are particularly affected by the injustices of capitalism and imperialism, and uniquely involved in the struggles against them. Not only are we obliged to fight the wars, but we become the direct victims of the onslaughts on civil liberties and academic freedom which inevitably accompany them. As wage workers, we are beset by exploitation and class struggle in their most fundamental forms.

The YSA favors the independent political action of the working people of this country as the next and immediate step in the movement towards socialism. It supports unequivocally the struggle of the Negro people and all other minority groups for equality.

The YSA rejects the notion that socialism can be imposed against the will of the people. We assert that there is a necessary and intimate relation between socialism and democracy. Real freedom can come only with socialism; but socialism can never come without real freedom. Socialism does not transcend or outmode the liberal freedoms; on the contrary, it realizes and completes them. It is therefore necessary to insist on the unqualified defense of these rights at all times and in all places.

III. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the YSA shall be to bring together all young socialists in a broad, militant, independent, democratic organization in order to carry on educational, cultural, and political activities in furtherance of the principles set forth in this constitution. Its aim is to bring the ideas of socialism to the young workers and students of New York City and to participate in the progressive struggles of its people.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to any young person who is in general agreement with the statements of purpose and principle as set forth in this constitution.

2. Membership in the YSA in no way obligates any member to engage in activities which said member considers to be contrary to his principles or interests.

3. Each member has the right to express, both in written and oral forms, views contrary to those expressed by the YSA as long as these views are not represented as being those of the YSA.

V. OFFICERS

Officers shall be elected directly by the membership.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An executive committee shall be elected directly by the membership.

VII. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Upon request of any member or members, proportional representation to all committees and elective offices, based on a political division, shall be mandatory.

VIII. MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least once each month.

2. Special meetings may be called by the executive committee or by a signed statement from ten percent of the membership.

IX. AMENDMENT

This constitution may be amended by the following procedure: a member in good standing shall propose the amendment, in writing, at a legal business meeting. This proposed amendment will be placed on the agenda of the following business meeting, at which time it will be considered and acted upon by the membership.

BY-LAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

1. Only members in good standing shall have the right to vote.

2. A member in good standing shall be defined as one who is not in arrears in dues payments by more than three months.

3. A member is automatically dropped from membership when said members dues are delinquent six months. Written notice of this pending action shall be served not less than two weeks before the member is scheduled to be dropped.

4. Six months consecutive absence from meetings without special leave of the membership shall result in automatic loss of membership. Written notice shall be served not less than two weeks before the business meeting at which the member would be dropped.

5. Prospective members shall be proposed and voted upon by the membership at a regular business meeting. Former members, in applying for reinstatement, shall be subject to the same procedure.

II. QUORUM

One third of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

III. DECISIONS AND POLICIES

All decisions and policies rest ultimately with the membership as expressed at membership meetings.

IV. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The membership shall elect any officers or committees it shall deem necessary. Such officers and committees shall be responsible to the membership for the performance of assigned duties.

V. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Parliamentary authority shall be "Robert's Rules of Order (Revised)" except as hereunder amended:

1. Nominations and motions shall require no second.
2. On voting to end debate, nay votes shall be called for first.

VI. AMENDMENT

Procedure for amending the by-laws shall be the same as that for amending the constitution.

CONSTITUTION of the WISCONSIN SOCIALIST CLUB

A. Statement of Purpose

The Wisconsin Socialist Club is an educational and social action association organized for: (1) discussion and presentation of public and membership programs involving current issues, the natural and social sciences, philosophy, the arts and literature; that is, educational, cultural, political and social programs which the membership feels will further the discussion, propagation, and realization of socialist ideas and principles; (2) the sponsorship at public and membership meetings of addresses, forums, discussions, and debates by proponents of all forms of socialist opinion without endorsing one or another, as well as sponsoring public and membership meetings where socialist ideas may be exchanged and debated with those of non-socialist and anti-socialist proponents.

