

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIALISTS**

Newsletter

FOR MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

July 2, 1981

REPORT ON NATIONAL MEETING

(This article is not as boring as its title.)

The response to the Summer Conference has been very positive. Four people wrote in from the ad in Changes (one of whom has sent in his registration already). Members seem to be inviting a wide range of contacts, and the response is encouraging.

On Sunday, June 21, we held a National Meeting to discuss the conference. It was good to have representation from Cleveland, New York and Chicago as well as Detroit. PC members felt that we benefited from the input of a larger number of people, and felt that the discussions were positive and helpful. Having this pre-discussion made us deal more seriously with the content of the sessions, and we are continuing the discussions.

We began with a discussion of the conception of the conference. Mark laid out why the PC has chosen a focus on the left in the unions and the labor party. He explained what we want to get out of the conference, who we want to have come. Several speakers emphasized the importance of getting people to come who are not members. This includes contact work in our cities, but also looking at people we are (or should be) in political dialogue with on a national scale, and making overtures to these individuals and grouplets.

Enid made a proposal that we have a session on the IS for non-members. This was thought to be a good idea, and there was discussion on who it should be aimed at (independents, or people new to politics). The PC will develop this idea further. It was also suggested that we organize our members at the conference to do contact work, assigning people to talk to, say, steel contacts, Solidarity people, etc.

The second point on the agenda was a discussion of the plenary on the Left in the Unions. The background of this talk is based on Kim's article in the July/August Changes titled "The Rank and File Movement: Confronting Labor's Crisis in the 80's." Most of the discussion on this session centered on "What's the punch line?" While people were in basic agreement with Kim's analysis of the rank and file movement, what people felt was missing was a perspective, a project.

Joel made the point that our view is more coherent than we give it credit for, and constitutes a perspective. He suggested that we publish a pamphlet outlining our view (based on Kim's analysis) of the crisis confronting American labor. This does not answer the question of what the "punch line" is, what specific projects we can suggest people do. However, most agreed that there isn't one project, aside from the things Kim outlined: using Labor Notes, increasing the self-conception of a broad trade union left, and various campaigns that come up, like miners support work, or the AFL-CIO rally planned for September 19.

The third discussion was on the plenary "Towards A Labor Party." This was the most controversial discussion, and has continued on the PC. Mike P. laid out a strategy for finding ways to raise independent politics in the unions. (Mike has been asked to write up his position, which will be sent out.) Many people felt that Mike was presenting incorrect or premature tactics for intervention around this question, and argued for a more educational approach.

Dan correctly characterized the IS as "syndicalist in practice and labor party in theory to avoid the problem of working in the Democratic Party." Although Dan felt it was problematical to move beyond this point, others were interested in exploring ways to move the labor party from theory into practice, but differed sharply about how to do that.

The PC has continued the discussion of this session and agreed that one section of the session should be educational—trying to convince the left that the labor party is the right route, and what the implications of that are in terms of the Democratic Party, and

to lay out the increasing sentiment for a labor party, that is, why we think the labor party is entering the realm of the actionable. We have not decided how to handle the discussion of strategies yet. (We'll be keeping you posted!)

The final discussion was on the state of the IS. Gay presented an analysis of where the IS is at, emphasizing that while we have not moved forward over the last year, we have also not moved backwards. She characterized the IS as stagnant. On the other hand, other large sections of the left have fallen apart, from NAM which will formally enter DSOC in December, to the Trend, which has ceased to exist, to the CP(M-L) which is in political flux and will probably merge with the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters. At the same time, there is more political momentum now than there has been for several years, and we are seeing the rebirth of new social movements, partially in response to the right-wing drift of American politics.

Several people spoke to the need to recruit. There are a lot of independents around today who are looking for direction. The IS may have the opportunity to recruit some of them right now. In a year or two, they will either have moved into DSOC (which will be a more vital pole now), or to hardened pro-Moscow Stalinism. Members from out of town described the state of their branches, characterizing the problem of members being quite involved in political work, "but no one's minding the IS store." People emphasized the need to build the conference as a step towards reinvigorating the IS. Mike P. made a motion that everyone in attendance volunteer four days of their time this summer to work on the conference, and that we advertise to hire an organizer/traveler for the summer. These motions passed. Of course, others are encouraged to make a similar commitment.

