

present any program for fighting racism and imperialism on campus (or for that matter anywhere else), but he attacked PL for opposing the struggles of Black and Third World peoples and for being anti-working class -- not making primary the organizing of working class youth in bars, on street corners, at youth festivals and in street gangs.

People pointed out that most working class youth either go to school, are in the army, or work, and are not on street corners or at youth festivals. And they added that SDS is certainly interested in organizing students at working class schools to fight racism and imperialism and ally with working people, and that the meeting was being held to discuss concrete programs for doing this, not abstract 'support'.

Jeff Sokolow, of RYM, responded to these arguments by repeating that PL opposed the struggles of the oppressed, and the debate ended.

The New York Labor Committee then presented two proposals for support of potential strikes in the Post Office and the transit system. Criticism of these centered around the idea they put forward that students could play a leading role in workers' struggles by handing out leaflets telling them what to fight for. A further contention was that the proposals, which included various taxation schemes to raise money for higher wages, failed to reveal the nature of the state as essentially opposed to workers' interests. After heated debate both proposals were defeated.

There was general agreement among most that a crisis in the transit system was likely and that we as students should play a supportive role in any transit workers' action and a leading role on campus in fighting racist and anti-working class ideas that lead students to oppose workers for closing down essential public services.

California - RYM Falls Flat

Jim Prickett, UCLA, NIC

Several months before the SDS convention, the Los Angeles regional office voted to dissolve itself and become a 'communist' collective. The decision

reflected a method of work that people in Southern California have come to know all too well. No attempt was made to assist chapter people in forming a new regional organization. Even though the old regional staff have played no role in SDS, they have not given their list of chapter contacts to any of the functioning chapters, intentionally making the task of building SDS as difficult as possible.

The first steps toward overcoming these difficulties were taken at the Southern California regional conference on August 8-10. Although publicity could have been better and despite the fact that a number of chapters are dormant over the summer, attendance at the conference was good. There were delegates from UCLA, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State LA, UC-Irvine, UC-San Diego, San Fernando Valley State, Valley College, Orange Coast College, as well as interested students from chapters not functioning over the summer.

The conference opened Friday night with a panel on 'What Happened at the SDS Convention' featuring Pat Forman (SDS Interorganizational Secretary) and Leslie Lincoln (SDS NIC). The RYM forces in the area were invited, but none of the RYM leadership showed up. The Valley State chapter, led by 'Communist' Party member Cliff Fried, attempted to disrupt the meeting. When the audience made it clear that they wanted the meeting to proceed, Fried accepted a place on the panel, made a speech in which he attacked RYM for being unprincipled, and then called for a walkout. Only the delegates from Valley State walked out.

Morale was extremely high at the conference, even though it was much smaller (70 people attended) than most of the regional conferences held throughout the country. The RYM leadership is in total disarray, and most RYMers are justifiably bitter about the manipulation and misleadership that culminated in the dissolution of the regional office. (Rumor has it that Mike Klonsky will join 'C'Per Fried at Valley State.) SDS, on the other hand, has a number of strong chapters in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties, and a firm and spirited commitment to defeat the split and build SDS as an anti-imperialist, pro-working class organization.