

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 17, 1969

No.8

NEC Present: Charlie, Carol, Dan R., Kipp, Susan, Larry, Melissa,
Tony

NEC Excused: Derrick

NC Present: Nelson, David

NC Alt. Present: Steve, Pat, Joanna, Laurie, Howard

Convened: 11:00 AM

Chairman: Carol

Agenda: 1. Summer School Report
2. Antiwar Report
3. Young Socialist Report
4. Sub Drive Report
5. GI CLDC Report
6. Fund Drive Report
7. Bloomington Expulsion
8. National Office Report

1. Summer School Report - Susan

Report on plans for summer schools across the country.

Motion: to approve the report.

Discussion: Charlie, Susan, Kipp

Motion Carried

2. Antiwar Report - Carol

Report to follow.

Motion: to approve the report.

Discussion: Tony, Carol

Motion Carried

3. Young Socialist Report - Nelson

Report on the contents of the June issue.

Motion: to approve the report.

Discussion: Charlie, Melissa, David, Nelson

Motion Carried

4. Sub Drive Report - Susan

Scoreboard to follow.

Motion: to approve the report.

Discussion: Tony, Susan, Melissa, Susan

Motion Carried

5. Fund Drive Report - Susan

Final Scoreboard has been sent out.

Motion: to approve the report.

Motion Carried

6. GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee Report - Larry

Report on the most recent developments in the Ft. Jackson case and the work of GI CLDC. Report enclosed.

Motion: to accept the report.

Discussion: Susan, Larry, David

Motion Carried

7. Bloomington Expulsion- Larry

Report on the expulsion of Robert L. from the Bloomington local.

Motion: that the NEC uphold the expulsion by the Bloomington local of Robert L. for making written reports of internal local meetings available to people who are not members of the YSA.

Discussion: Charlie, Melissa, Charlie, Larry, Charlie, Tony, Charlie

Motion Carried

8. National Office Report - Charlie

a. Membership

Motion: to accept the following applications for membership at-large.

1. Wayne G., Circle, Ohio
2. Holland W., Hebron, Maine
3. Ellen T., Indianapolis, Ind.
4. Matt B., Pomfret, Conn.
5. Steve K., Pomfret, Conn.
6. Mark F., Pomfret, Conn.
7. Tom R., Valhalla, N.Y.
8. Holly C., Keuka, N.Y.
9. Max S., Keuka, N.Y.

Motion Carried

Motion: to readmit Jim M. into the YSA as a member of the Twin Cities local.

Motion Carried

Motion: to readmit Dean E. into the YSA as an at-large member in Oshkosh, Wisc.

Motion Carried

b. Transfers

Motion: to transfer Jack B. from the Twin Cities local to at-large status in Norman, Okla.

Motion Carried

Motion: to transfer Peter K. from at-large status in Oshkosh, Wisc. to at-large status in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Discussion: Carol, Susan, Charlie, Melissa, Steve, Kipp, Tony

Motion Carried

Motion: to transfer Jessica S. from the Washtenaw Co., Michigan local to at-large status in Buffalo, N.Y.

Motion Carried

c. NC Transfers

Motion: to transfer NC member Larry S. from the Long Island local to the Manhattan local.

Motion Carried

Motion: to transfer NC Alt. Richie L. from the Chicago local

to the Manhattan local to take an assignment in New York.

Discussion: Melissa, Charlie

Motion Carried

Motion: to transfer NC Alt. Herman F. from the Washtenaw Co., Mich. local to the Berkeley local.

Motion Carried

d. National Committee

Motion: to accept Jan G.'s resignation from the National Committee and to notify Linda S. that as number one alternate, she is automatically elevated to full membership on the National Committee.

Motion Carried

e. Report on preparations for the Plenum.

Motion: to accept the report.

Discussion: Tony, Charlie, Pat, Charlie

Motion Carried

Adjourned: 12:50 PM

Report on GI CLDC by Larry Seigle, May 23, 1969

On Tuesday, May 20, the Army announced that it was dropping all charges against the last three of the "Ft. Jackson Eight." The following day Pvts. Joe Cole, Jose Rudder, and Andrew Pulley were released from the stockade. The men are now under no restrictions whatsoever, and report that they are being well treated by the brass. (The action followed the Army's decision to drop all charges against Pvt. Tommie Woodfin on May 16, and the dropping of charges against Pvts. Dominick Duddie and Curtis Mays on May 2. Pvts. Edilberto Chapparo and Delmar Thomas have been given undesirable discharges from the Army.)