In the intervening time, Mark L. has agreed to take the job as organizer/traveler, which will really help to build the conference, and cohere the political content. We urge branches to think very seriously about when it would be good for Mark to visit, speak at meetings, meet with contacts. Also, we are interested to know of individuals or grouplets in other cities that you think might be interested in the conference. Mike F. urged that the National Office make an effort to keep the members updated about the conference. We also urge a similar input from your end. Don't forget, you can call us, too.

What we need to do now is start seriously inviting people, following up invitations with phone calls, branch forums, etc. In short, political dialogue. Don't let this be an event where you say, "Gee, it was really good... if only I had brought so-and-so."

—Elissa

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NEW MEMBERS

Two members-at-large have joined the I.S. Mike is a former IS member who lives in Philadelphia. Mike has been a supporter of Labor Notes, and at one point tried to pull together a LN study group.

Denny is a member of TDU, and attended last year's summer conference.

Mike and Denny organized a small meeting in Philadelphia for Joel as part of his Poland tour.

Welcome!

What The Summer Conference Is About

The IS is sponsoring a socialist educational conference; the focus will be rebuilding a militant and democratic trade union movement and independent political action. We believe that beyond whatever movements or struggles arise in the immediate future (i.e., the anti-war movement, reproductive rights, etc.) the next historic step for the American working class and therefore for socialists is the rebirth of the labor movement and the creation of a new class-based political party. At the same time we recognize that there are a number of other important questions which will be addressed in workshops.

While the content of the conference will be determined by the IS in that we will put forward our point of view, we want to have an atmosphere of open discussion — an opportunity for serious socialists to engage in serious dialogue. We want people to feel that they have learned something when they leave. The plenary speakers will be I.S. members, but we are looking for a range of political perspectives in the workshop panelists. Since this is an educational conference with a broad group of people participating, there will be no votes (except at the I.S. members' session which will take up organizational/perspective-type questions).

In addition to members, the people we want to attend are those who are or ought to be thinking about joining the I.S., political collaborators who have differences but respect the I.S., members of organizations we have a dialogue with. In the last month four people have joined, and we know others are considering joining. We believe that the conference can further this process and help to build the IS both in members and in reputation.

If the conference is to be a success, all of us will have to work hard to build it. Especially in the branches, it is necessary to get the word out to those who fit the above descriptions and encourage them to come. We hope branches will seriously build this conference. It will be the best opportunity to show the IS to friends and contacts. Don't let this be an event where you say afterwards, "If

only I had invited so-and-so . . ."

We believe that there is no increased motion towards regroupment today. But the left will have to go through a process of discussion and political debate before the old barriers to working together can fall. We hope this conference will lay out some of the elements of a general strategy for revolutionary socialists and foster more dialogue and discussion that can aid in this process down the road.

Travel Pool

Comrades have raised the issue of getting help for the high cost of travel from the west and east coasts to the summer conference. Particularly from the west coast, the cost of travel is prohibitive and will sharply limit the number of people who come.

The PC has discussed a variety of ideas to help with travel, but we haven't yet come up with one that we think can be successfully implemented. We are including this item in the Newsletter in the hope that someone will have a good idea, and pass it along to us. We feel that raising \$1,000 would be a reasonable goal that could still substantially help a number of people.

We thought of holding a raffle, but with the large number of people laid off, we didn't feel that branches could sell enough tickets.

We also thought of having a travel pool, but that is difficult to a non-delegated conference. Possibly, we could have a pool on a strictly voluntary basis.

We considered asking each branch to hold a fund-raiser, but felt that to ask at this point would be too short notice, and that most branches are concentrating on getting people to the conference, which is the best use of people's time.

The PC strongly encourages the New York branch to make sure that at least some people are driving, so friends can be offered rides at reasonable rates.

—Elissa

Solidarity's East Coast Conference

I attended the May 16-17 Solidarity (formerly August 7) conference in Boston. About 70 people were present, about 50 of whom were members. This represented most of the East Coast membership, half of which is from Boston itself, and the rest from Washington, New York and Philadelphia. The figures for the West Coast are similar, with half the membership there from the Bay Area. Very few Solidarity people live between the coasts.

Most of the conference was organizational. Discussion centered around a major organizational proposal intended to define the group as a national organization with coordinated activities and unified politics. Although there was some sentiment that local work and a loose identification with a socialist-feminist network was all that was necessary, the majority was won to enthusiastic support of the proposal.