B. Statement of Principles

Members of the Wisconsin Socialist Club, believing that the kinds of cultural and personal values and material conditions produced by the present social structure to be important areas demanding thought and action of socialists, enter into common association in the aspiration of ultimately achieving a society based upon:

- (1) Production for use rather than profit, rationally for the commonwealth, and progressive enrichment of all, instead of the private aggrandizement of the few; where a man is not dehumanized but achieves maximum self realization through productive labor.
- (2) The guarantee of complete social equality of all peoples in all spheres of social life regardless of race, religion, national origin, or beliefs; banishment of racism, bigotry, segregation and other forms of inhumanity from all spheres of social life.
- (3) Maximum political freedom for all, where civil liberties- freedom of speech, religion, press, and association for all the people- are a reality, in a social fabric where these freedoms are not only proclaimed but practised by all the people so that the society's very existence is rooted in these freedoms; the guarantee of the greatest economic, educational, and cultural opportunities for every individual.
- (4) The use of the government for the benefit of all, and not as an instrument of coercion by the few against the many, where the government becomes the possession of all, a government of the people, by the people, for the people, founded in the interests and the direct participation of all the people.
- (5) The acknowledgment of the right of any nation suffering under colonialism, the economic, political, or cultural rule, or the domination of any other nation to self-determination; the superceding of militarism and war by the securing of peace and peaceful settlements of all disputes; the promotion of a commonwealth of all nations, a commonwealth of all the peoples.

In advancing all these principles, the members of the Wisconsin Socialist Club recognize the necessity for the solidarity of the working people, who toil by hand or brain, throughout the world, in order to bring about the realization of these prin-

principles.

Article

I. The name of this organization is the Wisconsin Socialist Club.

II. Membership is open to all students who subscribe: (a) to the above statement of purpose, regardless of differences on other matters; (b) upon payment of membership fee.

III. Officers shall be chairman, secretary, treasurer, and publicity director, elected yearly at the last regular meeting of the 2nd semester, by a majority of votes in the presence of a quorum of the membership.

Chairman shall be responsible for chairing public and regular meetings, acting as official spokesman for the club, promoting the fulfillment of responsibility of officers and coordinating general activities of the club. Secretary shall be responsible for notifying members of meetings via mail, recording decisions of the public and regular meetings, and keeping a permanent record of correspondence and committee recommendations. Treasurer shall collect membership fees, dues, and other assessments, keep a record of club finances, and carry through the club's financial obligations. Publicity director shall be responsible for advertising meetings via press and bulletin boards, and keep a permanent record of all available public discussion of the club's activities.

IV. Executive committee shall consist of the 4 officers plus the chairmen of any standing committees, who shall be chosen by majority vote of a quorum of the membership. Executive committee shall be responsible for planning programs, carrying out decisions of the club, reporting all significant events related to the club's activities to membership, recruiting members, and generally providing leadership. At the 1st meeting of each semester the executive committee shall submit a tentative program to the membership for their approval, revision or rejection.

V. Quorums at elections shall consist of greater than one half the total membership in good standing. Quorums at executive committee meetings shall consist of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the executive committee, Quorums at regular meetings shall consist of greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ the total membership in good standing, and quorums at standing committee meetings shall consist of at least 3 persons.

VI. Vacancies from any elected post shall be filled by election at the first regular meeting after the vacancy occurs or is announced.

VII. There shall be at least one regular meeting per month. The 1st regular meeting of each semester shall include the planning of programs. The last regular meeting of each semester shall include the progress reports, treasurer's report and evaluations. Other regular and public meetings shall take place in accordance with decisions of the membership and executive committee.

VIII. Each member is required to pay a \$1 membership fee after which dues will be paid at the rate of 50¢ per semester. All moneys collected by the club shall be deposited with the Student Financial Office. All club financial transactions shall be handled through the Student Financial Office by the club treasurer. A member shall not be in good standing upon non-payment of a semester's dues at the end of 2 months after the beginning of that semester.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Buy a subscription to the YOUNG SOCIALIST!

VOICE OF AMERICA'S
FUTURE!

6 MONTHS - 50¢ (CHEAP!)
1 WHOLE YEAR - \$1.00

PHILADELPHIA

CONTRIBUTION TO A DISCUSSION FOR THE PROGRAM OF

OUR YOUTH GROUP

There has been some dispute over the nature of the club that we are trying to build. I believe that clarity can be achieved through a discussion of program, and this is my contribution to that discussion.

