

NEC ANTIWAR REPORT, June 16, 1967, by Lew

(The Administrative Committee of the National Mobilization Committee, formerly the Spring Mobilization Committee, met in New York on June 17. The results of that meeting have been incorporated into this report, which was originally given on June 16.)

Since the Washington conference the pace of activity and the level of participation in the meetings of the National Mobilization Committee (NMC) has diminished slightly. We have also witnessed a series of proposals -- ranging from draft resistance projects, to electoral action, to moving the national office to another city -- which have tended to disperse the energies of the coalition. None of these proposals has yet had a divisive impact on the coalition, even though each in its own way is designed to cut across the mass mobilizations, the cement of the coalition.

At the June 17 meeting, the Administrative Committee finalized the date of October 21 for a massive march on Washington. This will now begin to tie the coalition back together and undercut the political effect of the other proposals. The vote on this motion was unanimous, even though those who opposed the action at the Washington conference continued to express their opposition.

The main task now before the antiwar movement is building the October 21 mobilization. Despite the short term lull in the antiwar movement, antiwar sentiment continues to grow, most noticeably among GIs and high school students. The October 21 action can draw new layers affected by this sentiment into activity and into the movement. Local antiwar groups and coalitions should begin the publicity and related building activities for the fall march. Summer projects and activities should be directed towards the action.

It is important to start the building activities now, as time is already short. Moreover, after school begins in the fall, there will be only a few weeks before the mobilization. This means the publicity groundwork must be laid during the summer.

It is unlikely the NMC will compose a call for October 21 in the near future. Local publicity should not be held up, though, for this reason. Such publicity will maximize the chance of a call being published early. Student Mobilization Committee plans have not yet been laid out, but it can be presumed that this organization will be the main vehicle for building the march.

A great deal of discussion in the NMC has centered on proposals for antidraft activity. The NMC is attempting to coordinate the antidraft resistance, as are several other

organizations. Co-chairman Greenblatt (all vice-chairmen are now co-chairmen) has established an antidraft project in Brooklyn, but little has come of this, and little is expected. A committee for antidraft activity has been organized within the NMC, but there is significant resistance to this becoming a major focal point. Antidraft advocates have been largely unable to produce results. Notwithstanding the increased numbers interested in this activity, we can anticipate that antidraft actions will be more and more subsumed by the fall action preparations.

The question of 1968 electoral activity has come up repeatedly in the NMC. The CP has encouraged this, pushing their peace and freedom ticket proposal. A continuation of the Washington conference discussion on this subject has in effect been tabled within the Administrative Committee of the NMC.

The Washington conference voted to hold a conference on political action. Although little more than stress on the coalition will come from such a conference, it has been tentatively scheduled for the Labor Day weekend in Chicago. Most elements in the NMC felt such a conference was necessary. The National Conference for New Politics also plans to hold a conference in Chicago about the same time, but the NMC conference will take place first. It is very unlikely that any consensus can come from the NMC conference, and we will want to participate actively, supporting and soliciting support for the SWP 1968 presidential ticket.

Since the Washington conference, the NMC has done very little and has been poorly organized. The national office remains in New York. National Director Bevel has established his direct action project in Washington with another office there. Sidney Peck has been chosen National Coordinator, but resides in Cleveland. Several proposals have been made to alleviate the disorganization (such as moving the national office to one or another city) but these have been tabled.

The tasks as outlined in the report by Mary-Alice on the Chicago and Washington conferences remain. Of particular importance is our continued elucidation to the movement of our positions on the broader questions facing the movement -- mass resistance, mass action, independent political action, the nature of the coalition, etc. The key additional task is beginning the concrete work to build the October 21 mass march on Washington.