

Young Socialists want isolated peace front

By CARYL DAVIAU

CHICAGO, Dec. 6 — Close to 700 members of the Young Socialist Alliance, plus about 200 observers and invited guests, met in the Student Union of the University of Illinois here for the YSA national convention.

A Saturday night forum heard speakers from Trotskyite organizations in Japan, France, Canada and Mexico. Though these stressed movements for ending the war in Vietnam and building alliances between students and workers, they spent almost as much time ranting against the Soviet Union and the Communist Parties in their own countries.

A main topic during the session on the peace movement was the question of the demonstrations here during the Democratic National Convention. The YSA, disgruntled because it claims to have been excluded from the coalition, had opposed calling the demonstrations and had ordered its people not to participate.

Many convention delegates, however, felt the YSA should have participated.

"When your brothers and sisters are out there on the streets getting beaten by the

pigs," said one young YSAer from New York. "you have a responsibility to be out there with them even if it is a wrong decision, even if it is dangerous."

The decision not to participate was based on the estimate that the demonstrations were essentially pro-McCarthy rather than anti-war, a resolution declared.

Single-issue isolationism

The resolution, and the various speakers, also developed to some extent the notion that the peace movement must remain single-issue oriented, and have nothing to do with the other movements sweeping the country. This policy continues despite the fact that all over the country more and more peace organizations have felt that they must begin to deal with other problems affecting the people in order to continue to function.

But the convention insisted the peace movement must stay out of politics.

"At the present stage of political development of the anti-war movement," declared the resolution, "it would be a mistake for the movement as such to engage in any kind of electoral activity."

Hit united fronts

Speaking of attempts to organize united front type organizations within the black community, the resolution says: "The united fronts thus far have tended to wind up as reformist swamps... The Black Congress, a coalition in Los Angeles... is another example of how these organizations can be used by big business and the government to control the ghetto."

Peace and Freedom formations are definitely frowned upon, and some of the juiciest rhetoric in the documents condemns them as "the worst electoral expression of white middle-class liberalism and faint-hearted radicalism."

On black control of the black community, the resolution declares that this goal cannot be won short of socialism, but suggests that the black people of Gary, Ind., "organize to collectively run the U. S. Steel Corp."

The convention elected Charles Balduc national chairman, Carol Lippman national secretary, Larry Seigle organizational secretary, and Derrick Morrison field secretary.

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