This decision represents a tremendous victory in what has been widely referred to as the "classic case" of the GI antiwar movement. It is a confirmation of the defense policy projected and carried out by the YSA and SWP. And it is a very effective refutation of the abstentionist "underground organizing" approach to GIs being put forward by some of our opponents. The success of the defense proves that fights for civil liberties can be won by active duty soldiers.

Moreover, the victory at Ft. Jackson represents a giant stride forward for the GI CLDC in national prestige. The publicity around the case and the victory have helped to establish the GI CLDC as an effective and well-known defense committee.

Our task now is to utilize the gains that have been made in the successful defense of the Ft. Jackson Eight to continue to build the GI CLDC. This victory is in no sense the end of the fight for GIs' rights to speak out against the war, and it is quite probably only the beginning. And it is the kind of victory that will make it even easier to build the defense committee.

The GI CLDC projects a continued legal and publicity campaign around the following areas:

1. At Ft. Jackson, we must now fight the Army's stated intention of giving these men less than honorable discharges. The GI CLDC will defend the right to an honorable discharge of any of the men who choose to make such a fight.

2. The Ft. Jackson injunction suit against the Army is still pending in District Court. The decision by the Army to drop the charges after holding the GIs for two months in the stockade can only strengthen the plaintiffs' contention that they have been illegally harassed and persecuted. Arguments on this suit will probably be heard in District Court next month.

3. Steve Dash, a YSAer at Ft. Jackson, goes before a field board of inquiry on Tuesday, May 27, to determine whether his presence in the Army is in the interest of national security. The "charges" against Dash include the fact that he was one of the GIs who tried to present the petition to Gen. Hollingsworth.

4. In addition to the continuing legal battles at Ft. Jackson, the GI CLDC is involved in legal fights at other bases, especially at Ft. Bragg, where a second lawsuit against the army has been filed.

The GI CLDC is badly in debt, and with a recently expanded staff and facilities, it needs large sums of money in order to continue its activities. Fund raising activities must be given top priority in local work. Those locals that have organized fund-raising activities have had tremendous success. (See enclosed report by Marjorie C.) The victory at Ft. Jackson will make it easier to raise money if potential donors are appealed to on the basis of the continuing work of the defense committee.

Systematic work on sponsors and on publicity should be continued. Now is the time to hit up potential sponsors who have not yet been contacted. The defense committee will be coordinating speaking appearances for some of the Ft. Jackson GIs, as well as for the attorneys. Locals that are able to set up meetings should contact the GI CLDC directly.

Excerpts from Report on Bay Area GI CLDC by Marjorie C.

In the week prior to April 6th the S.F. Chronicle carried a headline "GIs Sue Army" (Wed. 4-2) and in the following weeks at least 200 telegrams of protest were sent from San Francisco to Ft. Jackson. Some of these were organized via Women For Peace telephone tree and other by S.F. Chronicle reporters tree. The others were organized by phone calls to activists and local peace leaders. Assemblyman John Burton also sent a telegram.

On April 6th a Ft. Jackson petition was circulated along with fact sheets on the 9 (at that time). A banner calling for support of the 9 was carried in the GI contingent of the march.

Organizing obtaining endorsements was first done by Vince T. and we found that it was largely a matter of making appointments and going to see people personally. The fund letter and informational material going out now also carries the appeal for endorsements and the card.

Because of the tremendous coverage given the Ft. Jackson case locally, which has included 2 or 3 articles weekly in the local press for the last 4 or 5 weeks, and because of the wide range of local peace notables interested, it was feasible to form a local GI CLDC. This is not a membership committee, but consists of officers, office staff, and endorsers for the purpose of fund raising and obtaining publicity for the case. A suite of offices in the Labor Temple is shared by GI CLDC and GI-CAP. We felt it would be easier to obtain media coverage with local involvement.

Dr. Carlton Goodlett and Prof. Henry McGuckin are local honorary co-chairmen and Miss Zaide Kirtley (bookkeeper and legal research for Brodsky, Dreyfus, McTernan & Garry, Attys.) is treasurer. She was treasurer for Proposition P.