If we are actively for socialism, I believe that we can take certain positions and retain the broad nature of a young socialist club.

Some positions which I feel are basic to our task which I see as being the building of a young socialist movement characterized by the ability to work out its own program -- and I believe that it should lay the framework to do this -- are:

- (1) Against the capitalist system and ...
- (2) For socialism. It is my belief that this should be defined (and a definition is offered below).
- (3) Against imperialism, and all institutions (including liberal and "socialist" institutions) that support imperialism. This means, for example, that we oppose French oppression in Algeria, English domination in Cyprus and India and American strangle-holds upon South America. We are also in opposition to wars flowing naturally from imperialism such as the Korean "police action."
- (4) Against bureaucratic state rule or oppression. That is, that state ownership and nationalized property does not alone constitute socialism -- and we are steadfastly opposed to any bureaucratic formation which, through the administration of nationalized property forms passes off its rule as socialism.

To the extent of my knowledge, there is no major radical tendency in the United States today that calls itself socialist and does not at least abstractly adhere to the above principles.

Will this statement exclude any radical youth from joining our group?

We urge all of them to join our organization!

But if we are a militant socialist organization, and if we hold that militant socialism must take at least the above positions, then those who do not consider the above positions valid are not militant socialists. But will this prove to be a strongly delimiting factor as far as the attractiveness of the organization is concerned? That is, though the

club will -- in its ideology -- fail to be all-inclusive, what is the many out who would wish to join -- particularly liberals and "right" socialists?

Within the present context of things I do not think that that is so. A liberal group is obviously not a presently attractive one to youth: to demonstrate this, we need merely mention the failure of SDA, whose membership dropped from 10,000 to about 250 -- meanwhile ceasing to be a national organization except in name only. I believe that a young socialist grouping will be successful, because it does things -- as socialists.

But how can we do things that demarcate us from the liberals if we do not take a stand on imperialism -- as they certainly do; and on bureaucratic oppression -- again, as they do. The thing that will demarcate us is the fact that we are against capitalism and for socialism, in a militant way. Then, they may ask -- what is that? We can tell them: socialism to us is the basic transformation of present society into one where the means of production and distribution are subject only to the will of all the producers.

If we cannot do this at least, then we cannot hope to win youth to socialism. We will have nothing attractive to offer in opposition to the society they live in. As we said, the liberals say they oppose imperialism, but do they support unequivocally the colonial uprisings which are in the process of smashing imperialism?

The liberals, too, what peace -- but do they offer a solution to the problems of war and the H-bomb? They want economic equality for all -- yet they hold onto the capitalist system which makes such a thing impossible. What we have to offer is clarity on these issues.

And since we are attempting to reach youth; but more important, since we are youth; our problems as youth are particularly and significantly tied in with what we say and do. The questions of job discrimination, the constant fear of war, the draft and the lack of security offered youth under capitalism are paramount among us. And as socialists -- not as liberals or social workers apologizing for the system -- we can play the role of research social scientists looking for the cause of and the real solution to the problems of youth; and our activities will be our experiments. We will do this as opposed to the barber-surgeon method of chopping off malignant growths but never attempting to find the cause for them.

While we have no pat answers and are groping our way, we have certain hypotheses (at least) and bases from which we can start -- otherwise we wouldn't call ourselves socialists. These bases stated in positive form tell what we are. The principles outlined above are, I believe, some things we can agree on as a starting point upon which we can build.

If, as a result of forums, educationals and study groups, we develop these basic ideas and act on them, we can best be able to choose the program to

implement them: this is the result of militancy.

If we allow no political party to grasp hold of the organizationally independent character of our group and strangle it, we will be best able to develop our ideas in a healthy fashion -- this is what is meant by independence.

If we exclude no one who wishes to join a militant socialist youth group -- this is broadness.

With these characteristics, I feel that we will not fail. All of the persons attracted to this group who are unaffiliated socialists were attracted on this basis. This indicates the first signs of the vindication of our idea: that a broad-based, independent militant socialist youth organization will be successful in attracting -- in this period of relative quiescence and prosperity in America -- a significant number of youth to socialist ideas.

