

Report to the NEC on the National Conference for New Politics
Convention, July 13, 1967, by Doug

The National Conference for New Politics, the coalition of liberals and radicals that was organized over a year ago to promote reformist electoral activity, has called a national convention to be held in Chicago on August 31 - September 4.

The purpose of the convention is to bring together the various "grass roots" organizations that are trying to find an alternative to Johnson in the 1968 elections. According to a special convention issue of their newsletter, New Politics News, the six major proposals that will be discussed are: 1) candidates in presidential primaries of the Democratic party; 2) a third party ticket headed by candidates like King and Spock; 3) local campaigns; 4) a nationally coordinated campaign of local campaigns; 5) favorite son presidential campaigns in separate states, e.g., Simon Casady in California, Dick Gregory in Illinois, Adam Clayton Powell in New York; and 6) local campaigns with mock elections for King and Spock. This means a propaganda campaign for King and Spock but no attempt to get them on the ballot. There is no agreement as of yet on any of these proposals.

A call has gone out to over 200 organizations and the convention organizers expect 1,000 delegates to be present. It is clear from the list of organizations that have been invited that the reformist leaders of the NCNP are trying to draw sincere militants and activists from the black and antiwar movements into class collaborationist politics. For example, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization has been invited and John Hulett is listed as a member of the convention preparatory committee.

The convention has attracted considerable attention not only in the radical and antiwar movements but also in the bourgeois press.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference which is holding its convention on August 14-17, is considering the possibility of supporting or initiating a third presidential ticket, and Martin Luther King has already agreed to be the keynote speaker at the NCNP convention.

The Worker carried an editorial strongly endorsing the convention and stated that it "...will be an inspiration for all Americans eager to make their voices felt no matter what their political affiliations may be."

The NCNP is planning to publish 2 or 3 special issues of New Politics News prior to the convention carrying discussion articles on the proposals that will be presented at the convention. All the locals should send for copies. Write to: Convention Center, National Conference for New Politics, 1517 West Howard Street, Chicago, Illinois 60626.

Locals are also urged to subscribe to the NCNP's technical journal, Inter/Change, c/o NCNP, 250 West 57th St., Suite 1528, New York, N.Y. 10019, and Vietnam Summer News, 5 Cadbury Road, Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

The fact that the convention is going to attract many young activists from the antiwar movement makes it important for us to intervene with the SWP '68 election campaign and our political position on electoral activities. As the conference approaches we will keep the locals informed on new developments and our own plans.