

Copy-Copy- " Telling it Like it Is "- Franklin Alexander
from Jan.-Feb. 1967 INSURGENT. Copy-Copy-

The W.E.B. DuBois Clubs are in trouble. In order to become a viable organizing force in minority ghettos we had to change our leadership from its all white, middle class character to a working class, multi-racial character. So we did that. Now much more is required of us.

The whole movement is in trouble. Speeches and articles on black power are substituted for mass action designed to acquire black power. Debates on whether to boycott an election rather than be subjected to a " lesser of two evils " is substituted for laying the base for launching a real third force. Bloody marches into all white suburbs are substituted for a program which would force the federal government to launch a massive reconstruction of the slums. A program which while pressing for reconstruction would understand the futility of such an effort without the end of the war in Vietnam.

These are problems of the movement. Other organizations can continue- at least for a while- not facing up to these problems, but unless there is a drastic change in the DuBois Clubs approach to these questions, they will consume us within a year.

At present we only have the semblance of a national organization. Without the present publication of INSURGENT we would not even have a national forum. It will no longer suffice to have DuBois Clubs scattered about the country involved only with keeping their heads above water for the sake of keeping the good doctor's name alive.

Back in May we moved our national office to Chicago and with our summer projects we began to address ourselves to building a base in the midwest. That was not accomplished. For that matter, our base in Chicago is weaker than it was in May.

Our last National Coordinating Committee meeting in September agreed on a much needed change in direction for the organization. The one-city concentration policy is the course we have decided on to break out of this all-movement slump.

Our policy rejects the notion that there are no people in our ranks who are ready and willing to commit the next two or three years of their lives to building a nation-wide multi-racial, socialist youth organization. Our concentration policy contends that a major break-through in the black and other minority communities, in the white working class community and on the campuses of one city will solidify and give a national point of reference for every club in the country. Our concentration policy contends that we have had too little activity that has resulted in victory... that victories are necessary to take the next step and are essential to morale.

Such a policy is predicated on a sound financial base and must rely on a country-wide sustained source of funds. Such a policy reflects regionalistic prejudices but at the same time offers the national leadership a community organizing base from which to give real leadership throughout the country rather than centralized services.

The National Executive Committee will proceed full speed ahead. We expect some keep up and any amount of pushing necessary. Where we call for help and we don't call for enough-give us more than we ask for. When we call for too much-give it anyway.

This country needs a revolution. Lets stop playing at it.