Submitted by:

Arthur Phelps

The sense of this contribution has been endorsed by:

Al T



#####

PAMPHLETS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE*

- 1. Russian Youth Awakes by Maurice Pelzer.....10¢
A 28 yr, old London shop steward who visited Russia during the recent festival, reports his experience.
- 2. The Irregular Movement of History -Warde...30¢
Theory of history and its development.
- 3. The Santana Case, by Joyce Cowley.....10¢
A case history of a Puerto Rican, revealing aspects of our times.
- 4. What makes Shastman Run? by Tim Wohlforth.....10¢
"Dead end" politics.
- 5. Why Socialism? by Albert Einstein.....25¢
The scientific genius of Einstein applied to society.
- 6. Questions for the Left by Sidney Lens.....25¢
An American Forum for Socialist Education publication.
- 7. The October Revolution, by Peter Fryer and others.....40¢
An anniversary of the Russian Revolution requires a publication of the scope and quality as this. Bound to fascinate all.
- 8. The Young Socialist Forum- discussion bulletin.....15¢
Future issues of this bulletin will contain articles by young people dedicated towards the answers to all important questions. Free speech and press at its height!

For any of these pamphlets and publications write to The Young Socialist, 218 7th Ave., Rm 3, New York 11, NY. (Be sure to enclose money \$\$\$\$)

PHILADELPHIA * PREAMBLE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST CLUB

Constitutional provisions as proposed by the Coordinating Committee, amended, and approved unanimously by the membership at the previous meeting. Pending final approval.

---- * ----

PREAMBLE

The YSC is an organization of students and young workers whose goal is to arouse the consciousness of youth to the necessity and desirability of the socialist alternative through appropriate education and action.

We oppose the capitalist socio-economic system in all of its manifestations and favor the establishment of socialism.

We shall support and defend expanding democracy everywhere. We wish friendly relations between the people of our country and those of all other countries, on a basis of equality and independence, and sympathize with the peoples of Asia, Africa, and South America in their struggle for freedom from foreign economic and political domination.

We shall fight for:

Peace.

Full civil liberties for all.

Full equality, without equivocation, for all people, especially the embattled Negro people.

Increased and increasing welfare for all the people.

Recognizing that the working people of our country are a major force for democracy and progress, we shall promote the study and support of pro-labor, pro-humanist views and activities.

We shall discuss and study different socialist views without preferential treatment for any tendency. Our primary concern, however, is the comparison of socialist and capitalist ideas.

- - -

In promoting socialism and socialist views, we are following in a long line of socialist traditions far from alien to American life. Socialist ideas and advocates of socialism have contributed substantially to many aspects of the American scene, among them the building of the American labor movement, the full equality movement of the Negro people and other minorities, the women's suffrage movement, the establishment of welfare measures, the struggle for world peace, the struggle for civil liberties, and the development of American culture and scholarship. We hope to make a contribution to the socialist tradition aimed at furthering the best interests of the American people.

* * *

Constitutional provisions pending final approval - As proposed by the coordinating committee, amended, and approved unanimously by the membership of the previous meeting.

- * -

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be an executive committee.
2. Composition: (a) The executive committee shall include at least the following officers: (1) President (2) Vice-President (3) Recording Secretary (4) Corresponding Secretary (5) Treasurer. (b) The executive committee shall at no time number less than 10% of the number of members of the club in good standing. (See section on "Time of Elections".)
3. Duties: The general task of the executive committee is to coordinate the functioning of the club with the purpose of carrying out the program and policies decided upon by the membership. To do this the executive committee must:
 - (a) Sit as ex-officio non-voting members of at least all standing committees. In any case where executive committee members cannot sit as members of any committee, that committee is charged with reporting the content and proposals of its meeting to the executive committee.
 - (b) Initiate proposals, and report to and consult with the membership on any matters pertaining to policy and program.
 - (c) Call elections, in accordance with the election procedure provided by the constitution, setting time, place, and date.
 - (d) Call meetings, setting time, place, date, and tentative agenda.
 - (e) At the time of May elections, make and present to the membership a review of the executive committee's work during the previous year.
 - (f) Within the framework of the major policies and program decided by the membership, the executive committee may take emergency action between membership meetings. Such action shall be subject to subsequent review by the entire membership.

