

The growth and strength of the YSA is very positive. The tendency toward increased recruitment that was noted at the convention in March has continued, and the majority of locals have more contacts around them than they've had in several years. Most of the new contacts and recruits have come directly out of the antiwar movement.

Nearly all locals are conducting summer educational programs and my observation was that these are better organized and more seriously handled than they've ever been before.

The relationship between us and our opponents has shifted more in our favor, particularly in the arena of antiwar work. In several important cities we presently have political hegemony in the sense that young people who are radicalizing have to deal with our ideas first.

A couple of locals have a few more Negro contacts around than was the case a year or so ago and several new Negro recruits have been made to the YSA. In Philadelphia a group of young black militants who identify with the ideas of Malcolm X are in contact with the YSA and participate to some extent in antiwar activities.

The Black Panther Party is very popular among SDSers, antiwar activists, and black militants. Unfortunately not enough publicity and literature about it has penetrated the campuses. I found very little antagonism or disagreement from my audiences with references of support to Malcolm X's ideas.

I gave my prepared talk to twenty-five audiences as well as speaking informally to a number of antiwar meetings. The audiences tended to be modest in size ranging from eight to forty-five with an average of about twenty to twenty-five people attending. Since the talk was directed primarily at contacts of the YSA it didn't go over too well with people who came to hear a socialist out of curiosity. The best audiences were those with some good contacts. The most common questions were about the capacity of the working class to radicalize, whether the working class even exists, whether the capitalists are rich enough to buy out revolutions, etc.

Literature sales continue to be very good. Malcolm X Talks To Young People sells very well and sales among white college students have been rising. War and Revolution in Vietnam sells very well and is sold by non-YSAers in several areas. Pamphlets and books by George Novack sell very well also.

Young Socialist sales continue to be good and YSAers seem to enjoy selling it. However, I noticed that many YSAers don't get around to reading the Young Socialist or using it in their contact work. One local has started a practice of assigning comrades to report on Young Socialist articles at YSA meetings.

Our most important political opponent at this time remains the DuBois Club. It was difficult for me to ascertain how significant their recruitment has been. It is clear, however, that their much publicized recruitment drive following the bombing of their headquarters did not win them many new members. Furthermore, it was my observation that at present their recruitment still comes primarily from the sons and daughters of CPers and former CPers. They've had difficulty recruiting from the new radicals. Our policy of approaching rank and file DuBois Club members with our Open Letter on withdrawal vs. negotiations and our conscious policy of fraternizing with them has reaped fruits. In Cleveland we recruited two regional organizers of the DuBois Club and in other areas we have managed to neutralize some of their members. Their two concentrations of strength are San Francisco and New York.

The Progressive Labor Movement is having difficulties all over the country. I found active PL groups in very few areas and in these areas they have sent many of their people into SDS chapters. The dissolution of the May 2nd Movement alienated a small alayer of independent non-PL youth some of whom have formed a group called the American Liberation League, which is small and exists only in New York and one or two other areas.

There are no signs that a new social democratic youth movement is emerging at this time. The American Socialist Organizing Committee (remnants of YPSL) dissolved a few months ago and with the exception of four chapters in Indiana YPSL does not amount to much. In Berkeley, the Independent Socialist Club (led by Hal Draper) has won some recruits recently and is an active part of Berkeley politics.

It was my observation that SDS is very large and still growing relatively rapidly. There are few campuses in the country where there isn't some kind of an SDS group. Generally speaking SDS is strongest on the outlying campuses and weakest in the larger metropolitan areas. The recent wave of sit-ins against university complicity with the draft deferment examination turned out to be the most successful SDS action since the April 17, 1965 March on Washington.