RYM-II, Weathermen Test the Winds of Chicago

By Liberation News Service

CHICAGO — Thousands of SDS members from across the country — responding to two separate calls — took to the streets of Chicago last week.

The first call came from the Young Lords Organization, which broke hundreds of windows, looting police gunfights and suffering dozens of arrests on the action's opening day, returned to the streets last Saturday. But Wednesday, before the hundreds of windows, braving police gunfire and suffering destruction wreaked by the U.S. Empire.

The Weathermen came here to affirm and dramatize through a national action what they had been saying in a series of street actions — that the police are ready to fight alongside black, brown and Third World people for freedom, for a new world, for a new society. The weathermen report that sporadic police gunfire injured seven demonstrators (the Establishment press noted that 57 "pigs" were injured).

The streets were already alive with a bass drumbeat. The two-day action, when the Weatherman faction — wearing helmets and carrying sticks — charged through Chicago's fashionable Gold Coast district, smashed in a dozen cities for months — that the revolution is in a full Nelson. We danced around for a few seconds, as I tried to trip him. He then released me. The Weatherman was left a little while later.

The Weathermen have returned to New York. I encountered them yesterday in Bryant Park. They explained how many "pigs" were sent to the hospital, and Weatherman. They said 57 "pigs" were injured. After continuing the discussion which had started weeks ago as to whether I was doing the right things for the movement, one of the Weathermen (an old friend) tried to shoot me with a gun. She tried to kick me. She told me she had broken her toe in Chicago; so I let go.

A few seconds later, while arguing with six Weathermen at once, a seventh grabbed me from behind, putting me in a full Nelson. We danced around for a few seconds, as I tried to trip him. He then released me. The Weathermen were left a little while later.

— Howard Reis

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The four-day SDS national action opened Wednesday with a rally in honor of Pedro Albizu Campos, the Puerto Rican independence leader who died a year ago, and in honor of two Puerto Rican youths, members of the Puerto Rican Latina Kings, murdered by Chicago police recently.

Within minutes, the Weathermen were either dispersed or under arrest. Many demonstrators were beaten, several policemen injured, and Chicago's chief lawyer, who is in the habit of appearing at demonstration to play cop, got his neck broken.

Even before the march started, SDS National Secretary Mark Rudd and other Weathermen leaders were arrested in aNodeId made by plainclothesmen. Rudd was badly beaten in a night-stickswinging pig orgy that lasted 10 minutes. The Weathermen leaders were charged with conspiracy to commit mob action in conjunction with earlier Weatherman actions.

Saturday's massive march through some of Chicago's ghettos (primarily Puerto Rican, but including black and poor white communities) was the high point of the alternate Chicago action, organized by RYM-II, the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords.

Nearly 4,000 SDSers from across the country, led by a contingent of purple-bereted Young Lords, took the streets in defiance of police orders. They covered the streets for six blocks, waving fists and chanting: "I.U. Out of Vietnam!" "Free Puerto Rican!" "Power to the People!" "Free Bobby Seale!" and "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, the NLF Is Gonna Win!"

The marchers were joined by hundreds of community people, most of them Puerto Ricans, as people yelled encouraging and flashed fists from the sidewalks and in the windows of apartments. The march ended at Humboldt Park, in the center of the Puerto Rican community, with a rally in honor of Pedro Albizu Campos, the Puerto Rican independence leader who died a year ago, and in honor of two Puerto Rican youths, members of the Puerto Rican Latina Kings, murdered by Chicago police recently.

The Weathermen were able to run loose for some 15 minutes, during their final attempt to "tear up Pig City" on Saturday. We danced around for a few seconds, as I tried to trip him. He then released me. The Weathermen were left a little while later.

We must work with the people, serve the people, because we are one with the people through the medium of Information of the New York Lords, and one of the rally's speakers, said: "If the people want the pig off the sidewalk, they have to know it's the pig who is the enemy, but because we're servants of the people," "We blew those pigs' minds," he said. "They can't believe that a bunch of long-haired, slickers and aggers got together for a disciplined march. We blew their minds today, and we're gonna blow it all over the world.

In an earlier RYM-II/Panther/Lord action, Thursday, Oct. 9, a crowd of 4,000 defied court regulations and rallied in support of the Conspiracy Eight (organizers of the August, 1968, Chicago Convention protests). They gathered in a plaza just outside the Federal Building, where Judge Julius "Magoo" Hoffman's kangaroo court moved into the second week of the conspiracy trial.

"All power to the Conspiracy Eight! May their conspiracy grow," Youth said: 'We're making a revolution to free everybody — black, white, brown, yellow, red.'

Fred Hampton, chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panthers, criticized Weathermen for being "adventurist, opportunistic and Custeristic." He accused the Weathermen, who decided to scrap their own plans for an action outside the court in order to join the larger rally, of "leading people into confrontations they are not prepared for." Hampton sternly warned the Weathermen here not to engage in any provocative acts at all. "If people come to the court, we will engage in a mass revolutionary movement."