This weekend May 10-11th, the fund appeal started going out, along with announcement of the Diane Schulder meeting and reception for June 1st. at the newly remodeled Labor Temple. The top 200 donors are being called also after receiving the mailing, and at present the first telephone responses indicate:

a. People are excited about the case, and feel that a victory is being chalked up for the GI movement.

b. People are willing to donate unless resources are very limited due to being called on many times recently. Our #1 telephoner (a sympathizer) says this is the best response ever, and he did calling for April 27th, '68, Oct. 12th, and April 6th. I would stress to other areas that following up mailings, within 3 days, with a call will increase the amount of money your better donors give, and give you a better feel of "how things are going" before the money actually starts coming in.

Today 5-12, the N.Y. GI CLDC press release of 5-6 was received and sent to all local media along with a release announcing the formation of local supporting group and the acceptance of Bertrand Russell of the post of Honorary Chairman.

A press conference locally is planned around the time of Diane Schulder's arrival, when we will call one with local chairmen.

At present we have two full-time comrades assigned to Ft. Jackson work and the assistance of the antiwar fraction is needed. All comrades have been alerted to obtaining endorsements in whatever their area of work. Generally there appears to be no reluctance to endorse GI CLDC by liberal or CP types, but the liberals do require visits and sufficient literature.

GI rights committee hails a victory at Fort Jackson



Liberation News Service

THE EIGHT YOUNG MEN from Ft. Jackson against whom the army finally dropped all charges.

By RICHARD GREENLEAF
NEW YORK, May 23—Does a man lose his constitutional rights when he puts on a U. S. Army uniform? Must he button his lip on the diplomatic and military policies of his country?

That is the issue being fought out by hundreds of G.I.'s today, largely through the efforts of the G.I. Civil Liberties Defense Committee. And they are winning for the side that says soldiers have the same rights of free speech, press, petition and assembly as civilians have.

Last Wednesday, exactly two months after they were imprisoned. Privates Joseph Cole, Eugene Jose Rudder and Andrew Pulley were released from the stockade at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The Army had decided to drop all charges against them. They were the last three of the Fort Jackson Eight.

Anti-war meeting

On March 20 of this year a large, spontaneous anti-war meeting was held outside the barracks of Company B/14/4 at Fort Jackson. The group which called

it became known later as G.I.'s United Against the War in Vietnam. Within a few days nine activists were picked up and confined under charges including disrespect, holding an illegal demonstration, breach of the peace, and disobeying an order.

One of the nine turned out to be a stool pigeon for the fort command.

Pvt. Edilberto Chapparro of New York was given an undesirable discharge May 1. Pvt. Dominick Duddle of New York had all charges dropped May 2. Pfc. Curtis E. Mays of Kansas City had all charges dropped which were connected with the meeting, but was punished for breaking restrictions. Pvt. Delmar Thomas of Cleveland had charges dropped.

Committee's statement

In announcing the release of Cole, Rudder and Pulley, the committee said, in part:

"The fact that not a single one of the eight was brought to court-martial is an admission before the American public that the Army had no case against them

that could stand the scrutiny of any court, even one convened and staffed by the Army itself.

Victory for all

"This victory is an historic one for all enlisted men, who will know that at Fort Jackson the privates prevailed over the arbitrary will of the colonels and the generals, and who will make with new determination their demand for the right to speak out on the Vietnam war."

The G.I.'s United are wasting no time. They have petitioned the Commanding General of Fort Bragg in North Carolina to permit enlisted men there "to hold an open meeting on post at the Lee Field House or some other appropriate facility, on May 28, at which all those concerned can freely discuss the moral and legal questions related to the war in Vietnam and to the civil rights of American citizens both within and outside the armed forces."

If the general has been reading the news lately and can understand it, he will grant the petition.

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Report on High School Students Against the War in Chicago by
Kitty Cone

After the November 1967 national HSSMC Conference in Chicago, Chicago HSSMC disintegrated and no high school antiwar organization existed here until the formation of High School Students Against the War in October, 1968. The April 26th Student Strike was not organized in the high schools because the date fell during spring vacation, but such large numbers of high schoolers turned out April 27th that it became evident that the basis for a high school antiwar group existed.

At this time, the YSA decided that a major aspect of our antiwar work would be trying to make contact with high school students, draw them around SMC and work closely with them in getting a high school antiwar group set up. As there were no high school YSAers at that time, an older comrade working in SMC was assigned to head up this work.

