

(copy)

LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM SMC STAFF

June 5, 1968

Linda Morse
New York

Dear Linda,

Although I did not attend the founding conference of SMC, I watched with support its growth and progress. In Minnesota the Student Mobilizer was read with interest by activists and the Minnesota CEWV worked to build the SMC actions. When I joined the SMC I knew neither Kipp nor Syd but was encouraged, once I had begun work, to see the cohesive organization and structure in the committee, and an honest enthusiasm in building mass actions.

As chairman of the Minnesota CEWV (from where I had come immediately prior to joining the SMC) I had had much experience in working with the YSA, and it was undoubtedly with their disciplined and dedicated assistance that nearly 200 people traveled to NYC for the April 15 mobilization, that over 600 people marched in last August's Hiroshima Day observance in the Twin Cities, that the Minn. Comm. was able to hold 4 highly successful street meetings in defense of the right of free speech for GIs (precipitated by Howard Petrick's threatened courtmartial) and that the Minn. Comm. mobilized people from the surrounding 5-state area to demonstrate in January of 1967 at Fort Leavenworth Prison to protest the imprisonment of the Fort Hood Three. In all of these actions, it is difficult to assess how many additional people joined our ranks, but we do know that without these actions, the incentive for antiwar involvement would have been less, and the antiwar movement the poorer. Perhaps it is because of my independence of any political organization that I can see with a certain objectivity the potential and necessity of the broadest possible single issue antiwar coalition; too, I have not failed to observe that the organizational quality and structure of the YSA, which gave the coalition impetus and direction, is now sadly lacking.

For the past three weeks I have watched the SMC take on an increasing inertia until I find it quite inconceivable that anything constructive can be accomplished in this present situation. Projected summer intentions are not taking shape; I have seen no publications, no leaflets, and have neither seen nor heard of any concrete work accomplished in or out of the office. For one lame reason after another, totally unconvincing to any antiwar activist concerned with the current crisis with the SMC, the Working Committee meetings have been consistently postponed. None of this is surprising after the unprincipled motion of exclusionary politics aimed at barring the YSA from working as staff members on the SMC was passed at a Working Committee meeting May 8, and the multi-issue program SMC is drifting towards, both things in direct opposition to the way in which SMC was founded.

While the Working Committee postpones its meetings and continues its exclusionary policy, the heroic Vietnamese struggle against the US aggressors continues, and American GIs are also experiencing a higher death rate than during any previous two week period in the Vietnam war. It is precisely now during these phony 'negotiations'

that the antiwar coalition must maintain its vitality. If we are seriously opposed to the war, it is our duty to work harder during this period, to mobilize greater opposition to the war, not dwindle away as a result of exclusionary politics.

I am not able to sit by and watch the sluggish manner in which the SMC is bumbling about. Is SMC guilty of what has often been said of the current administration perpetrating the murder in Vietnam, that they 'stumbled blindly' into the situation? If SMC has stumbled blindly into this grave error, it is imperative to reverse the exclusion directed at the YSA, and keep from dissolution by calling for a national conference in the Midwest at the earliest possible date. One of SMC's principal slogans has been "Bring the Troops Home Now!" Killing the coalition and excluding political groups will never work to accomplish that aim.

I find I can no longer work with the shell that remains of the SMC, and I regretfully resign from the staff.

Sincerely,
(signed) Martha Harris

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RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, JUNE 3, 1968

"WHEREAS, the war in Vietnam being waged by the United States government is an imperialist war;

"WHEREAS, the war in Vietnam has resulted in more than 150,000 GIs killed and wounded;

"WHEREAS, the war expenditures are needed for humanitarian projects such as the elimination of poverty, sickness and illiteracy;

"WHEREAS, it must be demonstrated in mass street actions that the mass of American people are against the war;

"NOTING, that the antiwar movement has been built through democratic national conventions to call antiwar demonstrations and decide policy questions;

"AND FURTHER NOTING, the antiwar movement has also been built on the basis of non-exclusion;

"BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the University of California declares its opposition to the war;

"DEMANDS, the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam;

"DECLARES, its support for mass demonstrations such as those on April 15, 1967; October 21, 1967; April 26, 1968; and April 27, 1968;

"DECLARES, its support for the antiwar coalition responsible for calling and coordinating these actions on the national level, the Student Mobilization Committee;

"DECLARES, its support for the fundamental foundation of the antiwar movement, non-exclusion in membership and democracy in decision making."

This resolution received the vote of every Senator against the war in Vietnam and now represents the official policy of the ASUC on the war and the antiwar movement. A copy has been sent to Linda Morse.