

# 1968 SOCIALIST WORKERS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY TO RUN ANTIWAR LEADER AND BLACK  
POWER SPOKESMAN AS PRESIDENTIAL TICKET IN 1968.

CALL FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM  
VIETNAM AND BLACK CONTROL OF BLACK COMMUNITIES.

NEW YORK -- The national committee of the Socialist Workers party announced here today that it has nominated Fred Halstead, a leader of the New York antiwar movement, and Paul Boutelle, a Harlem black power spokesman, as the party's candidates respectively for President and Vice President of the United States in the 1968 elections.

Halstead, one of the principal organizers of the massive April 15 antiwar demonstration in New York, said that the war in Vietnam would be a central issue of the campaign. He explained that, "The continued escalation of the Vietnam war is bringing this country closer to the brink of a war with China and the possibility of a nuclear holocaust.

"The only way to end the war is to bring the U.S. troops home immediately," said Halstead. "That," he

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continued, "is what the American people want and that's what the troops want. As recent polls show, on this issue we speak for more Americans than the Republican or Democratic parties."

Halstead said he intended to appeal to G.I.'s as voters "to vote for our ticket on this issue as a vote for getting themselves and their buddies out of this illegal, immoral and useless slaughter."

Boutelle, a prominent public spokesman for black power in Harlem, declared: "Black people in this country are told that the oppressed peasants of Vietnam are their enemy. The truth of the matter, however, is that the real enemy of black people is here at home in Washington, and in every state and local government in the country."

"The use of Federal troops, National Guardsmen, and police against the black community by politicians of both the Democratic and Republicans parties demonstrates the bankruptcy of these parties to deal with the gigantic problems of unemployment and sub-standard living conditions. The use of repressive force against black people must be strongly condemned."

Boutelle continued, "The black communities should be controlled by the black people who live there. We should have our own party independent of the racist policies of the Democrats and Republicans, that represents our interests."

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Boutelle continued by condemning the legal harassment that H. Rap Brown, Chairman of SNCC, has suffered. "Whenever the ruling class cannot buy off black leaders, their policy is to frame them, exile them, or assassinate them."

Halstead said, "It is just as wrong to use troops against the black community here as it is to use troops to try to put down the Vietnamese revolution."

The Socialist Workers party presidential candidate attacked Senator Robert F. Kennedy for recent statements that more rigid gun control laws would decrease bloodshed in "riots" in U.S. cities. Halstead said: "The Senator has the facts twisted. The bloodshed came when the police, state troopers and National Guard troops carried out armed punitive expeditions into the black community. Kennedy -- that supporter of Pentagon violence -- is just trying to disarm the black community and leave it helpless in the face of more and bigger punitive expeditions. We support the constitutional right of every Afro-American to bear arms and to protect his own home and person."

Boutelle will begin his campaign by making a tour of Negro campuses in the deep South early this fall. He plans to tour Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana,

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Texas, and other states.

Halstead will spend the next two months in New York helping to organize the massive October 21st antiwar demonstration to be held in Washington D.C.

Jack Barnes, National Campaign Manager, told the press that 20,000 signatures of registered voters have already been filed to put the SWP on the ballot in Michigan. "The National Campaign Committee has been carrying out a study of the election requirements in the 50 states. We are confident that due to the changed political climate, despite unconstitutionally restrictive electoral laws in most states, the SWP will have ballot status in more states than any previous election campaign."

Melissa Singler, one of the initiators of the Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle released an informational brochure. It called on young Americans "to support the Socialist Workers ticket in 1968 as an alternative to the war-making and racist policies of the Democratic and Republican parties."

(Campaign materials, biographical information and photos are enclosed.)

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