Throughout the summer and fall we concentrated on getting SMC to places where h.s. students were likely to be, attending radical meetings, leafleting high schools, rock concerts, and demonstrations, and always signing up kids on SMC mailing lists. Leaflets always had coupons and we found that the more "hip" (pseudo-psychedelic) leaflets got more returns. In this way, contacts were established in about 60 high schools. During the summer, we also intervened into the Suburban Liberation Front, a group of suburban h.s. students, which was short-lived when it turned away from action and focused on issues other than the war, such as reforming the middle-class mentality of suburbia.

Three times during the summer and fall SMC attempted to get a high school antiwar group organized by sending out mailings to high school contacts asking them to attend a meeting to discuss forming such a group. These meetings were always poorly attended and were unable to call for the formation of a group. Even after an extremely large and successful SMC meeting at which the h.s. students held a workshop and discussed forming an antiwar group, they were still afraid to do so. Finally we changed our method and a small group of high school activists and the YSAer working with them put out a leaflet for the first HSSAW meeting with proposals for actions instead of for forming an organization. A mailing was followed up by phoning all the contacts and encouraging them to attend.

The meeting was large and well-structured. Subcommittees for finances, actions, and defense were set up. The high school students preferred a loose structure and no officers, fearing rivalry and power plays. The only real difficulty that has confronted HSSAW has been in developing a strong enough structure. A sloppy structure has been a serious drawback to effective organizing. Many attempts have been made to develop a committee with representatives from each school that could coordinate activities, plan meetings, and make political decisions. So far, such attempts have been unsuccessful. Instead a steering committee of the most active students carries out these tasks, with much responsibility falling to a small office staff.

The existence of a strong group at one high school, which we worked with intensively, provided a strong base in HSSAW's early

development. The high school movement here is very healthy and there has been very little disagreement with sticking to the issue of the war and organizing mass actions for withdrawal of troops. There is enthusiasm over the GI orientation and seems to be little interest in illegal or ultra-left activities. At the same time that HSSAW was organized, a rival (as they saw it) group, Student Organizing Committee, was set up by SDS. This group, which was oriented to high school student power issues such as dress codes, school food, etc., backed off from the war and was unable to get off the ground. Now it seems to have folded.

Since its inception, HSSAW has built two high school rallies, been the high school organizer for the October '68 GI Week, the GI-Civilian Conference, and April 5th, and has built defense for one of its activists. It now has contacts in over 130 schools and is planning a major drive to organized antiwar committees in the high schools. Excluding black and Third World groups, HSSAW is the major high school radical group in the city. The existence of this city-wide high school organization gave a boost to activists in schools where antiwar committees existed as well as to those in schools where antiwar sentiment wasn't so evident. It is giving kids a chance to participate in central activities and to gain experience and confidence to organize in their own schools.

Prior to April 5th, we concentrated on getting h.s. students to build central actions with little emphasis on organizing actual committees within the schools and fighting for that right. As a result of the activity in building these actions, in many schools there now exists a good basis for organizing committees. We plan to devote a great deal of time to helping organize these committees. In schools where the administration is hostile, we recommend getting the support of student government and other student and faculty groups for a free speech campaign using polls, petitions, rallies, etc. to build wide school support for the right to wear buttons, leaflet, use school facilities for antiwar activities and speakers. In schools where the kids feel it is impossible to get school recognition, we help them find other ways of operating, such as working through the Human Relations Council or holding meetings in a nearby church or someone's home. The activities which HSSAW is organizing to build in committees are a Ft. Jackson 8 campaign, a fund-raising rock concert, and activities around graduation.

Some of the important steps we carried out in the building of HSSAW were:

1. Making an aggressive attempt to get SMC material and mailing lists out where high school students congregate - rock concerts, demonstrations, etc.-in order to build the base of the organization.
2. Assigning a comrade who was not in high school and could spend a good amount of time in high school work. Because of such problems as funds, transportation, homework, parental pressures, curfew, etc., high school students couldn't carry the whole load and one person or more was necessary to oversee the work from day to day and help out when financial, organizational, or other crises arose. (I attend the HSSAW meetings and steering committee meetings, but try not to play much of a role in meetings unless asked for advice on specific matters.)

3. Maintaining close contact, personal or telephone, with h.s. students to offer suggestions, work out programs, and give encouragement. This really paid off in building confidence and a feeling of support to kids who initially felt isolated.

4. Realizing that high school students who are located far from the center have difficulties with funds and transportation, and making an effort to get out to them or at least to mail them materials.