- * -

(Presumably under an article on revenues and expenditures:)

DUES

1. An initiation fee of fifty cents (\$.50) shall be paid by all new members. This will take the place of dues becoming due the first month after joining.
2. Monthly Dues: The basic dues shall be 50¢/month. Dues for high school students shall be 35¢/month. Dues for unemployed members shall be 25¢/month.
3. Special Circumstances: Dues rates of a member may be reduced in special circumstances by the financial secretary.

- * -

QUORUM

$\frac{1}{2}$ the club's members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at business meetings to permit the group to adopt measures of a policy-making nature, or to use the club's name in political activities.

- * -

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made by the following method:

1. Any member in good standing may propose an amendment, in writing, at any business meeting of the club.
2. The proposal is to be handed to the corresponding secretary, for duplication and distribution to the membership with the notice of the next business meeting.
3. To vote on an amendment, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the club's members must be present to constitute a quorum (members in good standing). $\frac{3}{4}$ of those present must approve the amendment for its adoption.
4. No amendment proposal may be introduced and voted upon at the same meeting.
5. If a quorum of $\frac{2}{3}$ cannot be realized at the scheduled meeting, the amendment shall be placed on the agenda of the next business meeting, and so forth until the quorum is met.

- * -

MEMBERSHIP

Standards: Any young person may become a member regardless of race, religion, national origin, political affiliation or beliefs.

- * -

(continued on p. 26)

CHICAGO

DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIALIST YOUTH COMMITTEE

I. Name -- The name of this organization shall be the Socialist Youth Committee.

II. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES -- The purposes of the Socialist Youth Committee shall be to aid in the formation, in the Chicago area, of a new youth grouping consisting of the radical youth of all political tendencies -- those now belonging to the various left wing organizations as well as those who are unaffiliated or new to socialist ideas. Such an organization is both possible and desirable at the present time. In order to assist in its creation the Socialist Youth Committee will attempt to arrange meetings, discussions and forums which will explore the possibilities of cooperation between our left wing youth and provide for the sharing of experiences and ideas relating to the theory and practice of radicalism today. It will also attempt, through such means as informal seminars, to interest youth previously unfamiliar with left wing thought in exploring for themselves the many aspects of socialist ideas. Through these functions, as well as social affairs, the Socialist Youth Committee hopes to provide an atmosphere in which young socialists may find the comradely cooperation, intellectual stimulation, and exchange of opinion necessary as a basis for any new broad movement. The Socialist Youth Committee does not conceive of itself as an "action" group committed to full participation in the important struggles of young workers and students, but it encourages its members as individuals and as members of such other organizations, campus clubs, trade unions, and the NAACP, to so participate. In so doing they will act as they see fit, under no discipline by the Socialist Youth Committee. Neither will the Socialist Youth Committee attempt to develop any rounded political program or line to which its members shall be committed, nor will it establish any formal relationship with any adult political organization which has such a program. In the future, it may be thought advisable to endorse some national youth organization or publication devoted to the same ends, on a national level, as we are on a local level, but in order to help guarantee the broad character of the Socialist Youth Committee, any such endorsement will require the approval of 3/4 of the membership.

III. MEMBERSHIP--

1. Persons present at any meeting of the Socialist Youth Committee may participate fully in all discussions, but only duly qualified members may vote.
2. Membership shall be open to all young people in the Chicago area who are in general agreement with the aims and principles expressed in Section II. No other criteria, such as the consideration of membership in other political organizations, shall be established.
3. Members shall be admitted by majority vote of those present and voting at any regularly convened meeting of the organization.

4. The Socialist Youth Committee may, in order to meet its expenses, establish the contribution which it expects from its members.

IV. OFFICERS

The Socialist Youth Committee shall elect such officers (e.g. secretary and/or treasurer) as are necessary to carry out its routine technical functioning. These officers shall be limited in their authority to such technical functioning. The organization may also elect such sub-committees as it feels necessary. All officers and committees will be subject to immediate recall upon majority vote. The frequency of elections shall be at the discretion of the membership.

