

This is the first issue of Insurgent to be published since last May. It may be the last to appear.

Insurgent has had a brief but (we believe) significant history. Of particular interest in the nine issues we have published have been the serialized "Freedom Primer" by the Cieciorkas; the eyewitness report from North Vietnam by Mike Myerson; the continuing coverage of the Delano movement; the special "Education" and "Poverty and the American Economy" sections; and many other articles and features. Some issues have been superior to others, but there is general agreement that the magazine has consistently improved in form and content.

Whether or not Insurgent is to continue depends on the answers to several problems that now face us. First, the magazine has been without a permanent editor or staff since the DuBois National Office moved to Chicago from San Francisco. Celia Rosebury, who had almost singly gathered material, edited, composed, promoted, managed, circulated (and indeed written sizable portions) of Insurgent since its inception, was unable to move with the magazine. Since May, efforts to find a new editor have been totally unsuccessful. In addition, Stephanie Wishart, publications director for the DuBois Clubs since June, has recently, because of illness and personal considerations, found it necessary to resign her position.

Second, Insurgent is near the end of its rope financially. The magazine has from the beginning absorbed a large share of our organization's meager finances, and even so now finds itself some two thousand dollars in debt prior to the printing of this issue. It is extremely unlikely that credit will be found for the publication of another edition.

A more fundamental problem even than these now faces the leadership of the DuBois Clubs in relationship to Insurgent. And by extension this as a problem which faces every reader and supporter of our organization and/or the magazine. From the beginning the question has been raised in various ways, "Is Insurgent the most effective form of publication available to the DuBois Clubs as a means of communicating the ideas and extending the influence and growth of our organization?" There are those who will argue that this is not the main function of Insurgent, and that it has made other major contributions to the Left and American youth in general. But it seems apparent that given the amount of funds and energy that Insurgent consumes, it cannot continue as the central publishing effort of our organization unless it is the most effective form available to meet the needs listed in the question above. The question becomes especially crucial now in view of the general financial crisis of the DuBois Clubs and the new focus of our organization (See Franklin Alexander's column "Telling it Like it Is" elsewhere in this issue).

And so it is a question that all of us must attempt to answer, DuBois Club members, subscribers, and friends. Is Insurgent to continue? If so, how is it to be financed and edited? What are you prepared to contribute? If Insurgent is to be discontinued, then what is to replace it?