5. Having legal contacts which are aware of the group's existence and activities and are committed to give aid. The ACLU and the Chicago Legal Defense Committee have sent speakers to HSSAW meetings and are eager to speak at high schools. In addition to being necessary to the work, this relieves high schoolers' fear of repression.

Report on YSA Interventions in Actions at Arizona State University
by Lindley Garner, May 20, 1969

Background

Arizona State University is situated in a hotbed of reactionary politics characteristic of the sort that made Goldwater famous. It is in the population center of the state, roughly five miles from Phoenix. ASU is the only campus in the state where radical groups such as SDS and YSA have won the struggle to organize as open and legitimate student groups. ASU has nine colleges and an enrollment of over 23,000.

Political Groups

On the right there are five groups ranging from Young Republicans to the Young Americans for Freedom. These five groups probably number around three hundred members, but cannot mobilize any general campus support for reactionary activities.

The Student Power Coalition Party consists of eight liberal groups as well as SDS, the Radical Student Union, and YSA. Although membership in these groups totals about three thousand, the Party's top candidate received only twelve hundred votes. Fifteen candidates were elected to the forty seat student senate for next year.

SDS has only four national members of which only two are radical. It has not been able to mobilize any radical or even liberal support because of its inability to analyze the politics of any given situation.

Radical Student Union is an open forum to gain radical support on actions. YSA participates and has one comrade and one sympathizer on the five-man Executive Committee. RSU operates like SDS on most campuses except here it must depend more on liberal support for most issues. As many as six hundred have been mobilized for RSU rallies, but only when they were led by YSAers.

Third World groups didn't exist at ASU before this year. This year Mexican American Student Organization (MASO) and Black Liberation Organizational Committee (BLOC) have organized.

YSA organized at ASU in the fall as an outgrowth of the Revolutionary Choice in '68 Committee. Although we have never had more than eight comrades, we have been the most effective group on campus. This is mainly due to the fact that we are the only group that is both structured and highly politicized. Our goal this year has been to educate students to a class analysis of society and this has been a partial success. Because of the effectiveness of our intervention, we have gained much support and can be assured of leadership in next year's actions. Descriptions of our interventions in three struggles follows:

YSA Intervention in a Workers' Struggle

Phoenix Linen and Towel Supply is the largest laundry in the

Phoenix area grossing over one million annually. Conditions of work make the physical facility a borderline sweat shop. Workers - who are primarily Chicano and black - worked a six day week with no vacations, limited sick leave, no lunch room and inadequate cooling. Attempts by the AFL-CIO laundry and dry cleaning union to organize were successful. The owner offered the union a sweetheart contract. A strike to obtain better pay and working conditions was impractical with severe unemployment among minority groups. Ted Caldez, the union organizer, approached campus groups (YSA, MASO, SDS, YD, and YR) to ask for support. ASU has an \$80,000 contract with the laundry and a vice-president is a close friend of the laundry owner.

We suggested an educational rally to mobilize mass action. YSA was to lead the rally. MASO members researched the laundry contracts and working conditions and together with several YSA comrades wrote a devastating five page handout which was circulated to the entire faculty and student body. 2500 signatures were collected on petitions calling for severance of the university's contract. Sixty student groups including Associated Student Government supported the petition demands.

Speakers at the rally included Ted Caldez, several laundry workers, local ministers, and concerned activists. YSA called for a march on the president's office to deliver the petitions. Three hundred students filed into the president's office demanding to talk with him. Two thousand supporters waited outside the building which was subsequently locked. The president was not available which infuriated the crowd. YSA leafleted and sold Militants. Comrade Don C. spoke on the political nature of the university in workers' struggles. YSA comrades led the singing of workers' songs such as "Solidarity Forever" and "Roll the Union On." Several administrators, including a black law professor, drew off the MASO leadership and implied that the faculty could cool the situation if MASO cleared the office. Hearing about this, three comrades intervened and demanded a mass vote. An overwhelming majority voted to stay until the president came to hear the demands.