V. PARLIAMENTARY RULES

1. A Chairman of each meeting shall be selected at the beginning of that meeting. The chairman shall have both voice and vote.
2. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, all decisions of the Socialist Youth Committee shall be made by majority vote of those voting.
3. On all votes involving the end of discussion, the nay vote shall be voted first.
4. No motions shall require seconding.
5. Except as otherwise specified herein, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall cover parliamentary procedure.

VI. AMENDMENT

1. This Constitution may be amended at any time, provided that two weeks notice of any proposed amendment is sent to all members.
2. A 2/3rds vote of the membership shall be required for amendment of the Constitution.

(PHILADELPHIA Young Socialist Club -- continued from p. 24)

(Presumably under article on "Nominations and Elections".)

TIME OF ELECTIONS: 1. General Elections shall take place each May.

2. Midyear Elections - In November of each year, the size of the Executive Committee relative to the total membership in good standing shall be examined. If the total Executive Committee membership is less than ten per cent (10%) of the total club membership, General Elections shall be in order.

3. Special Elections - One-third (1/3) of the total membership is empowered to call special elections of the Executive Committee at any time.

- * -

ELECTION PROCEDURE (this is not a proposed Constitutional provision from here on): See separate sheets outlining positions of Jan and Henry.
Danny will present his position orally Monday evening.

TWIN CITIES YOUTH

Recent national and international events are demonstrating that despite all the cold war propoganda, the witch hunt is meeting more resistance. A striking example is the recent action of 41 American youth who openly defied the state department and visited China.

Currently, youth in the South are conducting a determined struggle against the white supremacists to achieve full integration in the schools. The outstanding role of Negro youth in their fight is winning them wider support among thinking youth everywhere.

The old divisions among radical youth have broken down and they feel it is now possible to discuss the basic problems confronting society in a new light.

These are only a few signs indicating that young people are again finding the spirit of bold inquiry and independent political thought in their search for a better future.

The signers of this statement, representing a number of socialist and radical tendencies in the Twin Cities feel that it is now possible to organize an independent youth movement which could provide a free and open platform for the discussion of all radical viewpoints.

For this reason, we are inviting you to an open meeting to discuss and take action on the above proposal and any other proposals that will arise.

For this reason, we are inviting you to an open meeting to discuss and take action on the above proposal and any other proposals that will arise.

As a provisional steering committee, we are suggesting that our first meeting concern itself primarily with the task of preparing the unification of all radical youth into one independent organization. In our opinion this requires that the proposed youth movement be unaffiliated with and undominated by any adult radical party or group!

We have already discussed the above proposals with other youth and received a very favorable response. We are sure that you too will respond favorably to this new idea and will attend this meeting to present your views.

Faternally yours,

Al Nurmi

Al Nurmi

Orin Doty

Orin Doty

Tom Leonard

Tom Leonard

Dave Stanberry

Dave Stanberry

LOS ANGELES

DRAFT STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The capitalist system, at one time a big step forward in the history of mankind, is no longer progressive. It now retards the development of society, economically, socially and culturally.

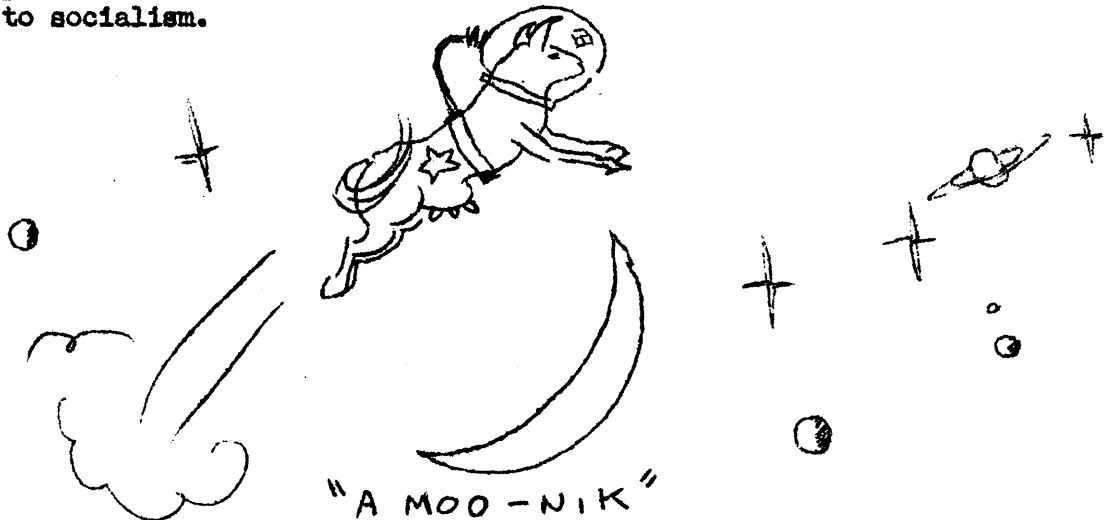
Through their monopoly control of industry, banking, transportation and communication, and their domination of the government, the capitalist class effectively rules America. They put profits above the welfare of the people. Economic insecurity, race prejudice, witch-hunts, world wars, and now the danger of atomic destruction -- these are the main evils that follow from letting a small minority of capitalists use our natural resources and industrial network for their own enrichment.

