

Wide array of groups back SMC on issue of PL attacks

By MIKE KELLY

Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Massachusetts

BOSTON, June 1—More than 120 activists representing 24 organizations tonight endorsed the national Student Mobilization Committee statement condemning the May 24 attack on an SMC meeting by Progressive Labor Party members and their supporters in SDS, and the use of violence to settle political differences within the movement. They vowed to defend each others' meetings.

The resolution was passed unanimously at the meeting, hosted by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, Packinghouse Workers Division, Local P11, P575, P616 in Dorchester, Mass.

John Craig, president of Local P575 and vice-president of the state AFL-CIO Labor Board, opened the meeting, chaired by Marilyn Levin of the SMC, by reading a statement from John McCann, state coordinator of Vietnam Referendum '70, who is recuperating from injuries inflicted on him during the May 24 attack.

McCann deplored the use of violence within the movement and called for a united defense committee to be set up. Craig also volunteered to be the treasurer for the John McCann Fund. (Contributions to this fund, which will help defray the high cost of hospitalization for John McCann, should be sent to the John McCann Fund, c/o Vietnam Referendum '70, 19 Brookline St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.)

George Kontanis presented the na-

YSA condemns use of violence within movement

In a statement released May 29 the National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance extended its "complete solidarity to the campaign initiated by the SMC to eliminate the use of violence within the movement."

The statement cited four principal reasons for concern about the use of violence inside the movement: the need for the entire movement to focus attention on the real enemy, the capitalist system and its ruling class; the need to reach masses of people, who are turned away from the radical movement by self-defeating internecine fighting; the need for free democratic discussion as the only effective way of settling differences within the movement; and the importance of the basic democratic right of all organizations to meet, organize their activities and, in the last analysis, to exist.

"Only a politically sterile organization needs to resort to force to convince others of its ideas, or can believe that it can eliminate ideas with which it disagrees through violence," the statement said. "Any group of people within the movement must have the right to hold its own meetings and to decide how they will be conducted— who will be invited, of what the agenda will consist and any other matters on which it chooses to decide. . . . All differences within the movement should be settled politically—in debate and practice—not physically."

Leon Trotsky:

Stalinism and Bolshevism

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Photo by Greenberg

John McCann in hospital after being beaten by PL-SDSers.

tional statement to the meeting, giving a history of earlier attacks by PLP and SDS.

The Revolutionary Marxist Caucus of SDS made a statement at the meeting repudiating the attack, and asked for an amendment noting that not all caucuses or members of SDS supported such attacks. The amendment which was accepted by the meeting said: "The Revolutionary Marxist Caucus of SDS repudiates gangster tactics within the movement and will support all defense efforts against violent attacks."

During the discussion, John Craig emphasized how important united defense efforts were, describing how he and other union members recently helped protect a United Farm Workers organizer in the area at many meetings. All groups present agreed that the most effective way to stop such attacks was by involving other groups in the defense effort.

The groups in attendance at the meeting were: the Bread and Roses Collective at Boston University; the Beacon Hill Support Group; the Belmont Peace Action Council; Boston Women United; Charles St. Meeting House; Citizens for Participation Politics; Computer Professionals for Peace; Draft Information Center; Female Liberation; Gay Liberation Front; Local P575 Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, Packinghouse Workers Division, AFL-CIO; Mass. Strike; Mass. Lawyers Guild; North Shore Committee to End the War in Vietnam Now; Revolutionary Marxist Caucus of SDS; Revolutionary Youth Center; Student Mobilization Committee; Socialist Workers Party; Spartacist League; Vets for Peace; Vietnam Referendum '70; Workers Committee for a National Strike Against the War; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Young Socialist Alliance. Also endorsing the statement was the Cambridge *Phoenix*, a local underground paper.

BOSTON—During a press conference held here May 28 at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary where John McCann was hospitalized, Nobel Prize-winning Harvard biology professor George Wald condemned the May 24 attack on the SMC meeting. Others who participated in the press conference included John Craig, David Tedesco of Citizens for Participation Politics, and John Businger, an aide of the late Representative H. James Shea, Jr.