

With the arrival of summer the division in the antiwar movement that has existed since its inception revolves now more and more around the question of the elections -- electoral actions and independent political action. The debates and differences of the past over non-exclusion, withdrawal, etc., remain, but tend to be subsumed in debate around the elections. The debates will be more in the open, causing the division in the movement to deepen.

As we outlined at the YSA convention, the elections will exert enormous pressure on the movement causing the cold split to become warmer. The division over orientation is now showing up in the plans for the summer. Two distinct lines are pushed and offered as an axes for summer antiwar activity. One is around the August International Days of Protest and the organizing of mass action. The second is the summer project approach being pushed by many sections of SDS, NCC, DuBois Clubs, etc. laying the basis for support to the peace candidates in the fall.

The national alliance of the radical pacifists, the militant independents, the Newsletter supporters, and us has proved effectual in calling and organizing for the next International Days of Protest. To this point responses have been received from twenty-five cities, including four in Canada, saying they will support and build the IDP. International responses have not come in as rapidly. Responses have been received from England, France, and Belgium. In addition, a group in New Zealand has responded and has put out a mailing to eighty groups in Southeast Asia calling for support. No response has been received from Japan although there is reason to believe that their support will be forthcoming.

The coalitionists, who are orienting toward the peace candidates, are dragging their feet on the IDP and attempting to water it down in any way they can. The NCC has in one way or another tried to get the August 6 date changed to October, and has only reluctantly agreed to help. The NCC put out a poll on the IDP which was totally erroneous in its facts, and has succeeded in dispelling more illusions about the NCC. The Parade Committee, for instance, has put out a letter refuting the NCC's poll signed by Dave Dellinger. (See attached)

It now appears that as a result of the maneuvering around the days of protest that the coalitionist forces are in a position where they will have to at least support the days of protest. However, because of the unwillingness of the coalitionists to really build this form of protest, it is now clear that these days of protest will be smaller than at least, the last IDP, barring a major change in the situation in Vietnam.

The NCC has launched its summer project with the support of Hayden, Aptheker, and Lynd. It is not known yet how much support this has. In the press conference in New York where this was announced Emspak also made an appeal of support for a list of peace candidates which the NCC is supporting. Aside from the fact that this exposes the

NCC for what we always knew it was, it shows that the NCC is far from dead and moving to take advantage of the peace candidates.

Our task in this situation is to continue to educate those independents around us for the long haul. Most independents will not understand the division that will take place, and it is therefore important to explain the situation to them. Moreover we must convince them that the division taking place now and the smaller demonstrations in August are simply the prelude to mass actions at a later stage. It is important, in other words, that they see themselves for what they are -- a cadre for a future mass movement.

The Newsletter: The Newsletter circulation both subscriptions and individual sales continues to rise. In addition, a large number of letters and inquiries are being received daily at the Newsletter office. Several locals, supporter groups, or individuals, have reported excellent response in broadside sales to campuses or high schools, or to just the general public, in addition to their sales to antiwar and radical meetings.

In spite of the maneuvering around the International Days of Protest and the deepening of the cold split in the movement, our tasks remain fundamentally the same. We should continue to build the IDP and try to get as broad an endorsement for it as possible. We should continue to use the Newsletter as the key to our intervention in the movement. And we should continue to educate the independents on political action and the meaning of national developments in the antiwar movement.

In this work we have the definite advantage. In an important sense the situation we faced last fall has now been reversed. In many areas our initiative is not challenged and it is the coalitionists who bear the responsibility for attempting to slow down or split the IDP and reverse the relationship of forces, so they can introduce a peace candidate perspective.

In the present situation we have far more advantages on our side than we did last November at the Washington Convention.

The failure or reluctance of our opponents to go along with the IDP puts the onus of split on them rather than us. The refusal of the coalitionists to build the Berkeley Vietnam Day a few weeks ago, and the Women's March in New York put the responsibility of split on their shoulders and strengthened our position within the left wing of the movement. This shift in the relationship of forces within the movement is clearly to our advantage.