At five pm two hundred county police surrounded the building. Demonstrators were ordered to leave under threat of arrest. All stayed until an administrator promised to have the president meet with everyone the following morning. The next day, the demonstrators returned and delegated a committee (two MASO and one YSA) to present the demands. The first and second public statements of the president were rejected by mass vote. In the third statement the president stated that the university would not renew the contract upon verification of the charges made against the owner by the union. MASO accepted the statement and announced it would leave. Ted Caldez announced that it was acceptable to the union. Comrade Don C. called for worker-student solidarity and announced that YSA would leave in support of the union. Some ultra-leftists led by SDSers wanted to stay but were talked out of it. Because of the intervention of three YSAers, the sit-in and rally were successful and were given massive press and TV coverage. The exposure of sweat shop wages and conditions led to the condemnation of the laundry by other businesses and unions. Within a month,

the laundry capitulated to the union demands, which included a 35 cent an hour raise, paid vacations, and other fringe benefits.

Ted Caldez wrote the SWP in Los Angeles crediting the YSA with the success of the University exposure. This was YSA's first intervention in any struggle and the comrades gained respect among the students as well as workers for the role we played as responsible leaders in this workers' struggle for economic justice.

YSA Intervention in the Peace Movement

In the fall, the ASU Committee to End the War in Vietnam (CEWV) held several small actions such as silent vigils during lunch hours. At one time the CEWV was subsidized by and worked closely with the Phoenix Committee to End the War in Vietnam. Together, they pulled off several major antiwar demonstrations and a Rusk visit demonstration. The Phoenix Committee dissolved as the McCarthy campaign pulled many pacifists and liberals away. The ASU Committee fell prey to a leadership crisis and degenerated. A small faction composed of independent radicals and YSAers pushed for large actions such as mass rallies and teach-ins. A split over tactics developed which eventually killed CEWV.

The last CEWV action was a one hour vigil observed by fifty people in October. Because of the laundry action and campaign support for SPCP, no antiwar action was undertaken until the spring. CEWV disbanded in December and became RSU with an Executive Committee which tended to support large actions.

In February, and the beginning of the spring semester, YSA began laying plans for a massive antiwar rally. We decided to have the rally March 26th for publicity and in solidarity with national SMC actions. To gain support we formed an ad hoc committee supported jointly by YSA and RSU. "Bring the Troops Home Now" was adopted as the slogan and Lindley G. was elected rally coordinator.

An attempt was made to establish March 26th as a state-wide antiwar day. This was abortive because the University of Arizona peace group was anti-SMC. The peace movement in Tucson, where U. of A. is located, is and always has been dominated by pacifists and assorted liberals. No other antiwar sentiment existed in the state that we could mobilize. In the Phoenix area, however, a comrade was able to organize a rally at Phoenix Junior College with an attendance of about two hundred. Several local high schools were leafleted and some high schoolers attended ASU's rally. At ASU money was raised and we conducted an effective mass leafleting campaign March 24-26. SMC posters advertizing national actions were also used.

Since there are no new recruit bases in Arizona, we decided to use antiwar veterans as speakers. Steve S., a comrade and Vietnam veteran, spoke effectively and was quoted widely in the press. Bob Dale, BLOC leader, was assaulted while speaking. This gained much publicity, but wasn't serious except for the racist overtones. The rally was the first at ASU to use professionally produced antiwar leaflets, guerrilla theater, and an acid rock band.

One thousand students took part in the different events. Six hundred students attended the speeches. During April 5-6, there were delegations of thirty students to S.F., two to L.A., and one to Chicago and New York. The most important result of YSA's intervention is that the antiwar movement on the campus and thereby in the area is now under the political leadership of YSA and not the pacifists or the antiwar liberals or the ultra-leftists. We are now planning support action for the GI CLDC, using the peace constituency of the former Phoenix antiwar committee. We also are starting a state-wide SMC for all antiwar action.

YSA Intervention in the ROTC Issue

In the past, two years of ROTC have been required at ASU. In the fall of 1969 ROTC becomes voluntary. The voluntary program was a victory for liberal faculty members (over the Regents) who wanted to upstage any "Abolish ROTC" campaign. As a result there has been little support for abolishing ROTC here this year.

April 23, YSA and RSU began an "Abolish ROTC" educational program with a rally. SDS members assured us that they supported a rally instead of a sit-in. They then used the rally to start a sit-in at the ROTC building. This action failed to gain immediate support.

YSA opposed the sit-in on the grounds that it was not the correct tactic at this time. However, we decided that it was necessary to actively support the issue involved. YSA's position was accepted by an overwhelming majority of RSU members.