Socialism will put the means of production into the hands of the people and put an end to the exploitation of the many by the few. An economic system of scientific planning will be introduced, resulting in an immense increase in the productivity of labor that will assure a decent living standard for everyone. Democracy will be extended into all phases of life. A genuinely human civilization, based on international cooperation and the brotherhood of man, will be achieved. World peace will become a reality.

We are convinced that the crises of capitalism will bring about a new radical awareness among the American people. Even now, the Negro people are surging ahead for full equality and the American workers are beginning to show new signs of militancy. We are firm in the belief that the American people will begin looking toward socialism as the only rational solution to the profound crisis humanity faces.

We believe that the young people of today will play a vital role in the socialist transformation of America. Our aim is to provide an organization where all the ideas of socialism can be discussed openly and freely; where young people can study its teachings and principles. While being completely independent of all existing organizations, we restrict no one from membership because of his particular point of view or affiliation. We welcome all youth interested in furthering the socialist cause or learning about its ideas.

We therefore establish the CONFERENCE OF YOUNG SOCIALISTS as an independent socialist youth organization to help our generation find its way to socialism.



LOS ANGELES

FOUNDING MEETING CALL

Dear Friend,

We the undersigned, invite you to attend a conference to set up a unified and independent socialist youth movement in Los Angeles. We are convinced that it is time to create such an organization to serve the needs of socialist-minded young people in this area.

The teachings of the pioneers of American socialism are virtually unknown today, or have become so distorted as to be unrecognizable. As a consequence, very few American youth know the true ideas and principles of socialism.

Yet the need for socialism is greater today than ever. The material conditions for building it are here. The tremendous technological advances ushered in by automation and atomic energy will assure the abundance possible under a socialist reorganization of society.

We believe that the young people of today will play a vital role, in transforming America from capitalism to socialism. To do this, we must study socialist teachings and principles and find the road to socialism. An organization is needed where all the ideas of socialism can be discussed openly and freely. This organization should be completely independent of all existing adult groupings, but should restrict no one from membership because of his particular point of view or affiliation. It should be open to all youth interested in furthering the cause of socialism or learning about its ideas.

We believe that the basis exists today for a regroupment of socialist youth along these lines. In the past year, the ideas of socialism have come into consideration by many young people. Yet, the overwhelming majority of them are not affiliated with any existing socialist organization. These facts indicate the need for a unified and independent socialist youth organization in this city. The forces are present. We are convinced that if the initial difficulties in getting together can be overcome, the proposed organization will help our generation of young people find their way to socialism.

We invite you to participate in the founding conference.

Fraternally yours,

Peter Allan--- Member of the Socialist Workers Party Youth Committee, the NAACP and the Eugene V. Debs club at UCLA.

Gordon Carey---Member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and an Independent Socialist.

Jerry Friedman---Member of the Young Socialist League.

August Maymudes---Former member of the Labor Youth League and the Jewish Young Fraternalists.

Lea Vida --- Member- SWP Youth Comm., NAACP, and a trade unionist.

(Organizations are listed for identification only and designations do not indicate sponsorship by the organization)

For further information, call: AN 3-1533