Part of the sentiment for the proposal was to end a sense of isolation, and this was reflected in support for that part of the proposal directed toward regroupment. The group sees its own growth and its moves toward systematic contacts with the rest of the left as simultaneous processes, with the result being a multi-tendency organization which Solidarity would help initiate.

They discussed being more "open" to "traditional" left politics (Leninism) by exchanging articles with other groups, going to their meetings, etc. In addition to independent publications such as Radical America, they are interested in three main

socialist organizations — Workers Power, the IS, and the Socialist Party. Although the relative merits of the three were not discussed, it appeared that the IS was the group with which (at least on the East Coast) their members were most familiar (through our labor work). Some still were very wary of us as heavy-handed democratic centralists insensitive to women's issues, but some were very interested in us.

Their plans for the near future include internal classes and discussions conducted through national bulletins, which would define their core politics and their attitude towards arena work. (Though by far the greatest amount of activity is in reproductive rights, they do have people in CISPES and in unions). They also wish to initiate discussions with other groups and look forward to publishing joint discussion bulletins. It would certainly be possible for us to initiate part of this dialogue and possibly contribute to their political discussion.

Judging from their existing bulletin, Socialism-Feminism remains vague as a political ideology. No one can tell you how a socialist-feminist revolution differs from a socialist revolution in which there is a strong and successful women's liberation movement. They have very little to say about the labor movement and most of their organization knows little about the dynamics of class politics. But they seem to have created an opening for discussing these questions.

—Mel B.

DSOC CONVENTION REPORT

I attended the 5th biennial DSOC Convention held in Philadelphia May 22-25. Since its last convention DSOC has enjoyed its two best years. Membership has increased 60% to 5,000 members organized in 51 chapters. Thirty percent of this growth has come from DSOC's Youth Section of 1,500 organized in 40 campus chapters.

The convention was attended by 200 delegates and another 150 observers. The National Director provided the following breakdown of the composition of the delegation which he said was roughly representative of the group as a whole: 30% of the delegates had joined since the last convention; 30% were women; 7% were minority group members; 31% were members of unions, about half staffers, half from white collar unions. (This obviously excludes the small but "impressive" number of union leaders.)

Current Activity

DSOC's strategic focus is the creation of a left wing in the Democratic Party. Its work is carried out through the "Democratic Agenda" which includes prominent trade union leaders, minority group and women's activists as well as politicians. In November 1979 Democratic Agenda held a conference in Washington of 2,000 people. As the Kennedy campaign developed, however, it had no independent role to play and subsequently had little presence at the Democratic Party Convention in August 1980. DSOC estimated that 10% of the delegates were Democratic Agenda members.

DSOC "sat out" the presidential campaign. Rather than having a bitter fight about whether it should endorse Carter, the DSOC leadership took no position and told people to make whatever individual decision they cared to.

DSOC's second prominent area of activity has been its international work. DSOC is a member of the Socialist International and held a conference in December 1980 on "Eurosocialism" which featured Francois Mitterand and other European social democrats and was attended by 3,000. DSOC youth groups have been active in the new anti-war movement.

The Convention

The convention had an internal focus. What discussion there was about what we would call "perspectives" tended to be tactical and superficial. There was, most notably, little discussion about the Democratic Party, no examination of its inability to pose an alternative to Reagan, DSOC's level of influence, etc. The convention passed a resolution on the Democratic Agenda which focused on organizing for the Democratic Party midterm convention (subsequently the Democratic National Committee has scrapped the convention) and on making the Democratic Agenda more of a membership and less of a letterhead group.

There were three issues which created controversy worth reporting. First was the merger with NAM. For the past two years NAM and DSOC have been negotiating a merger. A document was drafted by the negotiating committee as the political basis for unity. This was approved by the DSOC Convention. Next it will be presented to the NAM Convention. If passed (there is no doubt that it will) there will be a "unity convention" this winter.

There was some controversy in DSOC on the merger. *Dissent* editor Irving Howe had organized a caucus to oppose it. The issue was seen as a test of strength for DSOC's right wing. By the time of the vote it was clear that merger had the support of the vast majority of delegates; the right abstained on the vote.

The second issue was trade union democracy. Labor Notes readers will remember Jules Bernstein, a lawyer for the Laborers Union and, until the convention, a vice-chair of DSOC. Bernstein submitted a resolution criticizing the "growing divisiveness" in the labor movement and called on trade union members not to seek outside remedies for internal union disputes. This was countered by two resolutions—one by Tony Mitchell and Chris White of ROOR which upheld the right of workers to control their union, and another by left caucus leader Bogdan Denitch which spoke generally of the need for union democracy and specifically condemned the "smear campaign" now being conducted against the Association for Union Democracy.