The political immaturity of the demonstrators soon became apparent. They claimed to be pacifists and declared they would fast "until ROTC was abolished." The leaders refused to talk to anyone who didn't accept their demonstration as the beginning of the revolution.

YSA used the occasion of the sit-in to call for an open university convocation on the ROTC issue. Mass leafleting included a ten-page YSA leaflet explaining YSA's position and giving YSA's grounds for abolishing ROTC.

On April 25, ten demonstrators were arrested on charges of rout and displaying a seditious flag (Che flag). This ended the sit-in. RSU attempted to change the issue to a civil-liberties fight which was necessary since SDS had alienated possible mass support for abolishing ROTC. YSA again called for an open University convocation to discuss all the issues.

Several all-university meetings followed. All were controlled by the administration and liberal faculty members with little opportunity for a radical point of view to be expressed. YSA participated in one such meeting to present the case for abolishing ROTC. YSA was instrumental in forcing a university convocation where all administrators would be required to answer any questions put to them by students or faculty. YSA leafleted this convocation with a statement on the political nature of the university and police power. The convocation was attended by a thousand students and

faculty. No questions except those written and submitted to a screening committee were permitted. YSAers effectively opened the meeting by asking questions despite the rules. The administrators played their usual role and students left frustrated.

We feel that our class analysis of society elevated the situation from a hopelessly immature political demonstration to mass consideration of the issues. The role played by YSA gained wide support among radicals and established YSA as a leader on campus.

Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

May 25, 1969

To All YSAers

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a press release sent out today by the YSA N.O. concerning the recent events in Berkeley. We have called for national support to the Memorial Day **March** in Berkeley.

Because the march will take place on a holiday, and because many campuses are in the middle of final exams, opportunities for support actions will be limited. However, YSAers should consider the possibilities for support actions in local areas and do whatever is possible in the way of public actions. Those areas having antiwar demonstrations on Memorial Day should try to have statements of solidarity read, and possibly have a telegram sent in the name of the entire demonstration.

Telegrams of support to the march should be sent from YSA locals and other organizations. They can be addressed to:

People's Park March
c/o Movement Center
330 Grove Street
San Francisco, Calif.

Comradely,

Charlie Bolduc
Charlie Bolduc
National Chairman

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

P. O. BOX 471 COOPER STATION
NEW YORK, N. Y., 10003 YU9-7570

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 26, 1969

REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH ORGANIZATION CALLS FOR NATIONAL SUPPORT
TO BERKELEY COMMUNITY

URGE SUPPORT FOR MEMORIAL DAY MARCH IN BERKELEY AGAINST
ARMED OCCUPATION ORDERED BY REAGAN

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) has issued an appeal for support to embattled residents of Berkeley, California who have called for a protest march in Berkeley on Memorial Day.

Charlie Bolduc, National Chairman of the YSA, made the following statement: "The Berkeley residents, both students and non-students, have been subjected to a reign of police terror that has left one dead, one permanently blinded, and scores of others seriously wounded. A struggle over a small plot of ground known as "People's Park" was used by Governor Reagan as the excuse for a massive military attack on the University and the surrounding community. Reagan's attempts to "pacify" Berkeley with overwhelming military force have been about as successful as the American imperialists' attempts to "pacify" Vietnam.

"We call on all young people in this country to express their solidarity with the protest march called for Memorial Day in Berkeley by the People's Park March Committee. Solidarity actions and statements of support from all over the United States will show the Reagans and the Nixons that we will not succumb to force and violence launched by the ruling class."

(MORE)

The text of the call issued by the People's Park March Committee is as follows:

"DEMAND THAT THE FENCE BE TORN DOWN!

"MARCH IN BERKELEY MEMORIAL DAY!!!

"On Friday, May 30, Memorial Day, come to Berkeley to join the mass protest against the killing, blinding, beating and jailing of our brothers and sisters. Join the march to demand amnesty and the immediate end to bayonet and shotgun rule.

"Berkeley has undergone ten days of siege by 2700 National Guardsmen and thousands of police. All political and constitutional rights have been suspended by Reagan's fiat. A reign of terror, with heavy police tear-gassing and breaking into homes, schools, and dormitories has hit the university community.

"It is our constitutional right to have this march. We intend to be peaceful. We will be students, street-people, faculty, trade unionists, black and brown workers, housewives, priests, etc.... and off-duty guardsmen...demanding that our right of peaceful assembly be respected.

"Defend People's Park. It's yours.

"People's Park March Committee"

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