

Attachment: Jack's Report ... 1

The Standing Committee of the National Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam met on January 8-9 in Milwaukee. The purpose of this meeting was to take up the unresolved problems of the Thanksgiving Convention. Three major issues which were implicit at the Thanksgiving Convention came into the open at Milwaukee.

First, there was a discussion on political perspectives for the NCC. The Stalinists and other coalitionists presented arguments for supporting political candidates who oppose the war in Vietnam. They argued that supporting such candidates would help in building a mass movement and would influence the "status people." This was an undisguised presentation of coalition politics which helped open the eyes of people in Milwaukee to some of the basic roots of the fight in Washington. Although there was no vote taken or resolution passed on this subject by the meeting, the discussion helped to expose the political character of the people who opposed us. This was certainly a step forward from the confusion generated by our opponents at the Washington Convention.

Second, debate occurred around the question of whether or not the NCC Standing Committee should issue a press release exposing Johnson's "peace offensive" and calling for immediate withdrawal. Arguments were presented on both sides and a vote was taken of individual delegates present. The motion to issue a press release including a call for immediate withdrawal passed 19 to 18. This result was overturned by the use of proxy and weighted votes indicating to everyone present that the Stalinists had assured themselves a mechanical majority in the Standing Committee as they had at the Convention. Jerry Rubin and Jack Weinberg from the Berkeley VDC supported immediate withdrawal. Since the Milwaukee meeting the Berkeley VDC has gone on record in support of immediate withdrawal. The Berkeley and Chicago delegations voted with us on most major points. This had all been preceded by a fight against the legitimacy of proxies led by the Berkeley delegation and a fight for the right to elect chairman of sessions led by us.

Third, the meeting discussed the organizational character of the NCC. The basic question here was who would control the apparatus of the NCC? The fact of the domination of the Madison office by the Stalinists was raised openly by non CPers like Rubin and Bein. (Bein diplomatically said Madison was "dominated politically by a DuBois Club-like tendency even if there is no organized DuBois Club there.")

The Rubin proposal which called for a dynamic national organization based on the CEWV's and centered in Chicago was postponed for further consideration and discussion. It will be brought up again at a Standing Committee meeting in April. This proposal would place control in the hands of either himself or other independents.

In a partial compromise Jack Weinberg agreed to go to Madison for several weeks to "see whether we can accomplish anything" and help out. The net result was that the apparatus of the NCC remains in the hands of Frank Emspak and continues to be dominated by the Stalinists.

A general feature of the entire meeting was the realignment of many of the "independent" leaders like Rubin and Weinberg as well as people like Irving Beinin. Their bloc with the Stalinists against us at the Thanksgiving convention had disintegrated and many of them found themselves voting with us against the Stalinists. A most remarkable revelation was made by a Stalinist from a midwestern state who publicly denounced Rubin and Weinberg for splitting away from the convention bloc against the "Trotskyites."

Caucus Meeting

Members of the Caucus to Constitute a National Organization of Independent Anti-Vietnam War Committees for the Withdrawal of U.S. Troops Now held a meeting following the Standing Committee meeting.

The first order of business was to change their name to supporters of the Bring The Troops Home Now Newsletter.

Secondly it was decided to change the three-man steering committee formed in Washington into a five-man editorial board composed of people who live in Boston. This will facilitate making editorial decisions in the Newsletter office. Gus Horowitz was chosen to be editor of the Newsletter.

It was agreed that the Newsletter office would issue pamphlets and buttons as well as put out a call for the March 25 and 26 International Days Of Protest. The first button is ready and will be mailed out this week; others are on the drawing board. A pamphlet on immediate withdrawal vs. negotiations is written and will be out soon. The meeting also encouraged supporters of the Newsletter to go into new areas and organize CEWV's and recruit Newsletter supporters. The decision was made to encourage both local organizations and individuals

to formally become Newsletter supporters.

The failure of the NCC Standing Committee to create a dynamic center based on the independent CEWV's means that the Newsletter will become very important as a national center of militant anti-war activity. The supporters of the Newsletter will be getting their CEWV's to look more and more to the Newsletter for information about and coordination of anti-war actions.

There has been a downturn in anti-war activity since the Thanksgiving Convention and many of the CEWV's are less active. This decline is due in part to the failure of the Thanksgiving Convention to inspire the anti-war activists and in part due to the confusion and pressures generated by Johnson's current "peace offensive." However, it would be a mistake for us to believe that this lull is permanent. The continued escalation of the war insures an objective base for the movement and its resurgence. When the next upturn comes it will be around the CEWV's and local united fronts which are the primary vehicles of anti-war opposition. It will go through them because they are the existing formations which have demonstrated in practice that they can mobilize thousands.

The task of Newsletter supporters is to get as many committees as possible to support the Newsletter while reaching out and helping to build new committees.

There is currently a division within the DuBois Club over the question of immediate withdrawal vs. negotiations. We should make contact and discuss with as many DuBois Club members as possible. We must get the Newsletter, the YSA Vietnam pamphlet and the Newsletter pamphlet on withdrawal to them. We should talk with them and find out what they are thinking.

The division goes right into their top leadership. There were many DuBois Club members present in Milwaukee but none as voting representatives from CEWV's.

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