Although most of the delegates were critical of Bernstein, a compromise resolution which affirmed the need for union democracy and made no reference to either the growing divisiveness or the smear campaign was agreed to by all. This was possible because almost all DSOCers agree that DSOC should not take positions on internal union matters, or as Michael Harrington puts it, "DSOC's labor policy is that we have no labor policy."

The third issue was whether DSOC vice-chairs should have

automatic voting rights on their National Executive Committee (NEC). While this might seem trivial, this issue consumed most of the delegates' time and created a good deal of bitterness. The role of DSOC's vice-chairs was the focus of a "youth rebellion" against DSOC's old guard.

The vice-chairs are elected on the basis of their public stature (Winpisinger is one). But because the DSOC constitution gives them voting rights on the NEC, the co-chairs affect its political make-up. Harrington used his considerable moral authority to try to defuse this issue but to no avail. The convention voted that if vice-chairs wanted a vote on the NEC, they would have to run for it.

DSOC'S Left Caucus

Since its last convention DSOC has had a Left Caucus. The caucus led the youth rebellion. Some of the left press has interpreted the youth rebellion/old guard dynamic which dominated the convention as a left/right political struggle. That is not quite accurate. Despite their intensity, the fights at the convention were not over political program. Nearly everyone in DSOC including the Left Caucus accepts its general orientation. It would be more accurate to say that the fight was about what kind of organization people need. The "old guard" wants a group that functions as an intellectual center for Democratic Party activists and union leaders. "The youth" want a group which has a stronger chapter life, socialist education, public meetings, etc., the kind of group which would appeal to student activists. These differences may have political implications but they have not emerged in that form.

Where Is DSOC Going?

Clearly DSOC has grown and will continue to. Merger with NAM is all sewn up and it is on the basis of DSOC's politics. NAM now claims 1,600 members so the merger will result in a significantly bigger group. Both NAM and DSOC believe that there are "thousands" of people not in either group who will join after the merger. Despite the bitterness at the convention, there is a confidence in the future of the group.

The youth rebellion/old guard dynamic will continue to be a factor in DSOC's internal life. It is hard to say what impact the merger will have on this because NAM has accepted so much of the DSOC perspective. Two things are clear. First, the young people who are joining DSOC are not "clones" of Michael Harrington. The group is too loose for the old guard to easily reproduce itself. It is possible that the youth rebellion will take on a more explicit political cast.

Secondly, whether that happens will be determined by events outside of DSOC. If the Democratic Party keeps moving right and a "labor party" debate opens up in the unions, if the reform movements grow and make clearer the character of the union leadership, there may well be a positive response among these DSOC youth.

—Mark

Perspectives for the Detroit District

[The Detroit District Committee thought other branches would be interested in this perspective, which was passed in May.]

Members of the Detroit IS are leaders of many of the most important political movements in town. Names of ISers appear everywhere. Pick up an issue of the *Metro Times*, our members are writing for it. Attend an El Salvador Teach-In, our members are speakers. Our members are organizing conferences for SEMCOSH, active in CISPES, leaders of SECO, etc., etc. The Poland forum we sponsored was an important public event, attracted people new to socialism, and identified the IS publicly with this important issue. As a result, one of our members was featured on the front page of the *Free Press*, and another recently lectured local (and some national) press on the relationship of the working class to the Democratic Party. Our work in the unions, traditionally the strength of the IS, continues to deepen.

Yet as an organization the IS is very weak. While we have successfully trained our members, we have not successfully built the IS. For the last year or two we have not felt that it was possible to build the IS, but times are changing.

The Labor Notes conference enhanced the reputation of the IS. Many participants understood the role of the IS in catalyzing Labor Notes. Few, if any, other groups have the political clarity, the roots in the labor movement and the non-sectarian style that made it possible for the IS to play such a role.

The number of radicals attending the LN conference was an illustration that the left can work together. The large turnout of

radicals was also an expression of sentiment for regroupment. Some of these people probably would like to see LN to be the vehicle for regroupment; we know that is not possible because LN is not a socialist organ.

However, there are going to be opportunities for the IS to capitalize on the desire for regroupment, and we should start to take advantage of these opportunities. The IS Political Ctte plans, instead of holding an internal conference this summer, to sponsor a Socialist Educational Conference, open to others by invitation.

This perspective for the Detroit IS is modest but important. Its purpose is to begin to address the question of building the IS. It prioritizes two areas of work: the anti-war movement, and building Labor Notes. It proposes a mini-campaign to use the summer conference to build the IS and recruit modest numbers.

1. The Anti-war Movement

In the past two months a new anti-war movement has coalesced. What was previously an unorganized sentiment (except for the anti-draft movement) and generalized fear of the militarization and drift toward confrontation somewhere in the world, now has a central focus of concern—El Salvador.

Demonstrations of thousands have occurred in many cities, in most cases the largest demos since the invasion of Cambodia in 1970. The reality of US intervention in El Salvador has shocked people into action. The first national anti-war demo on May 3 drew 60 to 70,000 people.

Several aspects of the new anti-war movement are notable: 1) its

connection with issues of domestic economic and social concerns—there is already more trade union involvement around El Salvador than at the height of the Vietnam anti-war movement, and 2) its "institutional" respectability, due in part to the fact that church groups have been the backbone of the anti-intervention protests.

The IS should be active in this new anti-war struggle. Fortunately, there is already an organizational vehicle which we can get involved in building in Detroit: the Cttee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). CISPES has held one demo in Detroit, sponsored two public meetings, with a member of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, and made quite a few local media appearances.

CISPES is a national organization with headquarters in Washington, branches in several dozen cities and prospects for rapid growth. It is trying to build a serious responsible structure with 7 regional centers (the Midwest office is in Chicago). While CISPES is open to participation by left groups, its national leadership is trying to develop a structure that will prevent CISPES from being a center for factional struggles.

CISPES' basic principles are 1) recognition of the FDR as the legitimate representative of the Salvadoran people, 2) support of the right of the Salvadorans to determine their own destiny, and 3) a commitment to stop US intervention.

The Detroit chapter was initiated by people from the Nicaragua Solidarity Cttee, in which a number of SWP members are active, along with representatives from the religious community who are concerned with Central and Latin America, in particular the Latin American Task Force. Detroit CISPES has good working relations with the Michigan Interchurch Cttee on Central American Human Rights (MICAHR), the faculty cttee on El Salvador at Wayne State (in which we have one member active), and the campus ministry at U-M Dearborn and Henry Ford College. Four other members of the Detroit IS have been active.

Upcoming plans include a labor speak-out on El Salvador in June, and a celebration of the anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution in July.

Our perspective should be that 1) this struggle will be a key and increasingly important component of any domestic political opposition to Reagan, 2) it is very likely to be a protracted struggle even if the military and political situations change dramatically, 3) CISPES is the best vehicle for building an anti-war movement in solidarity with El Salvador. As the regime becomes increasingly dependent (its economy is now in collapse) such a campaign becomes increasingly essential. We should have IS members participating actively in CISPES. The District should look for more people power for this. Others should attend public meetings and demonstrations, staff literature tables (we already have some good literature from Changes), etc. We should also begin to explore ways of taking this issue into the union movement.

2. Building Labor Notes

Labor Notes is developing perspectives to build on the success of its first conference. Plans include support work for the miners strike, regional conferences, boosting circulation and developing writers, and traveling to meet with readers and attend other labor events (like AUD conferences and women miners conference).

In other cities, LN readers have taken impressive initiatives. In Boston, conference attendees held a follow-up meeting of 40 for those who were unable to come to Detroit. They are now planning a conference on affirmative action and cut-backs. In Chicago, a similar meeting is set for May 10 that will also include a miner speaking on the strike.

In California, a reader proposed that LN hire her as a west coast correspondent. Another reader just ordered a bundle of 100.

Miners support committees will be key for the duration of the strike. In Detroit, LN intends to initiate a support committee. LN will find miners to speak at rallies, make buttons available as fundraisers, encourage plant gate collections and play the role of bringing people together from a variety of unions in support of the strike. If you recall, three years ago a similar support committee was organized in Detroit by independent leftists. This year, LN is the logical initiator of such a committee.

The Detroit District should energetically commit itself to miners support work. We should also do the things that can help to build LN in this city, like: 1) boosting circulation. Teamster and auto fractions should have a discussion of this. People should take LN to people they work with and try to get subs (so you don't have to wear the LN hat in addition to everything else you do). 2) Propose LN lit tables at appropriate events. For example, the upcoming SEM-

COSH conference. 3) Propose LN as endorsers of labor events when appropriate. 4) Propose LN speakers when appropriate. For example, Mike P. does workshops for LN on public speaking. Elissa and Jane have done numerous workshops on sexual harassment; we should get from LN staff other topics they are prepared to speak on.

There may be other people besides the staff who can speak in the name of LN, and others can participate in such things as miners support work.

3. Recruiting: Cast A Wide Net

Our perspective on regroupment is politically correct, but it has had some negative impacts on the organization. Even after we stopped believing that regroupment was immediately on the agenda, we stopped building the IS. Experienced comrades have drifted away, and while we have recruited modestly in Detroit, we have not held our own.

We need to adopt a much more aggressive political approach. While we stand for regroupment, we don't see much motion in that direction. We need to say that people who are serious about politics should join the IS and work with us for regroupment. We need to develop political arguments that will convince our members to build the IS. If we allow the IS to deteriorate, our effectiveness in working toward regroupment is diminished because we are not a serious pole.

Our work is respected in the unions, in the Citizens Party, in Labor Notes. We have a start to recruit those people who admire our work. We should cast the widest possible net. While we will recruit only a small percentage, it should be clear to our friends (and our own members) that we consider joining the IS to be an important step that they should take. Even those people who we do not think will join should know that we consider this to be a question they have to address.

Recruiting should be a regular item on the District Cttee's agenda. We should not assume that a contact is being talked to about joining because s/he has personal friends in the IS. The District Cttee should target the most likely candidates for recruitment and develop a plan to recruit them.

The class series which have been held should be changed slightly in conception. Rather than a series with a beginning and end, we should have a regular evening once a month when a class is held. These classes should be pitched towards political activists who are untrained. Then, when members meet people who are interested in learning more about IS politics, they can say, "Oh, the third Tuesday of every month there is this class..."

Additionally, we should assign buddies to those people we are most likely to recruit, set up individual classes for those who cannot make the regular ones, or who have specific questions.

There needs to be a dynamic within the organization that is more lively. We will have some new members this summer, and it is important that the organization trains them, takes them seriously, and has some life so their decision to join has some meaning. Nationally, several people have expressed interest in joining or re-joining the IS. The N.O. is looking for a traveler this summer who can visit some of these people, recruit them, and build the summer conference.

4. IS Summer Conference

The Political Cttee is planning a socialist educational conference rather than an internal IS conference. It will take off from questions that were raised at the LN conference for more political discussion and direction. There will also be workshops on important areas of organizing, like El Salvador and the anti-war movement, Black activism, KOR defense work, etc. There will be an evaluation of the Citizens Party experience and what it taught us about American politics. We will attempt to get outside speakers who are active in these areas.

The Detroit District should begin now to build for this conference. The District Cttee proposes that we hold two dinner-discussions this summer, one at the end of June, the other at the end of July. Then at the end of August will be the conference. Discussion topics should take off from the theme of the conference, and we should consider asking outside speakers.

The District should begin now to discuss who we want to get to this conference. Each member should be talked to in order to compile a comprehensive list. Then we should organize the branch to get these people invited, to come to the dinner-discussions, and register (early) for the summer conference.

5. The District Committee

(A new slate was proposed and approved at a May branch meeting.)

Branch Reports

New York

The New York City Citizens Party has voted to support unconditionally the mayoral campaign of left Democrat Frank Barbaro. Barbaro is running as "the real Democrat" in the primary against Koch. His campaign has attracted support of some municipal union locals, a coalition of community groups, and the Democratic reform clubs. Barbaro's strategy is to revitalize the liberal or reform wing of the Democratic Party.

There was some talk of Barbaro running as an independent for mayor after he loses the primary (he is expected to get 25%), but Barbaro has failed to endorse the idea, does not bring it up in his campaign, etc.

We argued in the Citizens Party that we should only endorse the campaign if Barbaro would commit himself to running independently after the primary. But Barbaro refused to commit himself, and the Citizens Party decided to endorse him anyway. As it stands, Barbaro's campaign is more likely to draw more independents and liberals into the Democratic Party than to build an independent alternative. We will remain in the Citizens Party to argue for independent politics, although we find ourselves isolated.

Joanne L. is bringing together a small group of people with similar politics to coordinate support activities for the Polish workers' movement. In addition, ISers have contacted a Polish emigrant group which supports KOR and Solidarnosc. They are interested in meeting with us, though it is possible that at least some of them may be right-wingers.

The Bell Wringer people are attempting to put together a slate for the CWA elections this fall.

The New York H-Block Armagh Committee, in which Sandy is very active, has been very busy lately with weekly demonstrations. Currently a national tour is being planned for Fergus O'Hare, recently elected to the Belfast City Council on an H-Block platform, and an International Day of Solidarity for Political Prisoners is being held, with Afeni Shakur and a representative of a Puerto Rican group among the speakers and Paul O'Dwyer as chair.

The New York branch is delighted to welcome a new member, Margi, who is currently studying economics and is interested in organizing women clerical workers and in changing office technology.

—Mel B.

Detroit

Detroit is pleased to announce a new member, Mary. Mary has been active in CISPES and worked on the El Salvador chronology which recently appeared in *Changes*. Mary will be in New York for the summer, so we'll be losing her to the New York branch.

Included with this newsletter you'll find a copy of Perspectives adopted by the District at our May meeting. These included two meetings over the summer to build towards the summer conference. The first of these was held Sunday, June 28—a potluck dinner and discussion on Socialism in America. About 50 people attended. Mark spoke on why the American working class hasn't formed its own party, giving historical background, and there was some interesting discussion. Elissa gave a short pitch for the Summer Conference.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 9—another potluck with a short presentation on TDU.

—Marilyn P.

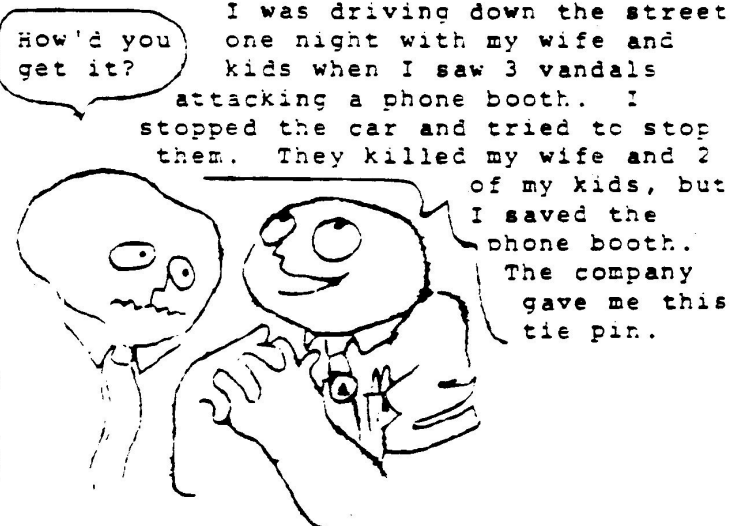
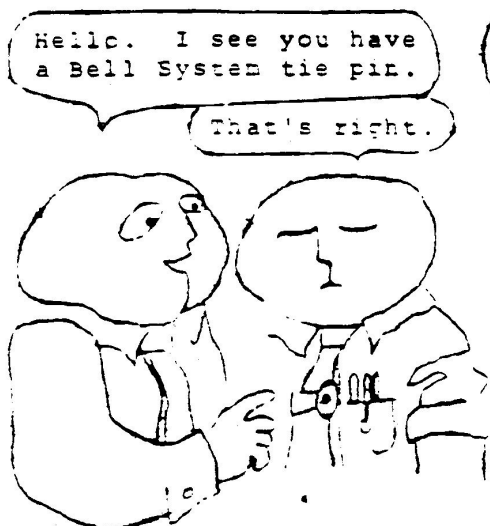
Cleveland

The Cleveland branch is planning a brunch-discussion in July on the proposed "Free Enterprise Zone" in Cleveland. Free Enterprise Zones are a new scheme where the ruling class does us the big favor of establishing a business in a poverty area, and in return the working class forfeits the minimum wage and every other protection ever won.

Hard Hatted Women held a successful picnic in June.

Jeremy has been contacting branch members and drawing up a list of friends to invite to the summer conference.

Tenth Anniversary of the New York Telephone Strike (July 14, 1971 — February 17, 1972)



Lists

Local -

Boston - Marty
Phil Brown -
Jim O'B.

NY - Neil
? Sloan

Tom - ask for 10/10 people
Mezzo's
Mike Oz -

CAC - Ed -

Headjackets - Sully, Bob -

others - Bruce + Linda

Ron Cohen

Paul Stern

Wendy Chung

(?) Rob Persing